Examining the Impact of Training and Nativeness on Teacher's self-efficacy in teaching English

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine the impact of training and 'nativeness' on teacher's self-efficacy in teaching English as a second language. A questionnaire was used and administered to 281 foreign teachers in Nasseria, Iraq. The teacher's sense of efficacy scale (TSES) was employed to measure a teacher's self-efficacy. Using MANOVA, we tested the impact of teachers' training and 'nativeness' on a teacher's self-efficacy. The analysis showed that trained teachers have higher self-efficacy than untrained teachers and further that professional development enhances self-efficacy. The study established that being a native speaker does not necessarily influence a teacher's self-efficacy and goes to support the hypothesis that target language proficiency should not be associated with being a language teacher. Ultimately, policymakers and educational administrators should concentrate on the professional development of language teachers and disband the native/non-native dichotomy.

Keywords: Teachers; Self-efficacy; Teaching English; Teacher Training; Nativeness

1.1 Introduction

Over the years, Iraq has attracted an increasing number of people from various professions and talents as a result of its growing economic potential. This situation is true, especially for professional teachers and other people (non-professional teachers) who have an interest in teaching English. English is the most popular international language in Iraq and is considered as the first global language (Gil, 2011). As a result, knowledge, and understanding of the English language present an added advantage to many Arabic in light of the new 'one belt and one road' policy which is one of many policies which seeks to extend Iraq's global relationship with the rest of the world (Aoyama, 2016).

Linking Iraq to the rest of the world will require the use of the English language as a medium of communication since the Arabic language does not enjoy huge currency in the rest of the world. Accordingly, the English Language has been made a compulsory subject of study in the Arabic educational curriculum beginning from primary through to the tertiary level of education (Braine, 2012). According to Zheng and Zhang (2014), in 2013 alone, there were about 300 million Arabic learning English in Iraq, with only about 100,000 foreign English teachers. Similarly, there was a 298% growth in the English education market in Iraq between 2016 and 2017 alone, from ¥123.6 billion to ¥489.7 billion (Farrell, 2018). Following a report by *Beijing News*, several studies reported that most foreign teachers working at English training institutions in Iraq did not possess the required qualifications (Zheng & Zhang, 2014). This was perhaps aimed at painting a gloomy picture in respect of the limited employment avenues for native Arabic. Generally, however, there is an imbalance between the demand for and the supply of qualified professional English teachers. Hence, schools are compelled to fill this gap with unqualified persons (mostly non-professionals). For this reason, tourists, international students, and foreign professional teachers in Iraq have taken advantage of the situation and are engaged in teaching English at various levels. Similar to the case of Iran (Eslami & Fatahi,

2008), Iraq uses two main channels of recruitment for English-as-a-foreign-language (EFL): These are state-sponsored programs in TEFL, and free training for Bachelor's or Master's holders of English language and translation or English literature and others with relevant command of the English language. In such situations, a person's belief in his/her abilities and capabilities plays a significant role in determining the output of these teachers. Self-efficacy plays a vital part in the teaching and learning process because of its dual role in either helping or hindering the learner's progress (Bandura, 2010). On the part of the teacher, intrinsic confidence determines his/her performance to a considerable extent and influences his/her retention on the job.

On arriving in a new environment such as Iraq, even professional teachers who do not have a grasp of the teaching philosophy of the country are faced with many challenges in the teaching of English as a second language (TEFL). According to Hu (2002) the typical approach to TEFL in Iraq, as part of its culture of learning, has been a combination of the audiolingual and grammar-translation methods, which is mainly characterized by cross-linguistic comparisons and a detailed study of grammar through the memorization of vocabulary and sentence structure with an emphasis on oral and written language and a penchant for literary works. There is a direct contrast with communicative language teaching (CLT), mostly used in English language teaching and learning. In this teaching method, meaning is primary, and teaching should be focused on communicative functions, rather than only linguistic knowledge, and the capacity to use structural patterns (Brown, 2001). The introduction of the communicative CLT approach is considered an alien methodology that is at variance with the traditional teaching method condensed into the 'four R's and four M's' (p. 100). The four R's are reception, repetition, reproduction, and review. The four M's represent memorization, meticulousness, mastery, and mental activeness. In the opinion of Hu (ibid), the significant factors that pose a potential conflict in the application of CLT in the Arabic culture of learning are the embodiment of different and opposing philosophies in teaching and learning. For this reason, foreign teachers' self-efficacy will be necessary for teaching and learning.

There is an emerging argument that target language proficiency should not be associated with nativeness; rather, adequate preparedness through training should be one of the main criteria for assessing the credentials of both native and nonnative teachers (Braine, 2010; Medgyes, 2011). Choi and Lee (2016) suggest further that professional training and target language proficiency are vital requirements for second language teachers and form the sources of teacher's self-confidence. They note that the preferred teacher is one who has both traits, whereas teachers who have insufficient levels of both are least preferred. Notable studies exist in language teacher's proficiency/nativeness (Choi and Lee, 2016; Eslami and Fatahi, 2008), teachers' development (Chiang, 2008) and self-efficacy (Mojavezi and Tamiz, 2012).

