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paper text:

3 2 4 Could rapid application development tools be used as icebreakers in programming education? Abstract Today, learning how to program or coding is an important issue even for children. So,
pre-service IT teachers are expected to have gained necessary skills for teaching programming. Considering that learning programming is not an easy process, we need icebreakers in order to change pre- service teachers' perceptions of
programming positively. This study focused on an implementation of a training of rapid application development (RAD). The aim of the study was to come up with an answer to the question; "can RAD be used as an icebreaker in order to change Turkish pre- service IT teachers' perceptions towards programming positively?" The findings revealed that RAD tools can be used as icebreakers in the context of the study. In this respect, it is recommended that these tools be included in the higher education programs providing informatics education. Keywords: rapid application development; programming; teaching; self-efficacy; icebreaker 1. Introduction In the 21th century, countries started to teach even children technology and programming. Rapid changes in computer science and the need for productive people made it necessary to teach children at least fundamentals of programming. Importance of teaching programming in early

years was already mentioned in the literature (Kafai & Burke, 2013). Also, curriculums were updated in many countries considering this issue (Kalelioğlu, Gülbahar, 2014; Kalelioğlu, 2015; Lee, Martin & Apone, 2014; Sáez-López, Román-González & Vázquez-Cano, 2016). Some tools such as Scratch and App Inventor are being used in order to teach how to program and they seem to be successful in terms of learning outcomes (Gouws, Bradshaw & Wentworth, 2013; Goadrich, 2014). For this reason, it must be taken into consideration that we need teachers having sufficient competencies of teaching programming in order to be successful in educating children in this manner. When it comes to Turkey context, Turkish Ministry of Education defined competencies of information technology teachers (IT teachers) two of which are being able to adapt to technologies by knowing the effects of new technologies in the society and designing and using technology-supported learning environments that can meet the different needs of the learners. In schools, IT
teachers are expected to teach fundamentals of programming. At
this point,
pre- service IT teachers are expected to have gained necessary skills for teaching
programming. On the other hand, teaching programming seems to be a controversial issue in the literature because it is not an easy process to cope with and students experience difficulties (Anastasiadou & Karakos, 2011; Baser, 2013; Du Boulay, 1986; Milne & Rowe, 2002; Mow, 2008) and is related to many factors such as self-efficacy (Ramalingam & Wiedenbeck, 1998; Yükselturk & Altıok, 2017), attitude (Baser, 2013) and perception of programming (Zainal, Shahrani, Yatim, Rahman, Rahmat & Latih, 2012) etc. Considering the previous research on teaching programming, it can be argued that students usually have difficulty in learning. Students with low self-efficacy of 32 programming tend to perceive problems that are more difficult than their tasks and therefore 33 cannot solve problems (Aşkar & Davenport, 2009). Negative self-efficacy perceptions result in 34 difficulty and failure.
For this reason, it is important for learners to have positive perceptions
to 35 be successful in learning programming (Altun & Mazman, 2012; Baser, 2013). Experienced 36 difficulties have the potential to become barriers for learning programming (Özoran, Çağıltay & 37 Topallı, 2012). According to the above-mentioned issues, although teaching programming is a 38 complex issue, literature still lacks research findings regarding easy and practical ways of teaching 39 programming or eliminating negative perceptions of programming. At this point, rapid 40 application development tools, which may affect attitudes, self-efficacy and perceptions in a 41 positive manner, come into prominence. 42 Rapid Application Development (RAD) is among the various models that have been developed 43 to make programming or software development processes more efficient (Munassar & 44 Govardhan, 2010). RAD, one of the software development models, was conceptually used for 45 the first time by James Martin in his book. He described RAD as a software development cycle 46 that can develop software faster and better than conventional methods (Martin, 1991). RAD is a 47 method that makes the analysis, design, building and testing phases efficient with short and 48 repetitive development cycles (Hashim & Mohamed, 2013). Advantages of RAD can be listed as; 49 ease of application, superior user satisfaction and moving to the market in a shorter time (Daud, 50 Bakar & Rusli, 2010). 51 Today, there are many RAD tools that can be used to develop quick applications to both business 52 environments and teaching environments. The type of software to be used varies according to 53 the purpose. For example, Oracle APEX, Spring Roo, RAD Studio XE6 and Visual Studio 54 LightSwitch are some of the RAD tools that can be used to develop rapid web applications. 55 Visual Studio LightSwitch makes it easy to create data-centric business applications that can work 56 with many data sources and create clients to work across a variety of tools. Writing, building and 57 developing a simple web application with pages that only create, read and update in a database is 58 a time consuming and expensive process. Leung (2015) states that using LightSwitch enables the 59 programmer to develop applications quickly and easily. 60 When learners have negative experiences during learning algorithms and programming in a 61 traditional way, their attitudes and achievements are affected negatively. On the other hand, 62 motivation and attitudes are critical factors for learners of programming (Anastasiadou & 63 Karakos, 2011;

