Investigating the Effectiveness of Teaching (Cognitive and Meta-Cognitive) Learning Strategies in the Enhancement of Academic Vitality amongst Pre-University Students and Applied Sciences and Technology University Students from Tehran

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Abstract

The present study aims at investigating the effectiveness of cognitive and metacognitive learning strategies in the Academic Vitality of pre-university students schooling in various schools in Tehran and university students schooling in applied sciences and technology university of Tehran. The present study is applied research in terms of objectives, and it is interventional research in terms of the data gathering method. The study population included all the pre-university students schooling in Tehran's schools and university students studying a field in Tehran's applied sciences and technology universities. A sample was selected randomly and subjected to semiexperimental research using pretest, posttest and follow-up test with evidence and test groups. From amongst the applied sciences and technology universities and the schools in Tehran, four centers were chosen using the convenience sampling method. Ten students were selected from every four centers. The randomly selected sample includes three groups, each containing ten individuals also placed randomly into test and control (evidence) groups. The study instrument was Martin and Marsh (2008)'s academic vitality questionnaire; the extracted data were analyzed using SPSS software. In order to investigate the effectiveness of cognitive and meta-cognitive learning strategies in the academic vitality of the pre-university and university students, twoway repeated-measures ANOVA was applied. It was observed following a comparison of the scores' means in three stages that the academic vitality mean scores have undergone increases in the posttest and follow-up test in contrast to the pretest. This is reflective of the stability of the treatment's effects with the passing of time. The academic vitality's mean scores were found to increase for both of the groups trained with cognitive and meta-cognitive learning strategies in the course of the treatment, and this means that the cognitive and meta-cognitive strategies' training influences the academic vitality of the pre-university and university students.

Keywords: learning strategies, academic vitality, self-regulatory learning, university students, school students

INTRODUCTION

Academic vitality is among the competencies to which a lot of attention has been paid in regard to the academic consistency of school students and university students. In fact, this variable has a marvelous effect on the enhancement of school students' and university students' coping abilities when faced with academic problems (Rodriguez et al., 2017). Vitality is the energy stemming from an individual him or herself. This energy originates from internal sources. Individuals with high academic vitality feature more capability in using their own facilities or in actively taking part in health-related activities; hence they are better capable of taking advantage of more resources (Ryan and Fredrick, 2000). Prior research indicated that academic vitality could influence pre-university and university students' academic engagement (Moradi, Dehghanizadeh and Solaymani Khashab, 2016).

Moreover, academic achievement entails feeling energetic and vital. Paying attention to the subjects like correct learning methods amongst the school and university students and trying to improve them can end in positive outcomes. Academic vitality points, as opined by Martin and Marsh, to the students' ability to succeed in devising and using coping methods in the face of the academic barriers and challenges experienced in the course of life (Martin and Marsh, 2011). This novel concept refers to the positive, useful, constructive and adaptive way of responding to various kinds of challenges and barriers one may face in the constant and streaming arena of academic life (Collie et al., 2018 Tavarromi et al., 2015). Indeed, academic vitality is a simple and useful way by which school and university students perceive the concept of students' well-being in the academic context (Ellis and Hudson, 2014). Academic vitality is the prerequisite to a successful academic life and a factor resulting in positive academic consequences. Academic vitality is one of the important indices influenced by an individual's fruitful and successful learning; it is also influenced by the emotional grounds and emotional expressions of the individuals (Martin, 2014). Although academic vitality can be associated with academic achievement and academic success, some researches indicate that frustration can be correlated with low academic performance and negatively influence academic vitality (Resnick et al., 2016). On the other hand, amongst the distinct features of school and university students is the lack of tendency for learning. Training for learning strategies can be effective in this regard because learning strategies' training can lead to better learning and eventually enhance academic vitality (Yarmohammadi et al., 2019).

Nowadays, studies have come to the belief that there are many factors capable of predicting and influencing academic vitality (Cerra et al., 2013). There are even many educational interventions identified for elevating the quality of academic life and academic vitality (Darben et al., 2016). One of the most important of these prerequisites with an effect on academic vitality is known as cognitive and meta-cognitive learning strategies (Zimmerman, 2000). Therefore, it is by teaching the learning strategies that the school and university students can recognize their learning and academic issues and problems, thereby gaining mastery in their learning skills o better learn the instructional materials and this can per se influence the academic vitality of the school and university students. So, learning strategies are necessary for bringing about enhancement in learning (Kim, 2015). Training the students for learning strategies helps them get used to better learning habits, improve their study skills and apply learning strategies for the corroboration of positive academic results (Kiarochi et al., 2015).

