



Psycho-Educational Research Reviews 12(1), 2023, 249-272 www.perrjournal.com

Predictive Roles of Language Learning Strategies, Academic Self-concept, Gender and Grade Level in English Language Learning Achievement

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Keywords	Abstract
Language learning strategies	This study aims to identify the factors influential in academic achievement
Academic self-concept	in learning English. The study was conducted with the participation of 522
English language learning	students who were the ninth, tenth and eleventh graders in an Anatolian
Academic success	High school located in Ankara city centre. The research data were collected
Prediction	with the Turkish version of personal and academic self-concept inventory
Article Info:	(PASCI-Fleming & Whalen, 1984) and of strategy inventory for language
Received : 31-05-2022	learning (SILL-Oxford, 1990) (Cesur & Fer, 2007). The data were then
Accepted : 13-03-2023	analysed through bivariate correlation coefficient and multiple linear
Published : 22-04-2023	regression analysis. As a result, significant correlations were found between
	academic achievement in English and all sub-factors of learning strategies
	and of academic self-concept (p<.01). It was found that all the variables
	analysed (gender as male students, grade 11 as class variable, language
	learning strategies, academic self) predicted 42% of the variance in
	academic achievement in English. In the study, it was found that cognitive,
	compensatory and metacognitive strategies which are language learning strategies positively predicted English academic achievement while
	affective strategies predicted negatively. In the academic self-dimension of
	the study, it was found that academic ability and family acceptance
	positively predicted academic success in English while physical appearance
DOI: 10.52963/PERR_Biruni_V12.N1.16	and social anxiety predicted negatively.

To cite this article: Biyıklı, C. (2023). Predictive roles of language learning strategies, academic self-concept, gender and grade level in English language learning achievement. *Psycho-Educational Research Reviews*, *12*(1), 249-272. doi: 10.52963/PERR_Biruni_V12.N1.16

INTRODUCTION

Individuals need to learn a foreign language if they want to adapt into the developments or changes which arise in science, art, economy, technology and so on in this century (Ataman, 2017; Aykaç, 2020; Demirel, 2004; Kırkıç & Boray, 2017). The need also helps the individuals to communicate with others in the society, to have respect for the cultural properties and lifestyles of the society, to look at such issues as the mental development and problem-solving power from a different perspective and to understand different cultures (Alptekin, 1989). Despite the great importance of learning a foreign language, it becomes apparent on considering the efforts and resources wasted in this area it is seen that there is not enough efficiency in foreign language education (Işık, 2018).

The failure in foreign language teaching can be described by making quotations from various researchers. In his research, Gökdemir (2005) describes the universities' not providing enough opportunities to practise despite offering English preparatory classes, their using teacher-centered approach to teach English, the students' not showing necessary effort in order to learn English and the failure to provide an appropriate classroom environment for teaching as the encountered problems. Can and Can (2014) argue that the causes of failure in English language teaching are English Language Department students' lack of interest in learning the language, their ignorance of the probable benefits of learning the language and their priority to take notes so as to pass their exams. Işık (2008) stated in his research that a foreign language education culture has been formed since the Ottoman Empire, and that this is insufficient in addition to the developing teaching methods and techniques. Haznedar (2010), the most basic problems in the English language teaching process in Turkey are crowded classrooms, inadequacy of physical conditions, inadequacies in qualified teacher training, language policies and approaches to language teaching.

The existence of problems in foreign language teaching gives us clues on the influential factors in language learning. The interpretation for the four studies cited above (Can & Can, 2014; Gökdemir, 2005; Haznedar, 2010; Işık, 2008) may be that learning environments and the characteristics of learners and teachers are effective in foreign language teaching. Similar to this interpretation, Conteh-Morgan (2002) also states that student characteristics and the effects of the teachinglearning process, social content, learning conditions and learning are the most significant variables in foreign language teaching. Students' academic achievement in foreign languages can be increased if all other variables influential in foreign language teaching in addition to the ones are improved. In other words, increase in academic achievement, which is an important variable (Güven, 2004), can be secured by managing various factors accurately.

The concept of success has been perceived in various ways and different structures have been made. Success is progress towards achieving the desired result (Şimşek, 2012). Academic achievement indicates the student's level of achievement of instructional goals (Baykul, 2015). The academic achievement discussed in this study as stated by Good (1973) and Özgüven (2022) is expression the development of the students in the courses in the curriculum, the grades given by the teachers for the performance of the students in the classroom, the skills determined by the test scores or both. Students' academic achievement is influenced by their (students') levels of socialemotional-mental development, their levels of motivation, their ways of perceiving the school and by their study habits (Eymur & Geban, 2011; Keskin & Sezgin, 2009), students' age and gender (Khesht-Masjedi, et al., 2019; Nasir & Masrur, 2010; Yalın, 2020), their intelligence, concerns, personality, beliefs, attitudes and capabilities (Ekmekyermezoğlu, 2010) are also important in determining academic achievement. The variables mentioned in these studies can differ from person to person. Such individual differences between students have different effects on them in the process of language teaching and have direct effects on their academic achievement in foreign language (Aydın & Zengin, 2008).

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Individual differences among learners reveal the emergence of the concept of learner autonomy. It requires preparing an individual and educational action plan (Can, 2011). Dickinson (1992) describes learner autonomy as learners' decisions on their learning process and their implementation of the decisions. In other words, learner autonomy requires learners to take the responsibility of their learning and to use learning strategies (Gözüm & Başbay, 2019). Learning strategies involve the techniques used in order to remember, comprehend and apply the knowledge and skills in an area. When seen from this perspective, learning strategies can be important in serving to a purpose such as "being able to learn a foreign language in good quality" (Chamot, et al., 2004).

Weinstein, et al. (2000) call strategies containing any type of emotion, thought, belief or behaviour which enable one to acquire new knowledge and skills, to internalise them and then to use them in different situations language learning strategies. Riding and Rayner (1998), on the other hand, defined the methods and techniques which individuals develop to solve their problems when they feel incompetent while learning a language as language learning strategies.

