

# **A Comparative Study of the Touchstone Series and the Prospect Series in Terms of Their Lexical Combinations and Cultural Words**

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**Abstract** Textbooks are the most important tool in EFL classrooms. They play a main role in the success of a language program. Nowadays, English as a foreign language is taught in various countries including Iran. Most of the students in Iran feel weak in general English specially lexis in different levels of language proficiency in their classes. The limited knowledge that Iranian public schools suggest to their students, force them to go to the private institutions. So, every textbook that has been chosen for teaching in both situations (public schools and private institutions), is most important because of successful achieving to instructional purposes in different parts of English language specially in lexical content that they teach to students and learners. This research has compared the lexis that is used in the Iranian public high school textbooks (the Prospect series) and a kind of institutional textbook (the Touchstone series) with respect to three elements of lexis (collocations, chunks, & cultural words). Thus, the researcher ed the first three hundred pages of each series that were equal to Prospect 1, 2, and 3 and Touchstone 1 and 2. Then, the researcher counted every elements of lexical combinations (collocations, chunks) and cultural words in these three hundred pages of both kinds of textbooks. Finally, with some Chi-square tests that are a kind of statistical tests and the SPSS software, he could prove that there are significant differences in each lexical elements in these two kinds of textbooks. The results of this research presented some lexical deficiencies in the Prospect series that have been used as a type of textbook series for Iranian high school in comparison with the Touchstone series that have been used in private institutions. As a matter of fact, we need to improve the English textbooks that are produced by the Ministry of Education in Iran in terms of lexical combinations and cultural words.

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**Keywords : Cultural vocabulary**

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