

# A Phenomenographic Study on Views About Entertaining and Boring Situations in Learning Process

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## Abstract

In the learning process, it is accepted that learning with entertainment is important in participation in the process and retention of learning. Thus, the aim of the present study was to investigate the views of students and teachers on entertaining and boring settings in the learning process. Phenomenography method was used in the study. The study group included fourth grade teachers and students in public and private schools in Adiyaman province central district in Turkey. In this context, seven schools, four private and three public schools, were selected among the schools, where students of the parents with different socio-economic background attended, with purposive sampling method. A total of 10 primary school 4th grade teachers employed these schools participated in the study on a voluntary basis. The study group included 80 students. Individual and focus group interview and photointerviewing techniques were used in data collection. Data were analyzed with content analysis method. In the study, it was concluded that teachers and students liked similar class settings and both teachers and students liked classrooms that were furnished with sufficient number of tools and equipment, heating and lighting, where colorful and plenty of activities could be conducted and equipped with technological tools. Furthermore, it was determined that the teachers and students criticized the photographs they disliked due to the lack of facilities in the classroom to implement different methods, similarities with their own classrooms, or for being dark and old-looking, and the unhappy demeanor of the students and teachers on the photographs. The study findings were discussed and interpreted within the framework of the literature.

**Keywords:** learning process, entertainment, teacher, student, phenomenography

## 1. Introduction

Entertainment, which could be defined as enjoyable and joyful (Turkish Language Institution [TLI], 2015), makes life a pleasure, enlivens it and helps eliminate the troubles in life a little when it happens. Furthermore, entertainment could include the comforting and happy moments that humankind may need in almost every moment in life, especially during ordinary, tiring or boring times. In fact, Zillmann (2000, cited by Cakir, 2005, p. 124) stated that the current age is an age of entertainment as well as an age of information, and all the capacity of the production, change and transfer of information serves entertainment as much as or perhaps more than businesses. It would not be strange to think that integration of the concept of entertainment that is considered universal and significant with learning, which is as much universal and significant in human life, would be beneficial. Ozdemir (2001, p. 256) stressed the role of entertainment in learning as follows: Entertainment and enjoyable learning is essential for the commitment of a student to life-oriented education. When there is pleasure and entertaining in learning, the required efforts would not be a burden. Furthermore, several educators use the concept of “the pleasure of learning” synonymous with “entertainment, satisfaction, and play” (Al-shara, 2015). Moreover, in a study by Memnun and Akkaya (2010), it was reported that most students in primary education liked to learn through games and activities, and the game-based instruction method could be used to make the classes more entertaining.

Several studies reported that student participation and achievement would increase in an entertaining learning environment created by various activities (Akengin & Ibrahimoglu, 2010; Barata, Gama, Jorge, & Goncalves, 2013; Brewer, Anthony, Brown, Irwin, Nias, & Tate, 2013; Campbell, 2012; Erdem, 2015; Goehle, 2013; Guler, Cakmak, & Kavak, 2013; Kapp, 2012; Raymer, 2011; Stupiansky, Stupiansky, & Nicholas, 1999; Tural, 2005; Vernon, 2009). In fact, it was reported that learning is enforced by high student participation (Akinoglu, 2004;

Bloom, 1976; Crouch, Fagen, Callan, & Mazur, 2004).

The learning activities that could be considered as entertainment include educational games (Erdem, 2015; Yildirim, 2016), educational movies and music (Gencel-Ataman, 2014), painting, dancing, cartoons (Erdem, 2015; Guler, Cakmak, & Kavak, 2013), humor (Asilioglu, 2013; Cornett; 1986; Elias, 2015; Huang, Liu, Lai, & Liu, 2017; Wagner & Urios-Aparisi, 2011), various funny and educational stories and rhetoric, riddles, jokes, proverbs (Gocer, 2010), and drama (Heathcote & Bolton, 1994). Among these activities, games have playful and relaxing properties. It was also reported that the games increase the sharing and collaboration among children as it provides a voluntary environment for discussion and participation in the process (Erdem, 2015, p. 41). In brief, several behavior, knowledge and skills that the child requires are acquired through games (Tezel-Sahin, Balci, Aydin-Kilic, & Yazar, 2015, p. 299). In the learning process, the games could be included in a simple conventional format, as well as through the digital tools which are commonly used in the information age. Erdal (2012, p. 56) reported the various effects of music on human development based on the approach of Montessori that “music leads to physical, intellectual and emotional development” in a study on the role of music instruction methods in preschool education according to developmental and learning theoreticians. Gencel-Ataman (2014) stated in her study titled that music was quite significant for mental, spiritual and cultural development of humans and music was effective on achievements in the mathematics course. Painting activities are generally included in the activities utilized in free activity courses in addition to its own course content (Visual Arts) (Ay, Acat, & Yuksel, 2016; Aydin, Bakirci, & Urey, 2012; Bektas & Dincer, 2011; Bozpolat, 2016; Dundar & Karaca, 2011; Gultekin, Atalay, & Ay, 2014) and this is due to its relaxing and soothing properties (Ferahoglu, Tepecik, & Kalyoncu, 2014; Kalyoncu & Liman, 2013; Ozturk, Peker, & Gokdas, 2017). Akengin and Ibrahimoglu (2010, p.2) emphasized the significance of the use of cartoons in education and stated that these activities do only aim to make the audience smile, but to make them think as well. Thus, it is obvious that cartoons should be included in current education approaches where learning is targeted and focused on thinking. It has been always suggested that the use of humor in instruction has beneficial effects (Bryant, Comisky, Crane, & Zillmann, 1980; Chabeli, 2008; Kaya, 2011; Ozkan, 2008; Sidekli, Er, Yavaser, & Aydin, 2014). According to Quina (1989), when students laugh with their teachers, they generally prefer to collaborate. Because the joy of teachers in teaching often increases with their enthusiasm in their practices. When students observe this enthusiasm, their enjoyment levels also increase (Witt, Wheelless, & Allen, 2004).

Recently, various concepts and learning approaches have come to the forefront that advocate that games, pleasant moments, and thus more entertainment should be included in learning processes. These concepts and approaches include the concept of entertaining learning (Education Information Network [EIN], 2018; Learning with Fun, 2018; Teach Thought, 2017), game based learning approach (Bakhsh, 2016; Chang, Warden, Liang, & Lin, 2018; Dickey, 2011; Turan-Guntepe & Donmez-Usta, 2017) and gamification approach (Caponetto, Earp, & Ott, 2014; Kim, Song, Lockee, & Burton, 2018; Yildirim, 2016), and these are included in various studies, books and databases and their significance in the learning process was emphasized.

In addition to entertainment, boredom and getting bored are also widely accepted concepts in the learning process. If the course is teacher-centered and if the students are not active in the class and could not comprehend the topic, if the course is not entertaining, if the instruction techniques are conventional or the physical classroom conditions are not adequate, it is possible that the students would be bored in classroom. Several studies were conducted on this topic (Al-Shara, 2015; Arai, 2004; Baba-Khouya, 2018; Delpech, 2002; Ersoy, 2016; Koca-Ozgun & Sen, 2006; Memnun & Akkaya, 2010; Prokop, Prokop, & Tunnicliffe, 2007; Sakai & Kikuchi, 2009; Tranter, 2004). In a study on student boredom in classroom, Mann and Robinson (2009) reported that 59% of the students found half of the time they spent in the classroom boring and 30% found the courses mostly boring. Thus, it was stated that more than one fourth of these students take a break in the middle of the process. The factors that lead to boredom in the classroom were determined as widespread use of conventional instruction techniques and PowerPoint presentations. In the same study, it was reported that students adopt various strategies to cope with boring classes, while the most popular strategies included daydreaming, doodling, chatting with friends and writing notes to friends.

