An Exploratory Study on the Impact of Culture on the Teaching of English

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Abstract

Malta has often been renowned for its bilingual proficiency, in how every single person on this tiny archipelago speaks fluent Maltese and English, with the latter of the highest of standards. Yet, this last point seems to be untrue at this point in time. What is happening within and without our schools? Why are the standards of English falling, when ironically, this is the age when the greatest number of aids are on hand to help?

This study attempts to analyse this problem, especially within the socio-economic, cultural, linguistic perspective at a post-secondary/vocational level. This is of special relevance to MCAST, where students from all walks of life enrol for courses, after finishing their compulsory education.

The findings of this research are intended to highlight the probability that socio-cultural differences and backgrounds do have an impact on English as a spoken language and attitudes towards its inculcation.

It is further compared and enhanced by discussing both the students’ needs, as well as the failings in the standards reached, the targets to be set, as well as the methods one could possibly use in order to get there, together with hopefully offering suitable recommendations.

This Research Project is a practical attempt to promote and enhance the standards of the English language as used in Malta, as well as a means to try and query, as well as promote its delivery and understanding.
# Table of Contents

Acknowledgements  
Abstract  
Table of Contents  
List of Figures  

**Chapter 1**  
General Introduction  

**Chapter 2**  
Theoretical Review of the Literature  

**Chapter 3**  
Literature Review on Previous Studies  

**Chapter 4**  
Statement of the Research Question  

**Chapter 5**  
Research Design and Methodology  

**Chapter 6**  
Results  

**Chapter 7**  
Discussion of Results  

**Chapter 8**  
Conclusions and Recommendations  

**Chapter 9**  
Critical Self-Review  

References  
Appendices