

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Education and Social Studies
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJESS_127022
Title of the Manuscript:	ASSESSMENT OF FIRST LANGUAGE (L1) USAGE AND ITS EFFECT ON PUPILS' ACHIEVEMENT IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE. A CASE STUDY OF LEARNERS AT HO-BANKOE METHODIST PRIMARY SCHOOL
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

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PART 1: Review Comments

Compulsory REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.	This manuscript seems to focus only on the results of a small-sample size at one school. The discussions and conclusion also focus only on the school without reflecting on how this can be generalized to the population at large. While this might be important for the school in question, it doesn't seem like the research would be of interest or use to many in the wider community. It might be better to rewrite the discussion and conclusion to try make larger comments by using the school as one example that could be of use to the community.	
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	I think the title is misleading as there is no objective tracking of achievement or L1 usage. This is entirely based on a survey of students and teachers. Perhaps: "Perceptions of first language usage and its effect on student achievement in language learning"	
Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.	I would suggest writing the abstract in a more standard abstract form, by writing it as one paragraph instead of breaking it into targeted sections,	
Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?	They seem appropriate to me, however I would suggest clearly writing out the research questions being addressed in the study and combining the results and discussion section.	
Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.	Obviously there is a very small sample size, which I assume is due to having a limited number of options in class. While using a survey is a standard scientific method, I think additional information explaining answers would have gone a long way to adding insight into the research. For example, one section focused on challenges brought about by the use of L1 in classrooms, such as influencing the way they write. It would have been interesting to get specific examples or explanations of how they believe it affects their writing. I also feel the results and discussion could be improved dramatically, perhaps by joining the two sections. For one thing there is a lot of time spent outlining the demographic details of the participants, which isn't really addressed in the discussion section or later results section. The demographic could be outlined in a simple table rather than having graphs for each demographic question. The discussion section seems to just mainly summarise the results section without engaging in critical discourse, and when it does, the studies it claims to support or not in the reference section. Combining the two could work well to avoid restating the results.	
Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form. =	No Some of the studies cited in the paper could not be found in the reference section. For example, Gacheche (2010), Alkhudir (2020), Hasindu (2011) – who feature prominently in the discussion section, are not in the reference list, so it is hard to evaluate whether the results support their findings as you argue.	

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<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>No, there are a number of minor errors, and sometimes the writing makes it very difficult to understand what the author is trying to say. For example “The risk of a child struggling with reading throughout the school is quite high if they do not have any noticeable speech or language problems” – this seems to suggest a child without any speech or language problems is at risk of struggling with reading, which is intuitively incorrect. Many similiary strange or impossible to understand sentences are found throughout.</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>I think you can turn this into a reasonable paper, but it would require a lot of work. I would rewrite the introduction/lit review to be more focused on your study and include a lot of the studies you mention in the discussion but not in the actual intro. I would also cut out a lor of the paraagrpahs about what language is, as that seems unecessary and just filling space. Instead I would write the intro focusing on these points.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The importance of language usage and the current education system in Ghana. 2. The debate about L1 usage in language instructions. 3. The research that shows the impact L1 usage has on language learning – in particular negative impact as that seems to be the conclusion of this study. 4. Any studies that have been done similar to your study, particularly in Ghana. 5. The exact research questions that you seek to answer. <p>THEN in your Results and Discussion section you can more effectively address how your results confirm or perhaps don't confirm the results of other studies, and perhaps even use it to raise questions for further studies. I also think its important that you address the limitations of the study being a small, local survey that isn't tied into any actual metric of achievement. Basically you have shown that people feel that it is easier to explain and understand some grammar points when they are using the L1 AND that people feel the people who speak the L2 more are better L2 speakers. One avenue you might pursue is to turn this into an interesting discussion on the perceptions of teachers and students vs. researchers who often claim that L1 usages is beneficial.</p> <p>A better introduction, clearly stated research questions, and a more robust discussion is needed, alongside careful proofreading.</p>	

PART 2:

	<p>Reviewer's comment</p>	<p>Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</p>
<p>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</p>	<p><i>(If yes. Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></p>	

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