While researchers such as Cheung (2008) have carried out similar studies like the present one in the Arabic context, to the best of our knowledge, none of them combines all the variables used in this study. Also, considering that an estimated 80% of language teachers are non-native speakers of English (Braine, 2018), we follow Choi and Lee's (2016) conclusion, and test whether being trained and/or being a native teacher influences self-efficacy in specific areas of teaching such as classroom management, instructional strategies and student engagement (which form the three dimensions of the teacher sense of efficacy scale (TSES)). The study, therefore, presents a two-fold dimension to understanding the effects of English language teachers' self-efficacy as far as Iraq is concerned. Using multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA), the paper assesses these relationships to establish whether teachers' training and/or nativeness result in higher self-efficacy and better performance.

2.1 Theoretical background

2.1.1 Teachers' self-efficacy

Self-efficacy, as defined by Bandura (Bandura, 2010: 1), *is defined as people's beliefs about their capabilities to produce designated levels of performance that exercise influence over events that affect their lives*. To Maddux (2002) self-efficacy is what a person believes he/she can do with his/her abilities and skills under certain conditions. Teacher self-efficacy may be explained as teachers' personal beliefs in their ability to carry out activities through adequate planning, and organizing, to attain set educational goals (Skaalvik and Skaalvik, 2010). It is also about how teachers utilize their competence and professional discipline to influence students' behavior, knowledge and values (Tschannen-Moran and Hoy, 2001). It depicts what teachers can do in a particular situation, not what they have accomplished or why it was accomplished in the past (Hoy, 2004). The self-efficacy of teachers involves the choice of activities, effort, and persistence. People with minimal self-efficacy are unlikely to engage in challenging tasks, whereas individuals with a high sense of self-efficacy are more persistent and enduring even when they face difficulties.

'Teachers' self-efficacy' was developed out of the work of the Research and Development (RAND) corporation with a focus on the degree to which teachers believed in whether their ability to take charge of reinforcement was within their remit or in that of the environment (Rotter, 1966). Student motivation and performance were presumed to be significant reinforcers for teaching behaviors. The expectation, in the view of the RAND researchers, is that high levels of teachers' self-efficacy could strongly influence students' motivation and achievement. A second view of the theory emerged as a result of the research of Bandura

(1977). In his view, teachers' self-efficacy is a cognitive process in which individuals build self-beliefs about their ability to accomplish a task within acceptable limits. This sense of self-believe controls the amount of energy expended as well as the endurance and persistence required to face and overcome challenges. These two views of the theory form the underpinnings of teachers' self-efficacy but undoubtedly create gaps related to the clarity of the theory. Some of these issues border on whether teachers' self-efficacy is a one size fits all or whether it is specific to certain conditions and whether the theory needs refinement to capture other vital areas of assessment (Jassim, 2018). Teachers' self-efficacy is also related to classroom organization, levels of persistence on a task, instructional strategies, questioning techniques, innovation, degree of risk-taking, management of students' on-task time, and teacher feedback to students (Gibson & Dembo, 1984). The TSES concentrates on classroom management, student engagement activities, and instructional strategies as the three cardinal areas of teacher's self-efficacy.

Hoy and Weinstein (2015) describe classroom management as an overarching term comprising the creation of a productive, orderly learning environment to influence students' behavioral changes and guide them to accomplish their objectives. Recent studies and theoretical developments describe classroom management along two continuums: structure versus chaos, and autonomy support versus control (Jang et al., 2010). Furthermore, many novice teachers believe that managing their classroom is a prerequisite to teaching content (Cochran-Smith and Villegas, 2016); nonetheless, studies have demonstrated that novice teachers have weaker classroom climates than experienced teachers. Gibson and Dembo (1984) suggest that teachers' perceptions of their competence influence their choice of classroom management strategies. Teachers with higher perceptions of self-efficacy are highly effective in using classroom management skills (Goddard, Hoy, & Hoy, 2004). Such teachers tend to have classrooms that are better planned, more organized, student-centered, accommodating, and amenable to new ideas (Anthony and Kritsonis, 2007), while teachers with less classroom management skills tend to have classrooms characterized by aggression (Shernoff and Kratochwill, 2007). Henson (2001) finds that teachers who are more practical use enhanced classroom management approaches while Tschannen-Moran et al. (1998) report that a teacher's self-efficacy determines his/her inclination to work with students with difficulties instead of referring them to special education programs. Similarly, Landrum and Kauffman (2015) and Landau (2009) consider the use of rewards and punishment in managing classrooms. They intimate that teachers' main reason for adopting such an approach is to ensure their efficiency since it is an easy way of managing a student's misbehavior, giving teachers a feeling of control.

