

# An Investigation into the Use of Gestures in EFL Classrooms

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## Abstract

In recent years, there has been growing interest in gesture which carries a large communication load. It is also found out that gesture is an additional teaching strategy in EFL classrooms. The aim of this paper is to explore the use of gesture and its effect on EFL classrooms. Ten English teachers from different universities were selected as the samples of the research. Data was collected through questionnaire including three parts: (1) the demographic information, (2) the twenty-three item Likert scale and (3) one open-ended question. The data was analysed both quantitatively and qualitatively. The findings revealed that teachers used gestures not only in daily life communication but also in teaching context. It also showed ten effective ways of using gesture in teaching EFL students. It was concluded that gesture plays a vital role in teaching/learning process and the teachers could incorporate gesture in EFL classrooms in order to raise the level of communicative competence of their students.

**Key words:** gestures, use of gestures, EFL (English as a Foreign Language)

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