Preschool Teacher Candidates’ Metaphoric Perceptions About Preschool Teacher Training Program

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Summary

PURPOSE
The goal of this study was put forward to perception of preschool teacher candidates who attend in preschool education program in the different universities in Turkey through the metaphors.

METHODS
In this research, the phenomenology approach which is one of qualitative research method was used. Preservice teachers who participated in this study was selected by convenience sampling techniques. The study group consisted with 264 preschool teacher candidates who are continued different undergraduate classes in preschool teaching of education faculties of Hacettepe University, Yüzüncü Yıl University and Karadeniz Technic University in the 2013-2014 academic year. The interview form was prepared to reveal perceptions of preschool teacher candidates who participated in the study about preschool teacher training program. Preschool teacher candidates have been completed the sentence in interview form about "Preschool Teacher training program is like/similar .........., because ...." and has been requested to use a specific entity analogy to any object, objects or animals for the Preschool Teacher Training Program. The perceptions of preschool teacher candidates about preschool teacher training program has been studied by the method of content analysis. The process of analyzing and interpreting of developed metaphor about preschool teacher training program of preschool teacher candidates was carried out in four stages as (1) determination of the metaphor (2) classifying the metaphor (3) category development (4) providing validity and reliability.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS
264 preschool teacher candidates have produced 183 metaphors totally in this study to determine perceptions of preschool teacher candidates about the preschool teacher training program through metaphors. These metaphors were evaluated in 14 different categories in light of literature. The data obtained in the light of the generated categories were collected in the following way: "shaping", "essential/required", "guide/director", "wealth/depth", "aesthetic/valued", "source of information/teaching", "emerging/changing", "producing", "fun" "difficult", "useful", "control mechanism", "dysfunctional/unqualified/unnecessary" and "fear".

When 11 metaphors of the identified categories have reflected the side of the positive aspects of the preschool teacher training program, 3 metaphors of the identified categories have expressed negative. It was extremely gratifying that a very large portion of metaphors of preschool teacher candidates regarding to their undergraduate program positive metaphor. Although negative metaphors were small number, they stand in front of us as a finding that needs to be taken into consideration.

This study was conducted, metaphors of mother and tree from 183 metaphors by preschool teacher candidates has been most repeated. In addition to this groundwork of construction, seeds, sun and water metaphors are repeated more than one by preschool teacher
candidates. Results of program for preschool teacher candidates will also show correlated with the teaching profession obtained in future. Because the metaphors which developed in this study were quite similar with the metaphors which are used for teaching profession in last studies.