Erol & Kurt, 2017). Morrison and Newman (2001) stated that prior programming 64 experience is an important issue to be considered because positive experience have positive 65 impact on students' achievement in programming. In addition, attitudes of students towards 66 programming is still a contemporary issue because of its effects on learning programming. For 67 example, Cetin and Ozden (2015) developed a computer programming attitude scale for 68 university students. Also, the authors recommended further research on this topic. According to 69 Gençtürk and Korucu (2017), Turkish pre-service IT teachers from Computer Education and 70 Instructional Technologies (CEIT) undergraduate program do not have adequate experience and 71 knowledge regarding programming. Their study aimed to investigate the effects of utilizing web 72 2.0 technologies on the success and attitudes of CEIT students towards programming. Findings 73 of this study revealed that this intervention made positive effects on success and attitudes. In 74 another study on Turkish pre-service IT teachers conducted by Yükseltürk and Altıok (2017), the 75 Scratch tool was utilized in order to eliminate negative attitudes of pre-service IT teachers 76
towards programming and their self-efficacy levels. The
implementation was presented to be 77 successful in this manner. There are many other research dealing with difficulties or challenges 78 in leaning programming (Shaw, 2013; Lau & Yuen, 2011; Yurdugül & Aşkar, 2013; Jegede, 2009; 79 Aşkar & Davenport, 2009). 80 As mentioned above, there is a robust literature on difficulties or challenges of teaching programming and many factors like self-efficacy, perception or attitude closely related to this issue. However, there is little amount of research regarding utilizing RAD tools in programming 83 education in this manner although RAD has the potential to be successful in developing software 84 applications in terms of many aspects, as mentioned above. Some examples can be given 85 regarding the use of RAD in educational settings: 86 Instructional designers started to use RAD for developing instructional materials. RAD contains 87 development processes that enable a primitive prototype to be transformed into a fully developed 88 product (Lohr, Javeri, Mahoney, Gall, Li & Strongin, 2003). Lohr et al., (2003) focused on the 89 effects of utilizing RAD processes on usability of instructional materials developed by pre-service 90 teachers. Findings of the study presented positive effects. Furthermore, they recommend further 91 research regarding the use of RAD tools in educational settings. 92 Lee (2011), through a visual programming software called Etoys, has made a study to ensure that 93 teachers can develop application software to serve teaching purposes. According to the findings, 94 attitudes of the teachers towards the implementation were found to be positive. In addition, 95 participants indicated that they would like to continue to use the application. Huaqing and Li 96 (2011) have developed a system called "Rapid Software Development Platform" to make the 97 programming process more regular and faster, and have found that the platform they developed 98 as a result of their work is more effective than the normal software development process. Daud 99 et al. (2010) developed a system using the RAD method, in which students can upload their work 100 and receive feedback from the teacher. This system could be rearranged according to the 101 feedback from teachers and students. 102 In brief, RAD can be utilized in order to cope with negativity regarding student perception, self- 103 efficacy or attitude towards programming. This research focuses on pre-service IT teachers' 104 perceptions of programming. This is accepted as an important issue, because today's pre-service 105 IT teachers will be teaching programming or coding to students of 21th century in the near future. 106 For this reason, we must search for strategies to ensure that these teachers have positive attitudes 107 and perceptions of programming so that they will be successful in teaching programming. The 108 study investigates pre-service IT teachers' self-efficacy levels of educational software 109 development and programming and then implements a RAD training on LightSwitch tool in 110 order to examine its effects. 111 112 2. Purpose 113 The study intends to come up with an answer to the question; can RAD be used as an icebreaker 114 in order to change Turkish pre-service IT teachers' perceptions towards programming positively? 115 For this main problem, the research investigated; 116 ?
pre-service IT teachers' self-efficacy levels of
educational software development, 117 ?