Four sources of self-efficacy are proposed by Bandura (2010). These are mastery, vicarious experiences, physiological disposition, and social persuasion. Among these sources, mastery is identified as the most common and direct source of self-efficacy according to Goddard et al. (2004). Behavior, personal and environmental factors influence self-efficacy (Bandura, 2010). Mastery experience continuously dominates as a strong force in nurturing teachers' self-efficacy (Bandura, 1997). Engaging students in classroom lessons is a measure of mastery experience. Therefore, there is a marked reinforcement of teachers' self-efficacy when they observe that students are involved in in-class activities. When students have low interest or are not engaged, teachers' responsibilities increase (Ross, Cousins, & Gadalla, 1996), which goes to undermine their sense of efficacy.

Self-efficacy is specific to each situation and is applied differently among individuals. Teachers' self-efficacy in a classroom may vary according to the subject taught and the grade of the students. Individuals differ in how they nurture their self-efficacy and in the intensity to which they develop it within their area of specialty (Bandura, 2010). For example, a teacher could have high self-efficacy in classroom management but low self-efficacy in student engagement activities. Therefore, the existence of a multi-purpose measure of perceived self-efficacy is a mirage. According to Bandura (1977), the 'one-size-fits-all' method usually has incomplete predictive and explanatory values because the items in an all-purpose test may have little or no bearing on the task. Moreover, to serve all needs, generalized scales ordinarily neglect an individual's specific demands and situations, leading to ambiguity in measurement.

The predisposition of teachers, influenced by, for example, their prior preparation, physical and emotional condition, and external factors such as the setting and demeanor of colleagues, contribute to the level of self-efficacy (Schnuck et al., 2014). Teachers' traits such as gender, grade, level taught, and experience also play a significant role in determining their self-efficacy (Berger et al., 2018). Generally, the ability to succeed raises teachers' self-efficacy, while failure decreases it.

Two major scopes of teachers' perceived efficacy (TES) are discussed in the literature: General Teaching Efficacy (GTE) and Personal Teaching Efficacy (PTE) (Tschannen-Moran and Hoy, 2001). PTE

signifies a teacher's belief about his/her ability to make a change in a students' performance, while GTE encompasses the teachers' beliefs about the influence of external factors and the teacher's ability to affect the performance of students. Conceptual questions have been raised especially about the GTE, which focuses more on teachers' ability to affect outcomes and noted as a measure of locus of control (Rotter, 1966), a justification for its inaccurate measurement of self-efficacy (Faez and Karas, 2017). The development of what is currently known as the teacher's sense of efficacy scale (TSES) has improved the methodological concerns in the TES (Wyatt, 2014).

According to Wheatley (2002), doubt and uncertainty are sometimes beneficial to a person's self-efficacy. The foundation of Wheatley's challenge to Bandura's (1997) idea is that self-efficacy doubts are a necessary part of teachers' learning and improvement processes. This uncertainty could emanate from a test on teachers' beliefs about their current tasks. To mitigate the impact of teacher's self-efficacy doubts, Wheatley (2002) proposes follow-up coaching.

2.1.2 Teacher training

Trained teachers are thought to possess technical competence and to conform to requirements of external authority, which specialist expertise is acquired through lengthy education and training. Under sophisticated professional education, teachers are well qualified to exercise a higher understanding of the nature of learning and pedagogy in meeting the particular and local needs of individual children in particular educational circumstances (*ibid*). Those in the profession are guided by ethics and teaching standards, which are self-monitoring mechanisms (Darling-Hammond and Sykes, 1999).

Training is considered a critical criterion in selecting candidates for jobs because of the perception that their expert training is sufficient to enhance their job performance. Tschannen-Moran, Parish, and DiPaola (2006) establish that a teacher's professionalism correlated positively with students' achievement. Among experienced teachers, there is a constancy of self-efficacy beliefs, even with the introduction of new teaching methods (Ross, 1994). Teachers who implement new methods after training experience an increase in their general teaching efficacy and a feeling of greater responsibility both for positive and negative student learning habits, as well as experiencing more positive feelings towards teaching (Guskey, 1984). A study by (Posnanski, 2002) finds that teachers trained in new methods of teaching science made significant gains in personal teaching self-efficacy similar to other experiments where the acquisition of professional knowledge, training, and coaching in teaching, gave teachers an added advantage (Ross and Bruce, 2007; Tschannen-Moran and McMaster, 2009).

The definition of teacher training in this study is the formal education and technical training received by an individual to teach based on a well-defined curriculum for a lengthy period and has acquired a recognized certificate to teach a specific subject and level. For this reason, we do not consider only TESOL/TEFL/TESL certificates as teaching certificates because of the option of online methods that are not accompanied by supervised practical training.

2.1.3 Native and non-native language speakers

The main criterion for describing a person as a native speaker takes into cognizance the circumstances of acquisition; thus, a native speaker is perceived as someone who acquires a language at childhood (Davies, 2003). Native language represents *the language a person acquires in early childhood because it is spoken in the family and/or it is the language of the country where he or she is living* (Richard, 1985: 241). This means that it is possible to be a native speaker of two or more languages if they were acquired early in childhood.

