

Pre-Service Science Teachers' Perceptions Related to the Concept of Laboratory: A Metaphorical Analysis

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Abstract : The laboratory activities are seen an indispensable part of science, teaching, and learning. In this study, the aim was to identify pre-service science teachers' perceptions related to the concept of laboratory through metaphors. It is expressed that metaphors can be used as a powerful research tool in order to understand personal perceptions. Therefore, metaphors were used with the aim of revealing a picture regarding how pre-service science teachers perceive laboratory. Within the scope of this aim, phenomenographic research design was adopted for this study and an answer was sought to the question; 'What are pre-service science teachers' perceptions about the concept of laboratory?'. The sample of this study was a total of 80 pre-service science teachers at various grade levels in Turkey. Participants were asked to complete the sentence; 'Laboratory is like...; because...'. Documents including pre-service science teachers' answers to the open-ended questions were used as data sources and the data were analysed with content analysis.

Keywords : laboratory, metaphor, phenomenology, pre-service science teachers

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