pre-service IT teachers' self-efficacy levels of programming, 118 ? pre-service IT teachers' knowledge levels of programming, 119 ? the change in the perceptions of pre-service IT teachers towards programming after 120 completing a LightSwitch RAD training, 121 ? views and opinions of pre-service IT teachers regarding RAD tools. 122 123 3. Method 124 This research was carried out with mixed method design in which qualitative and quantitative 125 methods were used together. This method provides the deeper investigation of the research 126 problem (Cresswell, 2008). Cresswell (2008) approached mixed design in four categories namely 127 embedded, explanatory, exploratory and parallel. This research was implemented on pre-service 128 IT teachers in three stages in 2015-2016 academic year, spring semester. Each stage was actualized 129 with different data sets and analysis methods within itself. The qualitative and quantitative data 130 collection tools were applied in different times in each stage during the implementation process. After the quantitative data were collected and analyzed, the qualitative data was analyzed. For this reason, the study was conducted as an "explanatory mixed method" research. Detailed information regarding the stages of the research are presented under implementation title: 3.1. Implementation The three stages of the research which was implemented in 2015-2016 academic year, spring semester are presented in Figure 1: 139 140 Stage I • Data were collected from various universities' junior and senior pre-service IT teachers via "Self-Efficacy Scale for Educational Software Development" (Aşkar & Dönmez,2004) to present the current situation. 141 142 143 • According to the current situation, in order to analyze the gap in programming skills in a detailed way, data were collected from Gazi University senior pre- service IT teachers using "Computer Programming Self-Efficacy Scale" (Altun & Mazman, 2012). • A knowledge test which is parallel with the self-efficacy scale was also Stage II conducted in order to identify knowledge of pre-service IT teachers. 144 145 Stage III • Software development training was given to some of the pre-service IT teachers who participated in Stage II. • After the training, LightSwitch applications developed by the participants were evaluated by two subject matter experts using a rubric. • Qualitative data were collected from the pre-service IT teachers via a structured form after RAD training and the data were analyzed. 147 148 146 Figure 1. Implementation stages of the research Figure 1 represents the three stages of the implementation process. The aim of Stage I was to investigate the current status in terms of pre-service IT teachers' perceived educational software development self-efficacy levels. Stage II intended to identify the level of pre-service IT teachers' perceived computer programming self-efficacy. According to the current situation, in order to analyze the gap in programming skills in a detailed way, data were collected from Gazi University senior pre-service IT teachers using "Computer Programming Self-Efficacy Scale" (Altun & Mazman, 2012). Furthermore, a knowledge test which is parallel with the self-efficacy scale was also conducted in order to identify the knowledge of pre-service IT teachers. These two stages helped the researcher point out the gap regarding these issues. This was quite important, because the above mentioned problem statement of the research focused on utilizing RAD as an icebreaker in this manner, if there is really a need for changing pre-service IT teachers' perceptions towards programming positively. Finally, Stage III included the RAD training and analysis of the data derived from the participants of the training in order to clarify the results of the training implementation. After the training, LightSwitch applications developed by the participants were evaluated by two subject matter experts using a rubric. 3.2. Participants Participants of the study are presented according to the stages because the study was conducted in three stages. 3.2.1. Participants of Stage I The university and grade levels of junior and senior pre-service IT teachers who participated in Self-Efficacy Scale for Educational Software Development in the first stage of the implementation are given in Table 1. Table 1. The descriptive statistics of participants of self-efficacy scale for educational software development

Grade University Junior Senior Total N % N % N % Abant İzzet Baysal University 6 3.06 1 0.51 7 3.57 Ahi Evran University 39 19.90 29 14.80 68 34.69 Anadolu University 1 0.51 1 0.51 2 1.02 Gazi University 23 11.73 37 18.88 60 30.61 Hacettepe University 1 0.51 0 0.00 1 0.51 Kırıkkale University 15 7.65 0 0.00 15 7.65 Necmettin Erbakan University 22 11.22 13 6.63 35 17.86 Uludağ University 1 0.51 7 3.57 8 4.08 Total 108 55.10 88 44.90 196 100 When the table is examined, it can be seen that the highest rate of participants are from Ahi Evran University (34.69%) followed by Gazi University (30.61%) and Necmettin Erbakan University (17.86%). The least participation rate is from Hacettepe University (0.51%). The scale was conducted on a total number of 196 pre-service IT teachers from 8 universities.

3.2.2. Participants of Stage II In the second stage of the implementation senior pre-service IT teachers from Gazi University participated in the research and the data were collected via the Computer Programming Self-Efficacy Scale and the Programming Knowledge Test. Demographic information about the participants is presented in Table 2: 197 198 Table 2. Descriptive statistics of participants of Computer Programming Self-Efficacy Scale 199 and the Programming Knowledge Test Gender N % Female 16 45.70 Male 19 54.30 Total 35 100 As seen from Table 2, the number of male participants (19) are higher than female participants (16). 3.2.3. Participants of Stage III Gazi University senior pre-service IT teachers attending both the first and the second stage of the implementation were given an application development training using RAD tools. In addition, after the RAD training, qualitative data via structured forms were collected from the participants. Demographic information about the participants of the third stage is given in Table 3: Table 3. Descriptive statistics of RAD training participants Gender N % Female 11 57.89 Male 8 42.11 Total 19 100 Participants of the RAD training that can be seen in Table 3 are 57.89% female and 42.11% male with a total of 19 participants.

3.3. Data Collection Tools Data collection tools of the study are presented in sub-titles because the study was conducted in three stages. 3.3.1. Stage I The data collection tool used in the first stage was Self-Efficacy Scale for Educational Software Development which was developed by Aşkar and Dönmez (2004).

In order for determining the scale items, the researchers analyzed the different Educational Software Development processes and made some interviews within some institutions in which software were developed. At the end of this analysis, 6 dimensions were determined to be taken into account in developing an education software (project management, instructional design, graphic design, animation design, programming and sound-video design) and items about them were written. The prepared 22 items were applied to junior students and after the analyses; no change was made in the items. Students responded to the situations in the items ranging from “strongly trust” to “strongly distrust” according to 100 point numerical rating scale. The final form of the scale were administered to 283 junior and senior students. For determining the validity of the scale, principal components factor analysis with varimax rotation was used. According to the analysis results, four factors were determined as; “project management and instructional design”, “animation and sound-video design”, “graphics design” and “Programming”. The reliability coefficient of the scale was calculated with Cronbach Alpha and was found as .92. 3.3.2. Stage II 240 The data collection tool used in the second stage, Computer Programming Self-Efficacy Scale, was 241 developed by Ramalingam and Wiedenbeck in 1998 in order to evaluate the perceived self- 242 efficacy of university students in computer programming. The scale was adapted into Turkish by 243 Altun and Mazman in 2012. The original scale

