

# USING TRANSLATION IN ELT IN OMAN: A PEDAGOGICAL PERSPECTIVE OF PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES.

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## ABSTRACT

Role of L1 in learning L2 cannot be underestimated. Research supports the view that L1 is a good tool for learning L2. Students get a sense of security and express themselves better if native language is incorporated into lessons (Schweers, 1999). Once again, researchers have started recognizing the importance of ‘bilingual teaching method’ and many are advocating incorporation of L1 to foster and facilitate second language learning(Cunningham(2000), Mohuanna(2009), Ross (2000), Schweers(1999). This is an exploratory study to learn about the views and perceptions of teachers and students at Dhofar University towards the use of Arabic in their classes. A questionnaire that included most areas of concern in using L1 in EFL classes was administered. The study indicated that almost all students and teachers were not opposing the use of L1 in classes, however, a judicious use of L1 is recommended by both teachers and students. Interestingly, the students at Dhofar University think that communication between teachers and students should be in English and dependence on L1 should be only in certain situations.

**KEY WORDS:** Translation, First Language (L1), Second Language (L2), Perceptions