

Current Research in Discipline-Based Education

Editors

**Meral CEYLAN
Ahmet Zeki GÜVEN**



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PREFACE

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Chapter 1

RESILIENT LEADERSHIP IN AI-INTEGRATED SCHOOLS: CAPACITY BUILDING, ADAPTATION, AND FUTURE READINESS

Okyanus İşık Seda YILMAZ¹

INTRODUCTION

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly reshaping the operational, instructional, and strategic dimensions of K-12 schooling, creating unprecedented demands on school leaders to navigate technological, ethical, and organizational complexity. Over the past five years, research has documented an accelerated integration of AI tools into administrative decision-making, early warning systems, instructional personalization, resource allocation, and data-based school improvement processes (Zawacki-Richter et al., 2023; Holmes et al., 2022; Luckin, 2021). As AI-driven systems increasingly influence pedagogical and managerial practices, educational leaders face a dual imperative: sustaining human-centered professional judgment while simultaneously adapting to data-intensive, algorithmically mediated environments.

The growing reliance on intelligent systems has introduced new forms of uncertainty, volatility, and ethical ambiguity into school leadership. Studies in educational leadership emphasize that technology-enhanced school systems operate as complex adaptive systems, in which interdependent elements—teachers, data flows, student needs, AI tools, organizational routines—co-evolve dynamically (Kapos Jr. & Çelik, 2024; Harris & Jones, 2020). In such environments, traditional leadership models, which rely on linear planning and stability, are increasingly insufficient. Instead, leaders require resilience, defined as the capacity to sustain core educational values, maintain functional continuity, and adaptively respond to rapid technological and systemic disruptions (Day & Gu, 2021; Allen et al., 2020).

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education will not be determined solely by AI, but by the leaders who shape how AI is understood, governed, and integrated into the moral fabric of schooling.

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Chapter 2

AN ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF CHOIR FESTIVALS ON PARTICIPANTS

Burcu KALKANOĞLU¹

INTRODUCTION

Festivals are generally an important part of artistic and cultural life, as well as events that strengthen communication between communities and increase motivation. Thanks to their capacity to bring different communities together, festivals contribute to promoting the country and indirectly showcasing cultural values (Penpece, 2014). These events are characterised by visual performances and product presentations and are organised at national or international level. Within these national and international platforms, one of the categories that stands out in the field of music is choir festivals.

Choir festivals, in particular, enable the enrichment of the music repertoire, the improvement of the performance level of choir songs, the establishment and development of new choirs, and increased professional exchange and contact between conductors. Such organisations provide a ground for establishing new and enriching social relationships, positively influencing the social development of both individuals and choristers. According to Coşkuner (2019), choral music requires a process consisting of stages such as note work, learning the lyrics, applying nuances, and interpreting according to the performance. Choir festivals, which are a demonstration and culmination of this comprehensive process, offer a multidimensional experience for participants.

When the basic functions of festivals are examined, it is seen that they have motivational power beyond being merely a performance venue. These events directly contribute to the enrichment of the music repertoire and the elevation of the artistic level of choir songs. Furthermore, it is emphasised that festivals positively influence the social development of individuals and the entire choir

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Chapter 3

ENGLISH INSTRUCTORS' PERSPECTIVES ON INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (ICC) IN TURKISH UNIVERSITIES

Mehmet KAHRAMAN¹
Gonca SUBAŞI²

INTRODUCTION

Culture has been widely studied and defined across disciplines (Hinkel, 1999). Rosaldo (1984) argues that culture is constructed by its people, who also live within it, making it difficult for outsiders to fully comprehend. As individuals shape culture, culture also influences their thinking and behavior. Thus, culture forms the backdrop for individual subjectivity and communication within or across cultures (Arroitia, 2025; Fantini, 2020).

Language and culture are closely linked. Kramsch (1998) notes that language reflects speakers' beliefs and experiences, shared within a culture. Language both expresses and creates cultural reality, and rejecting a language is seen as refusing its culture. Thus, language symbolizes cultural reality, and culture is essential for effective communication (Moraya, 2013).

