

Hypothesising

By Sasha Griffith

Null Hypothesis

A group of 3rd year language learners who are exposed to andragogy principles acquire knowledge, think critically, have an increase in their metacognition and meaningfully apply learning to authentic situations

Purpose

The purpose of this action research is to explore whether a relationship exists between andragogy and young learners' advancement of thinking skills.

Rationale

As educators, our past experiences of how we were taught take prominence when we think of how young learners should be acquiring knowledge. Unfortunately, when I reflect, much of my learning was learning by rote. Take for instance, learning multiplication tables and so on. I therefore propose that exposing students to some of the principles of andragogy at an early age can benefit them in their external examinations as it would cause them to become self-regulated and independent learners.

Literature Review

The links that follow represent journals, articles and books and may form part of the literature to be critically analysed:

1. [Differences in students' metacognitive strategy knowledge, motivation, and strategy use: A typology of self-regulated learners](#)
2. [The modern practice of adult education: Andragogy versus pedagogy](#)
3. [The adult learner: Self-determined, self-regulated, and reflective](#)
4. [Personal and contextual influences on township school learners' motivation and self-regulated learning](#)
5. [Designing instruction for self-regulated learning](#)

Discussion: Current Perspectives, Questions and Limitations

Current Perspective:

Malcolm Knowles and other researchers strongly contend on adult learning being separate to pedagogy

Question:

Does social constructivism already provide the basis for developing critical thinking skills?

Limitation:

At the hypothesis stage, how do you propose to measure whether andragogic principles such as increase in critical thinking skills, metacognition and self-directedness to name a few? Will the research be limited by this?

Proposed Research Design

- Data Collection Methods

Mixed methods approach

- Pre and post test
- Teacher observation
- Interviewing participants