

“Recycling” Concept Perceptions of Grade Eighth Students: A Phenomenographic Analysis

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ABSTRACT The aim of this study was to determine eighth grade students’ perceptions of recycling. The phenomenographic research method was used to solicit students’ views about recycling. The study was carried out with 595 eighth grade students in the 2011-2012 academic year in the city of Nigde. Research data were obtained from students via their complete sentences. In the data analysis, six different classifications of recycling were determined. The phenomenographic analyses results have yielded the following distinct definition categories. Results indicated that students considered recycling is protection of the environment, recycling is protection of nature, recycling is protection of natural resources, recycling is valuation of waste, recycling is retransformation of waste, recycling is waste recovery, recycling is transformation of waste for new reuse, recycling is cost savings. These findings were interpreted and discussed in the paper.