Globalization and internationalization now require intercultural competence (IC) (Kalsbeek, 2008; Byram & Wagner, 2018). Because language and culture are closely related, understanding and empathizing with other cultures is increasingly valued. Education—especially language teaching—focuses more on cultural diversity and tolerance (Cushner & Mahon, 2002). Major language teaching organizations pinpoint integrating culture into instruction (Akpinar & Mete, 2013).

The communicative approach long dominated language teaching, making classes more dynamic and emphasizing language as a communication tool over

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had higher ICC, Byram et al. (1997) argue that teachers can promote intercultural competence even without overseas experience. The core of ICC is considering social identities in communication, not just knowing cultural facts.

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

The conclusions highlight key steps for language education. Targeted professional development for ICC is necessary, alongside practical classroom strategies. Institutions should support teachers' learning, and curriculum designers should integrate intercultural objectives with linguistic goals, using diverse and authentic materials.

Leaders should promote a campus-wide approach to interculturality and encourage collaboration and exchange programs. Assessments should include intercultural attitudes as well as language skills, and feedback should improve ICC integration. Policymakers should use evidence to guide training and curriculum, and pilot practical ICC models to address constraints.

Limitations and suggestions for further studies

This study offers valuable insights into English instructors' views on ICC in Turkish higher education but has limitations. The small sample size and convenience sampling limit generalizability and may not reflect all types of institutions. Reliance on self-reported data and lack of classroom observation are further constraints.

Future research should use larger, more diverse samples and longitudinal designs to track changes over time. Including observations, student feedback, and curriculum analyses would give a fuller picture of ICC practices. International comparisons could reveal effective methods in different contexts.

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Chapter 4

BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY: THE POLITICS OF MICRO-CREDENTIALS AND THE RECONFIGURATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S INSTITUTIONAL IDENTITY

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, micro-credentials have become one of the most popular instruments through which higher education systems attempt to modernise themselves. They are frequently introduced as adaptable, learner-focused, and responsive alternatives to the perceived inflexibility of traditional degree programmes. Policymakers, private-sector actors, and EdTech companies often underline these credentials as new routes for lifelong learning and skills recognition (Oliver, 2019; Selvaratnam & Sankey, 2021). Governments across the OECD and the European Union have invested considerably in national micro-credential frameworks in the hope of reducing the “skills gap” and building more responsive learning ecosystems (OECD, 2019; European Commission, 2022). For universities, this policy momentum brings a growing expectation that their programs must demonstrate direct economic relevance and align with emerging discourses of employability, innovation, and productivity.

Yet the rise of micro-credentials has implications that extend far beyond the rhetoric of flexibility and access. Integrating these credentials into institutional structures does not only diversify modes of participation; it also reshapes how universities understand their own purpose. The university historically associated with scholarly independence, critical thought, and service to the public good is increasingly reframed as an intermediary in a market-oriented skills economy (Brown et al., 2020; Barnett, 2010). This shift carries symbolic consequences, influencing how institutional missions are collected, how academic labour is

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empowerment and democratic participation rather than simply to labour market optimisation.

Final Reflections

Debates about micro-credentials are, ultimately, debates about what kind of university is needed in the twenty-first century. Will higher education be reduced to a distributed certification service, or can it continue to function as a space for critical thought, imagination and justice? The answer depends on how institutions, policymakers and academic communities choose to design, govern and contest credentialing systems.

Micro-credentials make visible the politics that have always underpinned education: every form of recognition privileges some knowledges and purposes over others. A critical response does not require rejecting micro-credentials outright, but insisting that they be aligned with the broader civic, ethical and epistemic responsibilities of higher education. Reclaiming the university in a credentialised age means ensuring that, even as formats and technologies change, learning remains more than labour, and credentials serve not only markets but also the wider public good.

