

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Van Brummelen (1998, p. 20) states that, schools attempt to be supportive learning community. He further explains that:

Schools help all students to contribute and feel accepted. They appreciate them for their unique gifts and contributions. Students learn to cooperate, not just to compete for the sake of “beating” someone else. A balance of individual, small group and large group activities help students use their talents to contribute to the community in different ways.

The statement above points out that in the classroom students not only learn about content but also they learn how to socialize with others. They learn to work with other friends and use their unique talents, with all their strengths and weaknesses. Romans 12:4-8 clearly explain that each person is unique and is able to contribute to life in community in a special way, using their distinctive gifts (Van Brummelen, 2009, p. 103).

Yount (1998, p. 44) states that, teachers are bridges between subjects and learners, scholars who express profound ideas in learning language. Then he quotes from I Corinthians 14:7-11,

Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as flute or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes? Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air. Undoubtedly, there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and he is a foreigner to me (I Corinthians 14:7-11, NIV)

The above quotation stresses on clear communication in order for other people to understand what we said. According to Yount (1998, p. 46), the real goal of teaching is balanced and mature communication, clear direction, understandable principles, crisp distinctive, relevant

illustrations, lucid examples, explicit explanations, thoughtful insight, and personal links.

Based on classroom pre-observation it was identified that the process of teaching and learning Biology using English did not work well. Some students could not understand what was being taught and could not respond to questions in English. It was therefore, students' learning interest was low.

Based on the above-mentioned problems this research aims to studying the use of English as the language of instruction to increase grade seven students' learning interest in learning biology.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

1. How can the use of English as the language of instruction increase grade seven students' learning interest in learning Biology?
2. What are the constrains of using English as the language of instruction in increasing grade seven students' learning interest in learning Biology?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purposes of this study is to

1. determine how to use English as a language of instruction in order to increase grade seven students' learning interest in learning Biology.
2. determine the constrains of using English as a Language of Instruction in increase grade 7 students' learning interest in learning Biology.

1.4 Significance of the Study

1. For teacher

Teacher would be able to understand all the benefits and constrains of using English, as the language of instruction in order to increase students' learning interest. This information will influence their teaching method.

2. For students

Students would improve their interest in learning Biology using English.

3. For school

Consider the benefit of using English as the language of instruction school would be able to provide some facilities that support this program.

1.5 Definition of Terms

1. Language (or medium) of instruction

Language (or medium) of instruction is the language that is used in teaching. It may or may not be the official language of the territory (Encyclopaedia-all expert, 2010).

2. Biology

Biology is the branch of science concerned with the structure, function, growth, evolution, and distribution of living and non-living organisms (Biology-online, 2010).