



Graduation Project

Final Draft

Title: The impact of Homestay on Improving the Acquisition of English as a Foreign language for Saudi students aboard.

Student's name	فَاطِمَةُ مُحَمَّدُ
Academic number	212.....
Dr. Name	Fatimah Azahra Mohammad

I certify that all material in this proposal is my own work.

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Abstract:

The aim of this research is to find how Homestay can help Saudi students abroad develop their language skills and help them to practice English freely. In addition, it improves the ability of communication with other foreigners. The researcher will study a group of students was studying abroad, some of them lived alone and others lived in a Homestay. Also in this research, the researcher will discuss the conditions that must be available in a Homestay to help students develop their language within a year or less.

Introduction:

"One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way" (Frank Smith, 1992). Over The last few decades, the important of learning English as a second language has increased, because learning English is not only important in the education field, but it is important in all aspects of life and for every person. English is the language which use most widely now. Also, English at present is the global tongue for all aspects of life such as trade, medicine, economic, banking, education, politic, and even tourism.

How can one go over the world if he does not have a language which is the most used in almost everywhere? According to Wikipedia site, there is eight hundred fifty million people in the world speaking English as first or second language. In these days, a student can learn The English language through books or classes or some sites on the internet or even through an application on mobile device.

Living in a country which speak The English language as a foreign language is not helping. So most of non-speaking English people studying abroad in native English country. Every year Saudi student travel to English language country to learn the language and join universities there. Some of them had succeeded, but some were not. Choosing the right appropriate housing and environment is an effective role in the success of the student there.

What is better than involve in an environment with native speakers. This is where Homestay comes, the student will surround by native speakers and he will receive a great amount of language. In Homestay, the student will feel free to discuss

his own difficulties with language, and to ask about things. Also, to correct his mistakes without being judged. Listening and speaking is the best way to learn. In addition, what is better than living with his own English teacher. However, not all types of Homestay are appropriate for learning The English language. The size of family and the different ages and level of education of family members plays an important role in helping a student to learn more. Children as an example are the best choice to speak freely without fear to being judged. Another requirement is the family's ability to form social relationships, an antisocial family makes the communications with others difficult. Neighbors visits, parties, and perform everyday tasks outdoors are an example for engaging in social relations and culture. Making a written plan and goals with his Homestay will help him to reach the aim of his trip. A student can also make improves to his plan with his Homestay by their experience. Helping with house tasks like cleaning or cooking is a good reason to start a small chat. Asking about the name of kitchen tools or furniture can give a good amount of words. A small chat with family around the dinner table can help too. Working in the house garden will give him the opportunity to start small talk with neighbors and break the psychological barriers. Sharing the family activity like shopping is something can give him a good experience.

Moreover, the family in Homestay can help the student with his school tasks. As a new student he will face some difficulties with task or homework, the family can help to reduce these difficulties. Buying books and references is something they can help with too. As a new student, he will face obstacles to asking about directions or even finding transportation for the few first times. Because of his limited amount of words. But in the Homestay he will experience an applied lessons every day and night.

Literature review:

There are many studies about the effect of homestay on improving the language of students aboard.

"Among the varied housing options that are available to study abroad students, homestay arrangements are widely believed to offer learners many advantages" (Kinginger, 2009a; Schmidt-Rinehart & Knight, 2004).²

"As the literature has corroborated, accessing and engaging with native speakers in the local community is often a challenge, especially for students in short-term programs (e.g., Allen, 2010; Dewey, Ring, Gardner, & Belnap, 2013; Freed, 2008; Goldoni, 2013; Kinginger, 2009b; Trentman, 2013a; Wilkinson, 1998), and the host family often offers the only point of regular contact with native speakers that available students outside the classroom" (Kaplan, 1989; Tanaka, 2007). 3

In my opinion choosing a right Homestay gives you practical lessons throughout the day. It just like full-time experience. Name of things, how to say the right verb or action at the right time, how to sat this or that, all these things will be available all the time day and night.