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Chapter 5

AN ANALYSIS OF THE COMPREHENSION OUTCOMES IN THE 2024 SECONDARY SCHOOL TURKISH COURSE CURRICULUM FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

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İlkgülgül ATEŞ UZMAN²**

1. INTRODUCTION

Since the late 20th century, with the acceleration of globalization alongside digitalization and the exponential growth of information, the Information Age has taken shape, leading to a fundamental transformation in the competencies expected of individuals. In this context, the set of competencies that go beyond traditional academic knowledge and enable individuals to produce solutions to complex global problems and adapt to change has been defined as 21st century skills (Dede, 2009). Alongside technological developments, the mission of education to prepare individuals for the future is undergoing a significant transformation and continuous redefinition. Technology-driven approaches and solution-oriented paradigms, which constitute some of the most fundamental premises of the information age, continue to reshape the trajectory of human life across all domains, pushing beyond long-established norms and conventional standards. In this context, when one examines even a single decade of global change—whether from one's immediate surroundings or from any part of the world—it is difficult not to experience a sense of astonishment and admiration in the face of the rapid and far-reaching advancements taking place (Yazar, 2019). With advances in technological life, the mission of education to prepare individuals for the future has also changed and been reshaped. Education systems have now made it a global priority to equip students with core competencies such as critical and analytical

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the curriculum's goals, targeting critical thinking and media literacy, in their classroom practices.

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Chapter 6

THE TRANSFORMATION OF EDUCATION: LEARNING AND TEACHING IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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INTRODUCTION

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) revolution possesses a profound capacity to fundamentally transform education systems. The affordances of this technology compel a fundamental rethinking and restructuring of traditional educational models. Existing pedagogical approaches have proven insufficient in addressing cognitive and technological advancements, thereby failing to embody an innovative stance. A growing body of research demonstrates that AI and learning analytics applications can significantly enhance educational quality and exert positive influences on students' learning processes (Ifenthaler & Yau, 2020; Talan & Demirbilek, 2022). Furthermore, the integration of AI into education opens new avenues for the development of personalized learning experiences (Gulson & Webb, 2017; Hardaker & Glenn, 2025), while simultaneously overcoming the inherent limitations of conventional teaching methods (Ray & Ray, 2024).

The Necessity of Transforming Traditional Educational Models

The need for transformation in education extends beyond mere technology integration, encompassing learning strategies and pedagogical approaches as well. Fine-tuning and adaptive learning systems tailor educational materials to students' individual needs, thereby increasing success rates in education (Ansor et al., 2023). However, teachers' lack of knowledge regarding technology use and the inadequacy of educational infrastructure remain among the greatest obstacles in this process (Ansor et al., 2023; Mary & Joyce, 2024). This situation highlights the necessity of supporting teachers' professional development and providing training related to AI (Mary & Joyce, 2024).

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In light of the research findings, the following recommendations are considered essential to support and sustain AI integration in education:

- Developing teachers' AI literacy.
- Strengthening accessible and equitable digital infrastructure.
- Establishing ethics- and security-oriented frameworks.
- Restructuring curricula and assessment approaches.
- Enhancing stakeholder collaboration and policy support.

In conclusion, AI can serve as a lever for building an inclusive and sustainable learning culture, beyond being merely a technological innovation. With the right strategies, resource allocation, and ethical sensitivity, the transformative power of AI in education can contribute to preparing future generations for a more equipped, creative, and equitable world.

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Chapter 7

THE POWER OF LITERATURE IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING: A GENRE-BASED APPROACH IN GERMAN LESSONS

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INTRODUCTION

The main goal of foreign language teaching is to educate conscious individuals who are supported within the framework of learner-centered approaches, who prioritize communicative competence, and who promote the development of intercultural understanding. Foreign language acquisition enables individuals to develop a critical meta-perspective on their own language and culture, while at the same time allowing them to build a unifying bridge between different cultures and societies by preserving their own cultural and linguistic identities (Ersan, 2018). In this context, the extent to which the materials used in foreign language teaching are related to the cultural structure is a critical factor that directly affects the success of conveying the complex link between language and culture to students (Zeyrek, 2020).

When language acquisition and teaching processes are addressed within the authentic cultural context of the target language, they encourage mutual intercultural transmission. Detached from this context, focusing solely on structural grammar rules in language teaching and learning may lead to the neglect of related cultural elements and, consequently, to significant deficiencies in the processes of meaning-making and interpretation. As İşcan (2018) emphasizes, mastering a language is not limited to possessing the necessary “grammatical competence”; it also requires having “communicative competence,” which encompasses knowing which structures and words to use in which social and situational contexts. Therefore, the ultimate aim of foreign language teaching is to develop learners’ intercultural communication and communicative competence (Jašová, 2009). The

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enhancing both linguistic competence and intercultural communication skills. It is recommended that teachers make more frequent use of literary texts as course materials that integrate language skills, text analysis, creativity, and intercultural communication.

