PARENTS’ REASONS FOR_SENDING THEIR CHILDREN TO BILINGUAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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Abstract

The importance of English has been widely acknowledged all around the world along with the global growth. To prepare young generation (children) with English, bilingual Early Childhood Education (ECE) has become trend in Indonesia society, there are many Indonesian-English bilingual ECE emerging in Indonesia. In this study, 36 parents of bilingual ECE students were given questionnaire investigating about their reasons for sending their children to an Indonesian-English bilingual ECE. This study revealed that parents’ concern are mostly on social and economic reasons, such the demand to be able to speak global language, prestige and pride, parents’ pretension to give future investment for children, and giving supportive language environment for children to socialize. Apart from the parents’ reasons above, the study suggests that in fact parents were not aware about the children’s ability in learning more than one language at the same time and the effect of being bilingual to the children’s cognitive development.

Keywords: bilingual, early education, children, parents, reasons, globalization.