Amongst the various approaches that can be adopted for investigating the determinants of academic vitality, there are recently proposed two and significant approaches primary that emphasize the processes influencing vitality. In the first approach, the effect of the environmental processes on academic performance is the main subject (Fernandez and Blusky, 2016). In the second one. learner-specific learning processes and strategies are of great importance, such as cognitive and meta-cognitive learning strategies (Martin et al., 2013). One of the cognitive-social self-regulatory theorists defines learning strategies as a sort of learning wherein the learners personally start and guide their efforts in lieu of relying on the teachers, parents and/or other educational proctors for acquiring knowledge and skill. Put differently; the foresaid theorist considers self-regulation in learning as the learner's active participation in terms of behavior, motivation, cognition and metacognition in the learning process for maximizing the learning (cited in Dehghani Mofrad, 2012).

In addition to the processes and environment, there are also conditions influencing the students' learning, such as social climate and psychology governing the classroom with cognitive and metacognitive strategies setting the ground for better

learning under the positive types of such conditions. In fact, based on the theorists' perspectives in the area of psychology, alongside the cognitive and emotional requisites needed for accomplishing every learning assignment, the learner's domination over the proper learning strategies and timely use of them are among the essential preconditions of the learning process (Mesrabadi and Erfani, 2018). By cognitive strategies, the set of cognitive activities' planning, revising and correcting processes is intended with cognitive strategies, as well, referring to the solutions learners devise to better learn, memorize, recall and comprehend. Pintrich (2004) believes that autonomous school and university students capable of utilizing cognitive and metacognitive strategies are energetic in their academic performance and believe that they can overcome their problems and challenges. As shown by Mahbod and Yusefi (2018) in their studies, "meta-cognition is a predictor of selfefficacy."

Studies have shown that the teaching of the learning and studying methods and techniques (cognitive and metacognitive strategies) to school and university students can improve their performances in their doing their homework and enhance their academic achievement (Karami, 2013; Moradi and Cheraghi, 2013 and Ghanbaritalab and Fuladchang, 2015). The numerosity of the studies about working memory is reflective of the idea that the identification and discovery of the memory mechanisms as well as the cognitive and metacognitive strategies is per se of great importance and has reserved itself a particular stance in the advancing the knowledge and perception of various kinds of mental functions (Hwang et al., 2015). Furthermore, offering effective self-regulatory learning solutions by contemporary psychologists is expressive of the role played by instructing learning strategies in the facilitation of the learning process. Educational psychologists believe that the proper use of learning strategies in the instructional books in the course of schooling helps school and university students learn better and more. Considering the abovementioned materials, the present study's objective is to investigate the effectiveness of cognitive and meta-cognitive learning strategies in enhancing the academic vitality of school students and

applied sciences and technology university students in Tehran.

Study Method:

The present study is applied research in terms of objectives, and it is interventional research in terms of the data gathering method. The study population included the students of applied sciences and technology universities and schools in Tehran; a sample was selected randomly from the study population and subjected in a semiexperimental way to pretest, post-test and followup test within the format of evidence and test groups. After the sample was selected and the individuals were randomly placed in test and evidence groups, both of the groups' participants were seminally subjected to a pretest. Then, the test group was trained for learning strategies (cognitive and meta-cognitive) for eight sessions. Both of the groups were subjected in the end to a posttest.

In the present study, from amongst the applied sciences and technology universities and schools in Tehran, four centers were chosen using the convenience method. Ten individuals were randomly selected from each of the four centers. Random sampling was finished with three groups, each containing ten individuals.

