Iranian EFL Learners’ Attitudes Towards British and American English and Its Effects on Their Listening Comprehension

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Listening comprehension is one of the most important and fundamental skills in language learning; yet it is probably the least stressed skill in the EFL language classroom. So, the greatest difficulty for EFL learners, especially for Iranian EFL learners travelling in English speaking countries, is not primarily that they cannot make themselves understood. Their major difficulty and one that leads to a considerable emotional embarrassment is that they cannot understand what is being said. The present study is intended to investigate Iranian EFL learner’s attitudes towards the two main English variations (British and American English) and its effect on their listening comprehension. In this study sixty Iranian students studying English as a foreign language at Shahreza Azad University were divided into two thirty-member groups. They were classified as Group A (students who preferred American English and Group B (those who preferred British English). The results show that there is a positive relationship between Iranian EFL learners’ attitudes towards British or American English and their listening comprehension abilities and also there is a significant difference between listening comprehension abilities of Iranian EFL learners with British or American English training.