

UNIVERSIDAD TÈCNICA PARTICULAR DE LOJA

La Universidad Católica de Loja

ÁREA SOCIO HUMANÍSTICA

TITULO DE LICENCIADA EN CIENCIAS DE LA EDUCACIÓN MENCIÓN INGLÉS

Teachers' and students' perceptions of teaching English in small classes in Ecuador

TRABAJO DE TITULACIÓN.

AUTORA: Celi Herrera, Ana Belén

DIRECTORA: Pinza Tapia, Eliana Ivanova, Mgs.

CENTRO UNIVERSITARIO MACHALA

Aprobación del Director del Trabajo de Titulación

Declaración de Autoría y Cesión de derechos

"Yo Ana Belén Celi Herrera, declaro ser autora del presente trabajo de titulación:

Teachers' and students' perceptions of teaching English in small classes in Ecuador, de la

Titulación de Ciencias de la Educación mención Inglés, siendo Eliana Ivannova Pinza Tapia

directora del presente trabajo; y eximo expresamente a la Universidad Técnica de Loja y a sus

representantes legales de posibles reclamos o acciones legales. Además certifico que las ideas,

conceptos, procedimientos y resultados vertidos en el presente trabajo de investigativo, son de

mi exclusiva responsabilidad.

Adicionalmente declaro conocer y aceptar la disposición del Art. 88 del Estatuto

Orgánico de la Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja que en su parte pertinente textualmente

dice: "Formar parte del patrimonio de la Universidad la propiedad intelectual de

investigaciones, trabajos científicos o técnicos y tesis de grado que se realicen a través, o con

el apoyo financiero, académico o institucional (operativo) de la Universidad"

f.....

Autora: Celi Herrera Ana Belén

Cédula: 070520745-4

iii

Dedication

I dedicate this achievement with all my love to God, who has given me the opportunity of living and also for being my spiritual guide. I also want to dedicate this success to my parents for their continuous support to achieve my goal. To my brothers, family and friends who were outstanding in fulfilling one of the main goals of my life.

Acknowledgement

I thank all the people and institutions that were involved and made possible the fulfillment of my research, especially to my thesis tutor who has guided me unconditionally during all this process. Finally, I want to give my thanks to the Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja for giving me the opportunity to make my dreams come true.

Contents

Cover	<u>i</u>
Certification	ii
Declaration de autoria y cesion de derechos	iii
Dedication	iv
Acknowledgement	v
Contents	vi
Abstract	1
Resumen	2
Introduction	3
Method	5
Discussion	7
Literature Review	7
Description, Analysis, and Interpretation of Results	16
Conclusions.	33
Recommendations	34
References	35
Annexes	

Abstract

Teachers' and students' perceptions of teaching English in small classes in Ecuador is the theme of this research; this study was conducted in a public high school in Machala, Ecuador. In this institution, five English teachers and sixty students were surveyed through a questionnaire.

The quantitative method was applied in this research to calculate the percentages of answers given by teachers and students in relation to the variables analyzed. In this analysis, it was necessary to consider main aspects which concern about teachers and students perceptions about benefits of teaching learning English in small classes, the teaching strategies sources that benefit the teaching process, and limitations of teaching and learning English in small classes. In addition, surveys and note-taking were the techniques and observation formats and questionnaires were the instruments applied in this research.

The results of this study show that the main benefits of teaching and learning English in small classes were that there more opportunities of teacher-student interaction, proper feedback provided. Nevertheless, the main limitation face in small classes is that there are anxiety among learners due to the teachers' control and discipline.

Keywords: Teachers, students, perceptions, teaching, learning, small classes, benefits, strategies, resources, feelings, limitations.

Resumen

La percepción de profesores y estudiantes en la enseñanza y aprendizaje del idioma Inglés en clases pequeñas en Ecuador es el tema de esta investigación y su propósito es saber si existen beneficios para estos procesos relacionados al tamaño de clase. Este estudio se llevó a cabo en un colegio público de la ciudad de Machala. En esta institución, cinco profesores de inglés y sesenta estudiantes fueron encuestados a través de un cuestionario.

El método cuantitativo se aplicó en esta investigación para calcular los porcentajes de las respuestas dadas por los profesores y los estudiantes en relación con las variables analizadas. En este análisis, fue necesario tener en cuenta los aspectos principales sobre las percepciones de la muestra acerca de los beneficios de la enseñanza aprendizaje de inglés en clases pequeñas, las estrategias y recursos de enseñanza que aportan al proceso de enseñanza sentimientos de estudiantes al aprender en clases pequeñas y limitaciones de trabajar en clases pequeñas. Además, las encuestas, toma de notas fueron las técnicas y los formatos de observación y cuestionarios fueron los instrumentos aplicados en esta investigación.

Los resultados de este estudio muestran que los principales beneficios de la enseñanza y el aprendizaje de inglés en clases pequeñas fueron que hay más oportunidades de interacción entre profesor-alumno, una adecuada retroalimentación y los profesores pueden recordar los nombres de los estudiantes. Sin embargo, la principal limitación que enfrenta las clases pequeñas es que hay ansiedad entre los estudiantes debido al control y la disciplina de los profesores.

Palabras Clave: profesores, estudiantes, percepciones, enseñanza, aprendizaje, clases pequeñas, beneficios, estrategias, recursos, sentimientos, limitaciones.

Introduction

Nowadays there are many issues hindering the growth of English as a Foreign Language in high schools, especially in the public sector. According to the National Secretariat of Higher Education (SENESCYT), the students who graduated from secondary school have an average of 65% of English; it means they are not able to develop the four main skills and consequently they cannot communicate by using this language. For this reason, the Minister of Education (2012) has implement different policies and strategies such as the improvement of curriculum based on international standards.

Based on what it is mentioned above, the present study was conducted to search on teachers' and students' perceptions of teaching English in small classes in Ecuador, whose purpose is to know if small class size is associated with the students' progress through the following questions: What are the benefits of teaching and learning English in small classes? What teaching strategies and resources benefit the teaching of English in small classes? How do students feel about learning English in small classes? And are there any limitations when teaching English small classes?

Similar studies have been carried in other countries. One of them was carried out by Harfitt (2012) whose purpose was examine whether, and how, class size reduction might help to alleviate language learning anxiety, which has long been seen as an obstacle to second language acquisition.

One of the main limitations of this study was that the information of the students surveyed could not be real since their opinions were influence by their classmates.

Another study was developed by Alghamadi & Gillies (2014) who formulated the following questions: What is the effect of cooperative learning in comparison to traditional small group learning on the achievement of grammatical knowledge of EFL learners?, What is the effect of cooperative learning in comparison to traditional small group learning on the

achievement of writing skills of EFL learners?. What is the effect of cooperative learning in comparison to traditional small group learning on the achievement of writing skills of EFL learners? No limitation is reported in this study.

A third study was conducted by Din (1999). The researcher proposed the following questions: (a)What kind of factor is class size? (b) What are the benefits for having small classes in schools? (c) What should teachers and students in large classes do to teach and learn effectively? No limitation is reported in this study.

Regarding the benefits of this research, this research will serve as a basis for people who want to know teacher and students' perceptions of teaching and learning English in small classes and it will help educational institutions in general, teachers, and students who are involved in the teaching and learning to bring a clear view of areas that need to be improved in the English language teaching and they will have better opportunities in their academic and professionals lives.

