SUGGESTED STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING SCIENCE IN KURDISH UNIVERSITIES USING ENGLISH AS A MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

RANA EL FARA[1] & TARIK RASHID[2]

[1]Tarawera High School, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand

[2]Software Engineering Department, College of Engineering, Salahaddin University, Kurdistan, Iraq

ABSTRACT

The Kurdistan region is a vastly growing area in the Middle East. Rapid economic growth is accompanied by a high demand of competent university graduates with strong global communication skills. learning and teaching in the Middle East, particularly in Kurdistan face several challenges. Among such challenges we may identify (i) lack of interest and high dropout rate in science subjects, (ii) Lack of adequate knowledge at pre-university institutions, and (iii) Language and methods of assessment.

This paper assesses different science teaching and learning approaches or strategies using English as a language of instruction at private and public universities in Hawler, Kurdistan. It uses a mixed mode of assessment including a structured survey, interviews and a teaching/learning case study. The paper concludes that the surveyed learning/ teaching approaches are substantial to both students and academic staff. Such approaches may prove to be a helpful guide for teaching science in universities of Kurdistan.

KEYWORDS: Teaching Challenges, Teaching Strategies, Mixed Mode Assessment, Structured Survey and Interviews