Assessment of Students’ Cultural Awareness in British Literature through Women Writers: the Case of 1st Year Master Students.

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Abstract

The present research work is an attempt to study the assessment of literature with reference to the cultural background. The study is conducted at the University of Abou Bekr Belkaid, Tlemcen, involving first year Masters students specialized in ‘Literature & Civilization’, and also teachers of literature. It is recognized that there is a lack of importance in the assessment of the cultural side of the literary work presented in the classroom. The teachers of literature emphasise more on the language and the content of the text rather than on the cultural components of it, either during the lecture or in the exams. Accordingly, the present research aims at providing some assessment techniques that give more importance to the students’ cultural awareness. Yet, it has been divided into four chapters incorporating both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The research instruments used in collecting data are the students’ questionnaire, the teachers’ interview, classroom observation and test analysis. Using these methods, the researcher tries to identify if students are really assessed culturally or not. In fact, the findings of this research denote that the assessment of the students’ cultural awareness is neglected by the majority of the teachers and sometimes absent and this is due to: lack of time, absence of teachers’ training in this field and lack of pedagogical tools for students to enhance their cultural awareness. Finally, some recommendations and suggestions are provided in order to achieve some solutions with the aim of reinforcing the process of assessment of the cultural context in literary studies. As a result, some activities are proposed to make assessment easier for both teachers and students. On the other hand, the focus on the provision of the Islamic thoughts and knowledge in assessment is of a great importance to prepare the students for the real life and promote their leaning.
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