Language learning strategies which are labelled as the techniques which contribute to students' ability to learn a foreign language enable them to understand what they have been taught and to retain it in their mind. It, in turn, accelerates their language learning process and makes it fun (Bekleyen, 2005). Students' use of learning strategies in environments which are supported by language learning strategies will cause them both to be open to development and to promote their academic achievement (Baş, 2014). Studies which analyse language learning strategies along with students' academic achievement are available in the literature. When these studies are examined, it is demonstrated that those students who were academically more successful used language learning strategies more frequently (Çetinkaya, 2017; Gan, et al., 2004; Green & Oxford, 1995; Uslan, 2006; Wharton, 2000; Yamamori, et al., 2003), that certain strategies were more effective in increasing academic achievement (Atan, 2003; Gözüm & Başbay, 2019; Öztürk, 2004), that vocabulary learning strategies increased success at words (Aydemir, 2007; Bölükbaş, 2013) and that language learning strategies (memory and cognitive) predicted academic achievement (Baş, 2014).

Language learning strategies which are thought to be effective in the development of academic achievement can be said to differ from student to student (Gözüm & Başbay, 2019). The difference can be influenced by the education (Akkaş-Baysal, 2020) they receive in their family (Güney, 2009) and in their school (Çalık & Kurt, 2010). Those factors education, family, school which affect language learning strategies can also lead to the development of students' academic self-concept (Cesur, 2016). Their academic self-perception will develop in positive ways if their needs to increase academic achievement are met. The learning-teaching process should be regulated in accordance with students' interest, skills and capabilities to be able to secure the development (Işmar & Şehitoğlu, 2021). When learning-teaching environments are arranged in this way, students' academic achievement can also be high (Cesur, 2016). The students with high academic achievement will have higher academic self-concept than those who do not have academic achievement (Marsh, et al., 2005).

The points common to the academic self-concept definitions are that individuals make selfevaluations, that they compare themselves with the society in which they live, that the concept has both cognitive and affective aspects, that it is not restricted to one single academic domain and that personal views and academic competence is also included (Cantekin, 2020). Academic self-concept can be both the cause and effect of academic achievement (Marsh et al., 2005). Besides, its influence in achievement can also be said to be stronger than the effectiveness of achievement (Lau & Chan, 2001). The fact that the two concepts are so close to each other has also reflections in the literature. Accordingly, it is argued in the literature that academic achievement and academic self-concept are correlated (Akyüz, 2019; Dickhäuser, 2005; Guay, et al., 2003; Işmar & Şehitoğlu, 2021; Koç, 2011; Korkmaz & Kaptan, 2002; Marsh & Craven, 2006; Piyancı, 2007; Valentine & Dubois, 2005), that academic self-concept influences students' academic achievement in positive ways (Cantekin, 2020), that academic self-concept is a predictive of academic achievement (Awad, 2007; Dursun-Sürmeli & Ünver, 2017; Karasakaloğlu & Saracaloğlu, 2009; Stringer & Heath, 2008; Şimşek, 2012) and that academic self-concept is a predictive of achievement in foreign language learning (Saracaloğlu & Varol, 2007).

It was remarkable in the literature were not available in relation to the prediction of language learning strategies and of academic self-concept in academic achievement in foreign language learning. On the other hand, no studies which investigated the four variables influential in foreign language learning achievement (language learning strategies, academic self-concept, grade levels and gender) were found.

Several ways have been tried so as to make the process of foreign language learning more permanent. One of the ways is to determine the factors which influence achievement in foreign language learning as in many other areas. The main aim of the research is to determine the effects of language learning strategies, academic self, grade level and gender on foreign language academic success of students in foreign language learning. It is thought that this aim will contribute to the preparation of foreign language teaching programs and the development of foreign language teaching methods. The thought is considered to be correct in that it explains what academic achievement in language learning is influenced by. Additionally, it can also be said that showing researchers an example for a statistical method that they can use in their study, the linear regression analysis used in the study, is also valuable.

Based on what has been stated so far, this study aims to identify the factors which influence academic achievement in English as a foreign language. In accordance with this general purpose, the research problem was formulated as "what are the factors which influence secondary school students' (the 9th, 10th and 11th graders') levels of academic achievement in English?". Setting out from the research problem, answers are sought to the following questions:

1.How correlated are language learning strategies, academic self-concept, gender and grade levels to academic achievement in English?

2.How strong are language learning strategies, academic self-concept, gender and grade levels in predicting academic achievement in English classes?

METHOD

RESEARCH DESIGN

This research was designed according to the quantitative approach and the relational survey model was preferred in the study. In relational survey, which is one of the general survey models, the degree of change between at least two variables is determined (Karasar, 2020). In this study, the relationships among English academic achievement, language learning strategies, academic self-concept, gender and grade level were examined.

STUDY GROUP

The research for the study was conducted in May and June in the Spring semester of 2018-2019 academic year due to convenience to the researcher (physical, managerial, practical and economic convenience). The research was conducted in an Anatolian high school located in Çankaya, one of the central districts of Ankara. The 9th, 10th and 11th graders at the Anatolian school participated in the research on the basis of volunteering (Güven, et al., 2020). The participants were informed of the content of the study and of where to use the research data beforehand. Their permission to use the research data within the scope of the study was also obtained prior to the research.

The population for the study was composed of the 9th, 10th and 11th graders who attended the Anatolian high school in 2018-2019 academic year when the research was done. The research was done with the inclusion of high school students considering the maturation level of them and the fact that the statements in the language learning strategies scale and in the academic self-concept scale would be understood and interpreted better by them (Baş, 2014; Cesur, 2016; Gözüm & Başbay, 2019). The 12th graders were not included in the study because they were preparing for university entrance exam (This exam is that everyone who has completed high school education must take in order to go to university.) in the period when the research was done. Convenience sampling method was used in collecting the research data.

550 of the 671 students who were the 9th, 10th and 11th graders in the school where the research was done agreed to take part in the research. 28 of them were excluded from the research due to some reasons (such as not completing the whole scale, refusing to write down their school number). Thus, remaining 522 students who were included in the research constituted 78% of all the 9th, 10th and 11th graders in the school. 182 of the participants (98 female students (53.84%) and 84 male students (51.85%) were the 9th graders while 178 of them (96 female students (53.93%) and 82 male students (46.07%) were the 10th graders and 162 of them (84 female students (51.85%) and 78 male students (48.15%) were the 11th graders. Considering all the students included in the study, 34.86% of them were the ninth graders whereas 34.09% were the tenth graders and 31.05% were the eleventh graders. In addition to this, 278 (53.46%) of the participants were female students whereas 244 of them (46.54%) were male students.