Method

Settings and participants

This research was carried out in a public high school, located in the urban area of Machala. The sample selected for this study was five secondary classrooms. These small classes were selected at nonrandom sampling since not all of the classrooms fulfilled the class size requirement which was to be comprised by 20 students or less. The participants were 5 teachers and 60 students from 1st, 2^{do} and 3rd year of senior of High School. The age group of sampling ranged from 15 to 23 years old.

Procedures

The study began by finding previous literature directly relevant to this study. The literature came from two different resources: books and articles. The information was found on the Internet and also at Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja through its virtual and physical libraries.

After finishing the literature review, to conduct the field research, it was necessary to collect information by observing five small classes, and by surveying five teachers and sixty students of these classes. The instrument used to gather information was the questionnaire which included 22 statements. It was divided in four sections: 8 statements about the benefits of teaching and learning English in small classes, 8 statements about teaching strategies and resources that benefit teaching of English in small classes, 4 statements about the students' feelings of learning English in small classes and 2 statements about the limitations when teaching English in small classes. Once arriving at the class the instructions were given in Spanish in order to avoid misunderstanding concerning with what was expected from the students. The investigator read each of the questions and gave students enough time to answer them appropriately while teachers were completing the teachers' questionnaire too.

After the questionnaires were applied, the information was tabulated by using and electronic spreadsheet in order to convert them into percentages for an easier analysis of the four different sections. All the information was thoroughly revised for accuracy.

During the analysis, the obtained results from the teachers and students' questionnaires were contrasted with the information gathered in the observation process. Furthermore, these results were supported by the scientific information included in the literature review section. There were different aspects to consider during the development of this process. The first aspect to remember was the purpose of the study. The second aspect to keep in mind was the section to be worked (benefits, strategies, feelings or limitations of teaching and learning English in small classes). Finally, any data variation needed to be analyzed carefully to understand its correlation to the whole.

Discussion

Literature Review

This section includes the theoretical information of the most important aspects related to managing learning (instructions, feedback), teachers and students interaction, teaching techniques, strategies and activities for teaching English in small classes, the learning environment that in small classes and the effect that class size has on learning that teachers may encounter in a class.

In addition, this section includes a review of five important studies develop by researchers around the world that are related to the present investigation.

Managing learning

Teachers do not use only methods and techniques in the classroom; they give also instructions, feedback and time for each activity or task. Therefore, an important part of managing learning is giving instructions. Dixie (2003) states that it is it not an easy task because it depends on the type of activity and resources that learners will do and use in the classroom. Besides, this author mentions that instruction must be simple, observable, clear, specific and related to learning activities.

Another important aspect of managing learning is feedback. Richard & Lockhart (2006) explain that feedback is an important tool in evaluating students' process and success in language learning. As a result the more feedback students receive, the more they will be able of self-assess their learning and develop new strategies to acquire knowledge.

Similarly, Rovegno & Bandhauer (2013) explain that feedback is one of the most important responsibilities of a teacher. By providing ongoing feedback you can help your learners evaluate their success and progress. Feedback can take a number of forms: giving praise and encouragement; correcting; setting regular tests; having discussions about how the group as a whole is doing; giving individual tutorials; etc. it also gives information that enables the learners to adjust what he or she is doing in order to get better.

Finally, timing is other aspect of managing learning. About it, Richards& Lockhart (2006, p. 171) say "The amount of time that students spend on classroom activities has been identified as one of the most important aspects affecting student learning. Therefore, the authors recommend teachers to consider the time that they are going assign for each activity when you are planning a lesson because by doing this teachers will acquire the sufficient experience to manage time appropriately in class. In addition, Spielberger (2004) mentions that allocating time limits for each activity when you are planning the lesson and avoid the temptation to let activities carry on until the learners are bored.

Teacher-student and student-student interaction

According Zajda (1998) states that teacher- student interaction play an important role in the learning process due to the way participants perceive teachers' attitude towards them will determine their attitude in class. Therefore, this author indicate that interactions in small classes are more frequent, and beneficial in relation to those in large classes due to teachers that work with a small group of students respond better to their needs, which give students more confidence and more opportunities for the interaction between teacher- students.

Furthermore, Baker and Westrup (2003) express that language interaction between the instructor and students and peer work among the learners maximize students' participation and interaction in class and also this allows teachers to give individual attention to students while many are working in pairs or small groups. As Richards & Rodgers (2001) explain that the main purpose of cooperative language teaching is to help the teacher build positive relationship among students and at the same time teach cooperative skills among learners; here the teacher is a facilitator and take part in the teaching-learning process as an independent participant.

Class size

Harmer (2003) mentions that class size is an essential factor in the process of teaching English. This author argues that English language classes vary greatly in size, for that reason, teachers have to adapt and use teaching techniques according to the number of students.

According to Blatchford (2007), while teaching a language, class size is of great importance because when a teacher works with small classes, he spends little time controlling activities and the learning is more meaningful. Similarly, Flood, Lapp, & Jensen (2003) clarify that small classes are associated with better achievement and also related to other indicators of quality such as discipline. Also, the authors mention that students in small classes tend to increase their participation and teachers are able of providing effective feedback. Moreover, students in smaller classes had stronger motivation, better self-concept, and lees anxiety.

Nevertheless, Carbone (1998) expresses that students in large classes tend to complain about the impersonal atmosphere; learners argue that they feel demotivated because it is not easy to be noticed among high number of students. In addition, Saraswatti (2004, p. 154) says, "A teacher cannot even get to know the names of all her learners in a large class.

Teaching techniques, strategies or activities for teaching English to small classes

Teachers use different types of methods in English language teaching and each method provides a wide variety of techniques. Brown (2001) describes three types of teaching techniques for small classes. Those are controlled, semi-controlled, and free techniques. First in the controlled technique, the teacher in the center as organizer, manipulate, consolidate, pre-planning objectives and setting curriculum. Second, semi-control techniques include brainstorming, storytelling, questions-answers, information transfer, etc. Finally, as free techniques where the students are the center of teaching, giving unpredicted responses, or role play, games, drama, interview, etc.

Furthermore, there are other techniques that Dhand (2008) mentions, for example: autobiographies, brainstorming, case study, debate, visiting museum. He mentions that autobiographies are good techniques to teach students to describe individual characteristics. About brainstorming, this technique is used to promote on students creativity because they are encouraged to give original ideas about a particular topic. Next, case study is useful to teach students how to elaborate conclusions based on important details. Debate is useful to promote speaking abilities and criticisms about interesting topics. Finally, visiting museum gives students rich experience because they are exposed to real facts of important events in world history.

Finally, more techniques are described by Diaz (1999) who presents participation techniques as important tools to create interaction between students and teachers, some of those techniques are: display, dictation, drama, individual work, and group work. Display is used to encourage students to explain elements or characteristics of certain topic. Dictation is used to practice writing skills. Drama is useful to develop students' communicative skills. Individual work develops learners' independence and self-confidence; it fosters calm and peace between students. And group work promotes interaction, cooperation, and communication between students.

Learning environment in small classes

There are many authors who claim that the physical classroom size influences on teaching English. According to Hue & Li (2008), there are some aspects of the physical environment of a classroom which teachers have to consider when providing a placement space for learning. The first one is floor space, which includes organizing seats in horizontal rows, vertical rows, circles or long tables; all of them will serve for different purposes. Leaving enough space or a passage, would give teachers easy and efficient access to work with different groups of students.