Brutt-Griffler and Samimy (2001) think that 'nativeness' is a social construct rather than a linguistic category. The description of English speakers as 'native' or 'non-native' speakers hinges upon several social considerations, such as the notions of what and how a native speaker should look or sound like (*ibid*). To Mesthrie and Bhatt (2008: 36), *the distinction between a native and non-native speaker of English -- long taken for granted in linguistics -- is being increasingly called into question in World English research*.

Parental guidance affects language development for native speakers, as language learning begins through engagement with caregivers and parents (National Research Council, 1998). According to Gass and Selinker (2010), being exposed to a language through language input and instruction and socialization with, for instance, English-speaking peers helps in the development of the language (Jia and Aaronson, 2003). This

category of speakers, according to Kachru (1997), comprises speakers who usually set the standards for English-language proficiency, particularly those from countries where English is the native language for the majority of the people, such as the US and the UK. Following from this, Kachru proposes three descriptions of English speakers around the world. The countries which recognize English as a native language are referred to as the Inner Circle (e.g., Canada, Britain, Australia, Ireland, North America), the Outer Circle treat English as a second language or an official language (e.g., India, Malaysia, Ghana, South Africa, Philippines) and the Expanding Circle are the countries which accept English as a foreign language (e.g., Iraq, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russia). Based on this classification, citizens of countries belonging to the outer and expanding circles are non-native speakers.

Non-native speakers either speak or learn English as a second language (e.g., The Netherlands) or as a foreign language (e.g., Iraq) (Kachru, 1997). A non-native speaker does not have the opportunity to develop through the initial processes of native speakers. It has been claimed that non-native English speaking teachers (NNESTs) face problems in terms of a lack of confidence and the biased attitude of students (Reis and Johnson, 2010) even though they are the majority of the English language teachers. The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) insist that foreign language teachers should be able to hear, understand, speak, read, and write in the target language with a minimum level of proficiency, either advanced or higher (Omaggio & Higgs, 1984). The command of a language is a mark of a good teacher. Teaching qualifications, exposure to native speakers, and having lived in an English-speaking country all affect teachers' knowledge of, and self-image regarding the language; the higher the NNEST's proficiency in English, the more confident they become (Reves and Medgyes, 1994).

The goal of learning English varies in every country. In Venezuela, it is used primarily for communicative purposes, whereas in Iraq, it is for business communication in particular. In Venezuela, upon graduation, EFL teachers are hired to teach in high schools without having to pass an exam that shows their English competency; administrators do not require teachers to obtain additional certification to teach English (Chacón, 2005). Venezuela, for example, places a heavy emphasis on descriptive linguistics. Thus, the study of the language at the sentence level (Brutt-Griffler and Samimy, 1999) overlooks the social nature of language as a means of communication and interaction. Generally, teachers in Venezuela may not acquire the communicative competence to perform in the four primary language skills, namely writing, reading, listening and speaking. Without this competency, teachers find themselves unable to use communicative language teaching (CLT) in their English classes (Li, 1998) as they do not consider themselves competent in English, and tend to have a low sense of self-efficacy. In Hong Kong, it was realized that NNESTs were influential in pedagogy, but were found to be weak linguistically. NESTs, on the other hand, had a perceived strength in linguistics but had pedagogical weaknesses (Ma, 2012).

Inadequate knowledge of the language can influence the self-esteem and professional status of the teacher and interfere with simple teaching procedures. Perceived language proficiency is of concern to NNESTs and has an impact on their professional self-esteem and confidence (Brutt-Griffler and Samimy, 1999). In Iran, the implementation of CLT requires EFL teachers to be competent in the English language to teach it. It is expected that EFL teachers use English with functional ability in communicating across language skills (Eslami and Fatahi, 2008). Research points to perceived language proficiency as an essential factor for NNEST since it impacts their professional confidence and self-esteem (Brutt-Griffler and Samimy, 1999).

In concluding this section, we take the definition of the words 'native' and 'non-native,' mostly from Kachru (1997). Native English speakers are considered mainly as those who have English as their first and mother tongue and are recognized as such. Non-native speakers are those who have another language as their mother tongue or L1 and have studied English as a second or foreign language and sometimes adopt it as an official language. Based on the foregoing, we hypothesize that:

- H1:** Professional teachers have higher self-efficacy than non-professional teachers.
- H2:** Native English-speaking teachers have higher self-efficacy than non-native English teachers.

3.1. Method

3.1.1. Participants

The population for the study is foreigners in Iraq, with the sample being foreign English language teachers in kindergartens and training schools living in Nasseria. The participants are people who have taught or teach English in public and private kindergartens and English language training schools. The recruitment of the study group was first through contacts with training schools and convenience sampling. An online questionnaire was distributed to principals of training schools contacted as well as general and known teachers' social media platforms, with specific guidelines on the target groups. In all, two hundred and eighty-one (281) responses were obtained out of an expected number of 400, representing a response rate of 61.8%. The variables were measured using self-reported assessments.

