



Efficacy of PowerPoint Presentations: Students' Perception

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Abstract

The ubiquity of PowerPoint presentations nowadays has been under consideration in the worldwide realm of education in general; however, specifically it is without thorough investigation into the educational demographics of Malaysia where English is taught as a second language. The existing study aims at examining student's attitudes towards PowerPoint presentations in the lectures that teach English skills and come with PowerPoint presentations in the context of Second Language Acquisition. A survey conducted on the student's attitudes includes classroom observations and a detailed questionnaire for one class of English proficiency course. A five point Likert-scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) was employed to evaluate the characteristics of PowerPoint presentations and the performance of the lecturer as a presenter.

The results show that the majority of students prefer PowerPoint presentations over traditional methods of lecture delivery and have positive attitudes towards PowerPoint presentations and lecturers as PowerPoint presenters. In addition, they felt that PowerPoint presentations could be beneficial to their English learning and review for examination. Besides, most students agreed with the idea of better performance of the lecturer as a presenter in terms of preparation, clearness, effectiveness and helpfulness thanks to PowerPoint. Together, these results achieved remarkable consistency with preceding researches in the academic settings of the US, UK and Australia, providing the study with a crucial step towards understanding the efficacy of PowerPoint presentations in university lectures. It is the hope of the study to raise awareness of the power and powerlessness of PowerPoint presentations among the current applications of educational technology.