Abstract
In this research paper the main objective was to analyse the relationship between motivation and academic performance taking into account 160 students of Modern Languages at University of Zulia, in the first term 2005. The data was processed by using the motivational questionnaire based on Mehrabian nL scale, adapted by Salom (1983) for the Venezuelan environment and readapted by the researchers of this paper. The report on the registration number (MACUR) was used to measure the students’ academic performance. This was a descriptive investigation and as a conclusion, the polled students have interest and feel satisfied by studying foreign languages, by relating the level of performance and motivation both variables present high values.

Keywords
Motivation, academic performance, university students.