The study adopted and modified the 12 item Teacher Sense of Efficacy Scale (TSES) proposed by Tschannen-Moran et al. (1998) which is used not only for general teachers but also for language teachers (Chacón, 2005; Eslami & Fatahi, 2008; Swanson, 2012). Although other self-efficacy scales exist specifically for language teachers such as the Second/Foreign Language Teacher Efficacy Scale (S/FLTES) developed and used by Swanson (2012; 2010), the S/FLTES is still new and needs further development and testing on a more extensive and diverse S/FL teaching population. The TSES was considered appropriate because of the aspects of teaching that it measures as well as its extensive use and validity. Bandura (2006) makes the point that self-efficacy scales should measure what they purport to measure and should also have both discriminative and predictive validity. Hence the reason for the modification. Statement such as '*I am able to calm down a student who is noisy and disruptive in my English class*' (classroom management), '*I can motivate students who show low interest in learning English*' (student engagement) and '*I can use a variety of assessment strategies in my English class*' (instructional strategies). Respondents were required to indicate their level of agreement to each statement from *strongly disagree* (1) to *strongly agree* (5).

The measurement of teacher training was through answers to a self reported assessment such as '*Have you gone through formal teacher training?*' which required a simple 'yes' or 'no' answer. Formal teacher training means being trained for not less than one year in instructional and methodological approaches to teaching based on an accepted training curriculum of a specific country. This does not necessarily mean being trained only to teach a language but could include other subjects while excluding online TESOL/TEFL training.

Similarly, 'nativeness' is measured by answering 'yes' or 'no' to the question, '*Is English the first language or mother tongue (L1) of your country?*'. In response to this question, respondents were expected to indicate whether they were born and bred in a native English-speaking country and/or have English as a first language (L1). This shows whether English is their native language or not based on the operational definition.

3.1.2. Reliability and internal consistency

Following Jassim & Dzakiria (2019). to test the reliability of the TSES, Cronbach's alpha (α) values were used. Table 1 provides an overview of the reliability level emerging from Cronbach's alpha statistics. Each of the TSES dimensions (instructional strategies, classroom management, and student engagement activities) showed a high level of reliability and internal consistency based on an acceptable standard of $\alpha < 0.70$. An examination for the item-total statistics table indicates that none of the variables examined obtained values < 0.30 .

Table 1 Reliability statistics

TSES	No. of items	Alpha (α)
Instructional strategies	4	0.84
Classroom management	4	0.92
Student engagement activities	4	0.91

3.2. Analysis

We used MANOVA in determining whether individuals who are native English speakers have higher levels of self-efficacy in teaching English, as well as whether individuals trained as teachers also have high levels of self-efficacy. MANOVA measures several dependent variables (DVs) in a single experiment, with a better chance of discovering which factor is significant. It also protects against Type I errors that can occur in the conduct of independent multiple ANOVAs and reveals differences that ANOVA tests are unable to discover.

The descriptive statistic in Table 2 shows that a higher number of male respondents (62.6%) than females were engaged in teaching jobs in Nasseria Iraq. Among this group of respondents, most (63.4%) were 25–34 years old, while people aged 55 years or more represented only 2%. There was a significance in the difference between people who were trained teachers and those who were untrained (57.6% and 42.4%, respectively). Individuals with teaching experience ranged from less than five years (50.5%) to more than 20 years (3.6%). Individuals with training in TEFL represented 76.9%, most of whom were native English speakers (59.1%). Foreign teachers had been engaged from less than six months to over five years, with the majority having worked for between one and five years (40.9%).

Table 2. Background information of respondents

S/N	Variable	Frequency	Percent
1	<i>Gender</i>		
	Male	176	62.6
	Female	105	37.4
2	<i>Age (years)</i>		
	Below 25	34	12.1
	25–34	178	63.4
	35–44	52	18.5
	45–54	13	4.6
	55 and above	4	1.4
3	<i>Education</i>		
	High school	6	2.1
	Diploma	13	4.6
	Bachelor	145	51.6
	Masters	114	40.6
	PhD	3	1.1
4	<i>Have you gone through formal teacher training?</i>		
	No	119	42.4
	Yes	162	57.6
5	<i>Is English the first language or mother tongue (L1) of your country?</i>		
	No	115	40.9
	Yes	166	59.1

N=281

In Table 3, we show the correlation between the variables of interest. Except for nativeness and student engagement activities that did not show any significance, all other variables were significant. The level of correlation does not pose any collinearity problem.

Table 3 Correlation between variables

		1	2	3	4	5
1	Trained	1				
2	Native	0.134**	1			
3	Instructional Strategies (IS)	0.199***	0.103*	1		
4	Classroom Management (CM)	0.188***	0.096*	0.576***	1	
5	Student Engagement (SE)	0.220***	0.033	0.648***	0.463***	1

Note: indicates significance at *** $p < 0.01$; ** $p < 0.05$; * $p < 0.1$.

The descriptive statistics presented in Table 4 contain the overall and group means, standard deviations, and the results for each independent variable (IV) and dependent variable (DV). The Table shows a higher mean score for trained teachers who are native speakers in classroom management (29.11) and a mean score of 29.46 in instructional strategies for teachers who are neither untrained nor native speakers.

