OPEN AND DISTANCE FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING: A CONTENT ANALYSIS STUDY

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Abstract

This paper presents results of a content analysis of articles in the field of Distance English Language Teaching. In order to be able to reach the results, we examined the articles published between 2002 and 2012 in 4 different Journals which have high impact factor. This research uses a content analysis method, which is one of the qualitative research methods, with an aim of finding the topics of the articles, their samplings, their methodological dimensions and analyzing their results and showing their trends. During the research process key words such as English Language Teaching, Distance English Language Teaching, and Distance Foreign Language Teaching were used. After the research process, 30 articles were reached. Then the obtained articles were examined in detail and a coding procedure was also applied. As a next step, it was decided to use 15 of them for the analysis. The selected articles were analyzed using three variables which are research titles, sampling and research diversity. Results indicated that the most common titles used in the articles published between 2002 and 2012 were teaching methods and implemented technologies. This is followed by affective dimension and perception. As sampling diversity mostly teachers and university level students were participated in the studies. The last variable results showed that the articles examined have much more qualitative studies than quantitative ones. Especially they have experimental studies. It is thought that this paper will be beneficial in terms of shedding light on prospective studies. A content analysis with different variables and journals will make it easier to draw a framework about studies carried out in this field.

Keywords: Content Analysis, Language teaching, distance learning.