by Ramalingam and Wiedenbeck was composed 244 of 32 items prepared in 7 Likert type. According to the exploratory factor analysis, the scale was 245 composed of four items; “independence and persistence”, “ability to perform simple 246 programming tasks”, “ability to perform complex programming tasks” and finally “self- 247 regulation” (Mazman and Altun, 2013; Altun and Mazman, 2012). However, in the adapted 248 version of the scale into Turkish by Altun and Mazman, the scale consisted of 9 items with 2 249 factors which are; “ability to perform simple programming tasks” and “ability to perform 250 complex programming tasks” in 7 Likert type. Simple programming tasks factor consisted of 3 251 items (such as basic level mean computing, message writing on the screen) whereas complex 252 programming tasks factor consisted of 6 items (such as error debugging, working on multiple 253 files, rewriting an algorithm). Cronbach alpha coefficient of the scale was found as .928. 254 In addition to programming self-efficacy, the knowledge test which is parallel with the self- 255 efficacy scale was also conducted in order to identify programming knowledge of pre-service IT 256 teachers. This knowledge test included 6 questions. The knowledge test was developed by the 257 researcher and revised in the light of subject matter experts’ views. 3 questions of the knowledge 258 test were related to ability to perform simple programming tasks. For example; “Write the codes 259 of the program that gives the average of the 3 numbers entered from the keyboard”. Other 3 260 questions were related to ability to perform complex programming tasks. For example; “You are 261 expected to write the program of the lift system of a building with 10 floors. The working 262 principle of elevators is as follows: 2 lifts can be called for each floor with a single control center. 263 The most basic principle is to ensure that the closest elevator comes to the requested floor. If the 264 elevators have equal distances, the direction of movement of the person is considered.” 265 266 3.3.3. Stage III 267 After the training, LightSwitch applications developed by the participants were evaluated by two 268 subject matter experts using a rubric. This rubric was developed by the researcher in the light of 269 subject matter experts’ views. The evaluation was carried out with two experts and the average 270 score of the experts was taken. 271 In this stage of the research qualitative data collection tool developed by the researcher and 272 confirmed by the experts were used. Pre-service IT teachers' views were gathered with a 273 structured form in which there were a total of 10 questions consisting of 8 multiple-choice and 274 2 open-ended questions. 275 276 3.4. Data Analysis 277 The quantitative data were analyzed with IBM SPSS 21.0 and Microsoft Excel 2016 programs. 278 Whether the mean scores of dependent groups are significant or not was tested in 0.05 279 significance level and .95 probability confidence interval was obtained. Independent sample t test 280 was used for analyzing the scores the pre-service teachers got from Self-Efficacy Scale for 281 Educational Software Development in terms of grade level. Scores pre-service teachers taken 282 from the Computer Programming Self-Efficacy Scale were analyzed using descriptive statistics. 283 After the evaluation for the programming knowledge test, the analysis was done using the 284 descriptive analysis. The scores obtained after the product evaluation were again analyzed using 285 descriptive analyzes. The qualitative data was investigated using content analysis method. In order 286 to provide the coder reliability, the codes were analyzed by two experts independently. The 287 determined codes were compared and dissensus situations were discussed. For coder reliability, the reliability formula determined by Miles and Huberman (1994) was used. The situation was tried to be summarized as it is by giving direct quotations from pre-service teachers’ answers (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2006). Instead of using pre-service teachers’ names codes such as P1 and P2 were used in the direct quotations. 4. Findings Findings of the study are presented in sub-titles because the study was conducted in three stages. 4.1. Stage I In order to clearly present the current situation, data from various universities’ junior and senior pre-service IT teachers were collected via Self-Efficacy Scale for Educational Software Development. The collected data were presented in terms of general and sub-factors in Graphic 1: General Factor 4 (Programming) Factor 3 (Graphic Design) Factor 2 (Animation and

