

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF USING ESP COURSES FOR PYP SAUDI FEMALE LEARNERS OF ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

For eight years, most of the English language courses available for preparatory year students at Tabuk University were oriented toward general English purposes. They intended to help students improve their communication skills for daily life. As a result of the continuously filed feedback needs analysis of target learning situation, and the formative and summative evaluations process, teaching English for the PYP at Tabuk University has witnessed a rapid and steady development process. Besides hiring native teachers, English for specific purposes courses are being taught this semester in the PYP English classrooms. This step is hoped to increase students' motivation toward learning English and make their academic performance much better at the present and in the future. The main aim of this study is to investigate the effectiveness of using ESP course for PYP students at Tabuk University from the teachers' perspectives. The instrument of data collection for the study is a 21- item questionnaire concerning ESP course books. The researcher administered the questionnaire to a group of 56 male and female PYP teachers at Tabuk University in Saudi Arabia. This study produced a quantitative type of data. The descriptive statistics of percentages were used to analyze these quantitative data which were basically derived from the questionnaire. The research results revealed that the existing ESP Course syllabus tailored appropriately according to the students' needs in the workplace. Nevertheless, it suggests that ESP courses should be redesigned/ replaced to assimilate the learners' culture and background. The study also strongly recommends teaching ESP for the PYP students at Tabuk University for the next academic years.

Keywords: English for Specific Purposes (ESP) Needs Analysis, Authentic Material.