

Barriers to Teaching Culture in Foreign Language Classrooms of Myanmar

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Abstract

The teaching of culture has been listed as one of the goals in foreign language teaching and learning in the new century. However, the beliefs of foreign language instructors towards the teaching of culture at the university level remain unclear. One hundred and forty students (94 females and 46 males ranging between 18-24 years of age) of second year, third year and fourth year students from B.A. English Course at selected Universities participated in this research. This study was conducted through questionnaire survey, classroom observations, and interviews to study the teaching of culture and cultural perspectives in the language classrooms. In this study, through questionnaire survey, a series of interviews and observations, we found difficulties in teaching culture for instructors themselves, such as lack of knowledge by instructors, lack of enough time for preparing classes with cultural elements embedded in them, lack of appropriate materials, the absence of technological support, and students' misunderstanding or stereotypes of the target culture.

Keywords: Barriers to teaching culture, Foreign language classroom, Myanmar