VARIABLES

LANGUAGE LEARNING STRATEGIES

The Strategy Inventory for Language Learning (SILL) was used so as to determine students' language learning strategies. It was developed by Oxford (1990). The scale consists of six sub-parts and 50 items. It is in 5-pointed Likert type, and the maximum score receivable from the inventory is 250 and the minimum score is 50. The Turkish version of the inventory which was adapted by Cesur and Fer (2007) was used in the current study. The English and Turkish versions of the SILL were used in several studies. The Cronbach's Alpha coefficients for the inventory are shown in Table 1 by adding the data in this study to the implementation results of the inventory (Cited in Akar, 2013).

Language Learning Strategies	Original	Cesur	Felemens	Park	Fazeli	Akar	in research (2019)
	Scale	and	(2008)	(2011)	(2012)	(2013)	
	(Oxford,	Fer					
	1990)	(2007)					
Total	.93	.92	.93	.90	.89	.95	.97
Memory Strategies	.80	.73	73	.69	.73	.83	.83
Cognitive Strategies	.78	.82	.83	.75	.71	.85	.90
Compensation Strategies	.75	.65	.63	.43	.72	.75	.82
Metacognitive Strategies	.86	.86	.89	.78	.81	.91	.90
Affective Strategies	.78	.59	.58	.45	.71	.72	.82
Social Strategies	.93	.92	.93	.90	.89	.95	.83

Table 1. Cronbach Alpha Values of the Application Results of the SILL in the current and Other Studies

ACADEMIC SELF-CONCEPT

The data on students' academic self-concept were collected with the Personal and Academic Self-concept Inventory (PASCI). The inventory was prepared by Fleming and Whalen (1984). It contains nine sub-parts and 45 items. The items are in 7-pointed Likert type. The maximum score from the inventory is 315, and the minimum score is 45. The original inventory was used in the interviews with English teachers. Fleming and Whalen (1990) calculated the reliability of the inventory in internal consistency and test-retest method. The correlation between social anxiety- a

sub-factor of the inventory- and social anxiety available in FSB (Fenigstein, et al., 1975; Cited in Fleming & Whalen, 1990) was found as r= -.80; and the correlation with RSES (Rosenberg Self–Esteem Scale, Rosenberg, 1965; Cited in Fleming & Whalen, 1990) in terms of self-respect was found as r= .74. The Cronbach's Alpha for the results of the implementation is shown in Table 2.

Academic Self Inventory Sub-Dimensions	Cronbach Alpha Values
Academic Self Total	.93
Self-Esteem	.53
Social Acceptance	.80
Academic Ability	.68
Verbal Ability	.65
Mathematical Ability	.86
Physical Appearance	.86
Physical Ability	.65
Family Acceptance	.74
Social Anxiety	.80

 Table 2. Cronbach Alpha Values for the Results of the Academic Self-Concept Inventory in the Research.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN ENGLISH

The participants' end of the year average mark for their academic achievement in English was considered as their academic achievement score. End of the year average mark is calculated by adding the average mark which is found with marks students receive one written, two oral exams (student's performance in the lesson) and one performance (both process-based and product-based type) assignment given in the second semester to the average mark for the first semester and then dividing the total into two. Thus, the students' average, was 74.1 and the standard deviation was 12.85.

GRADE LEVEL AND GENDER

The data for the students' gender and grade level were obtained through the personal information form available in the scales. The distribution of the students according to gender and grade levels is described in detail under the heading of the study group.

DATA ANALYSIS

The analyses were done for the variables available in the study by means of the SPSS 23 package programme. The analyses included arithmetic mean, standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis, bivariate correlation coefficient and multiple regression. The correlations between the dependent variable (academic achievement in English) and the independent variables (language learning strategies, academic self-concept) were analysed through Pearson product moments multiplication correlation. Multiple linear regression analysis was used in analysing the effects of gender, grade levels, language learning strategies and academic self-concept on academic achievement in English.

Certain assumptions should be met so as to do the multiple regression analysis. Therefore, Mahalanobis distance which does not have values which negate the linearity and normality assumption was examined and calculated. Besides, whether or not the data for the variables displayed linearity assumption was tested by examining the scatter plot for the dependent and independent variables. Accordingly, it was also found that the correlation between the standardised predicted values available in the scatter diagrams and the standardised residual values was linear (Büyüköztürk, 2020; Yurt, 2014). It was found that the multicollinearity problem, which is another of the multiple regression analysis assumptions, was fulfilled because the correlation values of the independent variables in the study were between r=.158 and r=.801. In other words, since the criterion that there should not be a high correlation (r>.90) between the variables was in the study,

the assumption of multiple regression analysis was provided (Çokluk, et al., 2018). The correlations between academic achievement in English and language learning strategies and the sub-factors of academic self-concept were smaller than r=0.90. Therefore, it may be said that there are no high correlations between these values and scores for academic achievement in English. Because academic achievement in English had very high correlations with language learning strategies and with the general scores for academic self-concept, the linearity assumption could not be met. Thus, it was not included in multiple regression analysis. In addition to this, it was also found that there was no collinearity problem between the variables, the variance increase factors (VIF) in the data set were 10 and below 10 (1.55-5.070), the tolerance values (TV) were .10 and above .10 (.1.91-.901) and was supported (Çokluk, et al., 2018). In brief, the data set used in the study is thought to meet the required assumptions.

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES OF THE RESEARCH

The research was conducted with the participation of volunteered students (Creswell, 2016). The participants were informed of the study, and they were assured that their identity would be kept confidential, and their approval was received. The school name and students' names were not mentioned in the study. The application process, data collection tools, the data analysis and the results of the analyses were described in detail and accurately within the scope of research ethics. The references consulted in writing the article were listed meticulously (Creswell, 2016).