In addition, the space for daily routine should be easy and free from congestion to avoid generation disruptive behavior. Then, wall space is another factor to be considered as important and needs special attention given that it is often utilized merely for decorative purposes and should not be like this; more effort could be put into improving this situation. A good idea might be placing shelves or a wide range of items such as worksheets teaching aids supplies of paper of references materials for the class in order to enhance learning in students. Next, general ambience is also important; this aspect has to do with the teacher's performance. They should try to create a safe, pleasant and stimulating atmosphere so learning can take place in an enjoyable and effective way. Such as floor space, the most common seating arrangements include horizontal rows, vertical rows, circles and long tables, all of which serve different purpose, a good seating arrangement is one which facilitate specific learning task; wall space, it is another area which needs special attention; general ambience, the teachers should try to create a safe, pleasant and stimulating atmosphere as possible so that learning is enjoyable and affective.

Furthermore, there are several seating arrangements that teachers can use in order to make effective use of space and maintain easy access to the whole class. For example, Woolfolk (2007) shows different kinds of seating arrangements such as the clusters of four and the circle arrangements, which are helpful for students' interaction. Clusters permit learners to talk, help each other, share materials, and work in group tasks. Circles are especially useful for discussions but still allow independent seatwork.

Another arrangement proposed the same author mentioned above is fishbowl or stack spatial formation where students sit close together near the focus of attention (the back row may even be standing). This sitting arrangement should be used only for short periods of time, because it could lead to discipline problems. Also, this author indicate that the teacher can

organize the class in horizontal rows not only to call the students' attention towards the teacher at all times, but also to allow students to work more easily in pairs.

So far, the information used in this investigation project has been exposed; the following information that is part of this literature review is from some studies taken from journals.

The first is a study conducted by Harfitt (2012), examine whether, and how, class size reduction might help to alleviate language learning anxiety, which has long been seen as an obstacle to second language acquisition. In the study the researcher use mainly questionnaires, class observations and interviews, this study employed multiple case studies in four Hong Kong secondary schools. Each case constituted one teacher teaching English language to first language Chinese students in a reduced-size class (where class size was between 21 and 25 students) and a large class (where class size was between 38 and 41 students) of the same year grade, and of similar academic ability.

In conclusion this study suggests that the student voice can provide insights into language learning classrooms. Data from the case studies reveal that students' sense of anxiety can be reduced in smaller classes and that class size reduction may assist in breaking down cultural barriers.

The second is a study conducted by Alghamadi & Gillies (2014) who formulated the following questions: What is the effect of cooperative learning in comparison to traditional small group learning on the achievement of grammatical knowledge of EFL learners?, What is the effect of cooperative learning in comparison to traditional small group learning on the achievement of writing skills of EFL learners? What is the effect of cooperative learning in comparison to traditional small group learning on the achievement of writing skills of EFL learners?

The study was carried out on four secondary schools in Saudi Arabia where 139 male students, whose ages ranged between 14-15 years old were chosen. The instrument that was used to collect data is a pre-test and post-test English grammar achievement test. The test was used as both a pre-test and a post-test to investigate the impact of the cooperative learning method on students' English language achievements. The test is comprised of twenty multiple-choice questions. At the beginning of the test, the participants were asked to choose the correct answer from four options and the time allocated for this part was 40 minutes. After that, the students were required to write a paragraph to identify their productive grammar and the time allocated for this part was 20 minutes. The time allocated for the whole test was 60 minutes. There were two marks for each correct answer in the multiple-choice question and ten marks for the writing task, making the total score obtainable at fifty.

In conclusion, the study showed that there are statistically significant differences between the mean scores of the students who were taught English in the cooperative learning environment (the experimental group), and those who were taught the English by using the traditional small group method (the control group) in the post-test in favor for the experimental conditions.

The next study was developed by Din (1999). The researcher proposed the following questions: (a) What kind of factor is class size? (b) What are the benefits for having small classes in schools? (c) What should teachers and students in large classes do to teach and learn effectively?

The sample of the study consisted on five schools (three elementary and two secondary schools). All these schools were ordinary schools, not different from other schools in the district, according to the school district official. The instrument to collect data was a questionnaire. The questionnaire was developed based on the research questions. Basically,

the questions were open-ended and they were designed to collect the perceptions of the Chinese rural teachers on class size related issues.

Based on the results from the data the author concluded that Chinese rural teachers did not see a necessary link between class size and student achievement. However, they believed that small classes facilitate classroom management, more student-teacher interactions, more individualized help from the teachers, and reduce teachers' workloads. The Chinese rural teachers also believed that competition among students promoted learning for students in large classes.

Another study developed by Harfitt (2013) was also studied, the purpose of which was to explore the relationships between class size and the pedagogical practices adopted by 4 experienced teachers in Hong Kong who are each responsible for one large and one reduced-size English language class of the same grade level.

This study is based on interviews and lesson observations carried out as part of multiple case studies which focused on teachers working in different Hong Kong secondary schools, but who were all responsible for teaching one large class and one reduced-size class at the same grade level in their respective schools. Both classes were taught by the same teacher, which to my knowledge represents an original research design in the study of class size and one that differs from previous studies of class size reduction where the teacher variable was not controlled in case study research. The database for the study includes a total of 29 semi-structured interviews with the teachers across the four case study schools as well as 60 lesson observations. To recapitulate, the research design required that one teacher was responsible for teaching two English language classes of the same grade level, one of which was a large class with more than 37 students and one of which was a reduced-size class containing 27 students or fewer.

It may be that the smallness of the class automatically provides opportunities to teachers; in this study some teachers exploited those opportunities more than others but it would be erroneous, perhaps, cutting class size is sufficient on its own as a way of mediating change. Teacher trainers, accordingly, may exemplify this through microteaching, school visits and dissemination of similar case studies to help teachers articulate and then exploit the benefits of class size reduction through the development of a battery of teaching strategies.

The last study was done by Blatchford (2009) to determine whether teachers in large and small classes differ in time spent on teaching or instructional activities. This research was carried out in a school in London. A subsample of children in small (25 or under) and large (31 and over) Year-6 classes and a sample of nine pupils participated in the investigation. The method integrated case studies with qualitative and quantitative approaches. Data collection was based on systematic observations, questionnaires, and case studies. The research process involved observing 257 students and conducting observations in blocks of 10-s time intervals. Two important Blatchford et al' conclusions are as follows: 1) class size affected the overall amount of teaching; and 2) in small classes it is likely to enable more individual attention whereas in large classes students are more likely to be one of the crowds. The researchers recommend that teachers in large and small classes should both develop strategies for more individual attention and recognize the benefits of other forms of learning such as group work.

Description, Analysis and Interpretation of Results

In this section of the study, the data gathered during the field research will be presented and analyzed by following the qualitative and quantitative approaches.

In order to do this, the responses to each question in the teachers' questionnaire will be displayed in tables; they will be analyzed, supported and contrasted with the information from the students' questionnaire, class observation and scientific resources.

Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis

What are the benefits of teaching and learning English in small classes?

