

# Topic interest and goal orientation: An investigation on middle school EFL students in Vietnam

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## Abstract

This paper reports a study investigating the relationship between students' levels of topic interest and their goal orientations in EFL learning. Two scales adopted from the literature related to mastery and performance goal orientations and 42 popular topics used currently in different textbooks were given to 834 9th Grade Vietnamese students for the sampling. As a result of the research, topic interest was identified as being more strongly correlated with mastery goals than with performance goals. Further analyses of the relationships between these two constructs provided insightful understandings for topical textbook design, goal enhancement incentives, and their interactions in ESL learning.

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