FINDINGS

Whether or not the participants' academic achievement scores for English, their scores for the sub-factors of Strategy inventory for language learning (SILL) and of academic self-concept inventory (PASCI) which constituted the data set of the research had normal distribution was analysed. It was found that their arithmetic mean for their achievement in English scores was \bar{x} =74.71, standard deviation was sd=12.85, skewness was α_3 =-.499, kurtosis was α_4 =-.58. The average for language learning strategies scores was between \bar{x} = 17.35 and \bar{x} = 44.16, standard deviation was between sd=5.48 and sd=11.79, skewness coefficients were between α_3 =-.341 and α_3 =.076, kurtosis coefficients were between \bar{x} = 22.02 and \bar{x} = 25.19; standard deviation was between sd=5.41 and sd=7.53; skewness coefficient was between α_3 =-.376 and α_3 =-.82; and kurtosis coefficients showed that the values changed between -2 and +2, and therefore, the data set can be said to have normal distribution (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2019).

HOW DO LANGUAGE LEARNING STRATEGIES AND ACADEMIC SELF-CONCEPT RELATE TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS IN ENGLISH COURSE?

Table 3 shows the correlations between academic achievement in English and language learning strategies and academic self-concept. Accordingly, there are significant correlations between academic achievement in English and all sub-factors of language learning strategies and of academic self-concept (p<.01). The highest correlation is between academic achievement in English and cognitive strategies a sub-factor of language learning strategies (r=.487, p<0.01). The correlations between academic achievement in English and the other sub-factors of language learning strategies are as in the following from the highest to the lowest: compensation strategies (r=.430, p<0.01), social strategies (r=.375, p<.01) and affective strategies (r=.298, p<.01). The highest correlation between academic achievement in English and acceptance by the family- a sub-factor of academic self-concept is the highest (r=.389, p<.01). The correlations between academic achievement in English and acceptance by the family- a sub-factor of academic self-concept is the highest (r=.389, p<.01). The correlations between academic achievement in English and acceptance by the family- a sub-factor of academic self-concept is the highest (r=.389, p<.01). The correlations between academic achievement in English and acceptance by the family- a sub-factor of academic self-concept is the highest (r=.389, p<.01). The correlations between academic achievement in English and acceptance by the family- a sub-factor of academic self-concept is the highest (r=.389, p<.01). The correlations between academic achievement in English and acceptance by the family- a sub-factor of academic self-concept is the highest (r=.389, p<.01). The correlations between academic achievement in English and the other sub-factors of academic self-concept are as in the following-from the highest to the lowest: academic capability (r=.322, p<.01), verbal capability (r=.313, r<.01), self-respect (r=.301, p<.01), mathematical capability (r=.251, p<.01), physical appearance (r=.212, p<.01).

p<0.01), social acceptance (r=.205, p<.01), physical capability (r=.201, p<.01) and social anxiety (r=.134, p<.01). Besides, the correlations between language learning strategies and the sub-factors of academic self-concept were also found to be significant (p<.01).

 Table 3. Correlation Values between Academic Achievement in English, Language Learning Strategies and

 Academic Self-Concept

Academic Self-Concept																		
Variables	Mean	Sd	V1	V2	V3	V4	V5	V6	V7	V8	V9	V10	V11	V12	V13	V14	V15	V16
V1Academic Success in English	74.71	12.8 5	1															
V2Memory Strategies	27.00	7.37	.438**	1														
V3Cognitive Strategies	44.16	11.8 0	.487**	.789*'	1													
V4Compensa tion Strategies	19.21	5.48	.476**	.658**	.782**	1												
V5Metacogni tive Strategies	28.61	8.48	.430**	.645**	.801**	.737*'	1											
V6Affective Strategies	17.35	5.82	.298**	.659*'	.658**	.589*'	.689*'	1										
V7Social Strategies	19.51	5.76	.371**	.635*'	.661**	.653**	.684**	.692**	1									
V8Self- Esteem	23.19	5.42	.301**	.369**	.348**	.369**	.322**	.364*'	.379*									
V9Social Acceptance	24.02	7.12	.205**	.198*'	.172**	.158**	.165*'	.186*'	.191*'	.405*								
V10Academi c Ability	22.03	5.99	.332**	.393*'	.269**	.243**	.261**	.352**	.344*'	.568**	.478*							
V11Verbal Ability	24.39	5.69	.313**	.353*'	.349**	.334*'	.315*'	.332*'	.402**	.569*'	.476*'	.498*						
V12Mathem atical Ability	22.07	7.53	.251**	.345*'	.257**	.242**	.200**	.280**	.292**	.391*'	.266**	.501*'	.305*					
V13Physical Appearance	22.16	6.07	.212**	.356*'	.333**	.385**	.345*'	.407**	.360**	.629**	.385*'	.521*'	.468*'	.362*				
V14Physical Ability	23.71	6.54	.201**	.287*'	.263**	.296**	.239*'	.283*'	.273**	.507**	.436*'	.408*'	.436*'	.359**	.532'			
V15Family Acceptance	25.20	6.13	.389**	.356*'	.311**	.289**	.312*'	.294*'	.332*'	.452*'	.329*'	.448*'	.467*'	.406**	.374*'	.299*		
V16Social Anxiety	22.87	7.12	.134**	.237*'	.213**	.228**	.234**	.284**	.278**	.511**	.682**	.514*'	.529*'	.307*'	.535*'	.495'	.343	1

WHAT IS THE PREDICTIVE POWER OF LANGUAGE LEARNING STRATEGIES, ACADEMIC SELF, GENDER AND GRADE LEVEL IN ENGLISH COURSE ACADEMIC SUCCESS?

According to Table 4, students' academic achievement in English is predicted significantly by gender (male), grade level (11^{th} grade), language learning strategies and all the sub-factors of academic self-concept ($F_{(17,504)}$ =21.536, p<.001). In other words, all the variables analysed in the study

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were found to explain 42% of the variance in academic achievement in English. Gender on its own did not have any effects on explaining students' academic achievement in English (p>.05). An examination of the data shown in Table 2 demonstrates that the 11^{th} grade, the variable of grade level (B=6.542, t=6.603, p<.05), predicts academic achievement ($F_{(17,504)}$ =21.536, p<.001). On the other hand, the 11^{th} graders' academic achievement in English was found to be higher than the 9^{th} and 10^{th} graders. Thus, an increase of 6.542 units occurred in their achievement at 11^{th} grade.

