

SPEECH ANXIETY AND LEVELS OF FOREIGN STUDENTS LEARNING TURKISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract

Aim of this study is to identify whether foreign students who are learning Turkish carry anxiety about speaking Turkish or not and if so determine the level of these concerns. This research is done with Tokat GOP University TÖMER students. In this study, it is tried to find out whether they have anxiety about Turkish while talking in daily life or not and to detect the level. In this research foreign language anxiety scale is used, developed by Huang (2004), the scale is adapted for students who have studied Turkish as a foreign language by the researcher. The scale is a type of the five point scale which has come from 27 items. 18 of the items in the scale are related to reasons of speech anxiety and 9 are concerned with levels of the speech anxiety. According to the findings, it is detected that foreign students have speech anxiety especially in group discussions while learning Turkish. Besides it makes them worry about speech when they think they will make mistakes while speaking Turkish and they will be laughed at. Students who think they will not be able to express themselves effectively, increases their level of anxiety. It is suggested to use communicative method to reduce speech anxiety of foreign students learning Turkish as a foreign language.

Keywords: Teaching Turkish as a foreign language education to foreign learners, speaking skill, speech anxiety.