EXPLORING TEACHERS' PEDAGOGICAL COMPETENCE IN TEACHING ENGLISH: UNDERSTANDING STUDENTS' CHARACTERISTICS

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ABSTRACT

This research entitled teachers' pedagogical competence in understanding students' characteristics. This research aims to explore how the EFL teachers perceive their pedagogical competence in understanding students' characteristics at private Islamic junior high school Kota Jambi. It employed a case study qualitative research design to answer the research question. Understanding of students is needed to design conducive learning, so that it can increase students' learning, motivation and get the desired learning outcomes. If one recognizes the characteristics of students it will hinder the teaching and learning process in the classroom. The teacher forces students to learn all things without paying attention to the needs of each student. So, it becomes important in the teaching process, especially learning English. The result of interview showed that the categories of understanding students' characteristics were students' intelligence, cognitive development, physical condition, and creativity. In understanding students in students' intelligence, the teacher sees intelligence of students based on brainstorming and learning evaluation. Then, in learning English students improve student cognitive development by adding student vocabulary and the teacher provides games to create an interesting learning atmosphere. Besides that, Students with physical disabilities will be given special treatment from a teacher based on their needs and difficulties. After that, Teachers develop student creativity by interesting learning and habituation using English. This study hopefully can contribute for the school. It's important that the principals or administrators of schools have to facilitate all teachers' activities which contribute to development of their professionalism

Key words : Pedagogical Competence, Students' characteristics, understanding students' characteristics