



**SCHOOL OF  
FOREIGN LANGUAGES  
10TH ELT CONFERENCE**



# WHAT'S INSIDE THE BLACK BOX? UNPACKING QUALITY IN ELT



**April 11, 2026**



**10:00 - 16:30**



**Ramada Hotel**

Scan to Register



**DR. MUSTAFA POLAT**

Defining Quality in ELT  
and Its Future Direction



**ELNA COETZER**

Quality over Quantity:  
Effective Use of Materials  
with Adult Learners



**DR. AMIR HAMIDI**

Maintaining the Human Touch in  
Technology-Enhanced  
Classrooms





# FOREWORD



Dear Colleagues,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 10th ELT Conference, hosted by Antalya Bilim University School of Foreign Languages at Ramada Hotel Antalya City Centre on April 11th, 2026. With the theme “**What’s Inside the Black Box? Unpacking Quality in ELT**” this year’s conference invites us to pause, reflect, and reimagine the future of language education.

As educational contexts continue to change, educators are challenged to reconsider what constitutes quality in ELT today and how it can be sustained in the future. The sessions in this conference address key questions about defining quality in English language teaching, maintaining the human touch in technology-enhanced classrooms, and exploring how thoughtful use of materials can lead to deeper learning and stronger engagement among adult learners.

We extend our warmest thanks to all presenters, participants, and sponsors who have helped bring this event to life. We hope today’s sessions spark fresh ideas and lasting connections that enrich your teaching journey.

Best regards,



# CONFERENCE AGENDA

**9:30-10:00**

## **Registration**

- Take your badges from the registration desk

**10:00-10:30**

## **Opening Remarks**

- Rector of Antalya Bilim University Prof. Dr. Semih Ekercin
- Director of Antalya Bilim University SOFL Asst. Prof. Demet Ceylan

**10:30-11:15**

## **1st Session- Workshop**

*Presented By* Dr. Mustafa Polat • *Opening the Black Box: Defining and Rethinking Quality in ELT Today and its Future Direction*

**11:15-11:30**



## **Coffee Break**

- Feel free to explore the poster presentations during coffee breaks

**11:30-12:15**

## **2nd Session**

*Presented By* Elna Coetzer • *Quality over Quantity: Effective Use of Materials with Adult Learners*

**12:30-14:00**

## **Open Buffet Lunch**

- Feel free to explore the poster presentations during the lunch break

**14:00-14:45**

## **3rd Session**

*Presented By* Dr. Amir Hamidi • *Maintaining the Human Touch in Technology-Enhanced Classrooms*

**14:45-15:00**



## **Coffee Break**

- Feel free to explore the poster presentations during coffee breaks

**15:00-15:45**

## **Raffle**

**15:45-16:00**

## **Closing Remarks**

- Please remember to collect your certificates



## **DR. MUSTAFA POLAT**

Mustafa Polat (Ph.D in Second Language Acquisition and Teaching) is an Assistant Professor at the Department of English Language Teaching (ELT) of Marmara University (MU), Istanbul. He previously worked at Bahçeşehir University (BAU) and served as the chair of BAU ELT for four years.

His research interests lie in the area of computer-assisted language learning, pre-service and in-service teacher education, and user adoption of new technologies. Accordingly, he has been offering various courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. He has advised several MA and PhD students and authored articles in indexed journals and chapters in national and international books. He also offers classes at Boğaziçi University and BAU for senior-year pre-service language teachers as a visiting instructor and conducts training sessions and workshops for educators employed by colleges and higher education institutions all around Turkey.

### **Workshop Title:**

*Opening the Black Box: Defining and Rethinking Quality in ELT Today and its Future Direction*

### **Abstract:**

Quality is one of the most widely used terms in English Language Teaching, yet what it actually means often remains unclear.

This interactive session invites participants to explore what lies inside the black box of quality in ELT. Through collaborative tasks and guided reflection, participants will examine common claims of quality and consider what kinds of evidence genuinely demonstrate effective language learning. The session will challenge assumptions about what makes a lesson, program, or institution ‘high quality’ and distinguish between visible indicators and measurable learning impact.

Looking toward the future, the session will also explore how transparency, learning evidence, and evolving technologies may reshape how quality is defined and sustained in ELT.