Study Instrument:

Martin and Marsh's (2008) Academic Vitality Questionnaire:

In order to assess academic vitality, Hussein Chari and Dehghanizadeh's (2012) scale of academic vitality was utilized. This scale is based on the English version of the academic vitality questionnaire by Martin and Marsh (2008) and contains 4 items. The responses are scored in Martin and Marsh (2008)'s the inventory of academic vitality based on Likert's seven-point scale (from completely disagree to completely agree). Martin and Marsh's questionnaire was found authentic in terms of internal consistency and test-retest reliability (Cronbach's alpha=80% and retest score=67%). In order to be able to administer the questionnaire to a sample of individuals with Iranian culture, the scale's items were firstly translated; afterward, a number of items were written based on the items of the original questionnaire and provided to Iran's educational psychology professors and experts to acquire their notions about them. To preliminarily administer the constructed questionnaire and eradicate the flaws, the items were presented to a group of high school and university students (96

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girls and 96 boys). Upon receiving their responses, the final version consisted of 86 items that were rewritten. Then. the aforementioned items were again presented in preliminary research to a sample comprised of 890 school and university students who had been selected based on a random cluster sampling method and the psychometric properties thereof were investigated. The results obtained from the investigation indicated that Cronbach's alpha coefficient is equal to 80% following the elimination of eight items, and their retest reliability coefficient was found to equal to 73%. In addition, the correlation between the item's individual scores and the total score was found in a range from 52% and 68%. The results are expressive of the idea that the items feature satisfactory internal consistency and stability. To investigate the factor structure (construct validity) of the questionnaire, principal components analysis with orthogonal varimax rotation in item level was applied. The results generally showcased that the elimination of eight questions caused the test's reliability coefficient to be increased to 75%. Therefore, the eight questions were omitted.

The results of Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin sampling adequacy tests and Bartlett's sphericity test are reflective of the idea that factor analysis can be performed. The scree plot and the specific values above unity indicate that a factor can be extracted. In sum, the eight plus one (nine) foresaid items could account for 37% of the variations. The Cronbach's alpha coefficient obtained in the study by Dehghanizadeh and Hussein Chari is equal to 0.80, and the retest reliability coefficient is 0.73. Additionally, the correlation between the individual items' scores and the total score was found, ranging between 0.51 and 0.68 herein.

In this research and before subjecting the participants to the tests and starting the intervention, they were asked to express their satisfaction. They were told not to mention their names on the test papers so that they could be assured that their information would remain confidential. Then, cognitive and meta-cognitive strategies teaching was commenced by providing information about them at first. Next, the testees' working memory was evaluated in a pretest followed by tests of academic identification and academic vitality. Finally, the test group's participants were subjected altogether to cognitive and meta-cognitive learning strategies training, with the control group receiving no instruction. To train the test group's participants, a metacognitive strategies training package was utilized based on the model posited by Sexton et al. (1983) (cited in Brown et al., 1983). Both of the groups' participants were subjected to a post-test to evaluate their academic vitality levels. After the questionnaires were collected and the scores were calculated. SPSS software was used to analyze the data.

Findings:

To investigate the effectiveness of the cognitive and meta-cognitive learning strategies training on the academic vitality of the school and university students, two-way repeated-measures ANOVA was utilized. The results of this test and the hypotheses' test have been given below.

Tabla	1	of Course	naa Matuir	Consistence	Test (Dev)
rable	1. lesuits	of Covalia	ance matrix	Consistency	Test (DOX)

Box's test	F	DoF1	DoF2	Significance level
566.13	1.035	12	846.3532	0.618

As it is seen in Table (1), the significance level of Box's test is equal to 0.618, which is larger

than 0.05, so the assumption "consistency of covariance matrix is affirmed.

Table 2: results of Levene's test of variance homogeneity

Variable			F	DoF1	DoF2	Significance level
Academic pretest	vitality	in	0.862	2	27	0.434
Academic posttest	vitality	in	0.553	2	27	0.582

Academic	vitality	in	1.074	2	27	0.356	
follow-up tes	st						

As is seen in Table (2), the results of Levene's test are not statistically significant, so the

assumption of "homogeneity of variables' variance" is confirmed.

Table 3: results of Mauchly's sphericity test

Variable	Mauchly's statistic	Chi-square	DoF	Sig. level
Academic vitality	0.913	2.376	2	0.305

As it is observed, the results of Mauchly's test of sphericity are not statistically significant (P>0.05), indicating that the sphericity assumption holds true.

