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Thesis Title	DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY EFL IRAQI UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN HANDLING LEXICAL BUNDLES		
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Abstract	<p>The study of frequently used word combinations has attracted the attention of researchers and instructors in the linguistic field since the beginning of the last century. Yet, the study of lexical bundles- as one type of word combinations- is ascribed to the collaborative work of Biber <i>et al.</i> (1999). Lexical bundles are words that very often come in sets of three or more words. They are sequences of frequent co-occurring words which are usually not complete grammatical structures nor are they idiomatic, but function as basic blocks of discourse, therefore, they are expected to be stored in memory as unanalyzed chunks. Thus, it is expected that Iraqi EFL students of the third- year stage find difficulty in identifying and producing these bundles. This study assumes that such students face difficulty in both recognizing and using these bundles. Furthermore, they face more difficulty in producing these bundles than recognizing them. A test consisting of two questions (recognition and production) is constructed and administered to a sample of 50 third- year students of the Department of English, College of Languages, University of Baghdad. After analyzing the students' responses to the items of the test, the following findings have been drawn:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Those students commit errors in both recognition and production items, but their errors in production are greater than that of recognition. 2. The easiest bundle to recognize is <u>I am going to</u> and the easiest ones to produce are <u>in accordance with</u> and <u>is because of</u>. On the other hand, the most difficult bundle to recognize is <u>as we have seen</u> and to produce is <u>at the back of</u>. 3. Due attention is not given to the teaching/ leaning of lexical bundles by teachers and specialists in the field of linguistics and language teaching. <p style="text-align: center;">Finally, some pedagogical recommendations of the findings as well as suggested paths for further research are introduced and discussed.</p>		