

Investigating the Aims of University Departments of English in Iraq

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Abstract

In order to measure the success of the educational process of teaching English language in university departments, the aims of these departments should be achieved. The aims of university departments of English give sights, descriptions and information about what is happening in these departments. This study addressed the following questions: (1) What are the aims of the Colleges of Education for Human Sciences, Colleges of Basic Education, Colleges of Languages and Colleges of Arts in which English is taught? (2) What are the aims of university departments of English in the above colleges in Iraq? (3) To what extent are the aims of the English departments in different colleges consistent with those of their corresponding colleges?

The aims of this study include the following: (1) Listing the aims of university departments of English in Iraq. (2) Listing the aims of the Colleges of Education for Human Sciences, Colleges of Basic Education, Colleges of Languages and Colleges of Arts which teach English. (3) Analyzing the aims of the university departments of English in Iraq to see if they are consistent with the aims of the colleges. In this study, it is hypothesized that: (1) The aims of university departments of English are different in each college. (2) The aims of the English departments in different colleges are not consistent with the aims of corresponding colleges. It concludes that all hypotheses of the study are proved. The study conclude that : (1) The aims of the above colleges differ because they are related to the type of graduates for Colleges of Education for Human Sciences and Colleges of Basic Education which graduate Teachers and university teachers and differ from the aims of other colleges. (2)The aims of the English Department in the Colleges of Education for the Human Sciences differ from the rest of the aims of the English Department in other colleges because it leads to graduate teachers as mentioned in the second point. (3) It is necessary to reformulate the aims of University Departments of English in order to coincide the aims of corresponding colleges in which departments of English are found.

Keywords: The success of the educational process, aims of university departments, consistency of aims, and reformulating

دراسة أهداف الأقسام الجامعية للغة الإنجليزية في العراق

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الملخص

من أجل قياس نجاح العملية التعليمية في تدريس اللغة الإنجليزية في الأقسام الجامعية، يجب تحقيق أهداف هذه الأقسام. تعطي أهداف أقسام اللغة الإنجليزية في الجامعات رؤى ووصفاً ومعلومات حول ما يحدث في هذه الأقسام. تتناول هذه الدراسة الأسئلة التالية: (1) ما هي أهداف كليات التربية للعلوم الإنسانية، كليات التربية الأساسية، كليات اللغات وكليات الآداب التي تُدرس فيها اللغة الإنجليزية؟ (2) ما هي أهداف أقسام اللغة الإنجليزية في الجامعات في الكليات المذكورة في العراق؟ (3) إلى أي مدى تتوافق أهداف أقسام اللغة الإنجليزية في الكليات المختلفة مع أهداف الكليات المعنية؟ تتضمن أهداف هذه الدراسة ما يلي: (1) سرد أهداف أقسام اللغة الإنجليزية في الجامعات في العراق. (2) سرد أهداف كليات التربية للعلوم الإنسانية، كليات التربية الأساسية، كليات اللغات وكليات الآداب التي تدرس اللغة الإنجليزية. (3) تحليل أهداف أقسام اللغة الإنجليزية في الجامعات في العراق لمعرفة ما إذا كانت تتوافق مع أهداف الكليات. في هذه الدراسة، تم افتراض ما يلي: (1) تختلف أهداف أقسام اللغة الإنجليزية في كل كلية. (2) أهداف أقسام اللغة الإنجليزية في الكليات المختلفة لا تتوافق مع أهداف الكليات المعنية. وتلخص الدراسة إلى أن جميع الافتراضات قد تم إثباتها. وتوصلت الدراسة إلى ما يلي: (1) تختلف أهداف الكليات المذكورة أعلاه لأنها مرتبطة بنوع الخريجين، حيث إن كليات التربية للعلوم الإنسانية وكليات التربية الأساسية تخرج المعلمين وأساتذة الجامعات، وهذا يختلف عن أهداف الكليات الأخرى. (2) تختلف أهداف قسم اللغة الإنجليزية في كليات التربية للعلوم الإنسانية عن بقية أهداف قسم اللغة الإنجليزية في الكليات الأخرى لأنها تؤدي إلى تخريج المعلمين كما تم ذكره في النقطة الثانية. (3) من الضروري إعادة صياغة أهداف أقسام اللغة الإنجليزية في الجامعات لتتوافق مع أهداف الكليات المعنية التي توجد فيها أقسام اللغة الإنجليزية.

الكلمات المفتاحية : نجاح العملية التعليمية، أهداف الأقسام الجامعية، توافق الأهداف، وإعادة صياغة الأهداف.

