



FACULTY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

MASTER THESIS:

TEACHER AS A KEY FACTOR IN STUDENTS' MOTIVATION

(An analysis based in Ferizaj's High Schools)

Mentor:

Dr.Sc. Qatip ARIFI

Student:

Florina JASHARI

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INTRODUCTION

A lot of people know the importance of teachers in students' lives. A lot of importance is given to teachers all around the world. However, a little attention has been given to the way they should communicate and motivate their students, especially in the most difficult period of life, the time when they have to face the teenage or the adolescence.

Teachers have always been the main figure inside the classroom; hence a lot of quotations have been dedicated to them. The world is populated by different types of people, therefore teachers around the world can never be the same, but those who want to have an impact in their students' lives should always be careful in everything they say or do.

"The mediocre teacher tells.

The good teacher explains.

The superior teacher demonstrates.

The great teacher inspires."

William Arthur Ward (Prater, 2010)

Teacher motivation is a complex phenomenon that is difficult to understand in today's workplace and proves to be especially difficult in public education. School leaders struggle to identify, design, and implement appropriate motivators for school teachers. While much research has been conducted on motivational theories like Herzberg's two-factor need theory (Frederik Herzberg, 2010) and Maslow's human motivation theory (Maslow, 2012), few studies have compared and contrasted the perceptions of teacher motivation among school students and high school teachers. The major approach to this Master Thesis is to show the effort of the teachers in Ferizaj's High Schools towards students' motivation. It is well known that the teenage is one of the most difficult stage in people's life, therefore I have decided to deal with this kind of problem, since I truly believe that there are voices that should be heard, especially in Secondary Schools, and on the other hand there is a huge number of teachers/professors that should learn the importance of motivation and their impact in changing their students' life.

It is quite interesting how the majority of teachers in Ferizaj's High Schools treat their students. The fact of being a student and then a teacher in different schools has influenced me to decide to write something that might be helpful in the future for teachers who need to learn the importance of motivation. Since teacher is the key factor inside the classroom, students need to have him/her as a role model in their future career.

Over the past five years I have been working as an English Teacher with different ages of students. This long-term involvement in the teaching process has given me the opportunity to realize how teachers work and how much do they care about their students' motivation. My own professional background in teaching process has given me a natural interest to write my thesis about the circumstances that students and teachers are facing today, because I have worked in different secondary schools in Ferizaj, and unfortunately I have noticed a lack of motivation from high school teachers toward their students.

Through talking with my parents, friends, acquaintances, and also my ex-students, the desire to conduct a small-scale study related to motivation began to take root.

When I was a student I wasn't aware of the importance of motivation in teaching, but since the day I started teaching English, I have always wanted to do something which I think might be helpful for teachers of different subjects who want to change their behaviors and want to improve and build a new and a stronger relationship between them and their students.

Even though this topic can surely be one of the most difficult tasks facing teachers today, I totally believe that motivation is the main key to an effective instruction. "To be successful at motivating students, the teacher must take individual differences in physical, cognitive, and social development seriously". (Keneth D. More, 1998)

The job of a teacher is considered to be one of the most difficult and with the most responsibility comparing to the other jobs. It is an occupation that in order to gain a positive result, one should be very dedicated to it. It takes a lot of time and patience. A teacher should obviously have a lot

of roles inside and outside the classroom. “But one is true and that is pretty easy to see, that the traditional classroom of the past is not serving the learning needs of students today.” (Arifi, 2005)

Nowadays a number of issues have taken place. Students feel unmotivated and they waste their time by doing nothing at all. There is a number of problems that should be considered such as: the age of the students, school syllabuses, and the most important one is the lack of motivation from the teachers toward the students. These can be reasons why some of them hate attending school or decide to miss classes. Sometimes they feel a kind of pressure from the teacher, therefore for some of them school might become as a nightmare or a place that they go just because that they are obliged to.

Teachers are not supposed just to reflect their knowledge to their students, they are responsible about way they behave, because through them their students’ personality is built, since the teacher is the main figure inside the classroom, they should be just as a mirror to them, in order to reflect not only knowledge but humanity as well.

The influence of a good teacher can never ever be erased. He/she will always remain into their students’ hearts and minds, for the way they taught, treated their students, and the way they made them feel. Sometimes teachers may forget their purpose and their impact that they have but the truth goes as follows:

“To the world you may be just a teacher, but to your students you will always be a hero”

Unknown Author (Rowell, 1998)

Chapter V: CONCLUSION

As mentioned in the whole thesis, motivation is one of the most discussable topics for teachers, and surely will always be an important factor for teachers who pretend to leave footprints in their students’ hearts. But is it possible to come up to a conclusion of the best way to motivate

students? I personally think that every teacher in the world has his/her teaching methods as well as ways to motivate students.

Everyone can become teachers and obviously it is an occupation that has the highest level of respect from the others. So, the first thing that a teacher should always keep in mind is that you have to give respect to your students in order to earn it from them.

Another thing is that teachers should be careful while trying to motivate students, because not all the methods work the same in all the students. We should study the students well, get some extra information for them in order to avoid misunderstanding and to find the most suitable way of communicating with them. Teachers should try to become a number one factor why students start to love school and learning more, hence try to win your students' heart by your words and actions.

The time of classical teacher belongs to the last century, nowadays no one likes strict teachers, or teachers that you would feel scared to raise your hand or talk to them. Be a friendly teacher, smile to your students and try to reflect positivity by being in a good mood, this way I am sure that you will give them a reason to like you and your classes. Depending on the age of your students, try to understand the things that they like or dislike. E.g. if they have a favorite band, singer, player, team etc. relate something to them, or use a song inside your classes, and this way they would feel appreciated since you show them that you try to fulfill their wishes. Give them a reason to think that their opinion is important to you, and that you are able to change your teaching method just for sake of them.

A good teacher does not only stay sat down on his chair, but he/she uses body language to make the lessons more attractive. So moving around the classroom is one of the key ingredients that provide motivation to students. Use the eye-contact whenever you are teaching, and even if you do not get the answer that you were looking from your students, try to have a positive look in your face, this way you will personally be an optimistic example for them.

My own experience as a student brings me back memories of my role model teachers; therefore I know that every student has a favorite teacher, or a person that looks up to him/her as a hero or

as somebody that they wish to become one day. Try to understand the qualities that they value in them.

Another technique that gives positive result in teaching process is to go beyond the material that you are supposed to teach. It is said that “the best teachers teach from the heart, not only from the book” (Kirpal, 2006) Sometimes it comes more interesting to students when teachers use examples and stories that have to do with life lessons, in this way you show them that you spend time thinking about how to entertain them out of the material or book that you have to use.

At the very least, I cannot guarantee anyone that these methods would work in every teacher, because I personally think that it really matters on the way you express and use them, but as the saying goes: “*Good teachers know how to bring out the best in students*” Charles Kuralt, (Grizzle, 2001) I am sure that whoever has the privilege to hold the title of teacher/professor, he/she is willing to improve the teaching methods just to bring more positive results as well as to fill or provide his/her students with great knowledge, joy and happy memories!