

LEARNING MODERN LANGUAGES FOR TECHNICAL PURPOSES, THE EXPERIENCE IN SOME MAJORS AND THE IMPACT IT HAS GENERATED IN SOCIETY

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the years, it has been possible to see the needs people have at the moment to work in several fields, among them, health and engineering, and it is for this reason that technical English has been adapted to these main majors. At the Technical University of Manabí there are just few majors which have the English language that belong to their Curriculum, these majors are: business administration, auditory and medicine, they have it on the last levels, and the students just have two hours per week, in which they study the basic vocabulary a professional must know, this number is going to increase until four or six hours depending on the needs we have in the future.

Definition of Technical English:

According to the OXFORD DICTIONARY, it is: Relating to a particular subject, art, or craft, or its techniques.

On the other hand, ANSWERS.COM defines it as: English based on technical subjects like engineering, which is relatively more complicated and science-oriented.

And finally, MACMILLAN DICTIONARY defines the word "TECHNICAL" as language is difficult to understand for people who do not know a lot about the subject.

It is not possible to teach technical English in just a small period of time like one academic semester or a year, and get big results because it really needs some more time, Evan Frenco (2010), mechanical engineer, however, we can help our students to get a base to work on those words. At least, the students must study and use the new vocabulary for a minimum period of two years in order to keep it in mind, as a normal list of words otherwise they will not retain them.

It is really necessary to set the differences between what the students need to learn first, that is, their first vocabulary for communicative English, and then technical English according to their majors, As Alex Case states: "There will also be some differences between the grammar syllabus of English for engineering and some other ESP courses" he also says: It is rather difficult to decide what English to teach to engineers. First of all, "engineer" has two rather distinct meanings, one of which is close to "technician" or "mechanic".

Another comment on technical English comes from SAM McCARTER, the author of the book MEDICINE, OXFORD ENGLISH FOR CAREERS, he states "Medicine Oxford English for Careers is aimed at preparing trained and trainee doctors, and trained nurses, who intend to get a job in medicine", he also considers that his book presents them with English from a wide variety of medical field and situations, develops their communication skills, and provides them with background in major medical and care concepts.

Basically the book is based in authentic materials: Interview and sources to be of interest to the students. Students will read about a variety of people in different medical environment and gain insight into the skills required. This book

is one of the most used books in the health major at the technical university of Manabí.

One of the details we should take into account is that the students must know how to speak English in order to learn technical English; otherwise it will be in futile. Tamara Jones, an English professor at Oxford university press, suggests following these steps to get results:

Technical English has to follow two steps:

1st: Teach regular students communicative English.

2nd The students have to improve their English and then apply the language in their career.

Conclusions:

Technical English is a subject that should be taught by a person who is specialized in a specific field, that is, professionals whose careers are doctors, engineers, dentists, software developers, pharmacists, physical therapists, civil engineers, mechanical engineers, veterinarians, clinical laboratory technicians, computer programmers, because they have the accurate knowledge to share with others who have the same interest.

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