

**The Linguistic Difficulties Encountered by Jordanian  
High School Students in Passing TOEFL**

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# **Dedication**

**This thesis is dedicated to my mother who had been my biggest supporter and stood by me through my whole lifetime.**

**And**

**To my father, for his endless encouragement and support.**

## Acknowledgements

*"He who does not thank people does not thank Allah"*  
*Prophet Mohammad (PBUH)*

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The researcher,  
**Nasser Saeed,**

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## المستخلص

ان الهدف من هذه الدراسة هو تقديم دليل عملي بأنه يوجد علاقة بين ملف الطالب و الصعوبات التي يواجهها في المهارات الأربعة, وفيما اذا هذه الصعوبات بمثابة عائق في اجتياز اختبارات الكفاءة مثل التوفل, و ان نتحقق فيما اذا يوجد علاقة بين نتائج المجموعتين.

ان هذه الدراسة سوف تستخدم طريقة البحث الوصفية و التي تتعامل مع جمع المعلومات في محاولة لاختبار الفرضيات, لقد تعاملت هذه الدراسة مع مجموعتين من مدارس ثانوية مختلفة بالأردن 20 معلم ومعلمة و 81 طالب و طالبة.

كلا المجموعتين اتفقوا على كل البنود خاصة عندما سئلوا عن مهارة (التحدث), هذا التطابق بين المجموعتين يحفزنا لأخذ القرارات السريعة من اجل تقليل الصعوبات و تحقيق التقدم الذي نرجوه.

من الواضح بأنه يوجد علاقة بين ملف الطالب و الصعوبات التي يواجهها اثناء تعلم مهارات اللغة الإنجليزية الأربع, ايضا لقد تبين من خلال الاحصائية بأنه يوجد علاقة قوية بين المجموعتين حيث تطابقت ارائهم بالاستبيان.

لذا الباحث يوصي بأنه ينبغي على وزارة التربية و المعلمين ان يفعلوا ما بوسعهم منذ البداية المبكرة (المرحلة الابتدائية) و تقديم المواد المناسبة للطلبة و التي قام على اعدادها محترفون ناطقين بالإنجليزية ايضا ايجاد مواقف عملية و التي من خلالها تستخدم الانجليزية.

ان تطوير المناهج, مراجعة الاختبارات, دراسة اهتمامات الطلبة و المحاضرات التربوية يمكن أن تلعب دورا مهم في تعلم لغة أجنبية و اخيرا ان مزيد من الابحاث في هذا المجال يوصى بها بشدة.

# Abstract

The purpose of the present study is to provide an empirical evidence that the students' profile has a relationship with the difficulties they encounter in the four skills, and whether these difficulties serve as factor-barrier in passing efficiency exams like TOEFL, and to investigate whether there is a relationship between the results from the two sets of respondents,

This study will utilize the descriptive method of research. It involves the collection of data in an attempt to test the hypotheses, the study dealt with two sets of respondents from different secondary schools in Jordan, 20 teachers and 81 students from secondary schools.

Both sets agreed on all items especially when they were asked about (speaking), this correspondence between the two sets of respondents motivates us to take quick decisions in order to reduce the difficulties and to make the progress we are looking for.

It was clear that the profile of the students has a significant relationship with the observed difficulties the students encounter while learning the four skills of English, also it was shown by the statistic that there is a strong relationship between the two groups of respondents where they had similar opinions about these difficulties.

So the researcher recommends that ministry of education and teachers should do their best from the very beginning (elementary stage) and provide them with the suitable materials constructed by professional native speakers, also creating practical situations in which English can be used.

Improving the curricula, revising the exams, studying the students' interest and educational seminars can also play an important role in learning a foreign language, finally more researches in this field are highly recommended.

