

ABSTRACT

An Examination of Selected Variables that Affect the Attitude of Students of Spanish in three Non-Traditional Jamaican Schools

Taneisha Ingleton

This study explores selected variables that affect students' attitude towards the learning of the Spanish language. A total of 120 grade nine students from three non-traditional urban secondary schools, three teachers and three principals formed the sample. Data for the study was collected through observations, student questionnaires, students', teachers' and principals' interviews. The research has a qualitative design and consequently the data was analysed using a descriptive and explanatory style. The findings indicate that teaching technique, family background/support, class size, class schedule, lack of resources, teacher attitude and students' literacy levels among other things were factors that affected students' attitude towards learning the Spanish language. Recommendations are made to the participating schools and the participating teachers of Spanish. The recommendations can be adopted for general use in foreign language education. The findings of the study will aid in making informed decisions on the planning and implementation of teaching and learning practices for the Spanish language in the Jamaican classroom.

Key words: Taneisha Ingleton; selected variables; attitude; non-traditional Jamaican schools