

Students' Opinions: Digital Text or Printed Text?

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Nowadays people can reach the videos, animations, visual auditory elements etc. and the textual contents through the computer screen. The changes in the presentation types of the textual contents caused alterations in reading habits. In the information age people's reading the texts on screen as the primary reading environment has become more important than them reading the printed texts. Thus, a new reading type came up called 'reading on screen' which took the place of paper. Reading on screen is the act of reading the texts in electronic or digital form which are displayed through a screen such a computer monitor. The technology that has been followed in daily life is also becoming an indispensable element in the education world.

The purpose of this research is to determinate the opinions of 8th grade students about reading on screen. The research has been conducted in accordance with the descriptive scanning model. The study group of this research consist of 30 volunteer students that have been chosen by purposeful sampling among the 8th grade students who study at the Öğretmen Ali Baykal and Şehit Alibey Secondary Schools in Eşme in Uşak. 50% of the students are boys and the other 50% of the students are girls. Having a personel computer has taken into consideration fort he students who are going to attend the interview. Data of the research has been acquired via the semi-structured interview form. 3 different questions have been asked to the students in the interview. Students' thoughts about reading on screen have been tried to receive via these questions. Content analysis has been used in the analysis of the students' answers, first the data has been coded and then the topics which explain the data in general level have been determined. In determination of the categories, literature, interview questions and the students' answers to these questions have been benefited from.

According to findings that have been acquired, students have both positive and negative opinions for reading on screen. In addition to this, most of the students generally prefer reading on screen to reading from printed material. The students stated the reasons of choosing the reading on screen as "reading on screen's easing the reading process", "reading on screen's being interesting", "reaching the intended information in an easy and fast way", "easy data portability" and "texts' being easy to skim". Besides a great majority of the students think that using the electronic texts in education will be useful resulting from the factors such as "contents' being supported visually and aurally", "books being in electronic form", "rapid-access to information, efficient use of time" and "improving the students' motivation".