

Silence in the EFL Classroom

Eylem Altuntaş

Özyeğin University Çekmeköy Kampüsü Nişantepe Mah. Orman Sok. 34794 Çekmeköy

İstanbul / Turkey

eylemaltuntash@gmail.com

Keywords: Silence, speaking foreign language anxiety, communication obstacles, EFL.

Abstract. Silence in the language classroom has been the experience of many teachers especially in speaking activities. Silence and its reasons have been investigated in a considerable number of studies in the field of foreign language teaching. The studies have shed light on such aspects as foreign language anxiety, culture, or previous education. This present study aims to explore the reasons why a group of Turkish EFL learners keep silent during the language classes. The study also presents some suggestions for language teachers as to help their students overcome the problem of silence in the language classroom. The study utilizes both qualitative and quantitative research designs. Data collection tools include learner diaries, semi-structured interviews, and a questionnaire.