

A Corporal Investigation into the Employment of Adverbs in Masters EFL Learners' Academic Essays

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Abstract The current study investigated the employment of different types and variations of adverbs by Iranian MA EFL learners at Islamic Azad University, Rasht branch. It was done through comparing the students' academic writing with two native corpora: one was Longman grammar of spoken and written English (LGSWE) and the other one was Corpus of contemporary of American English (COCA). Adverbs were classified based on LGSWE into seven categories, adverbs of time, adverbs of place, adverbs of manner, adverbs of degree, adverbs of linking, adverbs of stance, and adverbs of additive/restrictive to see to what extent Iranian MA EFL learners use adverbs in writing, which types of adverbs are overused/ underused, how differently genders use adverbs, and to what extent Iranian MA EFL learners' writing is native-like. The results indicated that Iranian MA EFL learners used adverbs in different types variously. Adverbs of time had a greater number and frequencies in all categories. It also showed that Iranian MA EFL learners used some adverbs of different types native like. They tend to overuse adverbs of linking, stance, degree, and manner in essays. On the other hand, they tended to underuse the adverbs of place and time in essays. This study also indicated that female MA EFL learners employed adverbs more than the male ones.

Keywords : English speakers

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