Introduction

The university departments of English are found in four colleges: Colleges of Education for Human Sciences, Colleges of Basic Education, Colleges of Languages and Colleges of Arts. The aims of departments of English represent parts of the aims of its colleges.

This study addressed the following questions:

- 1- What are the aims of the Colleges of Education for Human Sciences, Colleges of Basic Education, Colleges of Languages and Colleges of Arts in which English is taught?
- 2- What are the aims of university departments of English in the above colleges in Iraq?
- 3- To what extent are the aims of the English departments in different colleges consistent of their corresponding colleges?

The aims of this study include the following:

- 1- Listing the aims of university departments of English in Iraq.
- 2- Listing the aims of the Colleges of Education for Human Sciences, Colleges of Basic Education, Colleges of Languages and Colleges of Arts which teach English.
- 3- Analyzing the aims of the university departments of English in Iraq to see if they are consistent with the aims of their colleges.

It hypothesized that:

- 1- The aims of university departments of English are different in each college.
- 2- The aims of the English departments in different colleges are not consistent with the aims of corresponding colleges.

2. Literature Review

2.1 The Departments of English

The Department of English can be defined as an academic department that is responsible for the teaching of the English language and literature ([https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/English department](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/English%20department)). The Departments of English included a wide range of topics, such as the practice of oratory, the study of rhetoric and grammar, the composition of poetry, and the appreciation of literature (primarily written by authors from England, as the study of American literature and language did not come into existence until the twentieth century). The method of reading pre-modern texts, which is known as English philology, emerged as the favored academic paradigm in Germany and a number of other European countries. On the other hand, just after World War I, countries that speak English distanced themselves from philological models. Following the conclusion of this process, a number of English departments redirected their efforts towards the teaching of a variety of writing styles, including creative, professional, and critical writing, as well as the interpretation of literary texts. (Graff. 2007: 225).

Studying English language at university departments of English involves the following:

- 1- The examination of written works, particularly works of fiction such as novels, plays, short tales, and poetry. Although it is possible to study any piece of literature written in the English language, the literature that is most frequently examined comes from the United States of America, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. In addition, any nation or territory that teaches English studies will frequently emphasize the literature that is native to that country or region, whether it be English-language literature (Parker. 1967: 339).
- 2- Composition in English entails not only the examination of the structures that are present in works of literature but also the implementation of these patterns in one's own writing.
- 3- Language arts in English refer to the study of grammar, usage, and style in the English language.

- 4- The area of English sociolinguistics comprises a wide variety of subjects, including the study of the history of the English language, the research of English language learning and teaching, the analysis of written and spoken texts in the English language, and the studying of the English language all over the world.
- 5- A department of linguistics is responsible for teaching English linguistics, which includes topics such as syntax, morphology, phonetics, and phonology, among others (abid: 339- 351).

A wide number of approaches are utilized in the instruction of English studies; however, one thing that is shared by all English studies is the requirement that students interact with a book written in the English language in a critical manner. Within the realm of English studies, however, the selection of texts, the manner in which one interacts with a text, and the methods of teaching a text are all topics that are the subject of hot dispute. This engagement with the text will yield a vast variety of abilities, which can translate into a wide variety of vocations. This is another commonality that brings people together. (Feeney. 2015: 36).

2.2 The Aims of University Departments of English

The aims of each English department are related to the aims of the colleges as a whole, and at the same time some departments of English have their own nature which is reflected in the department. These departments look for teaching their students to be able to read well, to write well, and to think well, and to provide them with appropriate knowledge in the discipline of English language and literature.

The graduated students will have:

- 1- The ability to read with an analytical mindset and analyses literature from a variety of time periods, cultural contexts, and literary genres.
- 2- The capacity to articulate themselves in a manner that is both clear and thorough, both verbally and in writing.
- 3- the ability to conduct research that enables them to broaden their readings of literature and their comprehension of language from various perspectives.

- 4- A sufficient understanding of the specific subjects that are pertinent to the study, such as literature, literary history, criticism, and theory, as well as the language structures of modern English and the history of the English language.
- 5- An improved appreciation for literature and language, as well as an
- 6- increased enjoyment of both (<https://www.mun.ca>).

The aims of departments of English extend to achieve the following aims:

- 1- Enabling students to learn and comprehend the written and spoken form of the English language.
- 2- Teaching students functional English to the learners and to polish their reading skills, writing skills and listening skills.
- 3- Developing students' ability to use English in day to day life and real life situations.
- 4- Teaching students functional English to the students that the students can use and benefit from in their educational career, professional career and everyday life.
- 5- Helping students to understand the written text of the subject that is being taught and make the students able to use skimming scanning skills.
- 6- Enabling English teachers to use different language teaching methodologies to achieve these objectives of English language teaching (Khan: 2024.1).