Sound-Video Design) Factor 1 (Project Management and Instructional Design) 0.00 10.00 20.00 30.00 40.00 50.00 60.00 70.00 80.00 90.00 General Senior Students Junior Students Graphic 1. The presentation of the scores acquired via self-efficacy scale for educational software development When Graphic 1 is examined, the overall average of all factors for all participants is 74.66, 72.68, 75.37 and 60.68, respectively. The average scale score is 70.85. It is seen from Graphic 1 that Factor 4 (Programming) is considerably lower than the other dimensions. In addition to this, another subject of curiosity is whether there is a meaningful difference between the grade levels. Therefore, t-test results for independent samples are presented in
Table 4: Table 4. T-Test results of the scores of pre-service IT teachers' responses to self-efficacy scale for educational software development in
terms of grade level Factors Measurement N X Sd df t p
Factor 1 (Project Management and Instructional Design) Junior Senior 108 88 72.82 76.91 14.33 13.89 194 2.014 .045 Factor 2 (Animation and Sound-Video Design) Junior Senior 108 88 71.80 73.77 18.57 17.80 194 .752 .453 Factor 3 (Graphic Design) Junior Senior 108 88 73.90 77.16 17.64 18.44 194 1.262 .209 Factor 4 (Programming) Junior Senior 108 88 59.43 62.48 22.80 21.37 194 .956 .340 General Junior Senior 108 88 69.49 72.58 14.79 16.03 194 1.402 .163
When table 4 is examined it is seen that
no difference was seen in all factors except from Factor 1 (Project Management and Instructional Design) and the general scores in terms of grade level. The fact that project management courses are presented in senior grade in CEIT curricula could be the reason for this difference. 4.2. Stage II The current situation that was put forward in the first stage showed that
self-efficacy perceptions of pre-service IT teachers
towards educational software development was low. This finding seems to be compatible with previous research (Gençtürk & Korucu, 2017; Aşkar & Davenport, 2009). In this stage of the research, Computer Programming Self-Efficacy Scale was applied to pre- service teachers. In order to analyze the scores given to the scale is presented as factors and as a total
in Table 5: Table 5. Descriptive statistics of scores of
computer programming self-efficacy scale Factors N Max. X sd Factor 1 (ability to perform simple 35 programming tasks) 21.00 19.31 3.60 Factor 2 (ability to perform complex 35 programming tasks) 42.00 27.40 7.37 Total 35 63.00 46.71 9.47 327 328
When table 5 is examined it is seen that self-efficacy of pre-service IT teachers
Factor 1 (ability 329 to perform simple programming tasks) is quite high (19.31 /21.00) whereas the result is different 330 for Factor 2 (ability to perform complex programming tasks). 331 In order to show the difference clearly, Graphic 2 is presented: Total Factor 2 (ability to perform… Factor 1 (ability to perform simple… 0.00 10.00 20.00 30.00 40.00 50.00 60.00 70.00 Average Max Graphic 2. Descriptive statistics of the scores of computer programming self-efficacy scale It is clearly seen when Graphic 2 is examined that computer-programming self-efficacy of pre-service IT teachers in performing complex programming tasks is low (27.40 out of 42). Findings related to pre-service IT teachers programming knowledge test
are presented in Table 6: Table 6. Descriptive statistics of scores
of computer programming knowledge test Factors N X sd Factor 1
(ability to perform simple 35 programming tasks)
94.43 7.65 Factor 2
(ability to perform complex 35 programming tasks)
37.71 19.19 Total 35 66.07 13.06 340 341 Table 6 shows that factor 1
(ability to perform simple programming tasks) is similar to computer 342 programming
self-efficacy scale. Pre-service IT teachers seem to be successful at this factor (X = 94.43) However, the success rate for factor 2 (ability to perform complex programming tasks) was found to be very low (X = 37.71). 4.3. Stage III Findings for this stage were reached by analyzing the data derived from the participants of the LightSwitch training. The applications they developed using LightSwitch were evaluated via the rubric and
the findings are presented in Table 7: Table 7. Descriptive statistics of scores derived by the

rubric Measurement N X sd Score 19 88.82 7.70 Table 7 shows that pre-service IT teachers have achieved a very high success (X=88.82). All of the pre-service IT teachers completed a product successfully. It has been observed that 12 participants almost completed this process without any mistakes. Pre-Service teacher views on the question "(please) indicate your level of satisfaction in LightSwitch training" are given below. Percentages and frequencies of pre-service IT teachers' views on the satisfaction levels about the training they attended were consulted are presented in Table 8. Table 8. Satisfaction levels of pre-service IT teachers about the training they attended f % Not satisfied at all
0 0 Dissatisfied 0 0 Neutral 0 0 Satisfied 3 15.8 Very satisfied
16 84.2 Total 19 100 When the table about the satisfaction levels
of the pre-service IT teachers are examined, it is seen that the
satisfaction levels are at a high level as 16 of them stated that they were "very satisfied" and 3 stated that they were "satisfied". Pre-service IT teachers' views on the question "Do you believe that you can now develop faster and more effective training software when compared to your previous situation without attending the training?": Previous research focusing on interventions using various tools for changing views or attitudes of learners also indicate that well-designed trainings seem to be successful in this manner (Gençtürk & Korucu, 2017; Yükseltürk & Altıok, 2017). Percentages and frequencies of pre-service IT teachers' views on the question whether they believe that they can now develop faster and more effective training software when compared to their previous situation without attending the training are presented in Table 9. Table 9. Whether the pre-service IT teachers believe if they can now develop faster and 382 more effective training software after attending the program f % Definitely no 0 0 No 0 0 Neutral 0 0 Yes 5 26.3 Definitely yes 14 73.7 Total 19 100 When the table about the beliefs of pre-service teachers whether they can now develop faster and more effective software after attending the training program shows that their belief in themselves towards developing faster and more effective software using this program is high, as 14 of them stated "definitely yes" and 5 stated "yes". Pre-Service teacher views on the question "learning LightSwitch is …": Percentages and frequencies of pre-service IT teachers' answers to the question "learning LightSwitch is …" is presented in Table 10. Table 10. Answers to the question "learning LightSwitch is …" f % Very easy 5 26.3 Easy 9 47.4 Neutral 2 10.5 Difficult 2 10.5 Very difficult
1 5.3 Total 19 100 It is seen from the table that
pre-service IT teachers' responses to the question "Learning LightSwitch…" are as follows: 5 of them stated "very easy", 9 reported "easy", 2 were neutral, 2 stated as "difficult" and 1 pre-service teacher reported as "very difficult". This shows that a majority
of the pre-service teachers did not have any difficulty in
learning this program, on the contrary, they could better be adapted and learnt compared to other programming skills. Pre-Service teacher views on the question "what have you gained with this training?" Values the pre-service teachers stated to the question what this training attained them are given in Table 11. Table 11. Themes and codes about what the pre-service teachers have gained with this training Theme Cognitive Affective Code f Provided me in developing software fast I designed what I did in past as fragmentary now as a whole 6 5 It provided too much complex application development with less code 7 knowledge Lead up the development of new and different software development 2 I saw that we had a broader perspective I developed software without being stressed and afraid but pleasingly Increased my confidence to do programming I was motivated when I saw the products 3 5 7 2 404 405 As can be seen from the table, when qualitative data obtained from the research is grouped 406 according to the similar qualities, two themes namely cognitive and affective have arisen. These 407 are: 408 1. Views in cognitive level 409 Pre-service IT teachers taking the course emphasized in terms of cognitive level that; 410 provided in developing software fast, helped them to design as a whole what they did 411 fragmentary in the past, provided too much complex application development with less code 412 knowledge and lead up the development of new and different software development. 413 a. In terms of the code: "Provided me in developing software fast (n=6)" pre-service 414 teachers stated views defining the role of LightSwitch software as providing them 415 with fast, in a shorter time