Table 1
Teachers' perceptions

N.			Totally agree	Agree		Agree		Agree		Agree		Agree		Agree		Agree		Agree		Agree		Agree Partially		Agree Partially			Disagree		TOTAL
No	In classes with a small number of students:	f	%	F	%	f	%	f	%	f	%																		
1	It is easier to design activities that help the students to apply what they have learned.	4	80	1	20	0	0	0	0	5	100																		
2	The students are attentive and participate in class activities.	4	80	1	20	0	0	0	0	5	100																		
3	The class space allows students to properly do the activities designed.	5	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	100																		
4	Appropriate feedback can be given.	5	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	100																		
5	Activities that allow more interaction among students are performed.	5	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	100																		
6	There is more interaction between the teacher and the students.	5	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	100																		
7	It is easier to remember students' names.	2	40	3	60	0	0	0	0	5	100																		

Author: Celi Herrera Ana Belén Source: Teacher`s questionnaire

Table 2
Students` perceptions

			Totally agree		Agree		Partially agree		Disagree		TOTAL
No	In classes with a small number of students:	f	%	f	%	f	%	F	%	f	%
1	The activities done in class help to apply what students learn.	37	61,7	23	38,3	0	0	0	0	60	100
2	The students are attentive and participate in class activities.	28	46,7	31	51,7	1	1,67	0	0	60	100
3	The students can better concentrate because there is less noise in the classroom.	42	70	17	28,3	1	1,67	0	0	60	100
4	The classroom space allows students to carry out activities assigned by the teacher.	40	66,7	19	31,7	1	1,67	0	0	60	100
5	Students receive proper feedback form the teacher.	37	61,7	22	36,7	1	1,67	0	0	60	100
6	There is interaction among the students.	32	53,3	20	33,3	8	13,3	0	0	60	100
7	There is interaction between the teacher and students.	36	60	23	38,3	1	1,67	0	0	60	100
8	The teacher remembers the students' names.	33	55	20	33,3	7	11,7	0	0	60	100

Author: Celi Herrera Ana Belén Source: Student's questionnaire

In accordance to the results displayed in the tables show that 80% of the participant teachers totally agree that in small classes it is easier to design activities that allow students practice and show what they have learned in class; likewise, 61.7 % of the students totally agree that in small classes the activities done in class help to apply what students learn, and 38.3 % students answered agree. It means that most of the teachers and students agree with this statement.

The results shown about this first statement were corroborated by the data gathered through the observations because in most of the observed classes, teachers started their lessons easily with some activities related to the topic learnt in the previous class. Also, students seem comfortable with this kind of activities, and at the same time they had the opportunity to practice more during the class which is really beneficial for their learning.

Blatchford (2003) confirms these findings by pointing out that in small classes less time is spent on controlling students and worthwhile activities can be developed in classes due to teachers has the potential to provide more extensive and task-related individualization of instruction.

Regarding to the statement 2, table 1 indicates that 80% of the surveyed teachers totally agree that in small classes the students are attentive and participate during class activities, and 20% students agree with this statement. Table 2 reports that 46.7 of the students totally agree that in small classes the students have the same level of attention and participation in class, 51.7% of them agree. This means that most of the teachers and students affirm that in small classes students are attentive and participate in class activities.

The result shown about this second statement is supported by the data gathered through the observations because in most of the observed classes the students' attention was maintained by all teachers who fostered learners to remain quiet and pay attention to the class. The short number of students is beneficial when teachers work with small classes because it allowed the whole class participation and students were attentive all the time which is beneficial in the students learning process.

About it, Flood, Lapp, & Jensen (2003) state that participation and involvement tend to increase when classes are small. Besides, these findings are also supported by McCrorie (2006) who explains that small groups provide opportunities for learning that are difficult to establish in large group settings. They are particularly useful to enable learners to take part in discussion, active participation, feedback and reflection, and to consolidate learning, clarify understanding, and explore ideas and concepts.

Regarding statement 3 in the students' questionnaire, table 2 indicates that 70% of students answered totally agree that in small classes they can better concentrate because there

is less noise in the classroom and 28.3% agree with this statement. It means that all the students think that working in small classes facilitates their concentration.

The results show that there is a tendency majority in favor of the statement, indicated by 98.3% of the students can better concentrate because there is less noise in the classroom. This assumption is supported by the class observations due to that there is low level of disruption during the classes and all observed teachers could easily manage those situations. As a result, it is evident that students can concentrate better on all their activities.

With regard to the statement 3 in table 1 show that all teachers totally agree that in small classes the class space allows students to properly do the activities designed. Table 2 in relation to the statement 4 indicates that 66.7% of the students totally agree that in small classes the classroom space allow students to carry out activities assigned by the teacher, 31.7% agree, and only 1.7% partially agree. This means that both teachers and students think that the classroom space allow the development of activities assigned by teacher.

The results shown about the statement mentioned above is supported by the data gathered through the observations because in most of the observed classes it was palpable that the activities designed by the teacher were developed properly overall in those classes where the number of students was small. It was easy for students to follow the teachers' directions, especially when they had to move around the class in order to complete activities. It is really important because learning becomes more enjoyable when they have activities that involve movements.

Likewise, Hue & Li (2008) explain that the creative use of physical space has a significant effect on students' learning. They add that sometimes it is not possible and to change seats it affects students' level motivation because they are not able to work well. Therefore, the authors state that floor, wall, shelves, space are also part of the classroom space and they must be used correctly in order to increase students' knowledge and confidence.

In statement 4, table 1 indicates that 100% of the surveyed teachers totally agree that in small classes appropriate feedback can be given. Table 2 shows that 61.7% of the students totally agree that in small classes they receive proper feedback from the teacher, 36.7% agree, and 1.67 partially agree. This result shows that teachers and students believe that in small classes feedback is given properly in class by teacher.

Similarly, these results are consistent with the information obtained through the observation sheets reflects that all teachers were able to give students adequate feedback at different moments during the class according to the students' needs. According to Brookhart (2008), when teacher gives appropriate feedback in small classes it improves students' work because develop self-criteria to evaluate their learning process.

With respect to the results in the statement 5, table 1 reports that 100% of the surveyed teachers totally agree the activities that allow more interaction among students are performed in small classes. Table 2 indicates 53. 3% of the students totally agree that there is interaction between students in small classes, 33.3% agree and 13.3% partially agree. It means that small classes allow students to interact among them.

Likewise, the information gathered through the observation sheets demonstrate that in most of the observed classes the interaction among students was notable. They were close to each other and they could develop adequately the activities that involved a kind of interaction among them. The relationship among students seems to be cordial because they know each other very well. Also, they looked comfortable when they talk with their classmates. They do not feel afraid of making any mistake because there was a good environment in the classroom.

About it, Hellermann (2008) mentions the importance of interaction between students, this negotiation of meaning is seen being accomplished in classroom interaction through language-learning tasks, which also often involve pairs or small groups of students. Small-group interaction has been shown to play in language learning, the full range contexts and

strategies for talk and interaction that occurs in language-learning tasks needs to be investigated to understand the full range of interactional opportunities that are afforded to language learners.

Following the interpretation of the results in relation to statement 6, in table 1 indicates that 100% of the teachers totally agree that in small classes there is more interaction between the teacher and the students. Table 2 shows that 60% of the students totally agree that in small classes there is interaction between teacher and students, and 38, 3 % agree. These results reflect that there is interaction between teacher and students in small classes.

The result shown about the statement mentioned above is supported by the data gathered through the observations because most of the observed teachers had a great interaction with the students. They had a good interaction with students. It is an important key for learning because students collaborate with the teacher. Also students seem to feel confident of asking to the teacher about their doubts. On the other hand, in one observed class the interaction between teacher-students was not acceptable. Teacher tried to keep his distance with students in order to control the class. In contrast with this, students did not look comfortable with this situation.