2.3 The Aims of Teaching English Literature

Literature can be used as a method for teaching both language areas (i.e. pronunciation grammar and vocabulary) and language basics (i.e. listening, speaking, reading and writing) is very common. Furthermore, many language instructors assign their students to translate literary works like drama, poetry, and short stories into their mother tongues during translation classes. Despite being mostly linked with reading and writing, the study of literature in a language class can be very beneficial for teaching speaking and listening. A piece of literature may be the subject of oral reading, dramatization, improvisation, role-playing, pantomiming, reenactment, discussion, and group activities (Hşmanoğlu, 2005) .

Literature plays a crucial role in language learning by fostering personal involvement and immersion. Matching the choice of literary texts to students' requirements, expectations, interests, and language proficiency is essential for overcoming identity issues and becoming more outgoing (Collie and Slater 1990). That is why, the focus within pedagogical stylistics is on both literature and language elements in the class.

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Studying literature helps students to achieve the following aims:

1. Literature can be used in teaching English language in EFL classrooms.
2. Using fiction stories to teach / learn daily conversations.
3. Reading prose, such as novels and short stories can improve EFL students' written skills.
4. Poetry helps in the learning of various figures of speech in literary texts.
5. Literature helps students build their intellectual capacity for the interpretation and analysis of literary pieces including their ability to make conclusions that can be applied to other language-related activities.

6. literature can be used in language learning to increase students' language awareness.
7. Literature can help to teach vocabulary and grammar.
8. Using literature in the classroom improves learning and may be considered an effective motivator in FL education contexts.
9. Students can make sense of literary works by merging language and literature. Literature and language can help students correctly to comprehend a literary text.
10. Literature can be used for creating a lifelong interest in reading (Betti and Alyasiri. 2023: 470-471).

3. Methodology

The data of the present study involves statements of the aims of Colleges of Education for Human Sciences, Colleges of Basic Education, Colleges of Languages, and Colleges of Arts. This is done through surveying the literature available in university departments of English in Iraq by adopting the content analysis as a tool for investigation. Content analysis can be defined as a research technique for making replicable and valid inferences from data to their context (Krippendorff. 1989. 403). Content analysis can be seen as a method in which the content of the message forms the basis for drawing inferences and conclusions about the content Further, content analysis is located in the interface of observation and document analysis. It is a method of observation in the sense that instead of asking people to respond to questions, it takes the communications that people have produced and asks questions of communications (Nachmias and Nachmias, 1976, 132).

4. Data Analysis

The data of this study consist of the aims of university departments of English in Iraq, and the aims of the corresponding colleges of those university departments.

4.1 The Aims of Departments of English in Colleges of Education for Human Sciences

4.1.1 The Aims of the Departments of English

The aims of departments of English in Colleges of Education involve the following:

- 1- Preparing a generation of middle and preparatory teachers who have the ability to teach English language vocabulary in these educational sessions.
- 2- Preparing a graduate who uses the English language and is proficient in the four skills: A- Understanding and comprehension. B- Speaking. C- Reading. D- Writing.
- 3- Enabling students to rely on themselves in what they read and hear in the English language outside the boundaries of the previous study.
- 4- Creating a balanced student personality behaviorally and emotionally.
- 5- Developing students' literary taste and aesthetic sense through teaching English vocabulary.
- 6- Using technologies to achieve integration between other methodological aspects and introducing them as an essential part of the department's education programs (<https://cehs.uobasrah.edu.iq/the-vision-mission-and-objectives-of-theenglish-department>).

4.1. 2 Aims of Colleges of Education for Human Sciences

The aims of Colleges of Education for Human Sciences involve of the following:

- 1- Preparing a highly competent teacher through high-quality scientific programs and activities to create a generation committed to the ethics and values of the profession.
- 2- Contributing to community service and enhancing continuous interaction between the college and scientific and social institutions to achieve (community partnership) and implement the slogan (the university in community service).
- 3- Effective contribution to formulating education policies in Iraq and implementing its programs and plans.
- 4- Producing solid scientific and educational research that addresses the various educational and social issues and problems faced by the educational system for the purpose of improving and developing the educational process in Iraq.

- 5- Working to improve and develop the capabilities and skills of faculty members and all employees in the college to ensure access to comprehensive quality management in the scientific and administrative fields.
- 6- Continuous contribution to improving and developing scientific curricula, teaching methods and educational techniques in order to meet the needs of society and achieve the best outcomes.
- 7- Preparing educational teaching staff through postgraduate studies (master's and doctorate) to meet the needs of society and various state institutions for these staff.
(https://ircoedu.uobaghdad.edu.iq/?page_id=15173).