and as a whole contribution. For example a pre-service 416 teacher stated as: 417 P1: "…Provided me to construct a system fast and easily…" whereas another pre- 418 service teacher evaluated it as: 419 P9: "I realized that I could develop a software in a very short time and a little 420 effort…" 421 b. In terms of the code: "I designed what I did in past as fragmentary now as a whole 422 (n=5)" pre-service teachers stated views that LightSwitch provided them with a 423 vision on how to develop a system at all points. For instance a pre-service teacher 424 stated his view as: 425 P3: "…I did as a project what I did in past as fragmentary." Whereas another pre- 426 service teacher explained his views as: 427 P19: "Lead up the development of a project with all its aspects". 428 c. In terms of the code: "It provided too much complex application development with 429 less code knowledge (n=7)" pre-service teachers reported that with LightSwitch 430 program, it is possible to make advanced implementations with basic coding 431 knowledge. 432 P12 stated his views as: "… I liked that I could develop a software without coding 433 knowledge" whereas another pre-service teacher stated: 434 P18: "…I learnt that I could also develop a software by writing fewer codes." 435 d. In terms of the code: "Lead up the development of new and different software 436 development (n=2)" pre-service teachers stated their views on what could be done 437 in the future with LightSwitch program. For instance a pre-service teacher reported 438 his views as: 439 P6: "…developing rapid software directed me to develop more software…" 440 2. Views in Affective Level 441 a. In terms of the code: "I saw that we had a broader perspective (n=3)" pre-service 442 teachers reported the effect of LightSwitch program in attaining different points of 443 view. For example; a view of a pre-service teacher was: 444 P18: "… I saw that I could develop a software without writing codes, which opened 445 up my horizon…" whereas another view was: 446 P17: "… I learnt by living what could be done with lesser code knowledge." 447 b. In terms of the code: "I developed software without being stressed and afraid but 448 pleasingly (n=5)" pre-service teachers stated that with LightSwitch program they 449 could develop a software without any fear but fondly and willingfully. For example a 450 pre-service teacher explained her views as: 451 P2: "It made us learn software development without being stressed" and another pre- 452 service teacher stated his views as: P11: "I liked to be able to develop a software without coding knowledge". c. In terms of the code: "Increased my confidence to do programming (n=7)"
pre- service teachers reported that with LightSwitch they felt the feeling of
doing something more self-confidently. Views on this respect are as follows: P14: "I saw that a software could be developed in a very short time and less effort. Therefore my self-confidence in my field increased." P19: "First of everything, this program provided us to rely on ourselves." d. In terms of the code: "I was motivated when I saw the products (n=2)" pre-service teachers told that with the products that came out of LightSwitch they were motivated to develop much software. A view of a pre-service teacher is as follows: P19: "… that we have learnt it in a very short time and a very nice concrete product came out motivated us…" Pre-Service teacher views on the question "Do you think that all CEIT graduates should have the knowledge of a rapid software development?" The responses of the pre-service teachers whose views were consulted to this question is presented in Table 12: Table 12. Pre-service IT teachers' views on whether all CEIT graduates should have the knowledge of rapid software development f % Definitely no 0 0 No 0 0 Neutral 0 0 Yes 1 5.3 Definitely yes 18 94.7 Total 19 100 When the table
is examined it is seen that 18 pre-service teachers
replied as "definitely yes" and 1 pre-service teacher responded with "yes". This shows that pre-service teachers stated a predominant opinion for a CEIT grade to have at least one rapid software development. Pre-Service teacher views on the question "Do you think there should be course/s on rapid software development?" The responses
of the pre-service teachers to the question
whether there should be course/s on rapid software development is presented in Table 13: Table 13.
Views of pre-service IT teachers on whether there should be course/

