

Learning English for Specific Purposes by Using Acculturation Method

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Abstract

This paper will deal with English for Specific/Special purposes and learning it through the framework Acculturation model, a theory framed by John Schumann to report the acquisition process of learning second language, which in this case is English.

ESP is a course taken by adult learners who have highly specific academic and professional reasons to learn or improve their proficiency in the language, since the factual reasons say acquiring a language after the age of 8 can be quite challenging, we need to come up with more easy and interesting ways to help the adults learn it soon. Culture being an integral part of human being, we will incorporate their respective fields to its culture, for example Law, natural science, technology, engineering, business, tourism, etc. has its own culture. It is not difficult to understand a culture as French anthropologist Claude-Levi-Strauss found out that every cultural system worked like a language system and argued that these structures lead to form the profound grammar of society that arises in the mind and functionalizes in us unconsciously. To acquire that, the learner should come out of text learning and identify the cultural construct of the field and orient themselves to it. By practicing it, they are being accommodated to a present-day culture which involves a new way of reflecting.

Keywords: English for Specific/Special purposes, Acculturation model, anthropologist, culture

English for Specific/ Special Purposes

The purpose of English for specific purposes generally refers to educating the language to university level students and working adults in need to improve a specific vocabulary or skill. The ESP course will throw light in the field or profession which includes technical English, English for science, English for business, English in medical field, English for waiters, English for tourism etc. Even though ESP has restricted focus, it concentrates only on areas where the impact is high. This focuses on developing communicative competence in disciplines such as accounting, academics, Informational technology teaching, agrology, and engineering.

English for educational and academic purposes are taught to student learners before completion of the degrees, is one kind of ESP, as is Business English. Pilots and Aviation cadets are introduced with Aviation English to enable a clear radio communication.

Acculturation Theory of Second Language Acquisition

It is a process by which the second language is acquired. The learners benefited by this method are the members belonging to a group of ethnic minorities such as immigrants, migrants, workers and children who are new to this geographical area. Acculturation method has two factors on which it is based on, that is social and psychological. This factor is concerned to an extent, where the individual learners do not find any difficulties in learning their target language. The word “acculturation” is the act of transition. This includes learning a new language, immersion, assimilation, and integration. The most efficient way to acquire a second language is by immersion method. It helps you understand the customs, traditions, acceptable behaviour.

IMMERSION: Students develop cultural literacy as well as enhanced cognitive skills. In Language immersion students benefit from the ability to communicate with people from different backgrounds.

ASSIMILATION: Involves the gathering of information about the new culture and results in adapting to the culture that is formed.

INTEGRATION: It is a method of learning an additional language through the content from another language, thus learning both the language and the subject.

Why Incorporating English for Specific Purposes with Acculturation Method?

As we all realize English is a foreign language in our country and it is hard for us non-natives to reciprocate this western language, so we are seen to have modified it according to our convenience and what we have is an Indianized English. This is acceptable in a normal environment. Whereas to meet diverse communication needs in a globalized economy, one is expected to speak language with sophistication particularly in the domain of academics and profession.

As the idea itself stresses upon specific purposes, we now know this learner may not look forward to learning the language from scratch or to learn it by the traditional way. The main focus is to gain a top notch language for academics or profession. Since the aim is to acquire it for a purpose, there is time constraint which should be kept in mind.

The reason to string it with acculturation method is that, it is a method of teaching a second language to a group who are mostly immigrants, migrant workers and their children. By the term *immigrants* and *migrants*, we know that they are new to this geographical area and in order to survive this they have to learn this new language even if they don't like . Thus this new language plays a crucial role in their life, they had to learn it fast and learn the necessary. This was done by learning the new culture first by putting themselves in real life situations, where they observed and related it to their culture and later immersed which helped them to learn the language through culture easily. Thus English for specific purposes should be taught in way where the learners first learn the culture and then are put up with real life situations where they should be given tasks such as having to have a conversation with an official from that field which is aimed at, and instead of having text book learning, it is wise to experience and learn.

What Do We Call as the Culture of A Field /Profession?

Every field has a particular construct, for example to learn a language for academic purpose simply means either for credit or to work on it. whereas In business and other fields it differs, in order to understand that we have to know how that field works and what are the acceptable behaviour and what is not, before learning a language irrespective of its purpose it is necessary understand its construct or culture. Hence, we call the dominant language, dress code, jargon, rules, belief, goals etc., of a field or profession as a culture. This may vary from one to other.

EXAMPLES: General English is different from specific purpose English and some of the obvious differences in language for particular field is given as follows.

(i) **NORMAL AND BUSINESS ENGLISH:** When in normal context we say, I need your help. But in Business English we say I require your help. Few such examples are Got-received, Talk about-discuss, Get in touch-contact, Make sure –ensure, Give – provide, Tell why- explain

(ii) **GENERAL AND TECHNICAL ENGLISH:**

Complex-intricate, Device – instrument, Significantly-markedly, Consumption – use, Extraction- taking out, Distress-suffering.

Thus we see that there are notable differences in the former and the later and hence we need to know where to concentrate and learn accordingly.

Conclusion

To understand and learn a language specifically, one must know its construct and then go for further learning, acculturation method can be used to teach English for specific purposes by

drawing an outline of the culture and having tasks based on the fields' real life situations for quick learning.

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