The investigation and comparison among the aims of the University Departments of English in Colleges of Education and the general aims of the Colleges of Education state that there are a lot of differences among these aims. Because of these differences the aims of the University Departments of English in Colleges of Education for Human Sciences should be reformulated to correspond to the aims of Colleges of Education for Human Sciences.

4.2 The Aims of Departments of English in Colleges of Basic Education

4.2.1 The Aims of Departments of English

The aims of University Departments of English of College of Basic Education in Iraq include the following:

- 1- Attracting students, trainees, and people with different interests.
- 2- Providing a learning environment that encourages diligence and provides more opportunities for distinction and creativity.
- 3- Achieving a balance between the components of the programs offered by the department.
- 4- Achieving a work environment that is more attractive to distinguished faculty members and sharpens their skills.
- 5- Maintaining international quality standards in developing, implementing and evaluating the department's programs and activities.
- 6- Developing the capacity of teaching staff through continuing education and scientific research programs.

- 7- Serving the community by providing it with educational cadres specialized in the language and its teaching methods.
- 8- Raising the academic and cognitive level of the English language student and preparing him to be a university teacher and translator who can perform his duties in schools and other departments.
- 9- Creating educational, scientific and professional capabilities for the English language student so that they have a role in building his academic personality.
- 10- Keeping pace with the scientific development taking place in the field of language and literature so as to make the department more scientifically sound through scientific research in order to compete with other departments and enter the international classifications.

(<https://uomisan.edu.iq/basicedu/ar/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%84%D8%BA%D8%A9%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%86%D9%83%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%A9/>).

4.2.2 The Aims of Colleges of Basic Education in Iraq

The aims of College of Basic Education in Iraq involve the following

- 1- Raising the level of students in terms of knowledge, skills and research.
- 2- Creating a university environment that stimulates the capabilities of university professors and students to achieve qualitative scientific productivity.
- 3- Developing scientific, professional and educational capabilities and capabilities to reach a state of competition at the local and international levels. Work to enter the approved international classifications.
- 4- Developing the administrative work system at the university and training scientific leaders and administrative cadres.
- 5- Adopting the principle of a productive university and diversifying funding sources.
- 6- Achieving integration between educational outcomes and the labor market.
- 7- Openness to society locally and globally and enhancing communication for the purpose of achieving the desired goals. (<https://uomisan.edu.iq/basicedu/ar/>).

The comparison among the aims of the University Departments of English in Colleges of Basic Education and the general aims of the Colleges of Basic Education identifies that there are a lot of differences among these aims. As a result of these differences the aims of the University Departments of English in Colleges of Basic Education should be reformulated to correspond to the aims of Colleges of Basic Education.

4.3 The Aims of University Departments of English of Colleges of Languages in Iraq

4.3.1 The Aims of University Departments of English

The aims of university departments of English in Colleges of Languages in Iraq include the following:

- 1- Providing a distinguished educational program for the English language department at a high level of quality and developing it to keep pace with global developments, in addition to working to develop educational curricula so that they are not viewed from the traditional perspective and concept, but rather from the modern perspective.
- 2- Preparing graduates who are proficient in the English language skills of reading, writing, research and translation, which qualifies them to compete in the labor market.
- 3- Preparing graduate students with the ability to research and theorize in the field of the English language and linguistics and to participate in both local and international specialized conferences.
- 4- Creating a scientific cultural environment that provides students with opportunities for self-development by providing them with comprehensive knowledge in the English language and literature, linguistics and translation.
- 5- Encouraging critical understanding of the thought and cultures of the English-speaking world and opening channels of cultural dialogue with them, which helps in understanding and managing different cultures and expanding the horizons of dealing with others through teaching various literary texts.
- 6- Communicating with the corresponding departments inside and outside Iraq for the purpose of exchanging experiences with them and benefiting from their experiences in all relevant fields.

- 7- Contributing to serving and enriching society by implementing training courses directed to all sectors of society and providing linguistic and translation expertise and consultations in the field of the English language to all governmental and non-governmental institutions.
- 8- Working to provide a positive atmosphere characterized by a democratic climate, high-quality human relations, and an emphasis on teamwork.
- 9- Improving the level of overall performance through continuous evaluation of the department's inputs and outputs.
(https://colang.uobaghdad.edu.iq/?page_id=20207).

