



The Assessment Effect on Teaching and Learning in Distance Education EFL

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Abstract

The notion of washback (or backwash) is a common term in language teaching and testing, and tests are considered to be powerful determiners of what goes on in classrooms. The connection between testing, teaching and learning is addressed by a number of terms with “washback” being one of them which refers to the influence of tests on teaching and learning. The aim of this study was to investigate whether Iran’s distance education EFL final examinations have any washback effect on teaching and learning and if so what kind of washback it might be. This study also compared the effect of final examinations and the effect of other factors on teaching methodologies in learning at a distance. After conducting the pilot study, data collection was conducted by using two questionnaires and an observation scheme. Data was analyzed through descriptive and inferential statistics. The results indicated that distance education EFL final examinations had washback effect on teaching and learning and this washback effect was more positive than negative.