Table 4 Descriptive statistics

	Trained	Native	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Instructional Strategies	No	Yes	28.27	3.602	85
		No	29.46	3.659	45
	Yes	Yes	29.97	3.808	75
		No	30.45	3.468	71
Classroom Management	No	Yes	26.41	5.290	85
		No	28.43	5.739	45
	Yes	Yes	29.11	4.822	75
		No	28.96	4.269	71
Student Engagement	No	Yes	26.95	4.488	85
		No	26.93	5.908	45
	Yes	Yes	28.60	4.132	75
		No	29.55	4.249	71

Note: N=276.

A homogeneity test using Box's M-test of equality of covariance matrices showed a p -value of 0.03, which means significant differences exist among the independent variables (IV) in the covariance matrices. This is against the assumption of MANOVA, but the sample size and the equal values of each observation could explain the discrepancy. Since there is a violation of this assumption, we used Pillai's Trace for the multivariate test (Olson, 1976). We, therefore, controlled for age, gender, and education to test the effect of the IVs on the DVs. Table 5 shows the multivariate test results, indicating significant relations between the trained teachers and the IV ($F = 5.17^{***}$, observed power = 95.9%) as well as the DV and the IV ($F = 1.45$, observed power = 51.2%). This shows that nativeness did not influence self-efficacy.

Table 5 Multivariate tests results

Effect	Value	F	Sig.	partial η^2	Observed power
Trained	0.055	5.17	0.002	0.05	0.959
Native	0.016	1.45	0.227	0.01	0.512

Note: *** indicates significance at $p < 0.01$; ** indicates significance at $p < 0.05$

Using the tests of between-subject effects (Table 6) to confirm the hypotheses by checking the individual effect of the IV on the DV, we noted that there was a positive relationship between trained teachers and instructional strategies ($F = 8.92$, $p < 0.01$, partial $\eta^2 = 0.032$, power to detect the effect = 90.9%). Classroom management was also positively influenced by training ($F = 6.79$, $p < 0.05$, partial $\eta^2 = 0.025$, power to detect the effect = 83%). There was a statistical significance in the relationship between trained teachers and student engagement activities ($F = 14.52$, $p < 0.01$, partial $\eta^2 = 0.051$, power to detect the effect = 98.4%). Based on these findings, the combined effect as shown in table 5 supports **H1**.

The second IV (nativeness) did not produce any statistical significance in its relationship with the three dimensions of self-efficacy. For this reason, we conclude that **H2** is not supported.

Table 6: Tests of between-subjects' effects

Source	Dependent variable	Type III sum of squares	df	Mean square	F	Sig.	Partial η^2	Noncent. parameter	Observed power ^a
Corrected model	IS	243.97 ^b	6	40.66	3.07	0.006	0.06	18.43	0.952
	CM	389.57 ^c	6	64.92	2.57	0.019	0.05	15.44	0.910
	SE	574.26 ^d	6	95.71	4.66	0.000	0.09	27.96	0.995
Intercept	IS	4839.41	1	4839.41	365.75	0.000	0.57	365.75	1.000
	CM	4920.50	1	4920.50	195.06	0.000	0.42	195.06	1.000
	SE	3375.89	1	3375.89	164.40	0.000	0.37	164.40	1.000
Gender	IS	4.76	1	4.76	0.36	0.549	0.01	0.36	0.160
	CM	10.24	1	10.24	0.40	0.525	0.01	0.40	0.168
	SE	31.24	1	31.24	1.52	0.218	0.01	1.52	0.341
Age	IS	3.63	1	3.63	0.27	0.600	0.01	0.27	0.146
	CM	0.06	1	0.06	0.01	0.961	0.01	0.002	0.100
	SE	13.35	1	13.35	0.65	0.421	0.01	0.65	0.208
Education	IS	27.83	1	27.83	2.10	0.148	0.01	2.10	0.423
	CM	1.08	1	1.08	0.04	0.836	0.01	0.04	0.107
	SE	191.25	1	191.25	9.31	0.003	0.03	9.31	0.919

Trained	IS	118.08	1	118.08	8.92	0.003	0.03	8.92	0.909
	CM	171.36	1	171.36	6.79	0.010	0.02	6.79	0.830
	SE	298.22	1	298.22	14.52	0.000	0.05	14.52	0.984
Native	IS	24.70	1	24.70	1.86	0.173	0.01	1.86	0.390
	CM	50.72	1	50.72	2.01	0.157	0.01	2.01	0.410
	SE	0.14	1	0.14	0.01	0.932	0.01	0.01	0.101

Note: ^a Computed using alpha = 0.1; ^b R squared = 0.064 (adjusted R squared = 0.043); ^c R squared = 0.054 (adjusted R squared = 0.033); ^d R squared = 0.094 (adjusted R squared = 0.074).

4.1. Discussion

Trained foreign teachers come to Iraq, mostly with their teaching certificates, and become the preferred candidates for employment opportunities. The perception is that they have the required knowledge and training to teach. In other words, they have better teaching skills and understand both child psychology and teaching methodologies based on teacher training modules. For this reason, one of the requirements for the issuance of a work permit or a work visa for a teaching job is that the applicant should have a teaching certificate (Zheng and Zhang, 2014). According to Bandura (1997), one of the keys to developing high levels of self-efficacy is personal mastery experiences that offer reliable proof of the extent to which an individual understands the requirements for mastering the dynamics of a task. An individual's training or experience in performing a task determines mastery of the job.