Thus, the present study aimed to determine entertaining and boring conditions in learning process based on the views of students and teachers. Furthermore, the study aimed to develop ideas and recommendations to increase the entertaining periods and reduce boring periods in the learning process, and thus to take various measures in order to create environments where the learning process could be maintained with success. Moreover, the present study is considered significant since it is the first study on this topic using this methodology in Turkey.

## 2. Method

Entertainment and boring are the phenomena. So phenomenography, a qualitative method, was used in the study. Phenomenography is a research method that tackles the perceptions, understanding and experiences of individuals about the phenomena they experience in the universe. However, it is not necessary to deal with a special case as in phenomenology, but the determination of the perceptions of the individuals is important in phenomenography. While there are variations between the perceptions of the phenomenon which is the subject of research in phenomenography, in phenomenology, the aim is to determine the presence and the essence of the investigated phenomenon (Cekmez, Yildiz, & Tumer, 2012). Phenomenography, therefore, is related to how different individuals perceive and think about the same phenomenon.

### 2.1 Study Group

The study group included primary school 4th grade teachers and students in public and private schools in the central district of Adiyaman province at the end of the 2016-2017 academic year fall semester. In this context, there are a total of seven schools, four of which are private and three are public schools, which were determined with purposive sampling method among the schools with parents in different socio-economic classes. In the study, 10 primary school fourth grade teachers, one from each private school and two from each public school, participated on a voluntary basis. The students in the study group included one student from the classes of the participating teachers in two private schools and three public schools. The total number of students included in the study was 80.

The fact that the study data had to be collected on the last week of the semester decreased the number of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students who could participate in the study and became a limitation for the study. The researcher obtained the approval of school administrators to conduct and record interviews with the teachers and students in that school and then made appointments with the participating teachers. All interviews were conducted in designated schools during the appointments. Information about schools, students and teachers is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Distribution of the schools and participating teachers

School Type	School	Gender	Total # of Teachers (f)	Seniority (years)
Private	Birey Primary School	Female	1	28
Private	Doruk Primary School	Male	1	39
Private	Ikra Primary School	Female	1	29
Private	Simya Primary School	Male	1	12
Public	Borsa İstanbul Primary School	Male	1	2
		Male	1	38
Public	Menderes Primary School	Female	1	11
		Male	1	18
Public	Tekel 75. Yil Primary School	Female	1	22
		Female	1	28
Total		5 Females 5 Males	10	1-10 years; 1 teacher 11-20 years; 3 teachers 21-30 years; 4 teachers 31 & more years; 2 teachers

In Table 1, it can be observed that the number of female and male teachers was equal (5 females, 5 males). Teacher seniority varied between 2 and 39 years. Furthermore, it was observed that the teacher seniority was mostly between 11-30 years.

Table 2. Distribution of the schools and participating students

School Type	School	Female Students	Male Students	Total # of Students (f)	%
Private	Birey Primary School	-	12	12	15
	Simya Primary School	6	4	10	12.5
	Total	6	16	22	27.5
Public	Borsa İstanbul Primary School	13	7	20	25
	Menderes Primary School	10	3	13	16.25
	Tekel 75. Yil Primary School	16	9	25	31.25
	Total	39	19	58	72.5
Grand Total		45	35	80	100

Table 2 demonstrates that the number of female and male students was close, however the number of female students ( $n = 45$ ) was higher than that of male students ( $n = 35$ ). Furthermore, it could be observed that the number of students attending public schools ( $n = 58$ , 72.5%) was higher than the number of students attending private schools ( $n = 22$ , 27.5%).

### 2.2 Data Collection

The interview technique was used in the data collection process. In addition to individual and focus group interview techniques, the photointerviewing technique was also used since the researcher considered that it would deepen and enrich the study data. In a recent study on photointerviewing technique, which has been increasingly used in research, Uygun (2011, p. 45) stated that the technique involves showing photos to the participants and asking them to comment on what they see in the picture and to narrate a story.

In individual interviews (conducted with teachers) and focus group interviews (conducted with students), the participants were asked semi-structured questions on entertaining and boring school and classroom environments. In addition to these questions, photographs of classrooms taken in various countries were shown to the participants within the context of photointerviewing technique and they were asked to narrate their views on these photographs and in which classroom they wanted to be in and why. The replies to all questions and statements about the photographs were recorded using a voice recorder. Photographs included classroom pictures from the Ivory Coast, Finland and the USA based on their differences in socio-economic, education and developmental levels. However, the information about the countries was not shared with the participants during the interview in order to prevent the effects of possible prejudices.

In line with the aim of the study, a total of six semi-structured interview questions were posed to teachers and students. The face-to-face interviews conducted with the teachers lasted about 15-20 minutes and the focus group interviews conducted with students from 5 classes lasted approximately 40 minutes each. The questions included in the interviews conducted with the teachers were as follows:

- 1) Is your classroom entertaining or boring? Why?
- 2) How would you describe a boring classroom environment?
- 3) What do you do to make the classroom environment more entertaining? (Physically and visually)
- 4) What do you do to make the lesson more entertaining? (Based on the instruction, methodology, material or evaluation)
- 5) In which setting depicted in the photographs (Photo 1, Photo 2, Photo 3) you would like to instruct?
- 6) What are your views on the classroom environments depicted in the photographs?



Photo 1 (Finland)



Photo 2 (USA)



Photo 3 (Finland/technological)

The questions included in the interviews conducted with the students were as follows:

- 1) Is your classroom entertaining or boring? Why?
- 2) How would you describe a boring classroom environment?
- 3) How would you describe an entertaining classroom environment?
- 4) What does your teacher do in the classroom to make it more entertaining or likable?
- 5) In which setting depicted in the photographs (Photo 1, Photo 2, Photo 3) you would like to be instructed?
- 6) What are your views on the classroom environments depicted in the photographs?



Photo 1 (Ivory Coast)



Photo 2 (Finland)



Photo 3 (Finland/technological)

### 2.3 Data Analysis

The data obtained by transcribing the recordings were analyzed with the content analysis method. In the analysis process, data was classified under main themes, themes and categories. Thus, data frequencies and percentages

were also presented. On determination of these classifications, the data were checked by the researcher and a specialist and the statements on which there was an agreement were included in the main themes, themes and categories.

#### 2.4 Validity and Reliability

In the study, both the interview questions and the photographs were determined to serve the aim of the study, and a literature review was conducted and views of two field experts were obtained to ensure the content validity. Internal validity in terms of construct validity was provided by clear and detailed presentation of data collection and analysis processes and study findings. The external validity was obtained by the fitness of the study group, the study environment and clear identification of these settings.

During the analysis of the data collected in the interviews, a field expert and the author calculated the reliability of the study. This calculation was conducted with the formula developed by Miles and Huberman (1994) (Reliability = Agreement/(Agreement + Disagreement x 100). The present study was considered reliable since the reliability coefficient was calculated as 86% and exceeded the 70% limit.

### 3. Findings

The findings obtained with the interviews conducted with the study groups are presented in the present section. Thus, initially, the findings obtained with the interviews conducted with the teachers, and then the findings obtained with the interviews conducted with the students are presented. The tables that included the findings and the interpretation of these tables are also included in this section.

