Reading habits of deaf and hard of hearing / Yifat Reshet-Fisher

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 readd or read one book a month.

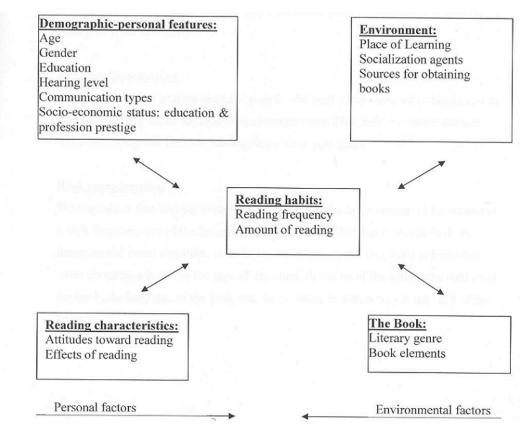
A model of the reading habits of hearing impaired

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.

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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 socioeconomic 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 influence their choice of books and they lend books mostly from family members,

friends or from the library.

Reading characteristics

Findings show that hearing impaired people who read a large amount of books and in

a high are of the following characteristics: They hold a positive attitude towards

reading and feel that reading helps them very much.

Book characteristics:

Findings show that hearing impaired people who read a large amount of books and in

a high frequency are of the following characteristics: They have interest in short

literature and novel literature. In addition, the elements that they hold as important

when choosing a book are type of literature, the name of the author, the subject of the

book, the language of the book and the presence of a presence of a summary at the

back of the book.

Findings show that the variable of hearing level, communication type usage, loss of

hearing, using hearing aids, the age when the deafness occurred and the age when the

person first started to use hearing aids are all critical for the language development. In

addition, that they can influence speech development and reading understanding, that

in turn influence the amount of books and reading frequency.

Recommendation

From the model we which variable are linked to reading habits of hearing impaired

and we propose additional notions for examining them. Based on these findings we

propose programs for encouraging reading habits among the hearing impaired

population.

Recommendation for further researches

To carry out a research amongst elementary and high school pupil and to

examine if there exists a difference between the current researches that was

carried out in a population of adults and in a population of youths.

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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