

Exploring Real-life EFL Requirements for Globalization towards the Development of an Industry-oriented EOP Curriculum

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ABSTRACT

In orientation to the increasingly globalized labor market, Vietnamese college and university graduates are required to reach an English language competence level as part of Vietnam's National Foreign Languages 2020 Project. State-run colleges and universities have been urged to reform their English curricula, teaching materials, methodologies and assessment practice in order to enable their students to meet the changing workplace demands. This study, inspired from the current necessity, concentrates on identifying what the graduates really need in terms of English as a foreign language (EFL) as required by their enterprises. More specifically, the research explored the areas of English use that the students need training in to function well in the real-life competitive internationalized world. The empirical data were then brought into the development of an authentic industry-driven English for occupational purposes (EOP) curriculum for a vocational college in Vietnam.

The study was undertaken with key stakeholders including 126 employees and employers from 11 corporates in Vietnam. The triangulation of multiple sources of information and various investigated locations gained from document analysis, questionnaire survey and interviews contributed to an awareness among the college administrators, EFL curriculum practitioners and language educators about developing authentic industry-based English curricula responsive to the impacts of widespread globalization and internalization.