#### 3.1 Findings Obtained with the Interviews Conducted with the Teachers

The views of the teachers on the entertaining or boring status of their classroom during the learning process, an entertaining class environment, and a boring class environment are presented in this sub-section. Furthermore, the physical and visual contributions, instructional efforts of teachers to make the class environment entertaining, the classroom(s) in the photograph(s) where they desired to instruct and their views on the class environments in the photographs are also included. Each finding is presented under related sub-heading.

##### 3.1.1 The Teacher Views on Whether Their Classroom was Entertaining or Boring

Table 3. General teacher views on whether their classroom was entertaining or boring

Main Themes	F	%
Sometimes entertaining, sometimes boring	5	50
Entertaining	4	40
Boring	1	10
Total	10	100

Half of the teachers (50%) considered that their classes were sometimes entertaining, sometimes boring. Nearly half (40%) of considered think their classes entertaining, while very few (10%) considered their classes boring. As seen, teachers mainly considered that their classes were entertaining.

Table 4. The views of the teachers which implied that their classroom was entertaining

Main Theme	Theme	Category	F	%	
Class is entertaining	With respect to the student	The students participate in the instruction	4	15.47	
				15.2	
	With respect to the teacher	My approach is empathetic		2	7.7
		I try to simulate a domestic environment in the class		2	7.7
		I instruct the course at a happy place		1	3.8
		I consider the students as my own children and I love them so much		1	3.8
		We have a daily feeding time		1	3.8
		Total		7	26.9
		With respect to instruction	We dramatize the topics		3
	Instruction includes games			2	7.7
	We pop corn and watch movies			1	3.8
	We organize the program based on the students		1	3.8	

	I ask questions based on the student interests and make the topics more interesting	1	3.8
	We instruct by living-doing	1	3.8
	We provide several examples from daily life	1	3.8
	There are additional etude hours	1	3.8
	We conduct painting activities	1	3.8
	I use humor (jokes, etc.)	1	3.8
	We conduct plenty of activities	1	3.8
	We organize trips	1	3.8
	Total	15	57.7
Grand Total		26	100

Most teachers who considered that their classes were entertaining (57.7%) considered their classes entertaining with respect to instruction, some (26.9%) considered their classes entertaining with respect to teachers and less (15.2) considered their classes entertaining with respect to the students.

Table 5. The views of the teachers which implied that their classroom was boring

Main Theme	Theme	Category	F	%	
Class is boring	With respect to the student	Lack of participation	3	23.1	
		The class is crowded (preventing entertaining)	2	15.4	
		Repetition of previously instructed topics	1	7.7	
		Total	6	46.2	
	With respect to the teacher	Continuous direct instruction	1	7.7	
		Lack of facilities at school	1	7.7	
	With respect to the school	Heating problem	1	7.7	
		Lack of classroom cleaning	1	7.7	
		Total	3	23.1	
	With respect to the education system	It is boring during pilot exams due to competition	1	7.7	
		Disorder in the class due to sharing the classroom with the morning shift (sitting order, board, etc.)	1	7.7	
		Parental intervention to the instruction method	1	7.7	
		Total	3	23.1	
	Grand Total			13	100

Teachers, who stated that their classes were boring, considered the case mostly (46.2%) with respect to the students, then with respect to the school and education system in equal rates (23.1%), and the least in terms of teachers (7.7%).

### 3.1.2 The Teacher Views on the Design of the Entertaining or Boring Class Environment

Table 6. Teacher views on the design of the entertaining or boring class environment

Main Theme	Theme	Category	F	%
An entertaining classroom design	With respect to instruction	Should provide plenty of game facilities	2	3.9
		Teachers should be affectionate	1	1.9
		Various instructional methods should be used	1	1.9
		Jokes should be utilized	1	1.9
		Riddles should be utilized	1	1.9
		Puzzles should be included	1	1.9
		Cartoons should be included	1	1.9
		Class size should be reduced	1	1.9
		Total	9	17.6
	With respect to material	Required material should be available	4	7.8
		Materials should be interesting	2	3.9

	Materials should be adequate for the student level	1	1.9
	A tablet should be assigned to each student	1	1.9
	Puppets should be utilized	1	1.9
	Students should have own lockers	1	1.9
	Boards should be available	1	1.9
	Total	11	21.6
With respect to environment	Comfortable	4	7.8
	Classroom walls should be full of activities	3	5.9
	The environment should be consistent with student preferences	3	5.9
	Should be wide	3	5.9
	Adequate heating should be available	2	3.9
	I would use pillows instead of desks for comfort	2	3.9
	The floor should be covered with carpet and the shoes should be taken off	2	3.9
	Should be colorful	2	3.9
	The classroom should have its own bathroom	1	1.9
	It should be like a domestic environment	1	1.9
	There should not be any pillows, the students would relax, leading to lethargy	1	1.9
	The desks should be organized in a U-shape	1	1.9
	The desks should be round	1	1.9
	A music area should be organized	1	1.9
	The space should allow movement	1	1.9
	A visual arts area should be organized	1	1.9
	Lighting should be adequate	1	1.9
	The classroom should be clean	1	1.9
	Total	31	60.8
Grand Total		51	100

The teachers indicated an entertaining classroom environment design mostly (60.8%) with respect to the environment, then (21.6%) with respect to material, and at least, with respect to instruction (17.6%).

### 3.1.3 The Teacher Views on the Design of a Boring Class Environment

Table 7. Teacher views on the design of a boring class environment

Main Theme	Theme	Category	F	%
Boring classroom design	With respect to students	Non-participation	8	20
		Unprepared attendance	1	2.5
		Total	9	22.5
	With respect to teachers	Teacher-oriented education	4	10
		Non-inclusion of various instruction methods	2	5
		Ignorance of children's interests, their world	2	5
		Non-suitability of the course topics to student readiness level	1	2.5
		Non-inclusion of games	1	2.5
		Low number of activities	1	2.5
		Non-colorful	1	2.5
		Too much noise	1	2.5
		Instruction of the course by the teacher with a similar and monotonous tone without articulation	1	2.5
		Ignorance of children's attention span	1	2.5
		Lack of teacher-student communication	1	2.5
		An oppressive environment	1	2.5
		Total	17	42.5
	With respect to school	Lack of material-equipment	4	10



administration	Crowded classes (inefficient activities)	4	10
	Inadequate classroom temperature	2	5
	Uncomfortable classroom	1	2.5
	Narrow classroom	1	2.5
	Dark classroom	1	2.5
	Dirty classroom	1	2.5
Total		14	35
Grand Total		40	100

When teachers indicated the design of a boring classroom environment, they mostly emphasized teacher-related issues (42.5%), followed by issues related to the school administration (35%) and finally, by issues related to the students (22.5%).

