

ABSTRACT

The Impact of Attitude and Motivation on the Development of Oral Competence

Maxine Verona Cassells

In this study the role of attitude and motivation in the development of oral competence was investigated. A class of forty students of French from a traditional high school in Jamaica formed the sample. Data for the study was collected through observation, student questionnaires, and teacher and student interviews. In addition, an Oral Test of French was administered.

The research had a qualitative design and consequently the data was analysed using a descriptive and explanatory style. The findings indicate that attitude does affect the development of fluency in French. Motivation also has a positive impact on oral competence but integrative motivation in particular was seen to have a more positive effect. In addition, it was discovered that a positive attitude coupled with an integrative motivation to study French was the best predictor of success in the oral aspect of the language.

It was further found that in addition to attitude and motivation students saw some other factors as equally affecting their performance in the oral aspect of the French language, namely the difficulty in pronunciation of French.

The findings of the study will add to the body of research that will inform future planning and implementation of teaching and learning practices for French foreign language classroom of secondary schools in Jamaica.

Keywords: Maxine Verona Cassells; Attitude and motivation; oral competence.