

## Section One

### 1-1 Introduction

Learning styles The term "learning style" has been widely used in psychology and pedagogy since the 1930s the ways in which student prefer to perceive information . This has led to labels of auditory learner for someone who learns best when they hear instruction materials . Visual learner for someone who prefers materials to be presented in visual format and tactile – kinaesthetic learner for a person who learner most effectively through hands on experience . It is important for the teacher to find out whether learning is more effective when it is presented through one modality rather than another (Boneva and Mihova , 2011;5)

-Learning style including where, when , how learning take place , and with what materials. These styles may play on integral role in determining how the student perceive the learning environment and responds to it . It also can allow teachers to provide option in the classroom that would and respond to .It also can allow teacher to provide options in the classroom that would echange student learning (Burden and Byrd ,2010:91)

There are obviously differences between males and females and some of those differences influence student performance at school .

Researchers have found that females generally are more extroverted ,anxious and trusting ;are less assertive and have slightly lower self-esteem than males of the same age and background females verbal and motor skills and develop faster than those of males (Burden and MByrd ,2010:92) .

- Strengths and preferences of each individual could be definied across five categories . (Boneva and Mihova ,2011:7)
- 1. Enviroinmental:These include light, sound , temperature, while some people like to study in silence , other quiet background music ;Some might prefer to sit on a straight back chair ,while other might prefer to sit on the floor or lie on a sofa .Some people like to work in bright light whereas others prefer low or natural lighting.
- 2. Emotional :These include motivation , persistent ,

3. Sociological : Some student prefer to study by themselves while other achieve better results when they learn with a friend or colleague .

Most dyslexics find it easier to learn when they can do it together with someone else. This gives them confidence and they start to believe that they will manage the new information .

4. Physical : These include the time of the day when ones learning is likely to be more effective . Some individual prefer to move a round while learning and to have frequent ‘breaks’ while other can sit and work for long time without breaks .

According to Dunn and Dunn(1992), only 28% primary school student are active early in the morning . The best time for learning and working between 10.30 and 2pm.

5. Psychological: Include personal characteristics such as abilities motivation , temperament on thinking .

Some people , including many dyslexic individuals ,think globally . They start from the whole and then look at the details. Other people think analytically and need to know the details in order to be able to assemble the big picture .

(Boneva and Mihova , 2011 :from 8,9,10)

An important factor in understanding learning style is understanding brain functioning ,our brain is divided into two parts –hemisphere , by a fold that starts from the front and runs to the back (Boneva ,2012:105) and (Mihova ,2011 :14)

The teacher can build up a picture of their students learning style by asking to complete learning style questionnaire and /or observing them engaging in a range of activities in different sitting .

**So ,this study tries to answer the following questions ;**

1. What are the main learning styles of EFL fourth college students in English Department ?
2. How these learning styles effects students learning preferences ?

## Section Two

### 2-1 Definition of learning styles

Learning style is an individual preferences for the learning process that can affect learning including where ,when and how learning take place and with what material (R.Burden and M .Byrd ,2010 : 21).

Boneva and Mihova defined learning style in relation to the way in which different individuals learn . As researchers have focused on different aspect of this wide rang of inter pration and definition have been produced (2011: 6).

Claxton and Rolsons assert that learning style is the student's consistent way of responding and using stimuli in the context of meaning focuses more on sensory perception (1978: 1) .

Sabatova adds that learning styles as the composite of characteristic cognitive , affective and physiological factors that serve as relatively stable indicate of how a learner perceives , interacts with , and responds to the learning environment . learning style are not really concerned with what learners learn but rather how they prefer to learn (2008: 18)

On the other hand learning styles is sometimes defined as the characteristic cognitive ,affective , social , and physiological behaviors that serve as relatively stable indicators of how learners perceive interact with and respond to learning environment (Mackeracher, 2004 : 71 ) .

Gregorc (1979 :234) add that learning style s consists of distinctive , observable behaviours that provide clues to the functioning of peoples mind and how they relate to the world .

