

Baha Makhoul, Israel
Dr., Senior lecturer and researcher,
1. Oranim Academic College
2. University of Haifa
3. Hebrew University of Jerusalem
4. Center for Educational Technologies
baham@cet.ac.il

The golden triangle aimed at enhancing literacy among Arabic speaking students in junior high school: The implementation of a learning/teaching model to foster knowledge of academic vocabulary in Arabic as L1

Arabic speaking adolescents find it difficult to fully understand the expository texts that they need to read in the various subject matter areas. The current study introduces an interventional project focusing on fostering and expanding students' knowledge of key academic words, the development of an evidence-based teaching/learning model based on up-to-date teaching methodology and the enhancement of digital skills as part of the process. The intervention was carried out during Arabic language classes in four middle schools, representing the different Arabic speaking communities in Israel (General, Druze and Bedouin). Mastery of vocabulary and reading comprehension abilities were tested before and after the intervention. The results indicated that following the intervention, an increase was observed in target measures across all three subgroups. This attests to the efficacy of the introduced model in promoting academic vocabulary knowledge and reading comprehension abilities. The findings will be discussed in terms of the significance of the teaching/learning model as a proto-type for implementation in all schools throughout the country.