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Chapter 8

INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP LINKED TO THE CLASSROOM

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INTRODUCTION

To grasp how the organization functions, Ibreal (2021) asserted that “leadership” has been a focal point for many years, yet its nature remains open for discussion. Leadership is defined as establishing direction, motivating individuals, formulating plans, and achieving the organization’s goals. Within a company, the role of leadership is crucial because leaders not only have a clear vision but also motivate and inspire others to achieve their objectives (Wajdi, 2017). Moreover, leaders have key abilities such as dedication, the capacity to communicate effectively, creativity, self-confidence, strong self-worth, and a commitment to continuous improvement within the organization (Dike, 2015). Effective principals are instrumental in creating a culture of excellence in teaching and learning, aligning with the school’s mission, objectives, and environment, which are key factors in academic success (Azar & Adnan, 2020).

Conversely, past studies have emphasized the critical contribution of leadership in achieving educational goals and objectives. School leaders, including principals and administrators, bear the responsibility and power to influence students’ educational journey and elevate the standard of teaching. In this context, Culduz (2024) recommended that the caliber of educational leadership positively affects teaching and learning activities for learners. The study highlights that school principals have the duty and power to manage both learners and educators and enhance the educational environment toward personal growth and educational accomplishment. It argues that skilled school leaders create supportive

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Implication of the Study

The research underscores that teacher development is an ongoing and continuous practice that needs constant support from school heads. These conclusions have foremost implications for policy-makers and educational managers in encouraging the effective development of proficient instructors. School heads must prioritize instructional management practices that flourish the teaching and learning process and enhance cooperative learning opportunities. School heads must also offer continuing professional development opportunities and develop optimistic teacher-manager relationships to encourage teachers in their professional progress. By doing so, they can stimulate development and a culture of endless learning in their institutions, eventually leading to upgraded learners' learning results.

In the same vein, an ideal learning setting provides students with the opportunities and tools to prosper, while also catering to the unique expectations and objectives of each individual. Instructional management then has to emphasize the cultivation of confidence and trust within the school setting. Instructional leaders may aim to accomplish this purpose through the development of new instructional tactics and the institution of teaching proficiencies in which their outcomes and progress are assessed and evaluated based on how they encourage constructive and positive relationships with both staff and learners.

In conclusion, the findings show that instructional leadership does not solely fall on teachers but rather on all stakeholders in the institutional community. Hence, instructional management has to form resilient interactions with stakeholders in the learning context. It highlights the value of teamwork, trust, respect, and mutual understanding among learners, families, educators, leaders, and community members in developing a thriving teaching and learning atmosphere. By identifying and addressing the expectations and potentials of stakeholders, educational organizations can foster meaningful partnerships that contribute to the holistic development and triumph of all involved parties.

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Chapter 9

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LITERACY A NEW AREA OF ESSENTIAL SKILLS IN 21ST CENTURY EDUCATION

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INTRODUCTION

One of the most fundamental characteristics of the 21st century is the profound transformation wrought by technological advances in every aspect of human life. This transformation has not only been limited to areas such as production, healthcare, and communication; it has also confronted education with new paradigms. In this context, artificial intelligence (AI) is not only an innovation in education systems but also a harbinger of radical change at the pedagogical, epistemological, and ethical levels. In learning environments, not only access to information but also complex processes such as how this information is generated, the algorithms used to process it, how students are guided, and how decisions are made have become central to education. In this context, it has become necessary to reassess the risks and opportunities of artificial intelligence from an educational perspective. The rise of artificial intelligence in education has necessitated the emergence of a new form of competence: competence in the use of artificial intelligence (AI competence) (Apple, 2006).

AI literacy encompasses not only the individual's ability to use AI technologies but also the ability to understand their operation, intervene in decision-making processes, and make ethical assessments. This new form of literacy requires the individual to be an active agent who not only accesses information but also critically questions, interprets, and, if necessary, transforms it. However, today's education systems often present AI literacy solely as a technical competence, neglecting its sociocultural, moral, and pedagogical dimensions (Jayadiputra & Karim, 2020).

