

**Ortaokul Öğrencilerinin Bazı Noktalama İşaretlerini ve
Yazım Kurallarını Uygulayabilme Düzeyleri
(İstanbul Örneği)***

**Determine the Level of Using the Orthography and Punctuation by the
Students at the Second Level of Primary School (Istanbul Sample)**

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Extended Summary

Objective

The objective in this study is to identify the level of abilities to use the punctuation and spelling of the rules of the students who attend the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades while the text is written with the technique of dictation.

Method

In this study, the *descriptive method* has been used where the current case of the required problem is revealed.

Findings

At the end of the study, several mistakes related to the uses of the spelling rules and the punctuations on the papers collected from the students have been found.

In the dictated text by the students, 53 capital letter mistakes, 4 misuses of the conjunction “dE”, 4 misuses of the interrogative particle “mİ” and 4 misuses of the conjunction “ki” has been made.32.4% of the students succeeded in spelling of the interrogative particle “mİ”. However; the least successful spelling rule was the spelling of conjunction “ki” with the percentage of 0.2% success rate.

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In the dictated text, there are 19 full stops, 8 commas, 7 question marks, 2 exclamations, 2 semicolons, 1 triple dot, 1 hyphen, 3 apostrophes. While three dot is the most successfully written punctuation with the rate of 32.4%, the least one is the semicolon with the ratio of 0.2%.

When the study is examined according to genders, the female students are more successful over the male students. Furthermore, the students of 8th grade is the most successful one over the other grade students.

In the study, it has been found out that there is no meaningful connection between the geographical region and the number of the siblings within the scope of written expression skills.

When the results according to the educational background of the parents examined, it has been revealed that the students whose parents are high school or above graduates acquired better results than others.

There has been no significant distinction in the results, given the mother's occupational backgrounds. When analyzed according to the father's occupational group, the students whose fathers are civil servant or tradesman had higher results.

Discussion

The data obtained from the examination of written expression practices of 404 students has shown that secondary school students are not able to acquire the required abilities to use punctuation and spelling rules which are the fundamental elements of written expression in a desired level.

It is hard to connect the defects in the use of spelling and punctuation rules to a single cause. The success or failures in such cases are likely to be related to the school, teacher and parent attitudes, several social and psychological causes as well as the attitude toward the language, the social economical state of the students, the crowded class size.

The results indicates the educational background of the parents have effect on the education life of the student. The education received at the school succeeds when it is supported at home. In this context, some family education programs can be organized in order to raise the family awareness of the matter.

The result of the study has revealed that students make more mistakes in the use of spelling and punctuations which they do not encounter often. Therefore, some series of academic researches should be done after the mistakes students often made are designated. A strict attention to the spelling of every kind of expression should be paid, starting from the Turkish course books.

Conclusion

Several mistakes have been spotted in the papers collected from the students about the aforementioned spelling rules and the punctuation as a result of the study. Given the fact, more attention to the tasks where the students can correct the spelling mistakes and the punctuation in which the students are not in the desired level should be concentrated on. Moreover, the student must be taught to use the spelling dictionary and the principles of the usage in those dictionaries must be explained with the reasons.

The results indicate that female students are better than the male students; the 8th grade students are better than other grades and the ones whose parents are high school or above graduate are better than other students.

There has been no significant distinction in the results given the mother's occupational backgrounds. When analyzed according to the father's occupational group, the students whose fathers are civil servant or tradesman got higher results.

While the students whose fathers are civil servant or tradesman have higher results, there is no significant difference in the results about the mother occupational background. .

The written exams at the schools should evaluate the student's skill of using spelling rules and punctuation. Student's mistakes should be shown to the students after the exams. Different kinds of methods and techniques should be used to teach the spelling and punctuation rules.