Table 4: Results of the multivariate within-testee effect test for comparing the control and test groups' academic vitality

Effect		Val ues	F	Effec t's DoF	Erro r's DoF	Sig lev el	Imp act size
Repetit ion	Pillai's trace Wilks's	0.77 0 0.23	43.5 99 43.5	2 2	26 26	0.0 01 0.0	0.77 0 0.77
	lambda Hotelli ng's effect	0 3.35 4	99 43.5 99	2	26	01 0.0 01	0 0.77 0
	Roy's largest effect	3.35 4	43.5 99	2	26	0.0 01	0.77 0
Repetit ion ×	Pillai's trace	0.53 9	4.98 2	4	54	0.0 01	0.27 0
Group	Wilks's lambda	0.46 1	6.14 7	4	52	0.0 01	0.32 1
	Hotelli ng's effect	1.16 9	7.30 8	4	50	0.0 01	0.36 9
	Roy's largest effect	1.16 9	15.7 84	2	27	0.0 01	0.53 9

In Table (4), the results of multivariate tests have been presented for the investigation of the difference between the control group, metacognitive learning strategy group and cognitive learning strategy group's academic vitality scores in the course of the treatment. The information mentioned in the above table shows that all of the multivariate tests are significant, meaning that there is a primary effect related to the factor "repetition" (pretest, posttest and follow-up test) as well as an interactive effect by the groups and the repetitions (i.e., the presence of a difference between the groups in the measurement stages).

Table 5: Results of univariate within-testee effect test for comparing the academic vitality of the control and test groups

Source		Sum of squa	Do F	Mea n squa	F	Sig lev	Imp act size
		res		res		el	
Repetit ion	Assumin g sphericit y	82.9 24	2	41.4 62	32.7 72	0.0 01	0.54 8
	Greenho use- Geisser Correcti on	82.9 24	1.83 9	45.0 84	32.7 72	0.0 01	0.54 8
	Heinfelt	82.9 24	2	41.4 62	32.7 72	0.0 01	0.54 8
	Lower boundar y	82.9 24	1	82.9 24	32.7 72	0.0 01	0.54 8
Repetit ion × Group	Assumin g sphericit y	28.1 97	4	7.04 9	5.57 2	0.0 01	0.29 2
	Greenho use- Geisser Correcti on	28.1 97	3.67 9	7.66 5	5.57 2	0.0 01	0.29 2
	Heinfelt	28.1 97	4	7.04 9	5.57 2	0.0 01	0.29 2
	Lower boundar y	28.1 97	2	14.0 99	5.57 2	0.0 09	0.29 2
Error	Assumin g sphericit y	68.3 19	54	1.26 5			
	Greenho use- Geisser Correcti on	68.3 19	49.6 62	1.37 6			
	Huynd- Feldt	68.3 19	54	1.26 5			
	Lower boundar y	68.3 19	27	2.53 0			

In Table (5), results of the univariate withintestee effect test have been shown for a comparison of the academic vitality amongst the control group and cognitive and meta-cognitive learning strategies' training groups. Considering the results, the amounts of F-value related to the interactive effect by the group and the repetition (with the presence of a difference between the groups during the measurement stage) are statistically significant at a 0.01 alpha coefficient level (p<0.01). The significance of the interactive effects is reflective of the existence of a difference between the changes in the control groups' academic vitality scores in terms of the

cognitive and meta-cognitive learning strategies in the course of measurement stages.

Table 6: Bonferroni's follow-up test							
Group	Stage	Stage	Mean difference	Standard error	Significance level		
Control	Pretest	Posttest	-0.700	0.465	0.432		
		Follow- up	-0.240	0.464	1		
	Posttest	Follow- up	0.460	0.573	1		
Cognitive	Pretest	Posttest	-2.370	0.465	0.001		
learning strategies		Follow- up	-1.830	0.464	0.002		
	Posttest	Follow- up	0.540	0.573	1		
Meta-	Pretest	Posttest	-3.700	0.465	0.001		
cognitive	ive	Follow-	-3.030	0.464	0.001		
learning		up					
strategies	Posttest	Follow- up	0.670	0.573	0.756		

In Table (6), pairwise comparisons have been made to investigate the academic vitality differences between each of the control group, meta-cognitive cognitive and learning strategies' training groups. Based on the results obtained for the cognitive and meta-cognitive learning strategies' training, the differences between the pretest, posttest and follow-up tests are statistically significant (p<0.01). Comparing the mean scores obtained in all three stages, it is observed that the mean score of academic

vitality has been significantly increased in the posttest and follow-up test as compared to the pretest. The difference between the post-test and follow-up test scores is not significant (p.0.05), and this is indicative of the treatment effect's stability in the course of time. In the control group, as well, there are no differences observable between the pretest and post-test and follow-up test scores as well as between the post-test and follow-up test scores (p.0.05).