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emotional dimensions. Therefore, teacher training policies should ensure that AI tools do not replace teachers, but rather enhance their guidance.

In light of all these findings, some fundamental discussions and recommendations need to be made. First, the purely instrumental use of AI technologies in education systems leads to ethical gaps, social alienation, and the mechanization of learning. In this context, AI competence should be redefined as a process of ethical and cultural construction, in addition to technical aspects. Especially in Muslim countries, this definition should be linked to Quranic epistemology, moral responsibility, and social justice. In curriculum development processes, AI competence should not be limited to computer science courses but should be integrated into a wide range of courses, from science and social sciences to religious education and ethics. Teachers should take an active role in content development, and teaching materials should be adapted to cultural contexts. The principles of transparency, accountability, and respect for individual rights should form the basis of data-driven decision-making processes in AI systems. Algorithms used in education should be open-source, verifiable by diverse social groups, and free from bias.

Students' data privacy, digital dignity, and identity rights must be protected at all costs. Teacher training programs should address AI technologies not only from a technical perspective, but also from ethical, pedagogical, and cultural perspectives. Teachers should be instructed on how to use technology, when not to use it, and in what situations to prioritize human intuition. Finally, the integration of AI technologies into education in the Islamic world should be viewed not only as a development strategy but also as a values project. In this project, AI should be designed to align with human responsibility as caliph, respect justice, prioritize compassion, and aim for social benefit. This vision requires policy redesign not only at the individual but also at the institutional, cultural, and international levels.

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Chapter 10

INVESTIGATING THE ADAPTATION PROCESS OF PRE-SERVICE ENGLISH TEACHERS TO DIFFERENT PRACTICUM CONTEXTS

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INTRODUCTION

The practicum is a central component of teacher education programs, designed to provide pre-service teachers (PSTs) with opportunities to practice teaching in authentic classroom contexts (Funk et al., 1982; Tuli & File, 2009). During this stage, PSTs are socialized into the professional characteristics of teaching through exposure to diverse learning environments (Starkey & Rawlins, 2012). The transition from learning about teaching to teaching itself represents a critical milestone in PST development (Crookes, 2003; White & Forsgaz, 2016). Through the practicum, PSTs learn to apply theoretical knowledge (Flushman et al., 2019) while also developing an understanding of real-life professional practice. This experience offers insight into multiple aspects of teaching under the supervision of experienced associate teachers (Payant & Murphy, 2012). Mentors from both schools and universities provide essential guidance and feedback, supporting PSTs in addressing classroom realities (Clarke et al., 2014). Sustained university–school partnerships further enhance practicum effectiveness (Allen, 2012), ultimately preparing student teachers for the complexities of real classrooms.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESEARCH

Although there is a need for further endeavors in practicum research (Méndez López, 2020; Tuli & File, 2014; Ulum, 2020), there appears to be a research gap

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their practicum. Furthermore, they advocate for developing a revised practicum work plan that incorporates opportunities to engage with diverse school settings or work under multiple mentor teachers' guidance throughout the practicum period. Ulum (2020) states that ELT pre-service teachers demand improvement of teacher training programs encompassing coping strategies and opportunities for constructive feedback practices. The study's findings can contribute to this need. Moreover, mentorship and engagement with experienced educators across various schools could also be enhanced by having better-formulated practicum programs. Providing such training in which pre-service teachers could be trained in how to manage crises, develop emotional strength, and acquire effective teaching strategies could equip the pre-service teachers with the knowledge they would need when handling real-life situations.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Regarding the findings of this study, future research endeavors could explore the following avenues. As the study endorses multiple practicum contexts, more research in this domain can benefit the findings. Moreover, since the research population is limited to six people in this study, studying more participants may add new challenges and perspectives on the subject. Conducting studies longitudinally could provide insights into changes over time and offer deeper insights into how multiple practicum experiences influence PSTs and their teaching effectiveness. Implementing this research design in different contexts, such as other countries or different types of schools, could enrich our understanding of the phenomenon. In an effort to create more effective practicum experiences and shape the development of pre-service teachers for better educational outcomes, addressing these areas for the future constitutes great importance. Through continued research and collaboration, educators can strive to create more responsive and empowering learning plans for pre-service teachers, enriching this pivotal experience of teaching.

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