Multilingual Teaching in Accounting at the University Level in Iraqi Kurdistan Region

Challenges and Opportunities

Aram Jawhar Mohammad & Heshw Rebwar Ali

Erbil Polytechnic University

in the accounting departments of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region universities the language of instruction is multilingual. The three languages of English, Kurdish and Arabic are used simultaneously. This is due to the fact that the two languages of English and Arabic are spoken in the region and English is used as a language of instruction at the university level. This multilingual teaching is regarded as a challenge for the teachers and students, at the same time it is regarded as an opportunity for them. This paper investigates how teaching accounting can provide teachers and students with the necessary tools to improve their second and forging language. Teaching and learning business related topics, such as accounting, in a different language, other than the mother tongue, can also be a challenge for both the teachers and the students. The aim of this study is to shed light on the role of language in teaching and studying accounting. The data for this study is taken from accounting department at Erbil Polytechnic University. First a focus group tool is used to discuss with staff to know how many languages are used in the department and whether using different languages is a challenge or opportunity for them or not. And a survey is used to measure the student’s satisfaction with the courses and whether the courses are helpful to improve their language skills or not.

Key words: multilingual instruction, accounting teaching and learning