Table 7: Results of the between-testee effect test for a comparison between the groups' academic vitality mean scores

Change	Sum of	DoF	Mean	F	Sig.
source	squares		square		level
Group	77.010	2	38.505	1.217	0.312
Error	854.408	27	31.645		

In Table (7), the results of the between-testee effect test have been presented for an investigation of the academic vitality mean scores between the control group and cognitive

and meta-cognitive learning strategies' training groups. Based on the results, F-value is equal to 1.217, which is larger than the significance value (p>0.05).

Table 8: Bonferroni's follow-up to

Dependen t variable	Group 1	Group 2	Mean differenc	Standar d error	Significanc e level
Academic vitality	Control	Cognitiv e	-1.887	1.452	0.615

	strategie s			
	Meta- cognitive strategie s	-2.030	1.452	0.521
Cognitiv e strategie s	Meta- cognitive strategie s	-0.143	1.452	1

In Table (8), pairwise comparisons have been presented for an investigation of the academic vitality mean scores between the control group and cognitive and meta-cognitive learning strategies' training groups in the course of treatment. Based on the results, the difference between the control group, cognitive learning strategy group and meta-cognitive learning strategy group is not statistically significant (p>0.05).



Diagram (1): academic vitality mean scores in three measurement stages in separate for each group

In diagram (1), the mean scores of the academic vitality have been exhibited in three measurement stages separate for each of the control, cognitive learning strategies' training group and meta-cognitive learning strategies' training group. As it is seen, the mean scores of academic vitality have undergone increases in the course of the treatment stages for both the cognitive and meta-cognitive learning strategies training strategies training.

Conclusion:

In order to investigate the effectiveness of training cognitive and meta-cognitive learning strategies in the enhancement of the school and university students' academic vitality, twoway repeated-measures ANOVA was utilized. The assumption of "homogeneity of covariances' matrix" has been affirmed. Comparing the mean scores in the three stages indicates that the mean academic vitality scores have undergone significant increases in the posttest and follow-up test stages in contrast to the pretest stage, and this is reflective of the effects' stability over the course of time. The mean academic vitality scores of both cognitive and meta-cognitive learning strategies' training groups were found to increase in the course of the treatment stages, and this means that training for the meta-cognitive cognitive and learning strategies influences the academic vitality of the school and university students. Although the study results have not been directly investigated in similar research, they are indirectly consistent with what has been found in the studies by Tekin (2017), Li (2012), Nelson (2005), Bern et al. (2014), Montigo (2008), Zimmerman and Stock (2008), Pintrich (2004), Javidan et al. (2018), Musavi et al. (2012), Parviz and Sharifi (2012), Dehghanizadeh and Hussein Chari (2012), Ghanbari and Fuladchang (2015), Jahtalab Vahedi (2015) and Fattahian (2012).

School and university students can enhance their academic achievement and successfully experience learning by facilitating successful experiences and acquiring the required

exercising opportunity through the use of selfregulatory learning strategies. This, per se, positively influences the growth in the individual's beliefs about his or her academic learning aptitude. The formation of such positive imaginations in the test group's school and university students not only influences their education but also becomes a positive factor resulting in the achievement of ultimate perfection in the learning processes hence followed by more positive outcomes. Resultantly, the application of these strategies ends in the emergence of positive beliefs, desire and interest in instructional materials accompanied by subsequent elevation of participation in the educational activities and acquisition of meaningful learning experiences, which are per se followed by success in academic learning and causing the formation of a sense of competence in learning activities.

The study participants were only from a single course school and university students. Therefore, care should be exercised in generalizing the results to the school and university students from the other education courses. It is suggested that the self-regulatory learning strategies should be taught as a practical, available, and less-costly method for enhancing the school and university students' deserved academic vitality. Such a method should also be taught to the teachers and other officials involved in education so that they can themselves try elevating academic vitality, working memory and academic identity of the school and university students within the format of certain activities. Additionally, the applied books on training for self-regulatory strategies should be codified in proportion to the readers' ages. Besides, the contents of the curricula should be in match the selfregulatory learning strategies (cognitive and meta-cognitive). The parents and teachers should be provided with the required information about the learning strategies and their effects on learning the instructional materials and their relationships with the working memory, academic vitality and academic identity of the school and university students.

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