

## ENGLISH ABSTRACT

This study attempts to explore the role of learning center-based activities in teaching EFL in a Palestinian context. This was approached through specific examination of L2 students' achievement at acquiring the English tense system. Moreover, Students' attitudes towards the use of such centers in learning were also investigated.

This is a Quasi- experimental study, which took place in the Kufur Aqab Boys' School during the first and second semesters of the academic year 2009/2010. This study answers the following questions: 1. What is the role of learning centers in L2 learners' achievement in acquiring the English tense system? 2. How do learning centers help learners deal with the complexity of the tense system? 3. What are the learners' attitudes towards using learning centers in learning the English tense system? To answer these questions it is hypothesized that:

1. There is no significant difference at the level of  $\alpha \leq 0.05$  on the means of post-achievement test between the control group and the experimental group.

Several data collection techniques were used to obtain the data; pre-and post- tests, a questionnaire, portfolios, and progress checklists. A Statistical Package for the Social Sciences program (SPSS) and descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data. The questions of this study were answered by comparing the results of the pre and post-tests for both groups, reviewing students' portfolios and researcher's checklists, and analyzing learners' responses to the questionnaire to determine their attitudes.

The results of this study reject the hypothesis which is: There is no significant difference at the level of  $\alpha \leq 0.05$  on the means of post-achievement test between the control group and the experimental group. The results of this study indicate that the experimental group has significantly outperformed the control group in the acquisition of the L2 English tense system. This is mainly attributed to the use of learning centers as a teaching technique. Furthermore, students have shown positive attitudes towards the use of these centers in learning English tense system.