

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	i
List of Tables	iii
List of Appendices	iv
Abstract	v
Chapter 1	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Theoretical Framework of the Study	1
1.3 Statement of the Problem	4
1.4 Significance of the Study	5
1.5 Limitations of the Study	6
1.6 Definition of terms	6
1.7 Research Questions	7
1.8 Hypotheses	8
1.9 Summary	9
Chapter 2: Literature Review	10
2.1 Introduction	10
2.2 Views and Concepts Concerning Cultural Knowledge and its role in reading	10
2.3 The Relationship between Cultural Schemata and ESL/EFL Reading Comprehension	13
2.4 Summary	23
Chapter 3	25
3.1 Introduction	25
3.2 Population and Sample	25
3.3 Research Design	27
3.4 Instrumentation	37
3.4.1 Reading Texts	38
3.4.2 Validation of the Test	39
3.4.3 Test Questions	39
3.4.4 Validation of Test Questions	40
3.4.5 Reliability of the Test	40
3.5 Pilot Study	41
3.6 Procedures	41
3.7 Scoring of the Test	43
3.8 Statistical Analysis	43
3.9 Summary	44
Chapter four	45

4.1	Introduction	45
4.2	Descriptive Statistics	45
4.2.1	Means and Standard Deviations of the students' Performance in the Reading Test According to Place of Residence	46
4.2.2	Means and Standard Deviations of the students' Performance in the Reading Test According to hobbies	48
4.2.3	Means and Standard Deviations of the students' Performance in the Reading Test According to L2 proficiency and GPA	50
4.2.4	Means and Standard Deviations of the students' Performance in the Reading Test According to Specialization	52
4.2.5	The Means of the Students' Performance on Each Reading Text	54
4.2.6	Means and Standard Deviations of the Palestinian Reading Passages and the American Passages	55
4.2.7	The Results of Palestinian American Passages according to the university	56
4.3	Results and discussion of the T-test	57
4.3.1	Introduction	57
4.3.2	Results of the T-test due to Gender	57
4.3.3	T-test Results of reading the Palestinian texts Due to Gender	58
4.3.4	T-test Results of reading the American texts Due to Gender	59
4.4	Conclusion	60
Chapter Five: Discussion, conclusions and Recommendations		61
5.1	Introduction	61
5.2	Discussion and Synthesis	61
5.3	Summary	69
5.4	Conclusions	71
5.5	Recommendations	72
Reading Test		74
Questionnaire		109
Diagrams and histograms		111
References		125

List of Tables

No.	Table	Page
1	Sample Distribution according to Gender	26
2	Sample Distribution According to Specialization	28
3	Sample Distribution According to University	29
4	Sample Distribution According to GPA	29
5	Sample Distribution According to L2 Proficiency	30
6	Sample Distribution According to Place of Residence	32
7	Sample Distribution According to Daily Hours of Watching TV	34
8	Sample Distribution According to Daily Hours of Using the Internet	35
9	Means and standard deviations of the students' performance in the reading test according to their place of residence	46
10	Means and standard deviations of the students' performance in the test according to hours of watching TV	48
11	Means and standard deviations of the students' performance in the test according to hours of using net	49
12	Means and standard deviations of the students' performance in the test according to their GPA and L2 Proficiency	50
13	Pearson correlation between students' GPA and their performance in the reading test	51
14	Pearson correlation between students' L2 proficiency and their performance in the reading test	51
15	Means and standard deviations of the students' performance in the reading test according to their specialization	52
16	The Results of Students' Performance on each Reading Text	54
17	The Means and Standard Deviations of the Palestinian reading passages and the American Reading passages	55
18	The Results of Palestinian American passages according to the university	56
19	Results of the T-test which Was Used for Students' Performance in Reading According to Gender	57
20	T- test results of the students' performance in reading the Palestinian texts due to gender	58
21	T- test results of the students' performance in reading the American texts due to gender	59

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Reading Test	74
Appendix 2: Text A	90
Appendix 3: Text B	94
Appendix 4: Text C	101
Appendix 5: Text D	106
Appendix 6: Questionnaire	109
Appendix 7: Diagrams and Histograms	111