(Wilkinson, 1998) said that better understand the power of the homestay experience and to help offset the perception of students as “deficient” or lacking in motivation, as characterized it, calls were made for further research, not only on the outcomes of the homestay experience but also on the interactions within the homestay setting, particularly for languages other than French, Spanish, Russian, or Japanese (Freed, 2008; Kinginger, 2009a; Wang, 2010; Wilkinson, 1998).4

Significance of research:

Every year hundreds of Saudi students traveling to study abroad. Some of them cannot acquire language easily. Involved into a new society and a new culture is not easy. Find the place of residence and transportation or even the direction to his school or to the supermarket can make the student very confused. These small things can make his trip to study very difficult. Because he will focus on these things instead of focus on his school. This confuse can make it difficult to make friends. Small things such as choosing non-pork products or non-alcohol ones may stand in his way because of his limited amount of inputs. As a result, he failed to complete his university studies.

In another hand, Homestay Gives the student the Ability to learn the language from the natives and pick up the right accents for more understanding of the local culture in order to prevent embarrassment or misunderstanding. The student will have a helping hand to educate him about the new society and culture. He will not

need to concern about choosing the right food or the way to school and he will have the time to focus in his study.

A good Homestay environment will not only help the student to learn the language but also helps him to improve the ability of communication with natives and other foreigners. As well as There are requirements must be available at the Homestay to help a student to learn more effect. Type of the family and its religious background can make different. Furthermore, the different in ages and level of the education can be a good condition. Also in a Homestay student may face some difficulties, each house has different rules to follow. And some are far away from the school. Likewise, some have a very annoying children or introvert person. And some family are Uncooperative. Finally, choosing a right Homestay is very important to help the student to develop his English language and communication skills within a year or less.

Research question:

This research will attempt to answer the following questions:

What is the impact of homestay on improving the acquisition of English as a foreign language for Saudi students abroad?

Research methodology:

There will be a questionnaire (survey) established on the Internet and will be posted the link on the social networking site Twitter. Then the students and their parents will ask to answer the questionnaire in order to demonstrate the effect of choosing the right Homestay and the conditions that must be available. In addition, the results will be analyzing to prove the main aim of the research, which is the effect of the Homestay in improving the English language of Saudi students abroad.

In another hand, there will be an interview for ten students and their parents in to demonstrate the benefits of the Homestay on improving the English language and communication skills and to reveal the obstacles they faced and the condition

they recommend to have in the Homestay. This interview will prove the researcher point of view.

Ethical consideration:

In this research, all the participants in the questionnaire and interview volunteers and informed consent. Also, the researcher did not force any one of them to participate and they had the ability to ignore any question. The researcher also promised to confidentiality of information and answers. and they will use in research purpose only and will not be disclosed for any name or any answer during this research. Also, the research independently and not fanatical. Researcher promised not to harm anyone through this research.

Limitations of the study:

This research will be limited to students who have already studied abroad and lived in a Homestay and their parents and family.

Expected results:

The expected results of this research will approve The impact of Homestay on improving the language of Saudi students aboard. Also, it will reveal the benefits of the Homestay and how it helps the students to improve their English language and to practicing and communication skills. Likewise, it will reveal the obstacles they faced. In addition, it will highlight the conditions that must be available in the Homestay to become a special place for the study and development of language.

References

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Appendix:

A-The interview:

- 1- Either you or one of your family study's aboard?
- 2-Where are you staying there? (or he/she)
- 3-What kind of Homestay have you selected? The proper Homestay?
- 4-Have you were done a written plan and goals with your Homestay for the whole period?
- 5-Have you ever done any improvement to your plan during your Homestay?
- 6-Did you choose the proper size of the family which has different ages and level of education?
- 7-Were the children more helpful to you than adults in your daily language practicing?
- 8-When you start to communication with the outsiders and enjoining your Homestay visits?
- 9-Were the Homestay giving you the chance to do your daily activities yourself?
- 10-Was the Homestay an effective way of improving your language and your communication with the foreigners?

B-Questionnaire (survey) - Homestay benefits

answer the questions, please

1. Did you live in a homestay?

Yes

No

2. Did you Select the effective Homestay?

Yes

No

I Don't know

3. Have you done any agreement with your Homestay in achieving your goals?

Yes

No

4. Have you completed the whole period in the Homestay?

Yes

No

5. Was it of any good for you?

Sure

Somehow

Not at all

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K2P83Y>