	Unstanda	rdized Coefficients	Standardized	+	2	Collinearity S	Statistics
	В	Standard Error	Coefficients Beta	t	р	Tolerance	VIF
(Constant)	38.297	2.6		14.732	.000		
Sex (Male)	.505	.954	.02	.53	.597	.836	1.196
Class (11th Grade)	6.542	.991	.236	6.603	.000	.901	1.109
Memory Strategies	.047	.107	.027	.44	.66	.305	3.284
Cognitive Strategies	.184	.083	.169	2.212	.027	.197	5.070
Compensation Strategies	.537	.140	.229	3.841	.000	.322	3.101
Metacognitive Strategies	.218	.099	.144	2.203	.028	.269	3.722
Affective Strategies	345	.121	156	-2.852	.005	.383	2.610
Social Strategies	.08	.123	.036	0.65	.516	.377	2.650
Self-Esteem	.019	.121	.008	0.156	.876	.440	2.270
Social Acceptance	.157	.088	.087	1.84	.075	.484	2.067
Academic Ability	.403	.107	.188	3.771	.000	.464	2.154
Verbal Ability	.128	.108	.057	1.183	.237	.504	1.986
Mathematical Ability	011	.072	007	158	.875	.645	1.552
Physical Appearance	213	.105	1	-2.028	.043	.468	2.136
Physical Ability	009	.088	005	102	.919	.571	1.750
Family Acceptance	.362	.088	.173	4.09	.000	.645	1.550
Social Anxiety	329	.096	183	-3.428	.001	.405	2.468
F _(17,504) =21.536	R=.649						
p<.001	R ² =.421						

Table 4. Multiple Regression Analysis Results on Predicting Academic Achievement in English

An examination of the data in Table 4 makes it clear that cognitive strategies (B=.184, t=2,212, p<.05), compensation strategies (B=.537, t=3.841, p<.05), metacognitive strategies (B=.218, t=2.203, p<.05) and affective strategies (B=-.345, t=-2.852, p<.05) the sub-factors of language learning strategies- predict students' academic achievement in English. While cognitive, compensation and metacognitive strategies predict academic achievement in positive ways, affective strategies predict it in negative ways. When there is a one unit of rise in cognitive, compensation and metacognitive strategies, there is a rise of B=.184 (for cognitive), B=.537 (for compensation) and B=.218 (for metacognitive) units in students' academic achievement. On the other hand, when there is a one unit of rise in affective strategies, there is a B=.345 decrease in students' academic achievement scores.

The Standardized Coefficients Beta value gives the order of importance of the variables. Regardless of whether the sign in front of it is minus or plus, the largest value represents the most influential variable (Büyüköztürk, 2020). Accordingly, when we look at the Standardized Coefficients Beta value in Table 4, it is seen that compensatory strategies are the most effective in predicting academic achievement among language learning strategies.

It is also evident from Table 4 that academic capability (B=.403, t=3.771, p<.05), physical appearance (B=-.213, t=-2.028, p<.05), acceptance by the family (B=.362, t=4.090, p<.05) and social anxiety (B=-.329, t=-3.428, p<.05)- the sub-factors of academic self-concept- predict students'

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academic achievement in English ($F_{(17,504)}$ =21.536, p<.001). While academic achievement in English is predicted by academic capability and acceptance by the family in positive ways, it is predicted by physical appearance and social anxiety in negative ways. Thus, an increase of one unit in academic capability and acceptance by the family leads to an increase of B=.403 units (for academic capability) and B=.362 units (for acceptance by the family) in students' academic achievement scores. On the other hand, an increase of one unit in physical appearance and social anxiety leads to a drop of B=.213 units (for physical appearance) and B=.329 units (for social anxiety) in students' academic achievement scores. According to the standardised coefficients beta shown in Table 4, academic capability has the largest effect on predicting academic achievement. The regression equation formed in relation to the prediction of academic achievement by grade level and by the sub-factors of language learning strategies and academic self-concept is as in the following:

Academic Achievement = 38.297 +6.542*Class (11th Grade) + .184*Cognitive Strategies + .537*Compensation Strategies + .218*Metacognitive Strategies - .345*Affective Strategies + .403*Academic Ability - .213*Physical Appearance + .362*Family Acceptance - .329*Social Anxiety + e

According to the regression equation, the highest factor in predicting students' English academic achievement is the variable of grade level (11). According to the correlation coefficient, it can be said that the relative importance of the predictive variables of language learning strategies on English course academic success is compensatory strategies, affective strategies, metacognitive strategies and cognitive strategies. According to the correlation coefficient, the relative importance of academic success in English courses could be academic academic success in English courses could be academic ability, social anxiety, family acceptance, and physical appearance.

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

One of the findings obtained in this current study was related to the investigation of the correlations between the sub-factors of language learning strategies and academic achievement in English. Accordingly, significant correlations were found between the sub-factors of language learning strategies and academic achievement. Studies are also available in the literature supportive of this finding. Gözüm and Başbay (2019) concluded that the students who used language learning strategies while learning English had higher academic achievement than those who did not use the strategies. Demirel (2012) also concluded in his research that as students use language learning strategies more, their academic success increases. Bremmer (1999), Nisbet et al. (2005) found significant correlations between language learning strategies and proficiency in a foreign language; El-Dip (2004), Aslan (2009) and Baş (2014) found significant correlations between language learning strategies and academic achievement. Besides, Dreyer and Oxford (1996) found the correlation between language learning strategies and academic achievement as r=.73 whereas Oxford and Ehrman (1995) found it as r=.61. In these two studies, there is a strong, significant and positive relationship between language learning strategies and academic achievement. (Christensen, et al., 2012). Results contrary to the ones obtained in this study were also found in the literature. Thus, Tüz (1995) found that there were no correlations between language learning strategies and language proficiency. Some research (Mullins, 1992; Park, 1994; Watanabe, 1990 (Cited in Oxford et al., 2004)) found that the correlations between using language learning strategies and academic achievement were not very high. We can say that these results are due to the characteristics of the research group and the data collection tools used in the research.