### 3.1.4 The Teacher Views on Their Physical and Visual Efforts to Make Classroom Environment Entertaining

Table 8. The teacher views on their physical and visual efforts to make classroom environment entertaining

Main theme	Theme	Category	F	%
Physical and visual efforts	I cannot do anything	Since all my students are male, I cannot color and hang activities, etc.	1	5.3
		Lack of material	1	5.3
		The desks are in a row and two children use a desk	1	5.3
		The desks are not comfortable	1	5.3
		There are only a few boards and we share them with the morning shift, they are not effective	1	5.3
		The boards are hung at higher points on the wall and the textual or picture activities are illegible	1	5.3
		Total	6	31.6
	I provide comfort	I adjust the temperature and lighting in the classroom	2	10.5
		Each student has own locker	2	10.5
		I clean the classroom	1	5.3
		We maintain the order in the classroom	1	5.3
		The desks are adequate for the class size	1	5.3
	Total	7	36.8	
	I provide an active study environment	We have a library	2	10.5
We create boards		2	10.5	
I move everyone to the subsequent desk every week (to prevent the passivism of the students sitting at the back)		1	5.3	
We exhibit experiment results at a section in the class		1	5.3	
Total	6	31.6		
Grand Total		19	100	

The teachers expressed the physical applications they implemented to make the classroom entertaining as “I provide comfort” the most (36.8%), followed by “I provide an active study environment (31.6%) and “I cannot do anything” (31.6%).

### 3.1.5 The Teacher Views on Their Instructional Efforts to Make Classroom Environment Entertaining

Table 9. The teacher views on their instructional efforts to make classroom environment entertaining

Main Theme	Theme	Category	F	%
Instructional Efforts	Doing-Living	Playing games	7	9.1
		Drama	6	7.8
		Experiments-applications	4	5.2
		Hanging the poetry they wrote or paintings they painted on the board	4	5.2
		Dancing	2	2.6

	Instructing the physical education course at the school piscine for 1 hour every week	1	1.3
	Total	24	31.2
Audiovisual	Watching movies/videos	7	9.1
	Active smart board use	6	7.8
	Chatting with puppets	3	3.9
	Total	16	20.8
Visual	Drawing cartoons on the board	3	3.9
	Solving puzzles	2	2.6
	Conducting painting activities	1	1.3
	Marbling (at painting workshop)	1	1.3
	Total	7	9.1
Auditory	Telling jokes	6	7.8
	Joking	6	7.8
	Singing	3	3.9
	Telling riddles	3	3.9
	Reading poetry	1	1.3
	Chatting on various topics	1	1.3
	Total	20	26
Intellectual	Asking entertaining and interesting questions	2	2.6
	Brainstorming	1	1.3
	Conducting numerical activities	1	1.3
	Total	4	5.2
General	I use various methods based on multiple intelligence program	1	1.3
	I utilize Internet software such as EIN, Okulistik and Morpa etc. for topic details	1	1.3
	Total	2	2.6
Psychological	I reward achievements or good behavior with stars/medals	2	2.6
	I enter the classroom with positive energy and attitude	1	1.3
	I reward them with out-of-classroom education (at their homes), albeit rarely	1	1.3
	Total	4	5.2
	Grand Total	77	100

The teachers expressed the instructional applications they conducted to make the classroom an entertaining environment as doing-living (31.2%), auditory (26%), audiovisual (20.8%), visual (9.1%), intellectual (5.2%), psychological (5.2%) and general (2.6) applications.

### 3.1.6 The Teacher Views on the Photograph(s) of the Classrooms Where They Wanted to Instruct the Courses

Table 10. Distribution of teachers based on the photograph(s) of the classrooms where they wanted to instruct

	The number of teachers who wanted to instruct in the classroom depicted in the photograph (f)	The percentage of teachers who wanted to instruct in the classroom depicted in the photograph (%)
Photo 1 (Finland)	8	80
Photo 2 (USA)	-	-
Photo 3 (Finland/Technological Classroom)	2	20
Total	10	100

The classroom that the teachers liked the most (80%) was the Finnish classroom. This was followed by the other Finnish (technological) classroom photograph (20%). In general, no teacher liked the photograph of the American classroom. Furthermore, the findings demonstrated that the teachers who liked the first Finnish classroom photograph were mostly public school teachers, while the other photograph (technological classroom) was liked only by private school teachers.

## 3.1.7 The Views of Teachers on the Classroom Environments Depicted in the Photographs

Table 11. Teacher views on the Finnish classroom depicted in photo 1

Main Theme	Theme	Category	F	%
Finland (Photo 1)	Content/Equipment	Plenty of equipment	5	8.2
		Bathroom	4	6.6
		Large	3	4.9
		Lockers	3	4.9
		Board	2	3.3
		Globe	1	1.6
		Comfortable chairs	1	1.6
		Total	19	31.1
	Disadvantage	No-TV	1	1.6
		Total	1	1.6
	Instructional	Desks adequate for interactive groups (suitable for group work)	6	9.8
		Suitable for several activities	5	8.2
		No distracting elements	1	1.6
		All courses cannot be instructed	1	1.6
	Total	13	21.3	
	Developmental and Learning Psychology	The child would not feel detached from life here	3	4.9
		The child would feel comfortable and free and would succeed	3	4.9
		Developed for children	2	3.3
		The students cannot express themselves	1	1.6
		Total	9	14.8
	General	Beautiful	4	6.6
		Colorful	3	4.9
		Well-lighted	2	3.3
		Not-crowded (due to the number of chairs)	1	1.6
		Clean	1	1.6
		Total	11	18
	Conclusion	It is like domestic environment	5	8.2
It does not look like a classroom, it resembles an activity room		1	1.6	
An extraordinary classroom		1	1.6	
Entertaining		1	1.6	
Total		8	13	
Grand Total			61	100

The teachers explained their views about the first photograph taken in Finland by stating that there was plenty of equipment (31.1%) and there was a bathroom. Teachers explained their views in the instructional dimension (21.3%) by stating that the layout was suitable for interactive groups (suitable for group work) and high number of activities. Teachers explained their views in general dimension (18%) by stating that the classroom was beautiful and colorful, and in the developmental and learning psychology dimension (14.8%) by stating that here, the child does not feel detached, and feels comfortable, free and succeeds, and in the conclusion dimension (13%), they stated that the classroom was similar to the domestic environment, and stated that there was no TV in the disadvantages dimension.

Table 12. Teacher views on the American classroom depicted in photo 2

Main Theme	Theme	Category	F	%
USA (Photo 2)	Content/Equipment	Delineascope	2	6.4
		TV	2	6.4
		Microphone (it is good like a conference hall)	2	6.4
		Chairs, two children do not share a desk like in our classes	2	6.4
		Large	1	3.2

	Large board	1	3.2
	Computer	1	3.2
	Flag	1	3.2
	Pencil holders on desks for everyone to share	1	3.2
	Air conditioning system on the ceiling	1	3.2
	Total	14	45.2
Disadvantages	No smart board	1	3.2
	TV is old and non-technological	1	3.2
	U-Shaped sitting organization would have been better	1	3.2
	Total	3	9.7
Instructional	Those who are not seated towards the board may not actively participate in the course	1	3.2
	The students cannot individually express themselves (due to the sitting arrangement)	1	3.2
Developmental and Learning Psychology	It is not adequate for primary school student level	1	3.2
	Suitable for group work	1	3.2
	Total	3	9.7
	Low ceiling	1	3.2
General	Orderly	1	3.2
	Desks are clean	1	3.2
	Total	3	9.7
	Conclusion	It looks like our classrooms	4
A cold-official environment		2	6.4
A monotonous classroom		1	3.2
Total		7	22.6
Grand Total		31	100

The teachers explained their views about the second photograph taken in the USA by stating that there was a delineascope and there is a TV in the content/equipment dimension (45.2%). Teachers explained their views in the conclusion dimension (22.6%) by stating that it looks like our classrooms and the environment was cold and official. Teachers explained their views in the developmental and learning psychology dimension (9.7%) by stating that it was not suitable for primary school level, in general dimension (9.7%) by stating that the classroom had low ceiling and it was orderly, and in the disadvantages dimension (9.7%), they stated that there was no smartboard in the classroom and the TV was old and non-technological, and stated that those who do not see the board could not actively participate in the course (due to the sitting arrangement) in the instructional dimension (3.2%).