s on rapid software development f % Yes 18 94.7 Neutral 0 0 No 1 5.3 Total 19 100 483 484 When the frequencies of the pre-service teachers' responses about whether there should be 485 course/s on rapid software development,
it can be seen that the majority of the pre-service 486 teachers
(18) responded as "yes" so, there should be course/s and only one answered "no". 487 Pre-service teacher views on the question "Did the 4 year training you had in CEIT department 488 make you gain the skill of developing software that could bring a solution to real life problems?" The responses of the pre-service teachers whose views were consulted to the question whether 490 the 4 year program acquired them with skill of developing soft wares that could bring a solution 491 to real life problems are presented in Table 14: 492 493 Table 14. Views of pre-service IT teachers about their CEIT training's effect on providing 494 them with the skill of developing software that could bring a solution to real life 495 problems f % Definitely no 0 0 No 2 10.6 Neutral 6 31.8 Yes 8 41.7 Definitely yes 3 15.9 Total 19 100 When the table is examined, 3 pre-service teachers responded as "definitely yes"; 8 as "yes", 6 of them answered as "neutral" and 2 pre-service teachers responded as "no". So, some of the pre- service teachers stated positive views and some stated negative views whereas some were neutral on the subject. Pre-Service teacher views on the question "How much were you confident in yourself in programming (application development) before attending LightSwitch training? The responses of pre-service teachers about their confidence situations before attending the LightSwitch training is presented in Table 15: Table 15. Views of pre-service IT teachers about their confidence situations before attending the LightSwitch training f % I was not confident at all 0 0 I was not confident 8 41.7 Neutral 7 37.1 I was confident 3 15.9 I was very confident 1 5.3 Total 19 100 When the table is examined, it can be seen that some felt themselves inadequate, some were neutral and a very few felt themselves competent. The frequencies are as follows; 8 pre-service teachers "I was not confident at all", 7 "neutral", 3 of them "I was confident" and 1 "I was very confident". Pre-Service teacher views on the question "How much do you trust yourself in programming (application development) after you had taken LightSwitch training?"
The views of the pre-service teachers on
how much they feel confidence in themselves after taking the LightSwitch training is presented in Table 16. Table 16.
Views of pre-service IT teachers on the effect of
LightSwitch training to their 524 self-confidence f % I am not confident at all 0 0 I am not confident 0 0 Neutral 0 0 I am confident 11 58.3 I am very confident 8 41.7 Total 19 100 When the frequencies of the responses of pre-service teachers to the question "how much they are confident in themselves after attending the LightSwitch training"
is examined; it can be seen that 8 pre-service teachers
responded as "I am very confident" and 11 of them responded as "I am confident" which shows that the whole class feel themselves competent after attending this training. Pre-Service teacher views on the question "Please indicate if you have view, suggestion or criticisms on this topic" The responses of the pre-service teachers about their further view, suggestions and criticisms are given in Table 17: Table 17. Further view, suggestion and criticisms of pre-service teachers Quotations from sample pre-service Code f teacher views A practical program, should be taught 7 when basic programming skills are attained before senior grade P5: "…But I am upset to have taken this training in senior grade. I wish I had learnt in the earlier grades and worked on better things." P12: "Students need to be introduced LightSwitch after attaining a certain programming basis." Should be taught as a compulsory 4 P14: "This training should be a course compulsory course in CEIT. After all, A practical and functional program 4 intended for application development I no more have programming fear 2 thanks to this application. Future projects should be emphasized 2 I do not think that this program will 1 attract much interest in the future It made me upset to take this course in 2 senior grade While I had no interest in programming 2 this program increased my desire to develop applications there are many areas of interest in software…" P17: "…It is a software development everybody should learn…" P13: "The LightSwitch application is very functional. I should have definitely been taught earlier" P1: "…I

believe that is quite a practical program" P16: "…I wish this training was given earlier, in the freshman year or the second year. Then I could have defeated my fears about my department. At least not only coding would come into my mind when I heard about programming" P10: "…they should realize that via these kinds of programs students gain self- confidence as they themselves can produce something" P18: "…Going on this topic, more time should be allocated to the students and projects on needs should be made" According to Table 17, pre-service IT teachers see RAD tool, as an opportunity and expects it to become more popular in the coming years. In addition to these, with LightSwitch application development, they were not stressed, they were increasing their programming skills and they were enjoying the pleasure of developing products. To sum up the findings; in the first stage of the research, the current situation of pre-service teachers were determined via
Self Efficacy Scale for Educational Software Development. Programming was
lower than other dimensions and no meaningful difference was found between the grade levels except for "Project Management and Instructional Design" dimension. The reason is thought to be the structure of the CEIT curricula in which project management courses are given in senior grade. In the second stage
of the research, Computer Programming Self-Efficacy Scale was
applied and it was seen that
computer programming self-efficacy of pre-service teachers in
performing complex programming tasks were low. Finally, after the scale implementations, views of pre-service teachers were examined. The
satisfaction
levels of pre-service IT teachers about the
training program were at a high level; moreover, they believed that with the help of this training they attended, they could now develop faster and more effective training software. Majority of pre-service teachers stated that they did not have any difficulty in the
training program they attended.
The views of pre-service IT teachers about the
contribution of this program to themselves were grouped into cognitive and affective levels. Nearly all pre-service IT teachers believe that all CEIT graduates should have a knowledge of rapid application development as well as take course or courses on these applications.
Some of the pre-service teachers believe that the
4-year training program in their departments made them gain the skill of developing software that could bring solutions to real life problems whereas some stay neutral and a few do not believe in this situation. Some of the pre-service teachers felt themselves inadequate, some neutral and a very few competent before attending the training program. Whereas after attending the course all pre-service teachers felt themselves confident in programming. Pre-service IT teachers also emphasized that the program was a practical one that should be made a compulsory course in the CEIT curricula as well as being a program which erased their fears about both the department and the field. They also added that this course should have been given in the earlier grades to help them gain the self-confidence and make better studies. 5. Discussion, conclusion and recommendation The number of undergraduate programs in higher education in the field of ICT has been increasing. However, it can be said that the need for qualified staff is not met in our country and also in the world. It is seen that both public institutions and private sector organizations have serious job advertisements but it is seen and known that educated people who meet this demand are not qualified to meet these needs even though they have graduated from related programs. On the other hand, many countries are in trainings and engagements such as robotics, coding and algorithms for children. The need for teachers with pedagogical knowledge to provide these trainings is also increasing day by day. In this research, it is seen that programming
self-efficacy levels of pre-service IT teachers from Computer Education
and Instructional Technologies Department, are too low when compared with other domain specific competencies. Problems and difficulties experienced in programming education are given