Teaching foreign language strategies to students can be possible with teachers. Teachers hold the view that teaching the strategies in classes takes too much time (Sökmen, 2006). In that case, English teachers need to find new ways to teach and to use the strategies. One of the ways is to give homework and another is to use blogs. Students can have the opportunity to revise the subjects and strategies taught to them by doing homework. It is reported in the literature that teachers think that students who do homework promote their achievement in a foreign language (Koçak & Göçer, 2020; Sönmez et al., 2017; Wallinger, 2000). Homework in language teaching enables language education to continue outside the classroom. Students also devote more time to studying. When assigning homework, the assignments should be appropriate to the level of the students. In assignments, attention should be paid to the academic interests and wishes of the students. Homework should be fun, reinforcing what is learned in the lesson and applicable in daily life (Büyüktokatlı, 2009).

Developments in educational technologies have also changed the types of homework given by teachers. It is inevitable for teachers to make use of the possibilities of technology in the present day. Their use of the possibilities offered by technology in the learning and teaching process can have impacts on students. One of the possibilities of technology increasing achievement in English is the use of blogs. Aykaç (2020) asked students to use blogs and to write on blogs. The experimental group students' achievement in as well as their attitudes towards the course increased through the blog implementation. Huang (2016), in a study concerning students' use of blogs, teachers' and students' use of blogs is beneficial in foreign language education. In addition, Huang recommended using the blogging method as a course tool.

Another finding obtained in this study is that cognitive strategies have the highest correlations with academic achievement, and affective strategies have the lowest correlations among language learning strategies. According to this finding, it can be said that the academic achievement of the students who use cognitive strategies is high, and the academic achievement of the students who use affective strategies is low. Studies which are parallel in this finding (Gözüm & Başbay, 2019) are also available in the literature. Gözüm and Başbay (2019) found that the students who used cognitive strategies at high levels attained higher achievement than those who used those strategies at medium or low levels. Alyılmaz and Şengül (2018), Öztürk (2004) and Oxford and Ehrman (1995) also found in a similar way that students' use of cognitive strategies affected the achievement of students in languages in positive ways (grammar, advanced reading, writing, listening, pronunciation, motivation). In contrast, studies which found that academic achievement had high correlations with memory strategies and low correlations with social strategies are also available (Aykaç, 2020) in the literature.

Studies in which affective strategies were used less than the other strategies are also found in relevant literature. Hamamcı (2012) found that students in university preparatory classes used affective strategies less than other strategies. A similar result was achieved when Uztosun (2014) performed with randomly selected students studying in the Department of English Language Education. Using affective strategies can be influenced by students' perceptions of beliefs and attitudes towards languages. Graham (2003) found that students ignored learning strategies when they have low self-sufficiency beliefs and low self-perception, and that such a situation affected their academic achievement in negative ways.

The current study also found that there were significant high correlations between academic achievement in English and the sub-factors of academic self-concept. In parallel to this finding, there are also studies in the literature that support the finding of the research and show a significant and high relationship between academic achievement and academic self-concept (İşmar & Şehitoğlu, 2021; Piyancı, 2007; Valantine & Dubois, 2005). In the literature, there are studies (Dickhäuser, 2005; Karasakaloğlu & Saracaloğlu, 2009; Rodriguez, 2009) that reveal a positive, significant and moderate relationship between academic achievement and academic self. There are also studies showing that academic self has a positive effect on academic achievement (Dika, 2012; Jansen & Suhre, 2010; Mihaela, 2015; Nunez, 2009). Apart from that, the researcher also found a study which found that there were no correlations between academic self-concept and academic achievement (Öner, 1993).

It may be said that there are significant correlations between academic self-concept (Akyüz, 2019) and that the two affect each other in positive ways (Marsh & Craven, 2006; Marsh & Martin, 2011). The efforts students make to attain their goals are influenced by their self-perceptions. Their motivation is very important in this process.

Students need to motivate themselves to attain academic achievement. The process of motivation leads them to use their potential at the maximum level. Students' motivation is very important in learning a foreign language as in achievement in any area (Cited in Akyüz, 2019). They should keep studying to learn the language. In order to ensure this continuity, their motivation and therefore their academic self-perceptions must be at a high level (Akyüz, 2019). Çetinkaya (2017) concluded that students with higher academic achievement used language learning strategies more often and that they had higher motivation. It can be said that the motivation of students for foreign language learning is effective in the increase in academic success and the use of language learning strategies more. For this reason, the conditions affecting motivation in foreign language education (teachers' characteristics, not being able to use the language practically, words that need to be memorized, the quality of learning-teaching processes (Mehdiyev, et al., 2016) and the fear of not being able to speak English (Csizer & Dörnyei, 2005)) should be taken into consideration.

Of the sub-factors of academic self-concept, acceptance by the family was the one with the highest correlations with academic achievement in English. Based on the items in PASCI, it can be defined as being accepted by the family, supporting the student, and ensuring that the individual receives education according to his interests and wishes. According to this definition, it can be said that the primary duty of the family in the education process of the student is to reveal and develop the positive aspects and abilities of the student (Güney, 2009). Özer and Korkmaz (2016) stated that both the language success of the students at school and the frequency of using the language outside of school increased due to the importance given by the family to language learning. In addition, Özer and Korkmaz (2016) emphasized that family was important in increasing students' motivation to learn language. Gonzales (2001) identifies the external factors influential in learning a foreign language as the socio-cultural structure of the family such as parents' levels of education, their occupation, the family structure and the language used in the family. Bölükbaş (2010) found that students' academic achievement in learning a language (Turkish) increased in parallel to the rise in parents' levels of education.

On the other hand, the lowest correlation was between academic achievement and social anxiety. Social anxiety in foreign language teaching should be distinguished from other types of anxiety. Individuals who are going to learn a language can find themselves in a different environment once they have learnt the language. Even the thought of this situation can create fear in people. Students may have more fear than they should in this process. The anxiety and fear stand as a barrier in front of students (Allwright & Bailey, 2004).

It was also found in this study that all the variables together explained 42% of the variance in academic achievement in English. No studies focusing the extent to which academic self-concept, language learning strategies, grade levels and gender altogether predict academic achievement in a foreign language were found in the literature. However, studies (Baş, 2014; Saracaloğlu & Varol 2007) which argued the degree to which these variables (self-concept, attitude language learning strategies) each predicted academic achievement were available. Baş (2014) found that language learning strategies alone predicted 25% of academic achievement in English whereas Saracaloğlu and Varol (2007) found that academic self-concept and attitudes towards foreign languages together predicted 82% of academic achievement and that academic self-concept on its own predicted 44% of academic achievement. As to research in other areas, Stringer and Heath (2008) found that academic self-concept predicted 25% of academic achievement, Dursun et al. (2017) found that academic self-concept predicted 10% of academic achievement, Şimşek (2012) found that academic self-concept and score received from university entrance exam together predicted 44% of

achievement in mathematics, Nazlıçiçek (2007) found that previous achievement in mathematics and academic self-concept together predicted achievement in mathematics directly and significantly, and Awad (2007) concluded that academic self significantly predicted overall academic achievement.

