

English for specific purposes challenges

According to the classification of English for Specific Purposes (ESP) by Tony Dudley-Evans and Maggie Jo St. John teaching English in Technical Universities is connected with two areas of ESP. They are English for Academic Purposes (EAP) and its substructure – English for Science and Technology.

There is an extended definition of ESP in terms of 'absolute' and 'variable' characteristics (*Dudley-Evans, 1997*). *Absolute Characteristics*: 1. ESP is defined to meet specific needs of the learners. 2. ESP makes use of underlying methodology and activities of the discipline it serves. 3. ESP is centered on the language appropriate to these activities in terms of grammar, lexis, register, study skills, discourse and genre. *Variable Characteristics*: 1. ESP may be related to or designed for specific disciplines. 2. ESP may use, in specific teaching situations, a different methodology from that of General English.

Teaching English for Specific Purposes differs from General English courses. It is more motivating for learners than General English. In ESP students have specific needs. They determine which language skills should be developed for academic and professional success of students. It takes into account certain basic questions, such as: *who the learners are; what their linguistic background or level of competence is; what their view to language learning is; what their purpose and expectations are; what particular skill they will need*. Teachers have to find out what kind of language acquisition is actually required by their learners. ESP teachers give more importance to needs analysis, material writers think very carefully about the goals of the learners. Also it is important to concentrate on the kind of language and vocabulary students will frequently use at their future work place. The ESP teachers should also be course designers, researchers, evaluators, etc. They should develop programs for the learners which will be required in the learners' professional community.