Questionnaire (A) to English Poetry Students,
English Department, Faculty of Arts, Taiz University

Would you please take the time to fill in this questionnaire? It should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. This questionnaire has been prepared within a research plan that aims at improving the teaching of English poetry in Taiz University, Yemen. The findings of the questionnaire will only be used as part of my PhD work to provide an alternative methodology to the teaching of English poetry in Taiz University.

Your reading the questions carefully and answering them truthfully will considerably contribute to this end.

You may tick as many answers as you think are correct.

A) Students’ Linguistic Background and Study Objectives

1) Which high school did you graduate from?

2) Where is this school?
   □ City
   □ Village

3) Now that you are a university student, how do you rate the teaching of English at your school?
   □ Very Good
   □ Good
   □ Fair
   □ Bad

4) Do you think your English classes at school prepared you well for college?
   □ Not at all
   □ No
   □ Yes, to some extent
   □ Yes

5) What level are you at college?
   □ Three
   □ Four
6) Why did you join this department?
□ To get to know about the cultural heritage of the English people
□ To get an insight into the beliefs and values of the contemporary English people
□ To improve my English speaking and writing skills
□ To develop a literary awareness that would enable me to appreciate literary works
□ Others. Please specify...........................................................................................................................

7) What would you do after you get your degree?
□ Look for a job
□ Do higher studies (MA and PhD)

8) Which class do you enjoy the most?
□ Linguistics
□ Poetry
□ Novel
□ Drama
□ Others. Please specify...........................................................................................................................

B) Students’ Response to Teacher’s Selection of Texts

9) How do you find the poetic texts selected for classroom study?
□ Good
□ Not really good
□ Bad
□ Very bad

10) If you are not happy with the poetic texts selected, what is the reason?
□ The language of the poems is difficult.
□ There are too many unfamiliar cultural references.
□ The poems are long.
□ I do not know what the poems are about.
□ Others. Please specify. ...........................................................................................................................

C) Students’ Response to Teacher’s Pedagogy

11) Your poetry classes are:
□ Very boring
□ Boring
□ Interesting
□ Very interesting
12) In case you find them boring, what makes you feel so?
   □ The language of the poems is difficult for me to understand.
   □ There are too many cultural references in the poems which I do not know.
   □ I am not involved in the interpretation of the poems because the teacher does everything for us.
   □ The teaching of poems does not improve my speaking and writing skills.
   □ Others. Please specify. ...................................................................................................

13) How often do you participate in classroom discussions?
   □ Always
   □ Often
   □ Sometimes
   □ Almost never

14) If you replied in the negative, why?
   □ The classrooms are always teacher-centered
   □ I do not always understand what the poems are about
   □ I do not have the vocabulary to participate
   □ The poems are about things I do not really find interesting
   □ Others. Please specify. ..................................................................................................

15) Does your teacher provide background information before introducing the poetic texts?
   □ Yes, always
   □ Yes, often
   □ Not always
   □ No

16) If your answer is ‘Yes’, what kind of background information is taught?
   □ Historical
   □ Cultural
   □ Socio-political
   □ Linguistic
   □ Others. Please specify. ..................................................................................................

17) Do you find the background information useful in understanding the poems?
   □ Yes, it is very useful
   □ Yes, to some extent
   □ No, it is not useful
   □ Not at all. It is a waste of time.
18) When you are given a poetic text in class, does the teacher ask you to find out

- The intention of the poet
- The summary of the poem
- What the poem means to me
- How the language of the poem has been structured to communicate the poet’s meaning
- We are not asked anything
- Others. Please specify. .................................................................

19) Do you read the poems aloud in class?

- Yes, always
- Yes, often
- Not always
- Almost never

20) How does your teacher help you when you can not understand a poetic text?

- Dictates comments
- Asks us to read commentary on the poems
- Engages us in activities and group work
- Does not really help
- Others. Please specify. .................................................................

D) Students’ Response to Teacher’s Assessment Strategies

21) What does your teacher test you on?

- How much I remember of the lectures on the poems studied in class
- How much I know about poets and literary movements
- How much critical material I have been able to read on the poems
- How well I apply my interpretive procedures to the analysis of ‘unseen’ poems
- Others. Please specify. .................................................................

22) The exam questions are predictable and can be easily prepared for by rote-learning.

- I agree
- I tend to agree
- I tend to disagree
- I disagree

E) Effect of Pedagogy on Students’ Learning Motivation

23) Do you read poetry in Arabic?

- Yes, always
- Yes, often
- Not always
- Almost never

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24) Do you read English poems outside the classroom?
  ☐ Yes
  ☐ No

F) Students’ Overall Assessment of Teacher’s Approach

25) Do the poetry classes satisfy the aims for which you joined this department?
  ☐ Yes
  ☐ Yes, to an extent.
  ☐ Not much
  ☐ No

26) In case you replied in the negative, what areas would you like to see changed in the future poetry classes?
  ☐ The selection of poems
  ☐ The teaching methodology
  ☐ The exam questions
  ☐ Others. Please specify. ................................................................................................

27) Do you have any other comments? Please write them here.
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Thank you for your time!

P.S. If you are interested in the results of this study, you can write your email here .........................
so I send a copy of the research findings to you by email or you can write to me at gibreelsadeg@yahoo.com.