It can be stated that the variables discussed in this study affect foreign language academic achievement. It can be said that many variables affecting foreign language academic achievement both in this study and in other studies are affected by attitude. Students' attitudes towards the foreign language, towards the teacher who teach the language, towards the school and towards learning in general affect their achievement in the foreign language (Anbarlı-Kırkız, 2010; Brown, 2001). According to Gardner and Lambert (1972), attitudes are a factor which motivate students in foreign language teaching (Cited in Özgan-Sucu, 2018). Saracaloğlu et al. (2014) demonstrated that there were quite high and positive correlations between students' attitudes towards foreign languages, their academic achievement and their academic self-design. Studies which conclude that there are positive and significant correlations between academic achievement in English and attitudes towards it (Anbarlı-Kırkız, 2010; Genç & Kaya 2011) are available in the literature. Thus, cooperation should be made with parents, different and rich methods should be used in classes and continuously positive atmosphere should be created in the learning-teaching process in order to increase students' attitudes towards the course.

Another finding in this study was that cognitive, compensation and metacognitive strategies positively predicted academic achievement in English but that affective strategies predicted it negatively. Cesur and Fer (2011) found that the most significant predictors of reading comprehension in foreign languages were cognitive and compensation strategies. Gözüm and Başbay (2019), on the other hand, reached the conclusion that the students who used cognitive strategies at high levels had higher scores for achievement in English than those who used the cognitive strategies at medium or low levels. Baş (2014) found that the learning strategies which influenced English academic achievement scores the most were cognitive strategies and memory strategies.

There are studies which demonstrate that metacognitive strategies were the predictors of academic achievement. Young and Fry (2008), Öztürk (2014) and Evran and Yurdabakan (2013) found positive and significant correlations between students' academic achievement in English and metacognitive skills. Pishghadam and Khajavy (2013) also found that metacognitive skills were a predictor of general achievement in languages (17.6%). Moradi (2013) found that the students who had received education in metacognitive awareness had higher academic achievement in English. In addition to that, Özgan-Sucu (2018) found metacognitive strategies explained 63% of academic achievement in English along with learned helplessness and attitudes towards the course. Contrary to the findings obtained in the study, Adıgüzel and Orhan (2017), Şahin and Küçüksüleymanoğlu (2015) found that there were no significant correlations between levels of metacognitive awareness and academic achievement in English.

Having metacognitive awareness in learning foreign languages enables students to use learning strategies consciously (Anderson, 2003). When considered in this sense, metacognitive strategies can also be regarded as strategies which organise the learning process. Learners plan, direct and correct the process by using this strategy (Özer, 2008). Students also follow the similar process while learning a language. The process of language learning involves several things new or different to learners such as unknown words, rules different from the rules in native language. According to Oxford (1990) increase in academic achievement can be obtained by using metacognitive strategies in the process in which learners have difficulty in focusing their attention (Cited in Vardar, 2011). The fact that one of the significant predictors of academic achievement in English is the use of metacognitive strategies can be due to the awareness of participants' metacognitive strategies. Thus, it may be said that students act strategically in learning a language and therefore they have the power to use new strategies. It is very natural for students to have these characteristics and to reflect those characteristics into their academic achievement.

Results different from the ones obtained here were also encountered in the literature. Gözüm and Başbay (2019) found significant differences between students who used affective strategies at high and medium levels in learning a language and students who used them at low levels. Baş (2014), in contrast to the findings of this study, found that compensation strategies had very small effects on academic achievement in foreign languages. Luo (2014) concluded that academic achievement was dependent on internal factors and efforts.

Considering one of the findings obtained from this study academic capability and acceptance by the family predicted academic achievement positively while physical appearance and social anxiety predicted it negatively. Academic self-concept is important in terms of clarifying students' views on their academic abilities. One of the definitions of academic self-concept is students' perception of their capabilities in their academic life (Trautwein, et al., 2006). Individuals' beliefs in academic education are influenced by their academic capabilities and by their intellectual accumulation which support (DeDonno & Fagan, 2013). One of the factors which makes the effects visible is students' comparison of their academic capabilities with their peers'. The academic capabilities of the students in groups where comparisons are made can lead students to have low or high academic self-perceptions. When one of the two students with similar achievement joins a group with high academic achievement, that student's development of academic self-concept is weaker than the student who joins the other group (Dadandı, 2017).

In this study, it is mentioned that self-concept influences academic achievement. Another component which influences academic achievement is the family. Families affect all kinds of academic success of students (Aslanargun, 2007). Woods, et al. (2007) concluded that the students who learnt a second language had families with education level above average and that their perceptions of English were formed by their families. The same study also mentions three levels of attitudes. Children of families with the highest level of attitudes have the highest academic achievement. They speak in English with their children to support their education, they listen to their children while they are reading, they read books with them and thus they set a model to their children and support them in learning English. In addition, it was concluded the study, that the number of family members who speak English at home and greater number of foreign language resources at home affect the family's attitude towards foreign language. This effect is more common in families with high level attitudes.

Families' explanation of the benefits of learning a foreign language to their children and thus urging them to learn a language make positive contributions to their language learning (Ekmekçi, 1983). Additionally, the environments and materials that families provide for their children to learn a language also affect the development of children's language development skills (Ünal, 2009). There are significant correlations between parents' interest in their children's education and children's academic achievement (Fullan, 2001). Face-to-face interviews can be conducted with parents who cannot provide this interest for various reasons. Families interest in foreign languages can be increased through such interviews. Teachers' communication with parents can help to eliminate such negative attitudes towards language learning. The consequence will be an increase in children's interest in the language (Ministry of Education [MoNE], 2006).

