What Does Concept of Teacher Mean to Teacher Candidates?

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Abstract : *This research aimed to determine mathematics teacher candidates' meanings about the concept of teacher via metaphors. 36 Mathematics teacher candidates who studied in the Faculty of Education were the participants of the research. The teacher candidates were asked to complete the sentence of "A Teacher is like ... as ...". The teacher candidates wrote metaphors as many as they wish. The metaphors obtained were categorized in terms of their meanings that the teacher candidates attributed, afterwards these categories were categorized again in terms of their similarities and so themes were obtained. At the end of the research; it was seen that the teacher candidates thought a teacher as a person preparing the students for the future by enhancing their knowledge and abilities; showing appropriate ways to achieve success in life; inspiring with his/her behaviours; making effort to make the students a good person and citizen and also sometimes as a closer friend.*

Keywords: *Teacher candidates, concept of teacher, metaphor*

I.   Introduction

The A metaphor is defined as a poetical image and a rhetorical tool which is limited to use in literature. Metaphor was defined as an embellishment or a style of speaking in the past ([1]). Metaphor is not a mere embellishment, it is the basic means by which abstract thought is made possible ([2]). Metaphor is considered as the strongest device for an individual to comprehend and explain a hypothetical or an abstract, complex fact in a high level ([3]). A metaphor is actually a way of understanding one reality by means of another reality ([4]).

Metaphors have many advantages for educators and learners. If our conceptual system and thought processes are largely metaphorical, analyzing metaphorical thinking of people is a good way to understand what happens in their mind ([5]). In recent years, there were many studies conducted to investigate the metaphors about "teaching", "learning" and "teacher" concepts ([6], [7], [8], [9], [10], [11], [12], [13], [14]).

Metaphors affect cognitive processes and actions ([5]) and enable individuals to express themselves while shaping their expressions ([15]). Metaphors affecting individuals not only reflect thoughts but also shape them and contribute to the emerging of behaviors ([16]). Metaphors could be used as effective tools in determining the place of teachers in modern education approach ([17]). The fact that metaphors are important tools in researching processes and concepts as basis of the educational process has been proven by the qualitative research findings ([7], [11], [13], [18], [19], [20], [21], [22], [23]). Therefore, metaphors have important roles guiding education and teaching practices of teacher candidates. As metaphors have the ability to enable long-term retention ([24]), metaphors could be used in education ([25], [26], [27], [28], [29], [30]).

II. method

The aim of this research is to investigate the mathematics teacher candidates' view of the the concept of teacher via metaphors. This study has been administered to 40 mathematics teacher candidates who studied in the Faculty of Education in Burdur/Turkey. The teacher candidates were asked to complete the sentence of "A Teacher is like … as …". The teacher candidates wrote metaphors as many as they wish. The metaphors obtained were categorized in terms of their meanings that the teacher candidates attributed, afterwards these categories were categorized again in terms of their similarities and so themes were obtained.

III. Findings

The metaphors and frequencies that the mathematics teacher candidates' produced about the concept of teacher were given in Table 1.

Table 1. The metaphors that the mathematics teacher candidates' produced about the concept of teacher

Category	Metaphors
Carrying into future-preparing for the life	Bus (carrying to real life), street door (the door to real life)
Providing information	Newspaper, book (2), google, nature, cow(milking knowledge), chestnut (wishing to eat in winter-knowledge), library, computer
Advisor	Sister/brother (2), mother-father, compass (5), light (2), sun, psychologist, guide (2), traffic light (3), eraser (cleaning errors), water (cleaning errors), glasses (providing vision), map (2), life coach, moonlight
Developing talent	Tap (flower-water-developing), farmer, gardener, technical director (2), cooker, mirror (awareness raising), pottery master (giving a form)
Developing in every aspect	Heart (pumping blood), tree (3) (benefit from fresh air, fruits, etc.), land (2), mother-father, guide, family member, black cherry juice (produces blood), MALL (provides our every need), writer (writing on empty headed students)
Inspiring	Music, artwork
Developing academic and general knowledge	Journal, travel, a well-informed friend, sun, light
Friend	A close friend (4)
Developing moral values	Mosque, navigator
Leaving an impression	Fall (having good or bad affects),mother, life
Fairness	Scales
Role-Model	Model
Treatment facility	Gets every kind of students and makes them suitable for the society

The students produced 54 different metaphors and these metaphors were separated to 13 different categories. When analyzed these categories, it was seen that the mathematics teacher candidates considers teachers as the persons who develop students' academic and general knowledge, skills, guide the students for the success, carry them into future by inspiring the students with their behaviours, try to develop students' personalities and moral values and can be a good friend.

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