Table 13. Teacher views on the Finnish classroom (technological) depicted in photo 3

Main Theme	Theme	Category	F	%
Finland/Technological Classroom (Photo 3)	Content/Equipment	There is a computer on each desk	2	5
		Large	1	2.5
		Total	3	7.5
	Disadvantages	The class is inadequate for the use of different methods	3	7.5
		The walls are colorless (no activities)	2	5
		There is only technology	1	2.5
		No lockers	1	2.5
		Total	7	17.5
	Instructional	The desks are suitable for both group and individual work	3	7.5
		Research could be conducted and students could Access everything they are interested at once	1	2.5
		Computers may lead to laziness among students	1	2.5
		Total	5	12.5
		Developmental and Learning	Unsuitable for socialization	1

Psychology	Leads students to passivism (not activism)	1	2.5
	Total	2	5
	Beautiful	2	5
	Well-lighted	2	5
	Comfortable	2	5
	Boring	2	5
	Crowded	1	2.5
General	The desks are colorful	1	2.5
	The computers are colorful	1	2.5
	The desks are congested	1	2.5
	Normal classroom organization could be implemented by removing the tablets	1	2.5
	Clean	1	2.5
	Total	14	35
Conclusion	A technological environment	6	15
	It looks like a computer lab	3	7.5
	Total	9	22.5
Grand Total		40	100

The teachers explained their views about the third photograph taken in Finland (technological classroom) by stating that it was beautiful, well-lighted and comfortable in the general dimension (35%). Teachers explained their views in the conclusion dimension (22.5%) by stating that it was a technological environment. Teachers explained their views in the disadvantages (17.5%) by stating that the class was not suitable to use different methods, in instructional dimension (12.5%) by stating that the desks were suitable for both group and individual work, and in content/equipment dimension (7.5%), they stated that there was a computer on every desk, and stated that the class was not suitable for socialization and leads students to passivism in time in the developmental and learning psychology dimension (5%).

### 3.2 Findings Obtained with the Interviews Conducted with the Students

In this sub-section, the findings on the views of the students on whether their classrooms were entertaining or boring during the learning process, an entertaining classroom environment, and a boring classroom environment are included. Furthermore, the findings related to the views of the students on the efforts of their teachers to make the classroom an entertaining environment, whether they desired to be instructed in the classrooms depicted in the photographs, and on the classroom environment depicted in the photographs are also included in this section.

#### 3.2.1 The Student Views on Whether Their Classroom Was Entertaining or Boring in the Education Process

Table 14. General student views on whether their classroom was entertaining or boring

Main Themes	F	%
Sometimes entertaining, sometimes boring	55	68.75
Entertaining	25	31.25
Boring	-	0
Total	80	100

Majority of the students (68.75%) considered that their classes were sometimes entertaining, sometimes boring. A minority (31.25%) considered that their classes were entertaining. Furthermore, none of the students considered that their schools were generally boring.

Table 15. The views of the students which implied that their class was entertaining

Main Theme	Theme	Category	F	%
Entertaining	Sharing	We study the lessons with our peers	2	8
		We have a library	2	8
	Equipment	We have lockers	2	8

	We have material	1	4
	We have a smart board	1	4
	We have a large classroom	1	4
	We have a board	1	4
	Total	10	32
	We play games during class	6	24
	We conduct entertaining activities	3	12
Instruction	We glue the activities we develop on the board	1	4
	The teacher allows us to watch videos related to the course	1	4
	Sometimes, the teacher draws funny images on the board, and we laugh	1	4
	Total	12	48
General	Our teacher is like a family member, an affectionate person	1	4
	Our teachers entertain us	1	4
	I am happy when I learn something new	1	4
	Total	3	12
	Grand Total	25	100

The students argued that their classroom environment was entertaining within the context of instruction (48%), equipment (32%), general (12%), and sharing (8%) dimensions.

Table 16. The views of the students which implied that their class was boring

Main Theme	Theme	Category	F	%	
Disadvantages (related to instruction and equipment)		When the teacher instructs the topic without detail, I cannot comprehend the subject and cannot participate	2	5.1	
		The teacher does not instruct physical education, painting and music courses as much as I want	1	2.6	
		There is no science lab	1	2.6	
		There is no music room	1	2.6	
	Total	5	12.8		
Boring		Some peers are distracting (do not follow the instruction, run around or arrives late)	9	23	
		Afternoon shift students are disorderly (they defile the class, disorganize the desks, etc.)	4	10.3	
		Inability to follow the course outline to follow the curriculum (different courses are instructed in the hours reserved for other courses, mathematics course is instructed all the time)	2	5.1	
		Inability to conduct club work to follow the curriculum	2	5.1	
		The teacher is sometimes unfair	2	5.1	
		Our smart board is broken	2	5.1	
		The material we use are broken	2	5.1	
		The classrooms are cold in winter	2	5.1	
		Negativities	The courses are intensive	1	2.6
		Inability to learn the topics I missed (the teacher does not repeat these topics to stay loyal to the curriculum)	1	2.6	
		The teacher instructs mathematics in consecutive classes (3-4 hours)	1	2.6	
		The final classes of the day are block classes	1	2.6	
		The chairs are hard and hurts our backs (makes the course boring)	1	2.6	
		Cheating	1	2.6	
The classroom is in disarray	1	2.6			
We cannot spend our energy	1	2.6			
	There is a painting room, but sometimes we paint in the classroom because the room is cold	1	2.6		
	Total	34	87.2		
	Grand Total	39	100		

The views of the students that implied that their classrooms were boring were categorized under negativities (87.2%) and disadvantages (12.8%) dimensions.

### 3.2.2 The Views of Students on Entertaining and Boring Classroom Environment

Table 17. The views of students on entertaining classroom environment

Main Theme	Theme	Category	F	%		
Entertaining classroom environment	With respect to instructional applications	If we conduct applied (educational) activities	4	13.2		
		If professionals related to the course topic could be invited to the class	1	3.3		
		If the teacher is very "good"	1	3.3		
		If the brakes are longer	1	3.3		
		When we participate in the course	1	3.3		
	Total		8	26.4		
	With respect to the environment	With respect to the environment	If we could use the labs more frequently (if we conduct experiments)	2	6.6	
			If the classroom is larger	1	3.3	
			If the classes are orderly	1	3.3	
			If everyone has a private classroom (implementation of individual education from time to time)	1	3.3	
			If we could use the music room frequently	1	3.3	
			If we could use the painting room frequently	1	3.3	
			If the instruction is conducted in the garden	1	3.3	
			If there is a slide on the windows and we could slide down to the garden	1	3.3	
			Total		9	30
			With respect to material/equipment	With respect to material/equipment	If we have chairs instead of desks	2
	If there are beds	2			6.6	
	If there are armchairs/sofas	2			6.6	
	If there are plenty of boards	1			3.3	
	If there are tablets on the desks	1			3.3	
If the music room material are not missing	1	3.3				
If the painting room material are not missing	1	3.3				
If the lab material are not missing	1	3.3				
If the lockers are larger	1	3.3				
If the lockers are not broken	1	3.3				
Total		13	43.3			
Grand Total		30	100			

The views of the students about an entertaining classroom environment were categorized based on material/equipment (43.3%), environment (30%) and instructional applications (26.4%).

