Abstract of thesis

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This thesis, entitled 'Tourism English in Macao - A case study,' examines high school and university programs offering a tourism major in Macao. A descriptive study, it aims to investigate whether there is a logical progression in the course 'Tourism English' from the high school to the university level in terms of the topics covered and the skills taught. Data are collected through interviews. In addition, relevant course materials, textbooks and brochures have been analyzed. The participants include 2 English teachers and coordinators, 2 English instructors and 3 current students. The results have shown that, in this study, a weak logical progression from the tourism major of the studied high school to the Tourism Institute sets in. The high school students in the study have not applied for any tourism programs at the Institute which has been collaborating with their mother school in carrying out the tourism program. Their reasons for not applying for the Institute are that they are not confident in learning in an English environment and that their interest shifted after their internship. In this study, writing has been discovered as a skill that needs to be reinforced in the curriculum. Another important finding is that there is an improper balance in the time allocation for 'General English' and 'Tourism English' in the English subject of the high school students. A heavy emphasis on 'Tourism English' has caused an insufficient attention to 'General English'. Recommendations are given to improve the current situation.