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Instructors' Opinions about the Education on Turkish Speaking Abilities of Syrian Students

Mehmet Dursun Erdem

*Turkish Language Education Department, Nevsehir Hacı Bektas Veli University,
Nevsehir, Turkey*

E-mail: mdursunerdem@nevsehiredu.tr

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ABSTRACT Speaking skill, important for proper communication, is innate ability but can be improved. Having good speaking skill in a language is crucial in establishing effective communication and integrating into the society successfully. Currently, Turkey is hosting the largest number of Syrian refugees due to the political turmoil in Syria. It is, therefore, important for these refugees adapt readily to the social life in Turkey. In this respect, they are given Turkish courses. This study aimed to evaluate the speaking skills of Syrian students according to the opinions of their Turkish instructors. To this end, data was collected through interviews from Turkish instructors teaching Turkish to Syrian students in TÖMER, Adana. Content analysis was used to evaluate the data collected. Based on the findings, it was determined that instructors have had hard times while improving Turkish speaking abilities of Syrian students. The common problems of Syrian students while improving their Turkish speaking skills include pronunciation difficulties, speaking anxiety and thought of finding Turkish speaking difficult. Even though the instructors did various activities to solve these problems, they have still been inefficient in terms of measuring and evaluating the speaking ability.