Table 18. The views of students on boring classroom environment

Main Theme	Theme	Category	F	%
With respect to instruction	With respect to instruction	If we only study the course without entertainment (without games 4, without painting 1)	5	9.1
		If the teacher does not instruct the course well	3	5.5
		If the teacher only instructs and we listen	3	5.5
		If the instruction is rapid without allowing us to comprehend the topic	2	3.6
		If there are no activities in the class	2	3.6
		If we write all the time	1	1.8
		When boring courses are instructed all the time (for example, when there is no physical education)	1	1.8
		Total		17

	With respect to material/equipment	When the material are old or broken	1	1.8
		Total	1	1.8
Boring classroom environment	With respect to the environment	When there is too much noise	7	12.7
		If the classroom is disorderly	5	9.1
		If the classroom is not clean	4	7.3
		If the classroom is cold	2	3.6
		If the classroom is too hot	1	1.8
		When it gets dark, because we become sleepy and it is boring	1	1.8
		Total	20	36.4
	With respect to psychology	When there is no participation in the class	5	9.1
		If we do not get along well with our peers	4	7.3
		When there are rude students in the class	2	3.6
		When it is never my turn to speak	2	3.6
		If we are under pressure	1	1.8
		When the teachers takes a hard line	1	1.8
		When there is no sharing among peers	1	1.8
		When teacher behaves differently to the students (then, there is injustice)	1	1.8
		Total	17	30.9
		Grand Total	55	100

The views of the students about a boring classroom environment were categorized based on environmental (36.4%), instructional (30.9%), psychological (30.9%), and equipment (1.8%) dimensions.

### 3.2.3 The Views of Students on the Efforts of the Teachers to Make the Classroom Environment Entertaining

Table 19. The views of students on the efforts of the teachers to make the classroom environment entertaining

Main Theme	Theme	Category	F	%
	With respect to instructional techniques	Theatre/drama	7	14
		Instructs the courses with games and in an entertaining manner	7	14
		Asks entertaining questions	2	4
		Debates	1	2
		Storifies the topics	1	2
		Does not make us to write too much	1	2
		Organizes trips to museums	1	2
		Organizes trips to villages	1	2
		Asks riddles at class	1	2
		Total		22
The teachers do the following to make the class more entertaining	With respect to instructional activities	Makes us read books	3	6
		Makes us conduct experiments	2	4
		Makes us do potato prints in painting class	2	4
		We make compass in painting class	1	2
		We conduct tree planting activities	1	2
Total		9	18	
	With respect to material/equipment	Uses the smart board	1	2
	Total		1	2
	With respect to psychology	Allows us to watch movies (with corn or fries) in the class	4	8
		Makes jokes	2	4
		Approaches us like a relative	2	4



We organize singing contests in free activity course	1	2
Allows us to tell jokes	1	2
Makes imitations and vocalizations	1	2
Takes us out to eat ice cream in spring months	1	2
Brings surprises to the class	1	2
Takes us to the movies	1	2
Sometimes we bring money to the class to order food	1	2
We conducted an out-of-class breakfast activity with our teacher and mothers	1	2
Takes male students to the big soccer stadium in spring semester	1	2
Tells her/his memories at the village school, shares similar information with us	1	2
Total	18	36
Grand Total	50	100

The views of the students on the practices of their teachers that they might like were categorized based on instructional techniques (44%), psychological (36%), instructional activities (18%) and equipment (2%) dimensions.

### 3.2.4 The Views of Students on Whether They Wanted to Study in the Classroom Environments Depicted in the Photographs

Table 20. Distribution of students based on the photograph(s) of the classrooms where they wanted to be instructed

	The number of students who wanted to be instructed in the classroom depicted in the photograph (f)	The percentage of students who wanted to be instructed in the classroom depicted in the photograph (%)
Photo 1 (Ivory Coast)	-	-
Photo 2 (Finland)	62	77.5
Photo 3 (Finland/technological class)	18	22.5
Total	80	100

Among the classrooms depicted in the photographs, the classroom that the students desired to be instructed (similar to the teachers) was the classroom in Finland (71.3%). This was followed by the Finnish technological classroom (28.7%) (also similar to the teachers). In general, no students liked the classroom photograph taken in the Ivory Coast and did not want to study there. Furthermore, it was observed that the students who liked both Finnish classrooms were mostly public school students.

### 3.2.5 The Views of Students on the Classroom Environment Depicted in Photographs

Table 21. The views of students about the Ivory Coast classroom environment depicted in photo 1

Main Theme	Theme	Category	F	%
Photo 1 (Ivory Coast)	Disadvantages	The desks are not processed nor polished, they look old	26	18.1
		Lacks required material	5	3.5
		No lockers	4	2.8
		No boards	2	1.4
		There are no pictures/activities on the walls	2	1.4
		They would be cold in winter, there is no glass on windows	2	1.4
		No curtains	1	0.7
		No entertainment corner	1	0.7

	The class floor is rough concrete	1	0.7
	The walls are colorless	1	0.7
	Total	45	31.3
With respect to instruction	It is good, because they do not write	1	0.7
	Total	1	0.7
With respect to development and learning psychology	The students and the teacher look unhappy	13	9
	The desks look uncomfortable	8	5.6
	Total	21	14.6
General	The class is dark	27	18.8
	The class looks dirty	14	9.7
	It could be stuffy; the windows are small	14	9.7
	The class is small	3	2.1
	The desks are small	8	5.6
	The class is disconnected from the exterior; it looks like a prison	2	1.4
	It looks like no activities are conducted	1	0.7
	It looks like a village school	1	0.7
	Total	70	48.6
	Conclusion	We should be thankful for our conditions	5
It is obvious that it is a poor country		2	1.4
Total		7	4.9
Grand Total		144	100

The views of the students on the photograph of the Ivory Coast classroom were scrutinized under the dimensions of general (48.6%), disadvantages (31.3), developmental and learning psychology (14.6%), conclusion (4.9%) and instructional (0.7%).

Table 22. The views of students about the Finnish classroom environment depicted in photo 2

Main Theme	Theme	Category	F	%	
Photo 2 (Finland)	With respect to content/equipment	It is full of activity material	9	4.7	
		Aquarium	8	4.1	
		Comfortable chairs	8	4.1	
		Lockers	4	2.1	
		Boards	4	2.1	
		Accessible globe	4	2.1	
		Plenty of desks	3	1.6	
		Bathroom	2	1	
		Toys	2	1	
		Books	2	1	
		Computer	1	0.5	
		Recycle bin	1	0.5	
		Total	48	24.9	
		With respect to instruction	Several activities are conducted	22	11.4
			Some activities are exhibited on the wall	4	2.1
Desks are beautiful, round; we sit on rows, we cannot see the board	4		2.1		
Suitable for active instruction	1		0.5		
It looks like the activities are different	1		0.5		
Total	32		16.6		
With respect to development and learning psychology	The class has contact with nature	5	2.6		
	Suitable for high peer interaction	3	1.6		
	Organized for children	2	1		
	The students would feel energetic in this environment	1	0.5		

	The students would feel happy in this environment	1	0.5
	Total	12	6.2
General	Spacious, pleasant, well-lighted	16	8.3
	An orderly classroom (it does not look like double shift schooling, therefore it is orderly)	13	6.7
	A clean classroom	11	5.7
	A colorful classroom	8	4.1
	A large classroom	6	3.1
	It looks like a preschool classroom	2	1
	The environment is suitable for social activities	1	0.5
	Total	57	29.5
Conclusion	A beautiful classroom	20	10.4
	An entertaining classroom	8	4.1
	I wish it was my classroom	5	2.6
	It is obviously a rich country	4	2.1
	It is a nice environment for children	2	1
	There, the students should be hardworking	2	1
	It looks like our classroom a bit	1	0.5
	It looks like a domestic environment	1	0.5
	I would participate in the course more there	1	0.5
	Total	44	22.8
Grand Total	193	100	

The students liked the Finnish classroom the most and their views were discussed under general (29.5%), content/equipment (24.9%), conclusion (22.8%), instructional (16.6%), and development and learning psychology (6.2%) dimensions.