In the same way, Din (1999) believes that small classes facilitate classroom management, provide more student-teacher interactions, individualized help from the teachers and also reduce teachers' workloads. Besides, the author mentions that is necessary that the interactive relationship in the classroom is very helpful to develop good rapport with a teacher and their students during the teaching-learning process

Regarding statement 7 shows that 40% of the teachers totally agree in small classes it is easier to remember students' names and 60% agree with this statement. Table 2 indicates that 55% of the participants totally agree, 33.3% agree and 11.7% partially agree.

From the information gathered in the observational sheets, it can be confirmed that all teachers effectively remembered their students' names which fostered a better relation between teacher and students, making the students to feel confident and relaxed. Besides, it means they remember the students' names easily. It helps students to feel motivated and get involved in class.

Finally, it is worth indicating that when teachers are capable of remembering the name of every learner, they establish a positive rapport with their students to create a teaching-learning environment full of support and confidence.

All these results indicate that there are many benefits when teaching and learning in small classes. The students can better concentrate because there is less noise in the classroom, the classroom space allows students to carry out the activities assigned by the teacher, the activities done help to apply what students learned, the teacher provides appropriate feedback. This means that both teachers and students work better in small classes since it has many benefits for the teaching learning process.

What teaching strategies and resources benefit the teaching of English in small classes?

Table 3
Teachers` perceptions

No	In classes with a small number of students:		Totally agree		Agree	Partiall	y agree	į	Disagre e		TOTA L
		f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
8	Design and apply activities that allow student to practice listening skills.	4	80	1	20	0	0	0	0	5	100
9	Design and apply activities that allow students to practice speaking skills.	4	80	1	20	0	0	0	0	5	100
10	Design and apply activities that allow students to practice reading skills.	4	80	1	20	0	0	0	0	5	100
11	Design and apply activities that allow students to practice writing skills.	4	80	1	20	0	0	0	0	5	100
12	Design and apply group work activities.	5	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	100
13	Design and apply individual activities.	5	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	100
14	Use technological tools.	2	40	3	60	0	0	0	0	5	100
15	Use didactic materials.	3	60	2	40	0	0	0	0	5	100

Author: Celi Herrera Ana Belén Source: Teacher`s questionnaire

Table 4
Students` perceptions

No		Totall	y agree		Agree	Partia	lly agree	į	Disagr ee		TOTA L
		f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
9	The activities done allow students to practice listening skills.	29	48,3	26	43,3	5	8,33	0	0	60	100
10	The activities done allow students to practice speaking skills.	34	56,7	22	36,7	4	6,67	0	0	60	100
11	The activities done allow students to practice reading skills.	35	58,3	24	40	1	1,67	0	0	60	100
12	The activities done allow students to practice writing skills.	35	58,3	20	33,3	5	8,33	0	0	60	100
13	Group activities are used	37	61,7	16	26,7	7	11,7	0	0	60	100
14	Individual activities are used.	44	73,3	15	25	1	1,67	0	0	60	100
15	Technological tools are used.	34	56,7	18	30	4	6,67	4	6,7	60	100
16	Didactic materials are used.	37	61,7	16	26,7	4	6,67	3	5	60	100

Author: Celi Herrera Ana Belén Source: Student's questionnaire

This stage refers to teaching strategies and resources that benefit the teaching of English in small classes. Table 3 indicates the results obtained from teachers' questionnaires and table 4 reports the results obtained from the students.

Concerning to statement 8, table 3 shows that 80% of the teachers totally agree that in small classes it is easier to design and apply activities that allow students to practice listening skills and 20% agree with this statement Table 4 reveals that 48.3% of the surveyed students totally agree that in small classes the activities done allow students to practice listening skills, 43.3% agree and 8.33% partially agree.

Regarding to statement 9, table 3 shows that 80% of teachers totally agree that in small classes it is easier to design and apply activities that allow students to practice speaking skills, and 20% are agree. Table 4 indicates that 56.7% of the students totally agree that in small classes the activities done allow students to practice speaking skills, 36.7% agree and only 6.67% partially agree.

Continuing with the analysis of the statement 10, table 3 reports that 80% of the teachers totally agree than in small classes it is easier to design to design and apply activities that allow students to practice reading skill, and 20% are agree. Also, table 4 indicates that 58.3% of the students totally agree that in small classes the activities done allow students to practice reading skills, 40% agree and 1.67% partially agree.

Related to the statement 11, table 3 about designing and implementation of activities that allow students to practice writing skills; 80% of the teachers totally agree and 20% are agree. Furthermore, table 4 in relation to the statement 12, 58.3% of students totally agree, 33.3% agree and 8.33% partially agree.

All these results mean that both teachers and students agree that in small classes the four skills are designed and applied in class. It can be seen that the entire sample of teachers 100% of the teachers and the majority of students 91.6% totally agree or agree that in small classes the activities carried out allow students to practice listening skills. These results are consistent with the observations since it is evident that all teachers used CD recorder to help students develop their listening skills in order to help students to develop their listening,

speaking, reading and writing skills. It was easier for teachers to apply these activities because the class was small and students could listen clearly the audios as there is not too much noise in class. Students could participate and practice actively in speaking and reading activities and they seemed that they liked and enjoyed the same ones. They had the opportunity to write and they understood better even when their vocabulary was not wide. The implementation of all these activities as strategies for improving the English learning in small classes is really beneficial and according to Raimes (1983) students are not comfortable with the normal classroom activity to use all their language skills. On the other hand, when they work in small classes, they have the chance not only to use the new language but also to play with it. They need to experiment with new words and new sentences types.

Table 3 indicates that statement 12, 100% of teachers totally agree that in small classes that it is easier to design and apply group work activities. Related to the same statement, in the table 4, 61.7% of students totally agree, 26.7% agree and 11.7% are partially agree. It means that most of the teachers and students confirm that group work activities are designed and implemented in their classes.

Also, through the observation, it was notable in four of the observed classes that teachers used group activities but in other one teacher did not use this kind of activity. The teachers who implemented these activities made groups easily and students worked in a disciplined way. Students could interact with their classmates and also practice English in real situations.

In the same way, Woolfolk (2007) says that working in groups in small classes gives students the opportunity to learn from each other. It can be said that almost majority of the observed teachers who used work activities helped the class all the time, promoted the interaction among the learners, and checked their learning process very often in order to provide everyone with the opportunity to learn from their peers while doing tasks in groups.

Regarding to the statement 13, table 3 shows that 100% of the teachers totally agree about the designing and implementation of individual activities in small classes. Table 4 indicates that 73.3% of students totally agree that individual activities are used in small classes and 25% agree. It means that all the teachers and most of the students agree in the fact that individual activities are applied in small classes.

In spite of the results, during the observations, only 2 teachers used individual activities even though this type of work was not carried out in an appropriate way since the teachers asked the whole class to individually complete a task on the book, but they did not check whether all the students worked on their task effectively. However, 3 of the teachers mentioned that they do not use individual classes.

According to the fourteen statement about the use of technology resources in small classes, table 3 indicates that 40% of teachers totally agree and 60% agree. Moreover, 56.7% of students totally agree that technological tools are used in small classes, 30% agree and 6.67% partially agree and 6.7% disagree. This means that most of the teachers and students confirm that technological resources are used in class.

Even though teachers said that they used technological tools in the statement mentioned above. The whiteboard was used by teachers in all observed classes to explain contents and to write of the use grammar structures. In addition, only tape/Cd recorders were used by teachers in some classes to help students listening skills. Unfortunately, this is a common feature between public schools in Ecuador.

