

Investigating Lexical Complexity and Discourse Markers among Iranian EFL Institute Course Books and ESP Books

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Abstract Discourse markers (DMs) which are linguistic elements, indicate different relations and coherence between units of speech. Most research on the development of the discourse markers has focused on conversations rather than written materials. In this study, the development of discourse markers in Iranian EFL institutes course books and ESP books was investigated along with their lexical complexity. For this purpose, EFL institute course books and ESP books were examined. Data were collected by analyzing the reading sections. To count the number of discourse markers and lexical density, the web-based text analyzer software was used. The frequency of discourse markers was analyzed and the rank of lexical complexity was estimated based on the percentage of lexical words to total words in whole texts. The results of the analyses revealed that contrastive and additive markers were the most frequently used ones in reading sections. As far as lexical density was considered, EFL reading sections were less complex than the ones in ESP books.

Keywords : linguistic elements,conversations,coherence

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