Table 23. The views of students about the Finnish classroom environment (technological) depicted in photo 3

Main Theme	Theme	Category	F	%
Photo 3 Finland/Technological Classroom	With respect to content/equipment	Everyone has a computer	26	14.1
		Smart board	16	8.6
		Large classroom	4	2.2
		The windows are wide and several, thus more fresh air enters the class	2	1.1
		The floor is hardwood (nice)	1	0.5
		Total	49	26.5
	Disadvantages	The walls are	2	1.1
		No lockers	1	0.5
		No board	1	0.5
		Teacher's desk is small (impractical)	1	0.5
		Total	5	2.7
	With respect to instruction	Students can sit in groups or alone in the desks	7	3.8
		All courses could be instructed on computers	2	1.1
		Advanced activities and research could be conducted	2	1.1
		More activities could be conducted	2	1.1
		Students would not try to write quickly there	1	0.5
		Total	14	7.6
General	The classroom is well-lighted	18	9.7	
	The desks are colored	18	9.7	
	The classroom is clean	13	7	
	The classroom is orderly	12	6.5	
	The classroom is beautiful	10	5.4	
	The desks are triangular	7	3.8	

	The computers are colorful	4	2.2
	The courses can be instructed very nicely (effectively) there	3	1.6
	The desk size is adequate	2	1.1
	The desks look like they are tall	1	0.5
	Total	88	47.6
Conclusion	This is a technological environment, it is ideal in my opinion	12	6.5
	The children's eyesight may deteriorate, because they would always sit across the tablets	4	2.2
	Computers emit radiation, it is an unhealthy classroom	4	2.2
	I wish our classroom was like that	3	1.6
	It is a technological classroom, because it looks like a rich country	2	1.1
	I would not want to leave that environment	2	1.1
	It hardly looks like our classes	1	0.5
	No need to carry a bag	1	0.5
	Total	29	15.7
	Grand Total	185	100

The views of the students on the other Finnish classroom (technological) photograph that they liked were discussed under the themes of general (47.6%), content/equipment (26.5%), conclusion (15.7%), instructional (7.6%) and disadvantages (2.7%).

#### 4. Discussion, Conclusion and Recommendations

##### 4.1 Discussion and Conclusion

Based on the study findings, it can be suggested that the views of the teachers and the students on whether the classroom was entertaining or boring in the learning process were similar in several aspects. Most teachers stated that their classes were sometimes entertaining, sometimes boring; most students similarly stated that their classes were sometimes entertaining, sometimes boring. However, while only a small section of the teachers stated that their classroom was boring, it was observed that no student clearly stated that their classes were boring. The fact that no students found their classroom boring and most of the teachers did not find their classrooms boring could be interpreted as positive. In a study by Sakai and Kikuchi (2009) on the topic, it was reported that most students argued that their teachers considered the classroom boring and even their teachers were boring. However, it was reported that when the students find the classroom boring and they do find it uninteresting, they could not learn adequately (Ara, 2009, p. 162).

It was observed that the entertainment in classroom was associated with the theme of instruction by both the teachers and the students. Furthermore, it was observed that the teachers explained the entertainment in classrooms in the student participation category and the students explained the same within instructions mostly included games category. On student participation in the classroom, it was reported that students are motivated in the classes of teachers who act close (Gecer & Deryakulu, 2004; Rocca, 2004), interested in their problems (Fontana, 1985, cited by Gurbetoglu & Tomakin, 2011), and they act more relaxed and participated more and as a result, achieved more. It was also reported that the acceptance and sincerity of the teacher enforced the pleasure of the students in the learning process (Al-Shara, 2015, p.160). While emphasizing the importance of game playing in learning, it was stated that games were among the most effective tools that make it entertaining and help children to learn with joy (Ara, 2009, p. 166). In fact, it was observed that technology-based learning that includes virtual media and digital games is a transformative approach to education beyond the incentives to develop teacher training (Chu, Angello, Saenz, & Quek, 2017). In the study by Duran and Kaplan (2014), where "comprehension with a word" game developed with mathematical concepts for mathematics course, it was determined that most students expressed positive views about the game and that they enjoyed the game. And to what extent the game should be included in the teaching process requires the teacher to plan according to the relevant situation and subject.

It was observed that teachers explained the conditions where the classroom was boring mostly in the theme of student and the students explained the same mostly in the theme of negativities. Furthermore, it was observed that the teachers explained the boredom in their classrooms mostly in the category of no participation in the class and the students explained the same mostly in the category of peer distraction. The factor of peer distraction stated as

the reason for a boring by the students in the present study was stated as a significant problem by teachers in another study (Yoleri, Bitir, Kara, & Atli, 2018). In the study, it was observed that among the most frequently observed problem behavior, the teachers mentioned students moving around in way to distract their peers, bothering students sitting behind or front of them, and whispering or talking secretly and not following the instruction in the class. When we look at this issue in reverse, in a study on attention deficit (Gunay, 2006, p.41), bothering and distracting peers was explained by boredom in classroom, not as a reason for boredom in the classroom. In the study, it was reported that students with attention deficit could exhibit behavior that may distract peers and disturb the peace in class, such as talking, snipe at peers and making strange sounds. The important point to be considered is the awareness of the students with attention deficit and situations that could lead to attention deficit in the classroom and to take necessary measures to prevent it.

It was observed that the students explained entertaining classroom design in the context of the environment theme, while students explained the same in the material/equipment theme. Furthermore, the teachers explained an entertaining classroom design in the categories of a comfortable environment and “it should include required material (tools)” the most, and students often explained the same in “if we conduct applied (educational) activities,” “if we could use the labs (conduct experiments) frequently,” “if we had chairs instead of desks,” “if we had beds,” and “if we had armchairs/sofas” categories. In the study by Sakai & Kikuchi (2009, p.60), the presence of inadequate or uninteresting material in the classroom was categorized among factors that prevent motivation based on the previous studies on in-classroom motivation. In a study by Gorham and Christophel’s (1992), it was observed that participants considered logistical factors such as “inadequate material” (36%) among the factors that hampered motivation. Therefore, based on these data, it can be suggested that presence of adequate material in the classroom leads to motivation, the presence of inadequate or insufficient material, on the other hand, prevents learning motivation. In a study by Kalayci (2005, p. 178), similar to the findings of the present study, it was observed that the students included the factor of not using the lab in science course among the problems they perceived about the instruction methods of their teachers.