Statement 15 in table 3 shows that 60% of the teachers surveyed totally agree that in small classes it is easier to use didactic materials and 40% agree. Table 4 reports that 61.7% of students totally agree that in small classes, 26.7% agree, 6.67% partially agree and 5% are disagree. These results mean that most of the teachers and students agree that didactic materials are used during their classes.

Also, in four of the five observed classes teachers used teaching materials but, in one of them teachers did not use any material to teach their students. The teachers that use materials in class get the students' attention and made the class more enjoyable for students.

In addition, in relation to this matter Cunningsworth (1984) suggests using didactic materials (flashcards, brochures advertisements and tickets, etc.) in small classes help students practice their English. The researcher would like to emphasize that these materials offer a rich source of the target language and are easy to be obtained for working with small classes.

According to all these results, there are some strategies and resources which benefit the teaching of English in small classes. The best strategies involve the designing and implementation of activities to develop the four basic skills. Furthermore, for teachers it is beneficial the implementations of group activities but, according with the theory the individual activities are also beneficial in small classes.

Also, the resources that benefit the teaching of English in small classes are the technological tools and teaching materials especially for those students who learn best by seeing or doing.

How do students feel about learning English in small classes?

Table 5
Teachers` perceptions

No	In classes with a small number of students:	Totally		Totally agree			Agree	Partiall	y agree	į	Disagr ee		TOTA L
110		f	%	F	%	f	%	f	%	f	%		
16	They are relaxed when speaking in front of their classmates.	5	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	100		
17	They are taken into account by the teacher because they have more opportunities to participate in class.	5	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	100		
18	They are motivated to participate because of the small number of students.	5	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	100		
19	They are at ease because they can healthy compete with their classmates.	5	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	100		

Author: Celi Herrera Ana Belén Source: Teacher's questionnaire

Table 6
Students` perceptions

No	In classes with a small number of students:		Totally agree		Agree	Partiall	y agree	Disagno	Disagre		TOTAL
110	in classes with a small number of students.	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
17	I am relaxed when speaking in front of my classmates.	37	61,7	19	31,7	4	6,67	0	0	60	100
18	I am taken into account by the teacher because I have more opportunities to participate in class.	35	58,3	20	33,3	5	8,33	0	0	60	100
19	I am motivated to participate because of the small number of classmates.	34	56,7	25	41,7	1	1,67	0	0	60	100
20	I am at ease because I can healthy compete with my classmates.	42	70	18	30	0	0	0	0	60	100

Author: Celi Herrera Ana Belén Source: Student's questionnaire

According to the results in the statement 16 in table 5 indicates that 100% of the teachers totally agree than in small classes they are relaxed when speaking in front of their classmates. Table 6 reports that 61. 7 % of the students totally agree, 31, 7% agree and 6, 67% partially agree. These results mean that all the teachers and most of the students agree that in small classes students feel relaxed when they speak in front of their classmates.

The results shown about the statement mentioned above is supported by the data gathered through the observation because students feel comfortable and relaxed when they were speaking in front of their classmates. The students' performance was good. They seemed to feel familiarized with their group and they were not afraid of making mistakes. These results are confirmed by Hale, Janell, & Kristen, (2008). These authors argue that students feel more relaxed with friends than an ordinary mix of classmates and are more secure, and less worried about making mistakes because they know their friends, understand them and try to be helpful in learning together.

Concerning to the statement 17 in table 5 indicates that 100% of the teachers totally agree that in classes with a small number of students, they are taken into account by the teacher because they have more opportunities to participate in class. Table 6 reports that 58.3% of the students totally agree that in small classes, they are taken into account by the teacher because they have more opportunities to participate in class, 33.3 % agree and 8.33% partially agree.

Besides that, through the observation sheets it was notable in all the observed classes that students participated all the time in class. It was easier for the teachers to involve students during the class. Students were included in class and they performed better because teachers expected more from them all the time. In addition to this topic, Harlift (2012) argues that the sense on anxiety is reduced when students are part of a small class because it seems to facilitate participation from the students.

Regarding to the statement 18, table 5 indicates that 100% of the teachers totally agree that in small classes, the students are motivated to participate because of the small number of students. Table 6 reports that 56.7% of students totally agree that in small classes, they are motivated to participate because of the small number of classmates, 41.7% agree and 1.67%

partially agree. It means that both teachers and students agree that in small classes students are motivated to participate in class because of the small number of classmates in their class.

Besides that, in all the observed classes the students felt motivated to participate actively in class. About this, Harfitt (2012) states that students in smaller classes in comparison to a large class are more confident and motivate to speak up and participate in the class. This author further points out that every student in a small class want to contribute perspectives.

In the statement 19, table 5 shows that 100% of the teachers totally agree than in small classes they are at ease because they can healthy compete with their classmates. Table 6 indicates that 70% of the students totally agree than in classes with a small number of students, they are at ease because they can healthy compete with their classmates and 30% agree. This means that all the teachers and all the students totally agree and agree that in small classes can compete healthy with other students in their class.

According to the observation, in four of five observed classes, students seemed comfortable while, in other class students looked a little bit anxious and nervous of competing with other students in the class. Students were comfortable of participating in class because they did not have the pressure of big groups. In the same way Harmer (2007) affirms that another way to influence students'attitude towards learning in a healthy competition is to make groups and provide interesting activities so that everybody is attentive and communicative.

In general, students feel relaxed when they have to participate or talk in class, because neither their classmates nor their teacher intimidates them. They feel taken into account due to teachers encourage them to participate in class all the time and they feel like an important part in the class. They feel motivated and they like to participate in class, because they do not feel observed by many people and it gives them confidence to say what they know. They do not

feel afraid of competing with their classmates, because they are able to participate in competence with not fear to be wrong.

Are there any limitations when teaching English in small classes?

Table 7
Teachers` perceptions

No	In classes with a small number of students:		Totally agree		Agree	Partiall	y agree		Disagre e		TOTAL
140	in classes with a small number of students.	F	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
2	There is anxiety among students because there is more control form the part of the teacher.	0	0	5	100	0	0	0	0	5	100
2	Listening and speaking skills are more difficult to develop.	0	0	1	20	2	40	2	40	5	100

Author: Celi Herrera Ana Belén Source: Teacher`s questionnaire

Table 8
Students` perceptions

No	In classes with a small number of students:		Totally agree		Agree		Partially agree		Disagree		TOTAL
110	in classes with a small number of students.	F	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
21	There is anxiety among students because there is more control on the part of the teacher.	29	48,3	12	20	18	30	1	1,67	60	100
22	Listening and speaking skills are more difficult to develop.	27	45	25	41,7	5	8,33	3	5	60	100

Author: Celi Herrera Ana Belén Source: Student's questionnaire

With regard to statement 20, table 7 indicates that 100% of the surveyed teachers agree that in small classes, there is anxiety among students because there is more control on the part of the teacher. Table 8, reveals that 48.3% of the students totally agree that in small classes, there is anxiety among students because there is more control on the part of the teacher, 20% are agree, 30% partially agree and 1.67% disagree.

These results mean that all the teachers and most of the students coincide in the fact that in small classes there is anxiety among the students in their classes because there is more control on the part of the teacher. The observation process supports the students' beliefs. It was noticed that most of the students (68.3%) felt anxiety during classes and teachers seemed not to realize of that situation. However, (31.6%) of the students do not feel anxiety during class, they were relaxed and they worked easily during the class development. In relation to this statement, Harfitt (2012) mentions that if the number of students per class were reduced, learning anxiety would be diminished.