## **ELNA COETZER**

South African-born Elna Coetzer is a teacher, teacher trainer, educational consultant and international conference presenter based in Istanbul, Turkiye. She holds a CELTA, DELTA and an MA in Professional Development for Language Education from Chichester University (UK).

Apart from having extensive teaching experience at a variety of levels, she has worked in various roles in the education industry and is an accredited CELTA and DELTA trainer. Her training expertise was honed at Cambridge University Press, where she worked as an educational consultant and teacher trainer.

Elna has written materials, designed courses and created materials to support teaching and learning internationally. She has also published in the IH Online Journal and written blogs for the Oxford Teachers' Club.

Her professional interests include critical thinking, motivation and growth mindset, storytelling to lower the affective filter, creative engagement, literacy and reading development, effective classroom talk and teacher professional development. Recently, she has focused particularly on teacher development, wellbeing and learner agency.

She has trained educators in more than 20 countries and presented at international conferences both face-to-face and online. She is also a qualified NLP Master Practitioner and life coach, interests that grew from her work in communication, psychology and growth.

She is a storyteller, a coffee enthusiast and a devoted reader of detective fiction, the darker the better!



# ELNA COETZER



## **Session Blurb:**


*Quality over Quantity: Effective Use of Materials with Adult Learners*

In an age of abundant resources, English language teachers often face a paradox: more materials and activities do not always lead to better learning. This practical session explores whether less is truly more producing deeper learning and higher-quality outcomes for adult learners.

Drawing on classroom experience and principles of adult learning, the session shows how purposeful selection and exploitation of materials can boost engagement, meaningful language use and learner autonomy. Participants will reflect on common “materials overload” traps and consider how depth rather than volume supports retention and communicative competence.

This session introduces practical mini-applications teachers can use immediately, including techniques for stretching a single text or task, promoting a variety of learning goals.

Participants will leave with a toolkit of ideas to support more strategic materials use, reducing preparation overload and creating richer learning experiences for adult learners.





## **DR. AMIR HAMIDI**

Amir is a senior teacher-trainer and the academic coordinator at UES and has the additional role of sales and marketing manager at Helbling Publishing, Turkey. He has been teaching EFL and training teachers for the past 16 years and has helped schools and universities with implementing language learning programs. He is currently a PhD student in ELT and has several teaching and training qualifications including CELTA, DELTA M1 and M2, Diploma in teacher training (LTTC), Training of Trainers (Cambridge), and certificate in Teacher Training (British Council). For him, a training session is an opportunity to share his love of teaching with others.

### **Session Blurb:**

#### *Maintaining the Human Touch in Technology-Enhanced Classrooms*

In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, the real challenge is not whether we use technology in our classrooms, but how we use it without losing what makes teaching deeply human. In this session, I will explore how we can integrate AI tools and digital platforms in ways that genuinely enhance learning while preserving pedagogical integrity. Together, we will examine practical, interactive strategies that ensure technology amplifies student thinking, strengthens meaningful interaction, and supports feedback and autonomy—rather than replacing teacher expertise or reducing learning to automation. Through hands-on task redesign and reflective challenges, we will reframe innovation through a pedagogical lens and ask the critical question: Is this tool serving learning, or is learning serving the tool? Participants will leave with concrete, classroom-ready ideas to maintain the human touch while confidently embracing innovation.



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### **Registration**

Please take your badges from the registration desk before you proceed to the conference hall.

### **Help and Assistance**

ABU Staff will be available to assist you throughout the organization.

### **Catering**

Open buffet lunch will be included for all participants. Tea, coffee, and light snacks will be served during the breaks outside the conference hall.

### **Certificates of Participation**

All conference participants will be given a certificate of attendance at the end of the day.

### **Feedback Forms**

We would really be pleased to receive your invaluable feedback. Please scan the QR Code on the screen at the end of the conference to access the conference feedback form.

For further questions, please send an e-mail to [elt.events@antalya.edu.tr](mailto:elt.events@antalya.edu.tr)



## **SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Aygül Bahadır

Burak Candan

Burcu Sarı

Büşra Altun

Cennet Ulusoy

Selin Yılmaz