



REVIEW OF RESEARCH

ISSN: 2249-894X

IMPACT FACTOR : 5.2331(UIF)

VOLUME - 7 | ISSUE - 6 | MARCH - 2018



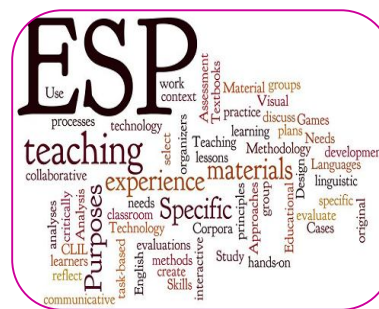
ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSE: ITS NEED AT TERTIARY EDUCATION

Dr. M. Revathi

Asst. Prof, Dept of English, Govt. Degree College for Women, Srikalahasti, AP.

ABSTRACT

Swami Vivekananda utters "Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man". However, the present day education is primarily focusing on the manifestation of the perfection of man in the world with good employability skills and good communication skills. After the upsurge of IT and with the concept of globalization, lot of change has been witnessing in the present education system. Acquiring English skills apart from the core subjects is mandatory for the learners in the present situation to excel themselves in this digital era. But process of learning language skills is not up to the mark. The reason may be that the learning procedure is based on particular curriculum. With this, learners' concentration turns towards learning answers to the questions as learning of core subjects. Even learning of grammar is also in conventional method of doing exercises in the classroom. With all these, they just obtain good academic record with good grades. But, when it comes to the usage in real life situations they are not because they are unable to use appropriate words and phrases to convey their message at their work places. At this juncture, the present paper attempts to illustrate the importance of English for specific purposes which generate interest in stakeholders to learn the language with much ease and interest.



KEYWORDS : Digital Era, Communication skills, employability skills, specific purpose, Tertiary Education.

INTRODUCTION:

English Language usage in digital India is still in doldrums particularly in rural amphitheatre. Even though governments have been taking various measures from school to college level, the improvement is not up to the mark because mother tongue influence is more. In the rural Indian context, from Primary to Tertiary, the teaching of subjects is in L1 except English Language. This may be one of the reasons for not acquiring good English speaking skills. Even in designing the syllabus of English at graduation level is confining to specific curriculum, assessment and evaluation. So in studying English, learners consider that the topics they have been taught are not proving helpful when they enter the workplace. Normally, learners feel that the prescribed syllabus is not supportive when they enter workplace.

At this juncture, most of the Universities have been trying their best in framing the curriculum at tertiary and graduation level but finally they are confining to one specific curriculum for all course combinations naming it as General English. Learners opine that the prescribed texts do not satisfy their needs. They also articulate they are unable to use appropriate words in the context. So, this is the time to think about the problems facing by the learners. It is clear that one definite course cannot satisfy all the

learners. The instructors have to find out what sort of language achievement the learners need. It is at this phase ESP emerges.

MEANING OF ESP

English for Specific Purposes is one of the new dimensions in teaching and acquiring English language skills. Internationally it is popular. In India, though it is emerging as an important field in learning English still there is a gap in the usage and implementation. Dudley-Evans, co-editor of the ESP Journal defines it in terms of absolute and variable characteristics.

(Definition of ESP (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.
3. ESP is likely to be designed for adult learners, either at a tertiary level institution or a professional institution. It could, however, be for learners at secondary school level.
4. ESP is generally designed for intermediate or advanced students.
5. Most ESP courses assume some basic knowledge of the language systems.

By observing the characteristics of ESP by Evans it assists the instructors to develop language activities which would generate interest and support the learners to learn the language without any complexity.

In General, the teachers teaching General English for undergraduate students in conventional courses basically concentrate on the curriculum related language activities by aiming at giving the learners the knowledge that may help to know and understand certain language which would help them to write their exams and acquire good academic results. It is based on my personal observation that the teaching of English up to undergraduate level in conventional courses is still depending on conventional approach of examination oriented teaching scenario. Hence, students are not able to speak and write when they attend any job interviews or even at work places. Now, to some extent, in professional colleges the teaching of English is based on the specific purpose. But still there is a need to develop language skills to work confidently at workplace. For this the learners should be familiarised with the terminology in specific field. For this ESP is supportive than general English.

ESSENTIALITY OF ESP TEACHING

Now, the universities are concentrating on prescribing communication skills courses in conventional courses at undergraduate level i.e., BA, BCOM and BSC. But when it comes to the syllabus point of view it once again concentrates on written communication i.e., primarily writing on basic grammar, listening strategies, reading strategies and writing strategies etc., which again help the learners to improve their general writing skills. With the introduction of ESP at undergraduate level, students may be benefited. For example, for BCOM students English relating to business will be helpful to them after their graduation. For BA students English relating to law, humanities, politics etc are supportive. When it comes to the Science students English terminology relating to Science will be helpful to improve their language skills and to write case studies, experiments etc relating to science. Even they can stand in the competitive world and at work places confidently through English for Specific Purpose mode. Hutchinson and Walter defines ESP as “an

advance approach to language teaching in which all the choices related to content and strategy on the learner's reason for learning".

In General English class, students may develop general communication skills. Tagmemics have not workout in learning English language all the time. But in Situational English and English for specific purpose class, students have a chance to learn the language as a key function rather than a subject.

CONCLUSION

The review of earlier studies discloses that English for general purpose spotlights on general English language abilities of students whereas English for Specific Purposes highlights on specific skills and requirements of learners centred on a meticulous analysis of learners' professional/academic needs. Hence, it is the time for the teachers of English in the present educational field to turn as ESP practitioners with special roles, such as a reporter, medical practitioner, course designer, material provider, collaborator, researcher, evaluator and cultural interpreter etc. to train the students according to their requirement. Special pre- and in-service training/refresher courses for the teachers will be necessary to prospect their skills to cater their stakeholders needs.

WORKS CITED

Dudley-Evans, T. and ST. Johns, M. J. **Developments in English for Specific Purposes**, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. 1998.

Hutchinson, T. and Waters, A. **English for Specific Purpose, A Learning Centred Approach**, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. 1987.



Dr. M. Revathi

Asst. Prof, Dept of English, Govt. Degree College for Women, Srikalahasti, AP.