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Impact of Practice on Transfer of Learning: A Study on Secondary Level Student's

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Abstract

According to H.C. Ellis, "Transfer of learning means the experiences or performances on one task influence the performance on some other subsequent task." Many factors influence on the process of transfer of learning. The present study tries to investigate the impact of practice on transfer of learning. Totally 50 children, age ranging between 14 and 15 years, students of class-(X) of the schools of collegiate school, Berhampore, Murshidabad participated in the study. The pupils were divided into two groups namely Group-'A' and Group-'B'. Each groups formed with 25 pupils. The group-'A' was given the opportunity of practice for a particular task. On the other hand, Group-'B' was not given any opportunity of practice for the same task. It has been found that practice helps in the process of transfer of learning. The results have been discussed in the light of existing scientific knowledge.

Keywords: Transfer of learning, practice, impact, secondary level students.

Introduction

Hilgard Atkilson mentioned in his book 'Introduction to psychology' that "The influence that learning one task, may have on the subsequent learning of another is called transfer of learning." It is very essential in the process of learning and plays a key role in the life of human being. Factors like intelligence, attitude, Nature of learning elements, methods of teaching etc. affect the process of transfer of learning. Present study aims to investigate the effect of practice on transfer of learning. We took a sample of 50 students of class-(X) of the schools of collegiate school, Berhampore, Murshidabad for our study. We divided them into two groups. Each groups formed with 25 students. We assured that every student knows the rules of Narration change. The first group e.g., Group-'A' had given a practice session of two hours for developing their skills in the area of Narration Change. Then we gave both the groups a task of Report writing. We tried to observe the effects of practice session on the achievements of Group-'A'. The faculty of English of collegiate school helped us to evaluate student's performance.

Objectives

The objective of our study were to-

1. Study the impact of practice on transfer of learning.
2. Know the effectiveness of transfer of learning.

Hypothesis

The study proposed to test the following hypothesis-

1. H_0 : Practice has great impact on the process of transfer of learning.
2. H_1 : The experimental group (Group-'A') will do better than that of controlled group (Group-B).
3. H_2 : The mean score of Group-'A' is not greater than that of the mean score of Group-'B'

Sample

Totally 50 pupils, age ranging 14-15 years of class-(X) of collegiate school, Berhampore, Murshidabad were selected randomly for our study. The students were divided in equal numbers of 25.

Measures

A report writing test of 20 marks within the time limit of 30 minutes have been employed in our study for measuring the performance of the students selected for our study. The report writing test was prepared by one of the present investigators (Mudassar Nazar Baidya).

Procedure

Following procedures have been taken for our study:

1. At first, we calculated the Mean and S.D. of the two groups.
2. Then, we applied 'Z'-test for analyzing the data.
3. One tailed test has also been used for statistical operation.

The data

The following table shows the data of two groups:

Statistics	Experimental	Control Group
	Group-'A'	Group-'B'
Mean	18	12
S.D.	5	4
N	25	25

Result and Discussion

Standard Error of difference between Mean (SE^D) is-

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_D &= \sqrt{\frac{\sigma^2}{N_1} + \frac{\sigma^2}{N_2}} \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{25}{25} + \frac{16}{25}} \\ &= \sqrt{1 + 0.64} \\ &= \sqrt{1.64} \\ &= 1.28 \end{aligned}$$

Now, the difference between means are converted into Z score-

$$Z = \frac{M_1 - M_2}{\sigma_D} = \frac{18 - 12}{1.28} = \frac{6}{1.28} = 4.69(\text{approximately})$$

The Z value is significant both 0.05 and 0.01 level of confidence. So, Null Hypothesis has been rejected and we can say that the mean score of Group-'A' is greater than that of Group-'B'.

The result may be discussed in the following way:

Both the groups have able to transfer the knowledge of Narration Change into the skill of Report-writing. Here, knowledge of Narration Change helps pupils to write a report properly. Thus transfer of learning took place. The Group-'A' was provided a practice session which helps this group to accomplish better transfer of learning. On the other hand, the control group was not provided practice session so they did less performance than Group-'A'.

We can concluded about the hypothesis as-

1. H_0 : This hypothesis is true in accordance with our study.
2. H_1 : It is also proved.
3. H_2 : It is rejected and the test is significant as experimental group did better.

Delimitations

1. The sample size is not enough.
2. This study is done on the basis of the data of one school only. It may not represent all the related issues.
3. Intelligence, merit, socio-economic factors may influence on the findings.

Recommendations

We recommend some points for further study:

1. Sample size should be larger.
2. More Number of schools should have been included this type of study.
3. Pre-test, post-test design could have been applied.

Conclusion

To conclude then, practice makes perfect transfer of learning. More the opportunity of practice given more out comes enhanced. Transfer of learning helps the learners to generalize the subject matter and save their energy and time. The teacher should provide maximum opportunity of practice to his students. Excessive practice of original task increases the likelihood of positive transfer to a subsequent task.

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