

Abstract:

The purpose of the research was to examine if difference exist between the reading habits people who are deaf and the reading habits of the people who are hard of hearing. In addition, to build a model that will describe and explain the effect of personal characteristics (demographical-personal characteristics and reading characteristics) and environmental characteristics (the environment and the characteristics of the book on the reading habits of the hearing impaired reader.

The research population is hearing impaired-adults, aged at least 18 with hearing impairments of different levels, most of them participating in appropriate social frameworks, such as "Acha" [National Deaf people Organization] and "Bekol".

The research questions:

1. Are there differences between the reading habits of deaf people and the reading habits of people who hard of hearing?
2. Is there a link between the reading habits of the hearing impaired and demographic-persona characteristics: age, gender, hearing level, type of communication and socio-economic status?
3. Is there a link between the reading habits and the environment of hearing impaired reader: place of learning, socialization agents and sources for obtaining books?
4. Is there a link between the attitudes of hearing impaired people to reading and their reading habits?
5. Is there a link between the satisfaction and the social functioning that reading bestows the hearing impaired readers and their reading habits?
6. Is there a link between the characterizes of the book and the reading habits of the hearing impaired reader?

Research tools

A questionnaire was built that examines the reading habits of hearing impaired people. The sample methods used in this research are "quota sampling" and "snowball

sampling". According to these methods, we assigned an equal quota of people from the deaf population and the hard of hearing population and distributed questionnaires in the "friend brings friend" method. Members of "Bekol" and "Acha" were requested to give out questionnaires to their friends and questionnaires were also distributed amongst friends and acquaintances.

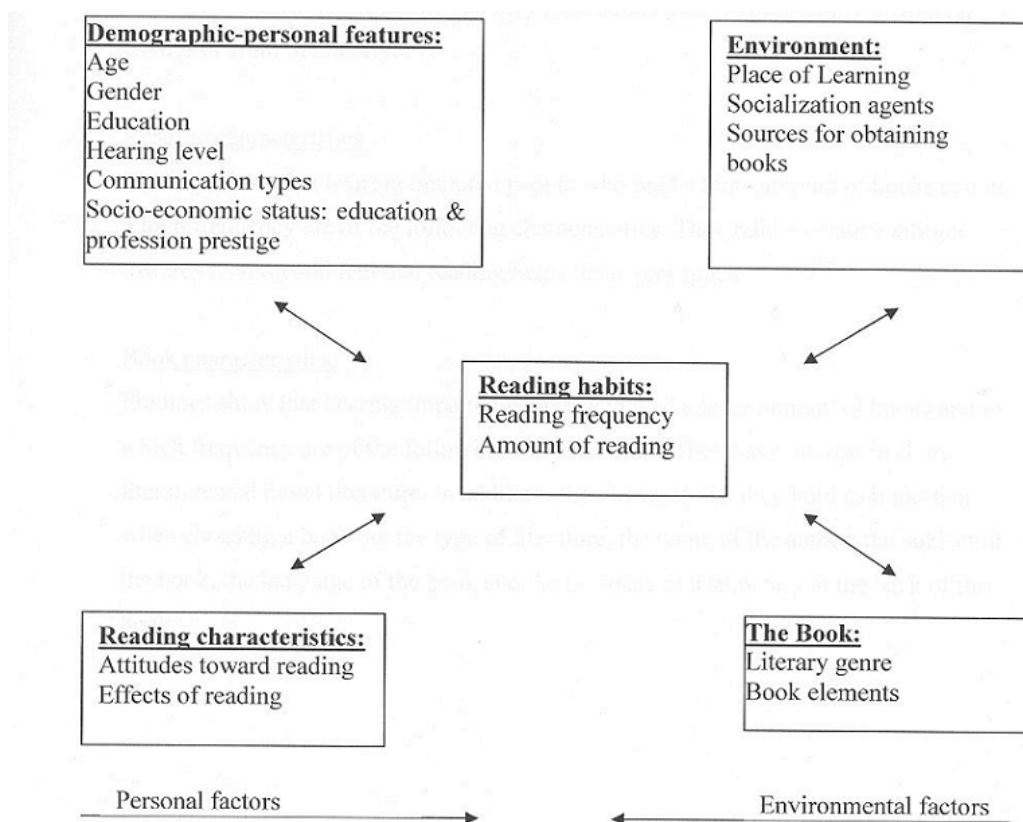
Findings:

Difference between reading habits of the deaf and reading habits of the hard of hearing.

it was found that there are differences between reading habits of the deaf and reading habits of the hard of hearing. Hard of hearing people read more books and their reading frequency was higher. They read once a week or nearly every day, and about 2 to 3 books a month. Contrary to them, most deaf people read only once in a while and hardly read or read one book a month.

A model of the reading habits of hearing impaired

The model that was found is composed of two group personal factors (demographic-personal characteristics and reading characteristics) and environmental factors (characteristics of the environment and book characteristics) that effect reading habits.



Demographical-personal characterizes

Findings show that hearing impaired people who read a large amount of books and this in a higher frequency are of the following characteristics: hard of hearing, became deaf later in life and wear a hearing aid. Furthermore, they come from a high socio-economic status (education level and profession and job prestige) and communicate mostly by talk, or combine both types of communication.

Hearing impaired people who read a large amount of books are of the following characteristics: They started using a hearing aid in an older age and function with these instruments as hard of hearing.

Analysis of the findings show that the following variables are not linked to reading habits: age, gender, holding a profession, unemployment and income level.

The environment

Findings show that hearing impaired people who read a large amount of books and in a high frequency are of the following characteristics: They learned in a regular school or in several schools over the time. They are members in the "Bekol" organization or not members of any organization, their parents read more books, socialization agents

- To carry out a qualitative research that will examine the reason for a scarcity or a multitude of reading habits amongst the hearing impaired population. This kind of research can complement the data that was found in the present one and provide explanations for its findings.
- To examine if there exist differences between people who are hard of hearing and deaf people in the following fields: the influence of socializing agents, sources for obtaining books, attitudes towards books, the influence of reading, the preferences of literary genres and the importance of the book elements on choosing it.
- Examine this module separately in the deaf population and the hearing population.

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