in literature (Robins, Rountree & Rountree, 2003; Tan, Ting & Ling, 2009). This study investigated if RAD training can be used as an icebreaker in order to change Turkish pre-service IT teachers' perceptions towards programming positively. According to analysis results of the data derived from the pre-service IT teachers, the hypothesis is actually confirmed on this study group. When it comes to features of RAD tools, it is obvious that we got maximum efficiency with minimum syntax. Thus, the software developer (pre-service teacher) using the RAD tool feels more comfortable and secure because s/he does not face syntax, remembering and miswriting, etc. very often. A sample expression of one of the participant is "I wish this training was given earlier, in the freshman year or the second year. Then I could have defeated my fears about my department. At least not only coding would come into my mind when I heard about programming". Considering the reflections of the pre-service teachers completing the RAD training, they were satisfied and happy for developing a complete product without difficulty and stress. In this study, Microsoft LightSwitch was used as a RAD tool. Microsoft has included PowerApps this year as a second product to its product family. Microsoft is rallying these tools with the awareness that the business world has to move very fast and that IT solutions are now a reality for businesses that maintain continuity, uninterruptedness and enterprise. It says no institution should allocate long-term coding time for the software; it must take time to analyze the work and reach the conclusion. But of course, developing software to solve problems, creating algorithms and workflows are not expected to be completely solved with RAD tools. People should be aware of these tools, know where to use them, and most importantly, other software technologies should never be overlooked. One of the features of the LightSwitch tool is that it contains the relational database itself. Thus, pre-service IT teachers had the opportunity to combine and use previous knowledge they gained in previous lessons. They were provided with experience in such issues as the need for relationships, the importance of data types, and the need for constraints. Besides, it was quite motivating for the learners to allow the developed software to work as a desktop application and even on the web by changing a value in the settings. The results showed that RAD tools are icebreakers in the context of the study. In this respect, it is recommended that these tools be included in the higher education programs providing informatics education such as CEIT. The growing need for mobile software has become inevitable in today's world, where people now want to manage everything from their pockets. For this reason, it seems to be beneficial if we are aware of the power of these tools and integrate them by considering how we can benefit both our work and education. We should not give up on the question of what other icebreakers might be. 6. References Anastasiadou, S. D., & Karakos, A. S. (2011). The beliefs of electrical and computer engineering students' regarding computer programming. International Journal of Technology, Knowledge & Society, 7(1), 37-51. Altun, A. & Mazman, S. G. (2012). Developing computer programming self-efficacy scale. Journal of Measurement and Evaluation in Education and Psychology, 3(2), 297–308. Aşkar, P., & Davenport, D. (2009). An investigation of factors related to self-efficacy for Java Programming among engineering students. Turkish Online Journal of Educational Technology, 8(1), 26-32. Baser, M. (2013). Attitude, gender and achievement in computer programming. Middle-East Journal of Scientific Research, 14 (2), 248-255. Cetin, I., & Ozden, M. Y. (2015). Development of computer programming attitude scale for university students. Computer Applications in Engineering Education, 23(5), 667-672. Creswell, J. W. (2008). Educational research. Planning, conducting, and evaluating quantitative and qualitative research. London: Sage Thousand Oaks. Daud, NMN, Bakar, AAA, Rusli, HM. (2010). Implementing Rapid Application Development (RAD) Methodology in Developing Practical Training Application System, International Symposium on Information Technology, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 15-17 June 2010. Du Boulay, B. (1986). Some difficulties of learning to program. Journal of Educational Computing Research, 2(1), 57-73. Erol, O., & Kurt, A. A. (2017). The effects of teaching programming with scratch on pre-service information technology teachers' motivation and achievement. Computers in Human Behavior, 77, 11-18. Gençtürk, A. T., & Korucu, A. T. (2017). The effects of Web 2.0 Technologies usage in programming languages lesson on the academic success, interrogative

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