

Views of Teacher Candidates on the Use of Concept Cartoons in Science and Technology Course

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The aim of this study is to identify the views of the teacher candidates on the use of concept cartoons in Science and Technology Courses. In the current study, qualitative research method was used. The participants of the study were selected via criterion sampling. The participants consisted of 25 teacher candidates training in The Program of Elementary School Teacher Training at Afyon Kocatepe University-Turkey. The criteria of the current research was taken the courses of “Science and Technology Teaching-I” and “Science and Technology Teaching-II” by participants.

In the current study, the data were collected through semi-structured interviews in May 2013. In order to establish internal validity, the developed interview form was analyzed by field specialists. Then the items of the form were reorganized based on the views of the specialists and the form was finalized. In order to establish external validity, the form was used in a pilot study with one teacher candidate. The answers given to the items were recorded and transcribed. Then the correlation between items and answers was analyzed in terms of the appropriateness of the items.

Teacher candidates were asked five questions in face-to-face interviews. After the interviews with all the participants, the audio recordings were transcribed. These transcripts were analyzed by the authors independently and then coded. Next, the coding by the authors was compared and the reliability was determined using the reliability formula developed by Miles and Huberman (1994). The reliability of the interviews was found to be 92 %.

Content analysis was used in the analysis of the data. While giving direct quotations, “code names” are used. The themes were developed based on the questions asked in the interviews. Related codes obtained in the data analysis were used as themes and sub-themes.

The findings show that, the participants described the characteristics of concept cartoons and expressed the advantages of them. They also emphasized the points to be taken into consideration while using it in the Science and Technology course. They pointed out that the concept cartoons should be used more often in the learning settings as they have positive effects to the education. They suggested their offers for using concept cartoons more than now. The views of participants are presented by quoting directly.

Keywords: Pre-Service Education of Teachers, Primary science education, Concept cartoons.