

EFL Learning and Culture: The Blurred Line between Language and Culture

Prof. Nisrine El Hannach

University Mohamed I/Polydisciplinary Faculty of Nador

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the cultural effects of teaching the English language, on the Poly-disciplinary Faculty of Nador's English department students. This paper examines how learning the English language along with the culture behind it influences the student's cultural identity. The paper also aims to discover whether or not EFL learning has an impact on students' identities, and how these students adopt and assimilate the English culture, or adapt the new culture to their own one, creating a new hybrid culture. This study is qualitative in nature, and it provides data by using a questionnaire filled by 70 students belonging to the English department. The study findings were ranging from complete assimilation of the new culture and alienation to their own one, to adaptation and adoption of a hybrid culture, or a complete rejection of the new culture. Notwithstanding that the more adopted the culture is, the more the language is assimilated. Thus, language is the window of culture.

Keywords: adoption, Assimilation, culture, EFL, English language, identity