A Critical Review of English for Tourism Status in Iran’s Universities

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English for Specific Purposes (ESP) is considered as a salient move in English language teaching and learning with utilitarian aims. The importance of this language has been shown in industries such as tourism which is mostly based on interaction and communication. This paper aimed at investigating the English for tourism purposes dimensions and problems of its learning in Iran universities. To carry out the study, some ESP classrooms in 2 universities were observed. In addition, interviews with ESP instructors were conducted to seek their evaluations of the ESP courses and what they feel the students’ English language needs are. The results revealed that despite ESP courses in Iran’s tourism faculties are tried to fulfill students’ and workplaces’ needs, but it requires improvements in some areas as course books, methodology and etc. Also, some implications were suggested for English language teaching syllabus design of tourism courses and for how best to help graduates meet their future workplace requirements.