

of developing committee of Prospect series delivered his presentation entitled “The textbook and teachers as agents of change: threats to effective planning and implementation”. Other presenters gave their presentation in three different halls.

The highlight of the conference was the panel discussion held for about an hour around the main issues teachers encountered in the application of Prospect 1 in their classrooms. The panel session was organized with Dr. Ghonsooly, Dr. Ananai Sarab, Dr. Khodabakhshzadeh, Dr. Adel, Dr. Boori, Dr. Akbari, and Dr. Elahi Shirvan. Some important issues such as the implementation of the main principles of communicative language teaching, intercultural communicative competence, the question of global or local identity, the number of hours allocated to teaching English with Prospect series, and the need for supplementary materials for Prospect series were discussed in the panel session.

The conference book of abstract with 35 abstracts on the evaluation of Prospect 1 based on various criteria was published and distributed to all the presenters and participants of the conference. It should be noted that the organizing committee of the conference, following the themes of the conference, has decided to pave the way for the publication of a series of articles on the international perspectives on the evaluation of locally published materials for learning English.

In the closing ceremony of the conference, the chair of the conference extended a thank to the organizing committee of the conference comprising Dr. Robotjazi, Dr. Ghorbani, Dr. khajavi, Dr. Jamshidipour and Mr. Moharrer and also to the scientific committee of the conference comprising Dr. Ansari, Dr. Babai, Dr. Jalilifar, Dr. Kiany, Dr. Khany, Dr. Sadeghi, and Dr. Tajeddin as well as session chairs, presenters, participants, and all the conference sponsors.

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Dr. Elahi Shirvan, Dr. Adel, Dr. Anani Sarab, Dr. Ghonsooly, Dr. Akbari, Dr. Boori, Dr. Khodabakhshzadeh





General Office of Education, was a very promising event. Over 300 participants and 35 presenters attended the one day conference, which brought together university professors, scholars, researchers, university students, Ministry of Education teachers, and the developers of *Prospect Series* from around the country concerned with the evaluation of the *Prospect series*.

The title of the conference was “Prospect”, which was associated with the title of the new high school course books for learning English *Prospect Series*. The conference chair Dr. Majid Elahi Shirvan, assistant professor of Bojnord University and the head of English language department, welcomed all the presenters and the participants of the conference when the conference was officially opened. “Materials development and evaluation has been always intertwined with the major changes and trends in language learning and teaching; therefore, the pivotal role of materials for learning English, and local materials particularly, should not be neglected” said the conference chair. He also appreciated the efforts of the Ministry of Education and the contributions of university professors in publishing the first book of the new series of course books for learning English at Iranian high schools, Prospect 1. Regarding the reason for organizing Prospect Conference, he said “Prospect 1 has been used for about a year and has been the main talk of many Iranian teachers using them in their classes. The media have also covered the evaluation of the book by interviewing high school English language

teachers; however, most of the efforts on the evaluation of the book seemed untheoretical and lacked sound frameworks and criteria for evaluation”.

The aim of the conference was to bring together the researchers, teachers, and university professors to air their voice with regard to the evaluation of Prospect 1 based on academically sound criteria. “It was a great honor to receive more than 100 abstracts regarding the theme of the conference, indicating how significant the topic is for the Iranian academic society” said Dr. Elahi Shirvan. High quality and technical papers were presented, with topics covering the evaluation of Prospect series, particularly Prospect 1, in light of well-grounded rationales and criteria for materials development. Key message of the conference was providing the academic society with a comprehensive insight into the evaluation of Prospect 1 and paving the way for a proper evaluation of the next books of Prospect Series.

After welcoming speeches of Dr. Mohaghar, head of university of Bojnord, and Dr. Langari, head of North Khorasan General Office of Education, the first key note speaker of the conference, Dr. Ghonsooly, Professor of TESOL at Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, and Head of Imam Reza International University gave his presentation on the construction of a flow-driven text in Prospect series. Next, Dr. Mohammad Reza Anani Sarab, assistant professor of TESOL in the department of English Language and Literature at Shahid Beheshti University and one of the members



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& Teachers

Conference Report: The First Regional Conference on New English Language Course Books (Prospect)

Dr. Majid Elahi Shirvan, assistant professor of
Bojnord University and the head of English
language department



Dr. Elahi Shirvan/ Conference Chair

اشاره

اولین همایش منطقه‌ای کتاب‌های باز تألیف زبان انگلیسی تحت عنوان «Prospect» در ۲۴ مهرماه سال ۱۳۹۳ با همکاری گروه زبان انگلیسی دانشکده علوم انسانی دانشگاه بجنورد و سازمان آموزش و پرورش خراسان شمالی در دانشگاه بجنورد برگزار شد. دبیری همایش را دکتر مجید الهی شبروان بر عهده داشت و در طول یک روز برگزاری همایش که در آن ۳۰۰ نفر از دانشجویان، دبیران و اساتید دانشگاه شرکت داشتند، ۳۵ مقاله ارائه گردید. توجه خوانندگان محترم مجله را به مشروح گزارش همایش جلب می‌کنیم.

Held on October 16, 2014 in Bojnord, North Khorasan, the first regional conference on new high school English language course books, Prospect, jointly organized by North Khorasan