



The 5<sup>th</sup> ELT Conference:

Bridging Theory and Gap

(May, 1, 2019 / Ordibehesht, 11, 1398)

Allameh Tabataba'i University, Faculty of Persian Literature and Foreign Languages  
Department of English Language and Literature, Tehran, Iran

## An Approach to Teaching Challenging Syntax in EFL Classroom: Insights from Information Structure

Yaser Hadidi

University of Tabriz; hadidiy@hotmail.com

### Abstract

With upper-intermediate to advanced non-native learners of English, locating what constitutes demanding lexical, syntactic and discursive structures emerges as a worthwhile effort. For its optimal demarcation, such a package can benefit from Systemic Linguistics, syntactic theory, research on the good and autonomous language learner, cognitive linguistics, among others. What is proposed here is a re-articulated model in this regard, accruing from long-standing experience of teaching mostly advanced groups of learners with widely acknowledged success, far-reaching results and accredited effects, putting the main focus on the syntactic areas of challenge. Experienced teachers attest that, coached and instructed consistently enough, the student usually picks up complex but rewarding syntax quite reliably, enabled to deploy it in authentic contexts outside the zone of the instructor's presence and reminders. Although these are two separate areas, the manner in which the instructor monitors the learner's attention so that it is allocated variably to constructions requiring added attention, and the instructor's actual knowledge of these attention-worthy constructions, it is important to recognize that the latter constitutes an intuitive and necessary springboard for the former; awareness of what complex but native-like and rewarding syntax encompasses could be as important as, or more so than, how to teach them.

**Keywords:** Syntactic Challenge, Demanding Structures, Advanced Non-native Learner, Attention-Worthy Constructions





The 5th ELT Conference on  
Advances in ELT and Applied Linguistics  
May, 1, 2019 - Ordibehesht, 11, 1398

Allameh Tabataba'i University, Faculty of Persian Literature & Foreign Languages  
Department of English Language and Literature, Tehran, Iran



This is to certify that

*Yaser Hadidi*

has delivered an oral presentation titled

**An Approach to Teaching Challenging Syntax in EFL Classroom: Insights from  
Information Structure**

at the fifth national ELT Conference held on May, 1, at Allameh Tabataba'i University.

**Reza Nazemian**

Vice-Dean of Research  
Faculty of Persian Literature  
& Foreign Languages  
Allameh Tabataba'i University

**Mahnaz Mostafaei Alaei**

Conference Scientific Chair  
Allameh Tabataba'i University

*Mahnaz Mostafaei*

**Esmaeel Ali Salimi**

Conference Executive Chair  
Allameh Tabataba'i University

*E.A. Salimi*