REFLECTION OF PRESCHOOL TEACHER CANDIDATES’ METAPHORS RELATED TO “CHILD” AND “TEACHER” CONCEPTS TO THEIR TEACHING PRACTICE PLANNINGS

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Abstract
The aim of this study is to investigate the relationship between preschool teacher candidates’ metaphorical perceptions of “child” and “teacher” concepts and their situations of putting teacher or child into the center in their planning of teaching practice. This research is based on descriptive research model in which qualitative and quantitative research methods are used together. 79 4th grade (senior) students, who study in Akdeniz University Education Faculty Preschool Teaching BA Program, are consisted of the research group. In the first step that data is collected, teacher candidates in the research group are asked to prepare a 45-60 minute planning twice in a week. In the second step, they are asked to complete the phrases of “Child is like …. Because ….” and “Teacher is like …. Because ….”. In the analysis part, data obtained from the first step are evaluated by three researchers in terms of teaching practice planning of each teacher candidates’ being child or teacher centered. For the analysis of “child” and “teacher” concepts’ metaphors obtained in the second step, these metaphors are listed and categories related to “child” and “teacher” concepts are established in terms of explanations about these metaphors. In the analysis of data, Chi-square test has been applied to investigate the relationship between planning of teacher candidates’ being teacher or child centered and these planning’s taking place in categories related to “child” and “teacher” concepts. It has been seen that 68.3% of teacher candidates in the study group are teacher centered and 31.7% of them are child centered. It has been seen that there is a statistically significant relationship between teacher candidates’ “child” and “teacher” concepts and their teaching practice planning’s being teacher or child centered.

Key Words: Teacher candidate, metaphor of child, metaphor of teacher, preschool education program.