In relation to statement 21, table 7 indicates that 20% of the teachers agree that in small classes listening and speaking skills are more difficult to develop, 40% partially agree, 40% disagree and 0% of them are totally agree. On the other hand, table 8 reveals that 45% of the students totally agree that in small classes listening and speaking skills are more difficult to develop, 41.7% agree, 8.33% partially agree and 3% are disagree.

There is a contradiction in this statement between teachers and students, 80% of the teachers partially agree or disagree that it is more difficult to develop speaking and listening skills in small classes whereas 86.7% of students totally agree or agree with this statement. The classroom observations support both teachers and students. According to the results, four of the five participant teachers included listening and speaking activities during classes.

In summary, there were some limitations of teaching English in small classes. One limitation was that there was anxiety among learners due to the teachers' control and discipline and they could also monitor more easily and constantly students' work. And another limitation was that students had more difficulty to develop the speaking skill.

Conclusions

The benefits of teaching and learning English in small classes were mainly in terms of designing, implementing and developing activities for the students, individualize and appropriate feedback provided by the teacher. Also, the interaction among students and between students and teachers are more effective in small classes.

This research reveals that in small classes, teacher pays equal attention to all students which guarantees students' participation in interaction for effective learning by getting to know students' name, by reducing disturbance levels, by maintain clear activities, and by ensuring that students know what to do.

The main teaching strategies that benefit the teaching of English in small classes are that most of the students integrate listening, speaking, reading and writing skills through tasks that help them to produce the English language by themselves. Besides, the implementation of individual and group work activities that promote interaction with their peers and enable them to practice the target language in dynamic way.

Moreover, the use of technological tools and didactic material are useful resources that benefit the teaching of English in small classes. Also, students who learn English in small classes feel more relaxed, involved, motivated and they are able to healthy compete with their classmates.

There were some limitations when teaching English in the observed classes. One of them was that there was anxiety among students because the teacher had more control of their behavior which it is a factor that may affect the teaching in small classes and in some cases students may feel over controlled by teacher. And another limitation was that students had more difficulty to develop the speaking skill.

Recommendations

Teachers should always take advantage of working with small groups. They should continue working in the design of activities to reinforce what students learn and also apply specific activities for the development of the four basic skills in the students.

Teachers should design an appropriate and daily planning of their classes and activities using a variety of teaching resources and didactic materials, so that English classes in small classes can be funny and interesting for the students.

Finally, teachers should be always updating their knowledge, doing research investigating and reading information about how to teach and manage small classes, which would allow them to have a wider perspective in case of encountering with this situation.

References

- Alghamdi, R., & Gillies, G. (2013). The impact of cooperative learning in comparison to traditional learning (small groups) on EFL learners' outcomes when learning English as a foreign language. *Asian Social Science*, *9*(13), 19-27.
- Baker, J., & Westrup, H. (2000). English language teacher's handbook: How to teach large classes with few resources. London: Continuum.
- Blatchford, P. (2007). *The class size debate: Is small better?*. Maidenhead, UK: McGraw-Hill International.
- Blatchford, P., Bassett, P., & Brown, P. (2005) Teaches' and pupils' behaviour in large and small classes: A systematic observation study of pupils aged 10/11 years. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 97(3), 454-467.
- Brandon, D., & Hollingshead, A. (1999). *Collaborative learning and computer-supported groups*. California: Communication Education.
- Carbone, E. (1998). *Teaching large classes: tools and strategies*. London: SAGE publications Inc.
- Christenson, S., & Reschly, A. (2012). *Handbook of research on students engagement*. New York, United States: Springer.
- Cunningsworth, A. (1984). Evaluating and Selecting EFL teaching materials. Oxford:

 Heinemann International.
- Dhand, H. (2008). Techniques of teaching. New Delhi: S.B Nangia.
- Diaz, S. (1999). Técnicas participativas. Su uso en la enseñanza –aprendizaje del idioma inglés. *MEDISAN. 3*, 20-25
- Din, F. (1999). The functions of class size perceived by Chinese rural school teachers. National forum of Applied Educational Research Journal, 12(3), 1-5.
- Dixie, G. (2003). Managing your classroom. New York: Continuum Intl Pub Group.

- Finn, J., & Wang, M. (2002). *Taking small classes one step further*. MaryLand: Laboratory for Students Success.
- Flood, J., Lapp, D., Squire. J., & Jensen, J. (2003). *Handbook of research on teaching the English language Arts* (2nd Ed.). New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum associates.
- Galton, M. (1994). *Teaching in the primary school*. London: David Fulton.
- Hale, C., Janell, P., & Kristen, C. (2008). *Charting new courses: Second language action research in Japanese junior and senior high schools.* New York: Accents Asia.
- Harfitt, G. (2012). Class size and language learning in Hong Kong: The students' perspective. *Educational research*, 54(3), 331-342.
- Harfitt, G. (2013). Why 'small' can be better: an exploration of the relationships between class size and pedagogical practices. *Research Papers in Education*. 28(3), 330-345. *Educational research*, 54(3), 331-342.
- Harmer, J. (2007). The practice of English language teaching. England: Pearson Longman.
- Harmer, J. (2003). *How to teach English*. Edinburgh, England: Pearson Education Limited.
- Hellermann, J. (2008). *Social actions for classroom language learning*. Great Britain: Cromwell Press Ltd.
- Hue, M.-T., & Li, W.-S. (2008). *Classroom management*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Teacher Education.
- Johnson, D., & Johnson, R. (2003). *Social interdependence: The interrelationships among theory, research, and practice.* Boston, United States of America: Allyn & Bacon.
- Lantolf, J. (2000). *Sociocultural theory and second language learning*. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press.
- McCrorie, P. (2006). Teaching and leading small groups. Edingburgh: ASME Publications.
- Raimes, A. (1983). Techniques in teaching writing. London: Oxford University Press.
- Richards, J., & Rodgers, T. (2001). *Approaches and methods in language teaching* (2nd ed.). Cambridge University Press.

- Richard, J., & Charles, L. (2007). *Reflective teaching in second language classrooms*. New York: Cambridge Language Education.
- Rovegno, I., & Bandhauer, D. (2013). *Elementary physical education: Student assessment and lesson plan workbook.* Conway: Jones & Bartlett Learning.
- Saraswathi, V. (2004). *English language teaching-principles & practices*. Hyderabad: Orient Longman Private Limited
- Siraj-Blatchfod, I. (2007). *Effective Leadership in the early year sector*. London: British Library.
- Snow, S. E. (2002). *Teachers' perceptions and use of classroom space*. Athens: University of Georgia.
- Spielberger. (2004). Encyclopedia of applied pychology. New York: Academic Press.
- Tauber, R. (2007). *Classroom Management: sound theory and effective practice*. Westport: Greengood Publishing Group.
- Woodward, T. (2001). Planning lessons and courses: Designing sequences of work for the language classroom. Cambridge University Press.
- Woolfolk, A. (2007). *Educational psychology* (10th ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.
- Zajda, J. (1998). Education and Society. Sydeny, Australia: James Nicholas Publishers.

UNIVERSIDAD TÉCNICA PARTICULAR DE LOJA

La Universidad Católica de Loja

OPEN AND DISTANCE MODALITY

ENGLISH DEGREE

Dear student,

The aim of this brief questionnaire is to obtain information concerning *your opinion in relation to the learning of English in small classes*. The following information will only be used for academic/research purposes.

