

TEACHING ENGLISH IN MOROCCAN VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

Mohamed EL Kandoussi

L'Ecole Supérieure de Technologie (ESTM), Meknès

Country: Morocco

elkandoussimo@gmail.com

Over the last decade, the successive governments have unanimously agreed to place the sector of education at the top of their strategic development strategies. Hence, huge sums of money have been allocated to invigorate a sector that has been a target of sharp criticism by numerous national and international reports. The 'National Initiative for Human Development' and the 'Emergency Program' are two major frameworks within which the state and various components of the Moroccan civil society have sought to revitalize a vital domain by involving all academics and decision-makers concerned with education, training, business and industry. While it is much easier to notice the remarkable achievements in terms of expanding the structures, renovating materials and logistics, and even reducing the high shortage in the teaching staff in most higher educational institutes, it remains daunting for officials to address the rather more consequential issues of upgrading human resources, revising syllabi and curricula, enhancing the image of the public school and making it attractive to brilliant learners by offering them valuable skills that are likely to warrant them a smooth integration into the job market. The purpose of this paper, then, is to examine the content of the English language courses in the various departments of Moroccan vocational and technical schools, with '(ESTM) as a case study, to determine whether they map onto the different courses taught in the respective departments to assess their relevance and compatibility. I also argue that most graduates face enormous challenges in their insertion into their labour market due to their inadequate linguistic competence and poor communication and presentational skills. The article ends with a set of guidelines for developing a need-based language syllabus within vocational schools in Morocco.

Keywords: English, Vocational, market, Morocco, guidelines

Biographical Note

Mohamed EL Kandoussi is a Moroccan Assistant Professor of English at Moulay Ismail University in Meknes (UMI), currently working at 'L'Ecole Supérieure de Technologie (ESTM), Meknès. He obtained his doctorate in 2012, from the same university, with a dissertation entitled "The Impact of Arab Satellite Television on the Cultural Values of Moroccan University students: A Cultivation Perspective". With over 20 years of English teaching experience, his interests are in the areas of teaching

pedagogy, curriculum design, and public speaking. In addition to applied linguistics, his other interests include communication, cultural and media studies.