

**THE METAPHORS DEVELOPED BY STUDENTS FOR THE CONCEPTS  
IN 'THE PARTICULATE STRUCTURE OF MATTER' UNIT  
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COURSE**

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**Abstract**

In this research, the metaphors developed by 6th grade elementary school students for the concepts in 'The Particulate Structure of Matter' unit of Science and Technology course were examined. Working group consists of 6th grade 28 students at Salih Mustafa-Zehra-Saliha Kul Secondary School during 2011-2012 academic year. Students were taught to develop metaphors in the teaching process. The students were asked for developing animal metaphors for the concepts before they started learning the unit. The students were asked for developing metaphors for the same concepts after the unit was taught and this was repeated three weeks later again. The students were asked for developing metaphors for fourteen concepts by completing the sentences such as; "the Atom is like....., because ..... ". Metaphors were categorised and analyzed according to the classification of the animals,; 1) Invertebrates, 2) Vertebrate animals, 3) Prokaryotic organisms and according to their diet: 1) Herbivorous animals, 2) Carnivorous animals, 3) Both herbivorous and carnivorous animals. In the study, content analysis technique was used and the data were analyzed with quantitative method. The metaphors, the students developed for the concepts, were analyzed and interpreted considering their gender

**Key Words:** Metaphor, science and technology, concept.