

**Cultural Awareness of Libyan Students Learning English as
a Foreign Language in the Preparatory School:
(An Experimental Study)
A PhD Dissertation by Al-Hussein S. Mohsen**

Cultural awareness is an essential issue in the contemporary world as it is related to the human communication between peoples who belong to different races and ethnics. It is concerned with the mutual understanding between the constituents of a society or between elements that belong to a variety of settings. It is meant to reduce the gap between all these people without a sense of preference or disparity between them because of color, sex or religion. Cultural awareness aims to spread peace among all people, arising from deep understanding and acquaintance. It renounces violence.

The main idea of this study is to check the understanding of the students of Level 9; the end of the basic school; i.e. the 3rd preparatory level. The students' understanding in this early stage affects their language performance in the future either in the university or later at work.

The topic of cultural awareness is new in Libya, however, there are only few studies concerning this topic. The practical part of the study was implemented in 14 schools in the Libyan city of Zliten and its suburbs. The study is divided into five chapters; the first chapter introduces the problem of the study, the aims and the hypotheses. Chapter Two studies the relation between language and culture and their acquisition. The third chapter discusses the research methodology of this research.

Chapter Four analyses the cultural content in the text-books of English concerned in this study. In this chapter, it is stated that culture is not only literary works but also general knowledge of the society and other different kinds of information. Chapter Five analyses the responses

of the participants. The analysis is made according to the groups of the questions, then to the sex of the informants and finally a comparison between the participating schools is made. The last section of the study is the conclusions and recommendations. The analyses of the responses of the questionnaire assert that cultural awareness among the students in the preparatory school is low; only 64.19 %.

It is recommended that the Ministry of Education in Libya has to take more care in the field of teaching English as a foreign language in this stage. Therefore, it is possible to enhance the language performance of the students in the different stages of education, mainly in the fields where English is the language of instruction.

The researcher wishes that forthcoming studies can continue investigating this topic for the benefit of teaching English as a foreign language in Libya.