

Obstacles of Utilizing English at Language Schools in Turkey

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ABSTRACT English like in many countries around the world became the most popular second language in Turkey. Due to its given importance, English is taught at public and private schools, private language centers and intensively at the language preparatory schools at universities. However, it is well known that language education in Turkey is problematic. Turkish citizens' ability to utilize English is far below than world's average. The purpose of this study is to explore the obstacles of English language learners in language preparatory schools at universities as perceived by English instructors. The study used a qualitative design and semi-structured interviews including ten English instructors at five language preparatory schools. The study revealed four themes regarding students' obstacles when they try to utilize English. Themes included (1) structural differences between the Turkish and English languages, (2) lack of opportunity to use English in daily life, (3) students' and instructors' widespread erroneous "attitude" toward teaching and learning methodologies, and (4) lack of self-confidence.