It was observed that teachers mostly explained how a boring classroom environment could be under the “teacher-oriented” theme, while students explained it in the environment dimension. Furthermore, it was determined that teachers considered boring classroom environment in “when there is no participation,” “teacher-oriented instruction,” “lack of material/equipment,” and “when the class is crowded” categories, and students considered the same in “when there is a lot of noise in the classroom,” “when only the course is instructed without entertainment (without games, painting),” and “when there is no participation” categories. In a study by Akbaba-Altun (2009, p. 571), where the reasons of academic failure among primary school students were investigated, it was concluded that most students complained about boring and monotonous instruction by the teachers and parents complained about learn-by-rote educational approach of the teachers. In another study (Kalayci, 2005, p. 178), it was also concluded that the students perceived the fact that their teachers did not to listen to them and ignored their desires as problems related to the instruction of the teacher in the classroom. In the study by Akbaba-Altun (2009, p. 571), it was determined that students considered noisy and crowded classroom environment and parents considered crowded classes among the reasons for students’ academic failure. In a study by Karsi (2012), it was stated that crowded and noisy classes could lead to problems such as disorientation of the teacher and the student and could lead to undesired behavior in the classroom and apathy and daydreaming in the classroom.

The physical and visual applications that teachers conducted were considered mostly in “I provide comfort,” and in “I adjust the classroom temperature and lighting to adequate levels,” “each student has own locker,” “we have a library,” “we utilize the board.” Categories by the teachers, while the visual applications were considered in “by doing-living” theme and mostly in “playing games,” “watching movies/videos,” “telling jokes,” and “humor” categories. Certain previous studies indicated the importance and benefit of adequate temperature and lighting in learning environments (Akbaba & Turhan, 2016; Karsi, 2012; Kunkul, 2008). In the present study, it was observed that the participants approached the same issue from a different perspective and teachers stated that they make the class comfortable in terms of temperature and lighting in order to make the classroom entertaining. Furthermore, the fact that teachers kept material and equipment such as lockers, library and boards in the classroom to make the class more entertaining could be considered as an interesting finding. Because, this demonstrated that based on the teacher perceptions, a comfortable classroom that contains adequate material and equipment was necessary for the students to consider the class entertaining. The finding that the teachers stated that instructionally, watching movies/videos, telling jokes created an entertaining environment was supported by other studies in the literature (Butun-Kar & Elma, 2017; Celik, 2014; Kaya & Cengelci, 2011; Martin, 2008; Ozkan & Gevenc, 2017; Saracaloglu, Gundogdu, Celik, & Altin, 2013).

It was observed that students considered the efforts of their teachers to make the classroom more entertaining in the instructional techniques theme and in the categories of “theater/drama” and “instruction with games”. There are studies in the literature that supported this finding (Ebner & Holzinger, 2007; Ellington, Gordon, & Fowlie, 1998; Korucu & Kurtlu, 2016). In the literature, there are also studies that supported the student view that playing theater/drama in the classroom makes the class more entertaining (Arslan & Gursoy, 2008; Coban & Cecen, 2013; Sagirli & Gurdal, 2002; Yalcinkaya, 2010).

In terms of the most admired classroom photograph, both the teachers and the students liked the classroom in Finland (with blue seats), followed by the other Finnish (technological) classroom. In other words, teachers did not want to instruct in the American classroom and students did not want to be instructed in the Ivory Coast classroom. This could be due to the fact that both these images lacked color and activities. On this issue, H. D. Arslan (2010) stated that user desires should be taken into consideration in classroom design to increase learning motivation in quality classroom environments and learning would be easier and permanent in a study conducted with students, classroom teachers and pre-service architects.

It was also determined that the teachers who liked the first Finnish classroom photograph were mostly public school teachers, while the private school teachers preferred the other photograph (technological class). Furthermore, it was also found that students who liked both Finnish classroom photographs were mostly public school students. This could be due to the fact that the number of public school students was higher in the present study.

Teachers have expressed their views in the context of content/equipment theme and the category of “plenty of tools and equipment” about the Finnish classroom (Photo 1) that they liked the most. This was followed by instruction theme and “desk layout is for interactive groups” and “plenty of activities are conducted” categories, the general theme and “beautiful” category, the theme of development and learning psychology, “here, the child would not feel disconnected from life” and result theme, “it is like a domestic environment” category.

Teachers expressed their views on the second most favorite Finnish/Technological classroom (Photo 3) mostly in the general theme and “beautiful,” “well-lighted,” “a comfortable environment,” and “boring” categories. This was followed by the conclusion theme, “a technological environment” category, disadvantages theme, “the class is not adequate for the use of different methods” category, instruction theme, “the desks are adequate for both group and individual work” category, content/equipment theme, “there is a computer on each desk” category, and finally development and learning psychology theme and “not suitable for socialization” and “leads students to passivism in time” categories.

For the American classroom, which they did not, teachers expressed views mostly in content/equipment theme, “there is a delineascope,” “there is a TV,” “there is a microfone (it is beautiful like a conference hall),” and “there are chairs and two pupils do not share a desk like in our classes” categories. This was followed by the conclusion theme and “it looks like our classes” category.

Students mostly expressed their views about the Finnish classroom (Photo 2) that they liked the most in the general theme and “it is spacious, pleasant and well-lighted classroom” category. This was followed by the content/equipment theme, “it is full of activity material” category, conclusion theme, “it is a very nice classroom” category, instruction theme, “plenty of activities are conducted” category, developmental and learning psychology theme, “class is in touch with nature” category.

The students mostly expressed views on the second most favorite Finnish/Technological classroom (Photo 3) in the general theme and “the classroom is well-lighted” and “the desks are colorful” categories. This was followed by content/equipment theme, “everyone has a computer” category, conclusion theme, “this is a technological environment; it is ideal in my opinion” category, instruction theme, “the desks are suitable for both group and individual work” category, and disadvantages theme, “the walls are very plain” category.

The students expressed views on the Ivory Coast classroom that they did not like mostly in general theme, “the classroom is dark” category. This was followed by disadvantages theme, “the desks are not processes and varnished; they look old” category, developmental and learning psychology theme, “the students and the teacher look unhappy” category, conclusion theme, “we should be thankful” category, and instruction theme, “it is nice since the students do not write” category.

Both teachers’ and the students’ favorite classroom was the same Finnish classroom, and both teachers and students stated that the classroom contained plenty of material/equipment, several activities could be conducted, and it was a beautiful classroom. Also, the second most favorite classroom for both the teachers and the students was Finland/Technological classroom and they stated that the classroom was well-lighted, included a computer on

each desk, it was a technological environment and it was ideal and beautiful, and the desks were adequate for both group and individual work.

Comments about the photographs demonstrated that both teachers and students liked classrooms with plenty of material and equipment, adequate temperature and lighting, several colors, abundant activities and technological equipment. And they criticized the classrooms they did not like due to the inadequacy of the classroom to utilize different methods, its resemblance to their classrooms, or the fact that they were dark, old-looking and the students and teachers looked unhappy.

#### 4.2 Recommendations

Based on the study findings, the following could be recommended for educational politicians, program developers, Ministry of National Education (MoNE) officials, school administrators and teachers:

- The schools and classrooms, where instruction takes place and the students spend long hours should be well-equipped as technological, psychological and physical and qualified to take the psychological, instructional and developmental needs of the teachers and students into account,
- The programs should be more adequate in temporal and instructional aspects based on the developmental characteristics of the students and should entertain the students,
- School administrators should provide order both in the school and the classroom and should make the environment more spacious, practical and entertaining,
- The teachers should be empathetic and sympathetic to the students, and
- The teachers should include several entertaining activities such as games, humor and music in learning-teaching processes.

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