Students' positive attitudes towards a course increase academic achievement (Genç & Kaya, 2011; She & Fisher, 2002 (Cited in Bölükbaş, 2010)). In order to achieve this increase, great responsibilities fall on the school and the family (Koç, 2011). Therefore, the school and the families should work in cooperation. The school should inform the families pedagogically and make them act in the light of the pedagogy. In a similar way, the families should be included in various activities including the decision-making process (Gümüşeli, 2004). Apart from these, there are also studies in the literature which conclude that there is no significant correlations between family participation

and academic success in English lessons (Doğan, 2018). This result may be due to the characteristics of the students and parents in the research group.

Still another finding obtained in this study was that academic achievement scores were affected in negative ways by the rise in importance attached to physical appearance and by the rise in social anxiety scores. Physical appearance is also mentioned as physical self-respect in relevant literature. It means self-evaluation made by individuals in relation to their bodily appearance (Adams et al., 2005). Several studies in the literature which were within our access reached conclusions different from the ones reached in this study. Karaçam and Pulur (2019) found that physical education teachers' physical self-respect had positive and direct predictor effects on their perceptions of achievement. Kulıçarslan (2006) suggested that physical self-concept increased labour productivity while Pehlivan (2010) argued that there were positive and significant correlations between physical education department students' physical self-concept and their attitudes towards a course.

Social anxiety, just like physical appearance, was found to predict students' academic achievement in negative ways. Social anxiety is the feeling of fear and tension individuals experience due to thoughts that they will not behave consistently with the social circumstances they are in, that they will give negative impressions on people and that they will be criticised and evaluated negatively by others (APA, 2013). Studies which conclude that there are negative correlations between anxiety and academic achievement (Akyol et al., 2018; Dordinejad et al., 2011; Vitasari et al., 2010; Steinmayr et al., 2016) are available in the literature. In the light of these data, it may be said that anxiety affects academic achievement in negative ways.

Students who do what is asked to do them get high marks in exams, study efficiently and prioritise this characteristic of them are regarded as successful. Students' achievement academically helps them to feel that they are valuable (Yapıcı & Yapıcı, 2005). Feeling in this way diminishes social anxiety and may lead to the rise in academic achievement naturally. In addition to that, the attitudes displayed by students' family also causes the emergence or prevention of social anxiety. The problem-solving skills of students who are brought up in families with positive attitudes can develop and thus they have high academic achievement. In the opposite case, negative attitudes displayed by families can cause social anxiety to increase and thus their academic achievement to fall (Kaya et al., 2012).

In the literature, there are also studies which obtained findings different from this study. Gültekin and Dereboy (2011), for instance, found that there were no significant differences between individuals who have social phobia and those who do not have the phobia. Polat (2017) found that feeling of failure which was a sub-factor of academic self-efficacy and constant anxiety had positive and significant correlations with academic achievement and demonstrated through regression analysis that both variables explained 10% of the change in academic achievement.

Rise in social anxiety can cause the feeling of learned helplessness. Students who have the feeling of learned helplessness cannot control their learning process or cannot use their cognitive and affective properties if their efforts do not yield the desired results (Hsu, 2011). Even successful students can lose control in foreign language classes when they feel learned helplessness and as a result, their success can fall (Price, 1991). Yaman et al. (2011) concluded that students' academic achievement decreased as their levels of learned helplessness rose.

In another finding of the study, it was concluded that academic achievement in English was predicted only by academic achievement at the 11th grade level. This result can be interpreted as a contribution to the academic achievement of the students' previous studies only when they reach the 11th grade level.

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The final finding obtained in the current study was that gender on its own did not predict academic achievement in English. Studies on whether or not academic achievement changes according to gender are available in foreign literature, which obtained varied results (Ekmekyermezoğlu, 2010). Based on these different results in the studies, in the examination of the relationship between gender and foreign language academic achievement, gender should not be taken only or directly, instead other variables should also be included in analyses. It may be said on the basis of this finding that there are variables apart from gender which can predict academic achievement better (Cantekin, 2020).

In conclusion, it was found that academic self-concept, language learning strategies, gender and grade level altogether predicted academic achievement in English by 42%. Accordingly, cognitive, affective and metacognitive strategies the sub-factors of language learning strategies predicted achievement in positive ways while affective strategies predicted in negative ways and academic capability and acceptance by the family the sub-factors of academic self-concept predicted academic achievement in positive ways whereas physical appearance and social anxiety predicted it in negative ways.

As with many studies, this study has some limitations. Extensive research was carried out while writing the article. Despite such a comprehensive literature review, no research has been encountered in which the variables used in the research are discussed. The data in the research were obtained from articles, theses, books, symposiums/congresses written in Turkish and English and various sources on the internet. The research data were collected only from English and Turkish sources can be considered as a limitation of this research.

The limitation of the study may also be due to the research design. The research was not conducted in all high schools in Ankara due to difficulties in obtaining permission from the participants or institutions. It may also be a limitation that the data affecting the results of the research indicate the current decision of the participants and their retrospective observations. In short, the results of the research and the following recommendations should be considered within the scope of these limitations.

The following can be recommended on the basis of the findings obtained and interpretations made in this study:

•Teachers should be made to learn and train the learners the language learning strategies and feel the importance of academic self-concept during pre-service and in-service training so as to increase academic achievement in English classes, and various activities (Such as seminar, workshop, project) should be organized in this sense.

•Considering the fact that students are not knowledgeable about language learning strategies, they should be taught those strategies during the learning-teaching process, and they should be given the opportunity to practise.

• In the current study, various scales are used. Instruments of qualitative research method along with the above-mentioned scales could be used by interviewing teachers and students and observing foreign language classrooms and thus further research could be performed. With this type of research, the reasons for the results can be understood.

•Further research could be done by employing variables such as learning styles, personality traits and study styles along with the variables used in this study-which demonstrated the extent to which academic achievement in a foreign language was predicted by language learning strategies, academic self-concept, grade levels and gender.

•Similar research could be conducted in secondary schools and elementary schools.

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The precautions to be taken and priorities to be set can be determined in accordance with the results to be obtained in this current study which examines the effects of the sub-factors of language learning strategies and of academic self-concept on academic achievement in foreign language learning. Alternative work on curriculum development can be done for language teaching processes on the basis of the results. Thus, more effective teaching strategies may be used with students who have difficulty in foreign language learning.

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