4.3.2 Aims of College of Languages in Iraq

The aims of Colleges of Languages in Iraq consist of the following:

- 1- Applying all international quality systems standards in the field of management (ISO 9001:2015) in an effort to obtain institutional accreditation.
- 2- Stimulating scientific research and publishing in international sources.
- 3- Providing distinctive educational programs for all departments at a high level of quality and developing them in keeping with global developments to raise the efficiency of educational outcomes.
- 4- Opening cooperation mechanisms with Arab and foreign scientific and academic institutions by holding joint scientific conferences in order to raise the scientific level as well as advance the classification ranks.
- 5- Establishing a mechanism within gradual planning for the transition to e-learning and working to provide the infrastructure that works to make that goal a success.
- 6- Increasing postgraduate programs and seeking to introduce doctoral studies in all departments
- 7- Increasing the adequacy of administrative and scientific resources.
- 8- Improving the development of leadership skills and capabilities for academic and administrative leaders.
- 9- Applying quality teaching and learning standards to obtain program accreditation.
- 10- Supporting the participation of faculty members and students in scientific activities
https://colang.uobaghdad.edu.iq/?page_id=15068.

The analysis of the aims of the University Departments of English in Colleges of Languages and the general aims of the Colleges of Languages states that there are a lot of dissimilarities among these aims. As a conclusion of these dissimilarities the aims of the University Departments of English in Colleges of Languages should be reformulated to correspond to the aims of Colleges of Languages.

4.4 The Aims of University Departments of English in College of Arts in Iraq

4.4.1 The Aims of University Departments of English

The aims of university departments of English in Colleges of Arts in Iraq include the following:

- 1- Building a positive attitude towards science and its amazing potential in serving humanity.
- 2- Preparing researchers specialized in the English language, sciences and literature.
- 3- Preparing technical cadres in the field of translation from Arabic to English and vice versa.
- 4- Meeting the students' needs for linguistic and literary skills and knowledge to achieve success in daily communication.
- 5- Recruiting new youth cadres to provide universities with teachers specialized in the English language, sciences and literature by opening postgraduate studies to grant master's and doctoral degrees.
- 6- Shedding light on the cultures associated with the Arabic and English languages and providing the opportunity for comparison, interaction and civilized dialogue between those cultures.

(<https://arts.uokufa.edu.iq/archives/4471>).

4.4.2 The aims of Colleges of Arts in Iraq

The aims of Colleges of Arts involve the following:

- 1- Preparing specialists and researchers in the branches of literary and human knowledge, both theoretical and applied, with a focus on quality and working to form

- the national and scientific character of the college, by stimulating patriotic sentiment and the values of democracy, freedom, human rights and respect for others.
- 2- Conducting scientific research related to the college's specializations, contributing to providing science and knowledge and directing scientific research to society, identifying its problems and providing appropriate solutions to overcome them and cooperating with civil society institutions.
 - 3- Communicating with corresponding departments, corresponding colleges, research centers, and Iraqi, Arab, regional, and international scientific institutions, by concluding twin relations and cultural protocols to find out what specialized knowledge has reached in the countries of those colleges.
 - 4- Paying attention to spreading knowledge, developing culture, contributing to cultural and scientific activities and events, and supporting faculty members in the college to write and publish methodological books and source books in the existing academic disciplines in the college.
 - 5- Continuously striving to update curricula in areas of specific specialization, in line with the development taking place in various fields of knowledge, and adopting the latest developments in the process of designing and building democratic university curricula <https://art.uowasit.edu.iq/>.

The inspecting of the aims of the University Departments of English in Colleges of Arts and the general aims of the Colleges of Arts indicates that there are a lot of differences among these aims. As a conclusion of these differences the aims of the University Departments of English in Colleges of Arts should be reformulated to correspond to the aims of Colleges of Arts.

5. Conclusions

Based on the analysis of the available data, the present study include the following conclusions:

- 1- The university departments of English in Iraq are found in four colleges; Colleges of Education for Human Sciences, Colleges of Basic Education, Colleges of Languages and Colleges of Arts.
- 2- The aims of the above colleges differ because they are related to the type of graduates for Colleges of Education for Human Sciences and Colleges of Basic Education which graduate Teachers and university teachers and differ from the aims of other colleges.
- 3- The aims of the English Department in the Colleges of Education for the Human Sciences differ from the rest of the aims of the English Department in other colleges because it leads to graduate teachers as mentioned in the second point.
- 4- It is necessary to reformulate the aims of University Departments of English in order to coincide the aims of corresponding colleges in which departments of English are found.
- 5- The policy of teaching English in Iraq concentrates on teaching English, so that university departments of English spread in many colleges such as Colleges of Education for Human Sciences, Colleges of Basic Education, Colleges of Languages and Colleges of Arts.

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