## 2-2 Types of Learning Styles

Learning styles according to (Boneva and Mihova ,2011: 10-11) and (Branch and Azad, 2012 :105-106) are :

1. **Visual** :- visual learners tend to think in pictures and learn best in visual images . So while reading, They usually create mental picture of what is described text . They don't pay much attention to the dialogue and may miss the meaning of some phrases if they contain words that are difficult to visualise . That is why it is very important for a visual learner to have the educational material presented using maps, chart , picture , ect . visual learners favour sitting in the front of classroom .
2. **Auditory** :- These individuals discover information through listening and interpreting information by the means of pitch . They may have difficulties understanding a text if they read it but if they listen to it they will be able to capture on more of the detail .These individuals gain knowledge from reading out loud in the classroom and may not have a full understanding of information that is written . They are often talkative , needing to think a loud . They usually enjoy music ,and remember song lyric and conversation.
3. **Kinaesthetic**: Here learners learn best through touch , movement , imitation and other physical activities . They remember best by writing or physically manipulating the information , and it is difficult for them to sit still for a long time .

(Sabatova 2008, 20 )

adds that learning styles may also include the following .They classify students according to their preferences on scales derived from psychologist carl Jungs theory of psychological.

- Extraverts(try things out ,focus on outer world of people )or introverts (think things through focus on the inner world of ideas).
- Sensory(practical , detail- oriented , focus on facts and procedures ) or intuitors (imaginative , concept –oriented ,focus on meaning and possibilities).
- Thinkers ( skeptical tend to make decisions based on logic , rules or feelers appreciative , tend to make decisions based on personal and humanistic consideration).
- Judgers (set and follow agendas , seek closure even with in complete data ) or perceivers (adapt to changing circumstance , resist closure to obtain more data ).

The MBTI type preferences can be combined to form 16 different learning style type . for example one student may be an ESTJ (extravert , sensor, thinker , perceive ) and another may be an INFJ (introvert , intuiitor , feeler , judger).

(Branch and Azad ,2012:102-106)

## **Section 3**

### **3-1 Population**

The population of this study comprises the students teachers of fourth stage in Diyala University College of Education for human sciences

The choice is intentional in the selection of the University Diyala /College of Education humanities , And it is random in the selection of representative number of 30 student teachers from the fourth stage students –English Department .

### **3-2 Sample**

The sample of research consists thirty student-teacher from the fourth – stage students English Department

The participants in the pilot study were exciuded administration of the questionnaire . The teachers consists of 100 teacher of English .

### **3-2 Instrument of the study**

To achieve the aim to verify the hypothesis , a questionnaire was adapted by the researchers , as shown in appendix (1).

The researchers distribute this questionnaire to a sample of the study .

### **3-3 Final administration of the Questionnaire**

The version of the questionnaire was distributed to the subjects at 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 .

The students were asked to give their views regards the items according to scale of three dimensions, the teachers responds have been utilized by the researchers .

## **Results**

In order to achieve the aim of the study which reads (aim), the responses of the subjects were investigated by the researchers and calculated individually . It is

That the higher percentage of learning styles was visual which gained 43% from the whole sample of the study . The other learning style is auditory which gained 40 %from the whole sample . The last one is kinesthetic style which gained 33.3%.

## Conclusion

### Conclusion remarks can be clearly stated as follows :

- 1- Based on the study results ,it is found that the style of most students in the sample under investigation were visual .  
The characteristic indicative of this style may include :
  - a. Learns by seeing or watching demonstrations .
  - b. In spelling Recognize words by sight; relies on configuration of words.
  - c. In reading Like description ; sometimes stops reading to stare into space and imagine scene; intense concentration.
  - d. Handwriting Tends to be a good , particularly when young ; spacing and size are good ; appearance
- 2- 40% of the students in this study were represented as having auditory style of learning . This can be clearly stated in the following points:
  - a-Learns through verbal instructions from self or other.
  - b-In spelling Use a phonics approach has auditory word attack skills .
  - c. In reading Enjoys dialogue and plays; avoids lengthy description ; unaware of illustration ; moves lips or sub-vocalizes .
  - d . Hand writing Has more difficulty learning in initial stages ;tend to write lightly .
- 3- As kinesthetic style of learning gained 33.3 as the results shows . It is advised to follow the following charactersties :
  - a. Learns by doing and direct involvement
  - b. In spelling Often is a poor speller writes words to determine if they “feel” right
  - c. In reading Prefers stories where action occurs early ;fidgets while reading ; not an avid reader .
  - d. Good initially , but deteriorates when space becomes smaller ; pushes harder on writing instrument .



## **Recommendations**

Based on the study results, the researchers

1. In order to achieve the ultimate goal of student learning it is recommends important to use a combination of teaching method and make the classroom environment as stimulating and interactive as possible following :