

The Influence of Motivation on Acquisition of English Language Skills among Day Secondary School Students in Imenti South District, Kenya

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Abstract

English is the official language of communication in Kenya as well as the medium of instruction in schools, colleges and universities. This aspect dates back to colonial times. It is also the language of international communication. Consequently, those who master English language reap many academic, social and professional benefits. In the school setting, proficiency in English will make the learning of other subjects much easier for English language cuts across the curriculum. Therefore, right approaches to teaching and learning of English language should be put in place in order to incorporate the learners' needs and interests. The learner therefore needs to broaden their linguistic competence as well as communication skills to fit well in the society as far as education is concerned. In Imenti South District Day Secondary Schools, little is done to ensure that students are motivated to excel in English language. The study established that motivation influenced the acquisition of English language skills in day secondary schools. Since motivation is critical to the excelling in English among day secondary schools students, the study recommends that teachers of English should devise proper ways and methods of motivating students to excel in English. Other programs like debates and discussions should be rolled out to build confidence in students. Teaching methods that are learner based should also be used as they encourage learner participation and consequently enhance motivation levels.

Keywords: motivation, acquisition of English language skills, day secondary school students

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