Informative data: Please fill in the information below

Name of institution:									
	Public () Private ()								
Type of institution:									
			Language						
	School ()	High school ()	Language institute ()						
City:									

Instructions: place an (X) in the box that best reflects your personal opinion:

Strategy: answer the following questions as honestly as possible based on the following criteria.

Totally agree	
Agree	
Partially agree	
Disagree	

A. Benefits of teaching and learning English in small classes.

	In classes with a small number of students:	Totally agree	Agree	Partially agree	Disagree
1.	The activities done in class help to apply what students learn.				
2.	The students are attentive and participate in class activities.				
3.	The students can better concentrate because there is less noise in the				
	classroom.				
4.	The classroom space allows students to carry out				
	the activities assigned by the teacher.				
5.	Students receive proper feedback form the teacher.	<u>"</u>			
6.	There is interaction between the students.	<u>"</u>			
7.	There is interaction between the teacher and students.				
8.	The teacher remembers the students' names.				

B.	Strategies	and resoure	ces that favor	r the English	teaching in	small classes

N°	In classes with a small number of students:	Totally agree	Agree	Partially agree	Disagree
9.	The activities done allow students to practice listening skills.				
10.	The activities done allow students to practice speaking skills.				
11.	The activities done allow students to practice reading skills.				
12.	The activities done allow students to practice writing skills.				
13.	Group work activities are used.				
14.	Individual activities are used.				
15.	Technological tools are used.				
16.	Didactic materials are used.				

C. Students' feelings when learning English in a small class.

N°	In classes with a small number of students,	Totally agree	Agree	Partially agree	Disagree
17.	I am relaxed when speaking in front of my classmates.				
18.	I am taken into account by the teacher because I have more opportunities to participate in class.				
19.	I am motivated to participate because of the small number of classmates.				
20.	I am at ease because I can healthy compete with my classmates.				

D. Limitations of learning English in small classes.

	In classes with a small number of students:	Totally agree	Agree	Partially agree	Disagree
21.	There is anxiety among students because there is more control on the part of the teacher.				
22.	Listening and speaking skills are more difficult to develop.				

Thank you.

UNIVERSIDAD TÉCNICA PARTICULAR DE LOJA

La Universidad Católica de Loja

OPEN AND DISTANCE MODALITY

ENGLISH DEGREE

Dear teacher,

The aim of this brief questionnaire is to obtain information concerning *your opinion in relation to the teaching of English in small classes*. The following information will only be used for academic/research purposes.

Informative data: Please fill in the information below

Name of institution:								
	Public () Private ()							
Type of institution:								
			Language institute ()					
	School ()	High school ()	institute ()					
City:								

Instructions: place an (X) in the box that best reflects your personal opinion:

Strategy: answer the following questions as honestly as possible based on the following criteria.

Totally agree	
Agree	
Partially agree	
Disagree	

A. Benefits of teaching and learning English in small classes.

	In classes with a small number of students:	Totally agree	Agree	Partially agree	Disagree
1.	It is easier to design activities that help the students to apply what they have learned.				
2.	The students are attentive and participate in class activities.				
3.	Classroom space allows students to properly do the activities designed.				
4.	Appropriate feedback can be given.				
5.	Activities that allow more interaction among students are performed.				
6.	There is more interaction between the teacher and the students.				
7.	It is easier to remember students' names.			•	

_	~ .						_
ĸ	Strategies a	nd resources	that favor the	Hnolish	teaching	in small	classes

N°	In classes with a small number of students, it is easier to:	Totally agree	Agree	Partially agree	Disagree
23.	Design and apply activities that allow student to practice listening skills.				
24.	Design and apply activities that allow students to practice speaking skills.				
25.	Design and apply activities that allow students to practice reading skills.				
26.	Design and apply activities that allow students to practice writing skills.				
27.	Design and apply group work activities.				
28.	Design and apply individual activities.				
29.	Use technological tools				
30.	Use didactic materials.				

C. Students' feelings when learning English in a small class.

N°	In classes with a small number of students,	Totally agree	Agree	Partially agree	Disagree
31.	They are relaxed when speaking in front of their classmates.				
32.	They are taken into account by the teacher because they have more opportunities to participate in class.				
33.	They are motivated to participate because of the small number students.				
34.	They are at ease because they can healthy compete with their classmates.				

D. Limitations of learning English in small classes.

	In classes with a small number of students:	Totally agree	Agree	Partially agree	Disagree
35.	There is anxiety among students because there is more control form				
	the part of the teacher.				
36.	Listening and speaking skills are more difficult to develop.				



UNIVERSIDAD TÉCNICA PARTICULAR DE LOJA

La Universidad Católica de Loja

MODALIDA ABIERTA Y A DISTANCIA TITULACIÓN DE INGLÉS HOJA DE OBSERVACIÓN

EI	DUCATIVA:	
	CCHA: JRSO/NIVEL:	
C	JRSO/NIVEL:	
1.	Se realizan actividades qu	ue permiten poner en práctica lo aprendido.
	SI () NO (Notas:)
2.	Todos los estudiantes est	án atentos y participan en las actividades desarrolladas en clase.
	SI () NO (Notas:)
3.	El espacio de la clase per	mite desarrollar adecuadamente las actividades asignadas por el profesor.
	SI () NO (Notas:)
4.	El profesor brinda una re	troalimentación adecuada debido al poco número de estudiantes en la clase
	SI () NO (Notas:	
5.	Existe interacción entre l	os estudiantes.
	SI () NO (Notas:	
6.	Existe interacción entre e	l profesor y los estudiantes.
	SI () NO (Notas:	
7.	El profesor recuerda el no	ombre de los estudiantes.
	SI () NO()

Notas:

8.	Se realizan a	actividades que	permiten practicar la habilidad de escucha.
	SI () Notas:	NO ()
9.	Se realizan a	actividades que	permiten practicar la habilidad de habla.
	SI () Notas:	NO ()
10.	Se realizan a	actividades que	permiten practicar la habilidad de lectura .
	SI () Notas:	NO ()
11.	Se realizan a	actividades que	permiten practicar la habilidad de escritura .
	SI () Notas:	NO ()
12.	Se utilizan	actividades gru	pales.
	SI () Notas:	NO ()
13.	Se utilizan a	actividades indi	viduales.
	SI () Notas:	NO ()
14.	Se utilizan	recursos tecnol	ógicos.
	SI () Notas:	NO ()
15.	Se utilizan	materiales didá	cticos.
	SI () Notas:	NO ()
16.	Los estudiar	ntes se muestrar	relajados al momento de hablar frente a sus compañeros.
	SI () Notas:	NO ()

17.	Los estudiantes tienen mayor oportunidad de expresarse.					
	SI (Notas:)	NO (
18.	Los esti	udiantes se	muestra	n interesados en participar en las actividades realizadas en clase.		
	SI (Notas:)	NO ()		
19.	Los esti	udiantes pu	eden co	mpetir sanamente con sus compañeros.		
	SI (Notas:)	NO ()		
20.	Los esti	udiantes se	muestra	n relajados porque no hay mucho ruido en el salón de clase.		
	SI (Notas:)	NO ()		
21.	Los esti	udiantes se	muestra	n tensos debido a que existe mayor control por parte del profesor.		
	SI (Notas:)	NO ()		
22.	Se dific	ulta realiza	r habilic	lades de habla y escucha.		
	SI (Notas:)	NO ()		