From the results, trained teachers have higher levels of self-efficacy than untrained teachers since the coefficients are positive, as shown in Table 6. This finding, therefore, confirms earlier studies that have established that trained teachers have higher levels of self-efficacy than and novice teachers (Tschannen-Moran & Hoy, 2007). It also supports Bandura's (1997) assertion that personal mastery experience accounts for increased self-efficacy. Mastery experience in this instance can also be attained through training, while vicarious experience is the outcome of observation which can be achieved even by watching teaching videos online and have been shown to affect the self-efficacy of pre-service teachers (Karsenti & Collin, 2011). According to Tschannen-Moran & McMaster (2009), follow-up coaching promotes mastery experience which influences higher self-efficacy for implementing new strategies. It is no surprise therefore that trained or professional teachers have a higher self-efficacy and an advantage over untrained teachers. Tschannen-Moran et al. (2006) found that a professional teacher's self-efficacy correlates with students performance.

In preparing teachers to teach, guidelines have been developed by TESOL (2010, cited in Tran, 2015) in consultation with the Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) in the United States. The following areas are of concern: language, culture, planning, implementation, managing instruction, assessment and professionalism. Based on extensive studies (Drago-severson, 2002), seven main professional development models are used for teachers generally. These are observation, study groups, mentoring, providing individual guidance, in-service training, improvement process, and action research/inquiry. These added training models could make the difference between trained and untrained teachers. This is confirmed by various studies that have established a positive relationship between professional training, teachers self-efficacy and performance (Kraut et al., 2016).

Our study shows there is no difference in the level of self-efficacy among native and non-native English teachers in the three TSES examined. In Korea, Choi and Lee (2016) find that teachers with minimum proficiency were highly unlikely to increase their English use in the classrooms even with high self-efficacy. Also, with low self-efficacy and high proficiency, English will not be taught to a desirable level. In addition, in TEFL, Chacón (2005) and Eslami and Fatahi (2008) confirm that the self-efficacy of teachers varied based on tasks and teaching expectations as well as teachers' self-assessment of their language proficiency. In this study, one of the reasons for this trend is that NNESTs could utilize the teaching methods they were taught with in addition to their perception of the best language-teaching method. Medgye (2011) calls it learner models while Ehrman, Wenden, and Rubin (1990) call it language learning strategies. This makes NNEST have superiority over NEST in most cases. Also, as revealed by Brutt-Griffler and Samimy (1999), although NNESTs face prejudice, resulting in them losing confidence in teaching, they could combine the various teaching methods within their reach to enhance their self-efficacy and performance. In the study by Reves

and Medgyes (1994), NNESTs showed 'deeper insights into the English language' (p. 361) and seemed more qualified than NESTs. They showed more responsiveness towards their students and could predict the difficulties faced by their students. This adds to the argument that target language proficiency should not be associated with nativeness and that nativeness does not necessarily imply that teaching a language is the preserve of native speakers. An optimal approach would be to blend NEST with NNEST in order to provide a suitable situation and allow for one group to make up for and plug the weaknesses of the other (see Medgyes, 2011). This finding will be especially interesting to school administrators and policymakers.

There is also a high preference for teachers of a particular race and nationality among schools and English training institutions. This confirms the incidence of discrimination in the recruitment of especially foreign teachers, and even some Arabic NEST (Shao, 2005). This preference is linked to many factors, among which is the ultimate power of parents who drive the market and fuel the perception that people from originally English-speaking countries have better exposure and ability to teach the language than those not considered as originating from such countries (Farrell, 2018). Since this perception is not always true, the bases of such preference could be other reasons rather than performance. Evidence from various countries provides different findings on whether language proficiency levels have a negative or positive effect on teachers' self-efficacy in teaching English. While others indicate NESTs' strength in linguistic abilities, NNESTs have strength in pedagogy. In the view of the ACTFL, a foreign language teacher should have adequate competence in the hearing, understanding, speaking, reading, and writing of what is being taught (Omaggio & Higgs, 1984) which are the considered strengths of a NEST. McLaughlin (1987) argues that the monitor function does not interfere with oral production while knowing and applying the rules underlying language structure helps pupils to perform better, even if they are slowed down and even if this improvement may not show up immediately. In support of our findings too, Medgye (1992) notes that school administrators in France and England do not use nativeness as a basis for recruiting teachers. As this study has shown, among the population studied, there is no difference in the self-efficacy of NEST and NNEST in the teacher efficacy areas examined.

