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TEACHERS' PERCEPTIONS ON THEIR ACTUAL TEACHING PERFORMANCES

A Case Study of English Preparatory School Teachers' Perceptions
in Eastern Mediterranean University of North Cyprus

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M.A in Professional Studies in Education

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved father Hasan Sonyel, who is not physically alive but spiritually will forever live with me deep inside, for giving me the chance to experience and fulfill the meaning and desire of my life.

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I do not know how to start my words to explain this journey both challenging and at the same time very valuable. I started this journey of mine with a lot of excitement and determinism. However, things towards the end did not turn out to be the way I wish it to be. I resemble this to human beings' 'destiny'. It is like, on the one hand, you are the master of your own destiny but on the other hand, certain things are beyond your control which only happens by God's will.

In this difficult phase of my life, firstly from the bottom of my heart I would like to thank my main supervisor, Dr. Do Coyle. She was not only in the place of a supervisor but also a guide, supporter, giver - in short my light to survive in the dark tunnel of this journey. Secondly, my sincere gratitude goes to Mr. Tony Fisher, who also helped me out a lot when I felt so desperate in not only writing up the thesis but also catching up the latest technological improvements too.

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After all I wholeheartedly believe, value and treasure every single second, moment I spent on this research.

“The most beautiful moment of my life was when I realized that every moment of my life was the most beautiful moment of my life...”

ABSTRACT

This research is carried out to explore teachers' perspectives upon their teaching practices with respect to the in-service training program, C.O.T.E. they had been through. Teaching and in-service training have always been my interest area. Besides, after having informal conversations with the administrators from the Ministry of Education and owing to my observations, in North Cyprus the current education system needs to be reformed considering main themes such as curriculum, in-service, pre-service training, material and curriculum design, lifelong learning, duration of school hours, financial issues and so forth.

In this qualitative research, two major research questions guided this study. As a researcher the constructivist philosophical stance has been employed due to the fact that the purpose is to investigate teachers' perspectives and in order to achieve this teachers themselves constructed their own perspectives on their teaching practices. Questionnaire, semi-structured interviews, video recording methods were used to gather the data. Questionnaire is used at the beginning of this research to grasp the general picture and at the same time to determine the number of participants. Then, semi structured interviews as pre and post were used to grasp a deeper understanding of teachers' perspectives and video recordings were used to reflect teachers' perspectives on their actual teaching practices.

I finalized the research study by analysing and triangulating the participants'

responses in relation to two major points as follows:

- The effectiveness of the programme on teachers' practice as evidenced through video recordings and discussions of their teaching.
- Teachers' perceptions of C.O.T.E with respect to the effectiveness of the training programme in course design, materials and practical experiences.

I ended the research with the voice of the participants by underlying the significance and effectiveness of in-service training programs in general. The limitations of this study with the recommendations for further research are suggested at the end.

DECLARATION

I confirm that this dissertation is my original work. It does not include material previously presented for the award of a degree in this, or any other University.

Signed

B.SONYEL.....

Bengi Sonyel

February 2010

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