

INTRODUCTION TO

ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC
PURPOSES

SUMMARY OF THE REVISION SESSION
Of 21/09/2020

About this course

- ▣ Course name: English for Specific Purposes
- ▣ Audience: 3rd year students of English, Ziane Achour University – Djelfa (Algeria)
- ▣ Credits: 02
- ▣ Coefficient: 01
- ▣ Instructor: Omar Laabed
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I. PART ONE: Introduction

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This aims at recapitulating what we went through in our revision session on 21/09/2020. During this session, part one of the ESP course content was discussed. The following is a summary.

Pre-rquisite

Among the key terms that are very related to ESP are:

1. English Language Teaching (ELT);
2. English as a Foreign Language (EFL);
3. English as a Second Language (ESL);
4. Register
5. Register analysis

The following are their definitions:

English Language Teaching

English Language Teaching (ELT) refers to the teaching of the English language to people whose first language is not English (Longman)

English as a Foreign Language

- ▣ the teaching of English to people whose first language is not English, and who do not live in an English-speaking country.
(Longman)

English as a Second Language

- ▣ the teaching of English to people *who are living in an English-speaking country* but whose first language is not English (Longman)

Register

- ▣ the words, style, and grammar used by speakers and writers in a particular situation or in a particular type of writing. (Longman)

Register Analysis

- ▣ In 1964, Halliday introduced the term of Register Analysis that refers to the variety of English distinguished according to its use

2- Emergence of ESP

According to Tom Hutchinson and Alan waters (1987), the emergence of ESP was due to three reasons: the demands of a brave new world, a revolution in linguistics and a new focus on the learner.

2.1. The Demands of a Brave New World

Particularly, this is when the US and other English-speaking countries went victorious from WWII (1945); the role fell to English (this paved the way to English to be an international language).

2.2. A Revolution in Linguistics

Interestingly, Linguistics' focus shifted from description to prescription. In 1964, Halliday introduced the term of Register Analysis (see definition above). This means that English used in the law field is not the same as English used in medical sciences' field. In each of the mentioned fields, specific vocabulary and manner of use of English define each field.

2.3. A new focus on the learner

This particular point has much to do with Psychology, since it puts forward the importance of learners' attitudes to learning; an indispensable factor of students' motivation and, therefore, learning effectiveness.

3- Branches of ESP

- ▣ English for Science and Technology (EST),
- ▣ English for Business and Economics (EBE)
- ▣ English for Social Sciences (ESS).

Note: The course in each branch is designed whether for students or for professionals in the mentioned areas:

- ▣ English for Academic (EAP) Purposes
- ▣ English for Professional Purposes (EPP).

4- Characteristics of ESP

According to Dudley-Evans, ESP has absolute (fixed) characteristics and variable ones. The absolute characteristics are as follows:

- ▣ ESP is designed to meet the specific needs of the learners;
- ▣ ESP makes use of the *methodology* and activities of the *specialism* it serves ;
- ▣ ESP is centred not only on the language (grammar, lexis, register), but also on the *skills, discourses and genres* appropriate to those activities.

ESP's variable characteristics are:

- ▣ ESP may be related to or designed for specific disciplines;
- ▣ ESP may use, in specific teaching situations, a different **methodology** from that of General English;
- ▣ ESP is likely to be designed for adult learners, either at a **tertiary** level institution or in a **professional** work situation. It could, however, be for learners at **secondary** school level;
- ▣ ESP is generally designed for **intermediate** or **advanced** students;
- ▣ Most ESP courses assume some basic knowledge of the language systems.
- ▣ Variable according to the English variety.