The weakness of Bethlehem University Translation students in Arabic grammar: factors and remedy - Action Research

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While teaching a course in Arabic grammar to Translation students in the English Department, the researcher observed a serious weakness in the students' understanding and application of Arabic grammatical rules, including simple rules which were covered in high school. The researcher also noticed a lack of motivation for learning and interest in the class. To address this problematic situation, the researcher resorted to action research.

This study aims to present a description of the action research performed by the researcher. The procedures of the action research focused on three aspects: the role of the teacher, the course content, and the role of the students in the learning/teaching process. As a result of the action research, the teacher/researcher was able to redesign the presentation of the course content, perform class evaluations at different stages of the course, study the student reactions over the duration of the course through personal interviews and analysis of the student test scores in addition to the direct feedback from students (with the help of a colleague).

The present study is significant because it shows the successful utilization of action research as a very useful research method in higher education due to its direct results on the instructor's teaching methods, and on the students' achievement. This paper also highlights the role of action research in providing language instructors with practical methods and techniques that can be used in teaching grammar, not only in Arabic but in other languages as well.