5.1. Conclusion

Teacher self-efficacy remains a vastly studied theory with great importance. The reason being that teachers with high self-efficacy impact students' performance across several contexts and disciplines. This study thus attempted to explain the influence of personal characteristics and its influence on self-efficacy. It is worth noting that professionally trained and untrained teachers will continue to be engaged in teaching English in Iraq, as will native and non-native English speakers because of the severe shortage of language teachers. The present study indicates that professionally trained teachers have a significant advantage in TEFL in Iraq, confirming many studies on professional training and self-efficacy. This supports the view that specific personal characteristics can influence self-efficacy. In this case, professional training is a determinant of teacher's self-efficacy in TEFL among the study group. It was also noted that there is no difference in teacher's self-efficacy when language proficiency is used as a determinant. This means that NEST and NNEST have the same level of self-efficacy in the three self-efficacy dimensions examined. In making teachers more effective in their tasks, schools should incorporate in-service training and coaching for teachers to increase their levels of self-efficacy as well as their performance. The preference for NEST should be discouraged since no study has found a superior performance among this group. Other factors such as declarative and procedural knowledge other than nativeness, contribute to a prolific teacher of English (Pasternak and Bailey, 2004).

These findings provide evidence to support the theoretical propositions by Pasternak and Bailey (2004) that being prepared pedagogically and linguistically are important and should be the main considerations in comprehending the professional status, growth, and practices of English teachers. Therefore, our findings demonstrate how each characteristic provides a theoretical understanding of the TESOL profession and is a field of study worth considering in further detail. In this sense, the two teacher characteristics should be treated separately and not as interchangeable constructs as done in previous research (Swanson, 2012). These personal features have been shown to be distinct and to have varied influences on individuals.

To ensure effective English language teaching, policymakers could amend the rules for language teachers and the acquisition of work permits for foreign teachers. By making the requirements flexible, the government could monitor and ensure that teachers who have work permits obtain the required certification within a specified period. The government could also identify and provide appropriate training while making use of Arabic support staff. Arabic-trained English teachers should be utilized extensively to fill existing

vacancies even though studies have shown that schools and parents prefer foreign teachers to local Arabic teachers (see Shao, 2005).

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Appendix 2

Communication difficulties that occurred during communication between the administrative staff and international students

International Students

I12: ‘I **sometimes** find it difficult to understand. Examples: 1. Their **pronunciation** 2.

Choice of words to speak (a little bit weird)’

I13: “because they understand what I say and **I don’t understand she/he says.**”

Administrative Staff

S3: For example if they come from come from ((French)) and French and Malaysia their English is not very good but come from German, America, they English is better. **I think my speak is poor.**

S3: Maybe **because their accent I don’t know**, or their, **or what they want to say.**

Appendix 3

Strategies to enhance communication

S1: They can, yes sometimes. @ @I have to **repeat or ((change))** my 我的說法 <The ways to say things>.

S2: I **asked the detail, pardon them**, asked them and I just. okay ((I))can I can listen **I understand what they say**. I just can, I just, I just can **describe very clear my point** so I will put, try in this way or if they understand what I say. I will just try **think another way**, okay? **It's try. "Do you understand?"**

S5: So of course I will **use different word** for those people. ((I)) don't think their English is not that good. I don't use big word. I **try to say things shorter, slower, simpler to make sure they understand and don't feel frustrate**. But if I am talking with some people, I think they **have ability to understand what I am talking** in a normal speed. So, I kind of speak fast sometimes.

S7: When I use the English to communicate with international student ... and I will **change some of ((my)) grammar or my pronunciation** and ((I will)) as spend some some spend some times to <think how I could say the sentence.> Sometimes, I will all by myself in my mind. I will 'How this sentence how can I use speak in English?' ((Yeah)).

Appendix 4 Examples of Learning Priority for Effective Communication in Workplaces

S1: Learn more about **conversation and writing**.

S2: Yeah, maybe improve more improve my **grammar and vocabulary** and sometimes I think in this time with our conversation our **conversation** class. Sometimes I think **more practice** can make me more **confident using** English when I using English....

S3: I think ((it's)) very important **vocabulary, grammar is important ((to communicate))** with someone. It's the basic. **Listening and conversation** is advanced.

S4: Maybe that can <myself> I to learn more because <**get to know vocabulary**> or <**be confident to speak English**>.

S5: But what I think I need to do is read **more vocabulary** because I always think the language is like how good your **speaking English** depends on **how much you keep learning**.

S6: I want to **change**. I want to be a **user**.

S7: I think the most the most important is to **practice speaking and listening**.

Table (5)

Communicative circumstances	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. conversing with NS as well as NNS speakers, with the latter being the majority 2. communicating for (non)administration-related, local purposes 3. administrative staff's competent use of English in spite of NNS background
Effectiveness of communication	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The language requirements for successful communication, such as communication strategies to overcome communication difficulties 2. Both international students and administrative staff agreed that administrative staff could use English to communicate effectively
Mixed strategies for English language use and learning	Administrative staff's ideas of language use and learning from the perspectives of NS vs. NNS, deficient vs. competent, learner vs. user, traditional TESOL/SLS vs. EIL research into language use
Learning priorities for effective communication	from learning grammar and vocabulary as fundamental skills to advanced training that creates opportunities to practice conversing for work-related purposes (i.e. listening and speaking)