

Evaluation of Worldview Textbooks: Textbooks Taught at a Military University

By

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Abstract

This paper intends to evaluate the Worldview series textbooks of English learning, which are being taught at an Iranian military university foreign language center. No textbook evaluation had been conducted by the university administration prior to the introduction of the textbooks to the language program. Theorists in the field of ELT textbook design and evaluation such as Richards (2001), Sheldon (1988), Cunningsworth (1995) and Williams (1983) all agree that evaluation checklists have some criteria pertaining to the physical layout, organization and content characteristics. This study makes use of a combined and contextualized evaluation checklist from available textbook evaluation checklists. This paper takes the advantages of the most common criteria among these textbook evaluation checklists. Furthermore, after discussing advantages and disadvantages of using commercial textbooks in teaching and textbook evaluation through checklists, some suggestions for curriculum development will be proposed. The findings of this research can be useful for ESL researchers and teachers in general as well as ELT material developers and textbook evaluators in particular.

Keywords: Textbook evaluation, EFL materials, checklists