بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

An opening Quranic Verse

(وقل ربي زديي علماً)

"Say, O my Lord, increase me in knowledge."

صدق الله العظيم

سورة طه آية (114)

Dedication

To my parents, my family members,

To my colleagues and to all future generations,

I dedicate this work.

Acknowledgements

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Universe, and May peace and blessings of Allah be upon our leader, the Messenger of Allah.

First and foremost, I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Mahmoud Ali Ahmed for his invaluable guidance and continuous support throughout this study. My thanks are also due to a good number of institutions and individuals who have generously contributed to help me complete this study. Firstly, I gratefully acknowledge the academic support from Sudan University of Science and Technology, College of Graduate Studies which has provided me with the opportunity of doing my Ph.D. research in Applied Linguistics. Secondly, I would also like to express my gratitude to the Petroleum Training Centre management for giving me permission to conduct this study by making use of the English language trainees as the main subject.

Finally, it is imperative to mention some helpful persons who gave me a hand of help: my colleagues Ustaz Ahmed El Shaikh El Bashir, (an ESP expert), Ahmed Idris Dru (statistical analysis expert), Ustaz Fadul Mahmoud who has offered assistance with typing and layout, and Ustaz Muhammed Abdallah Zeid for proofreading and offering technical advice.

Abstract:

This study aims at designing an ESP syllabus to promote Sudanese Oil and Gas employees' communicative skills, (a case study of Sudanese Petroleum Corporation employees). The idea of this study stems from answering the following questions: To what extent are Oil and Gas employees able to use the four basic language skills to effectively communicate in an oil industry environment? To what extent is there a gap of English language mastery between what employees of Oil and Gas have and what they actually need at the workplace?, and to what extent does designing an ESP syllabus contribute in promoting Sudanese Oil and Gas employees' communicative skills?. The study aims at investigating the inclusion of learning needs in an ESP syllabus for Oil and Gas employees at the workplace. The researcher employed the analytical quantitative and qualitative research methods. He developed two questionnaires and conducted interviews then he came out with the following results: Most of the Oil and Gas employees need to acquire the four basic language skills. There is a huge gap between what employees of Oil and Gas have and their actual needs for English at the workplace. Besides, designing an ESP syllabus could contribute in narrowing the gap between Oil and Gas employees' current level and their actual needs of English mastery. Based on these results, the study recommends the following: The gap of learning needs and skills needed at the workplace should be tackled by devising a new English language syllabus that meets the learners' learning needs. This syllabus should include reading materials of the interest to the learners and vocabulary in different fields to meet their everyday needs, and great focus should be placed on the four basic language skills with greater emphasis on listening and speaking. Finally, Sudanese Oil and Gas employees' English communicative needs at the workplace is suggested for the further research in future.

Abstract

Arabic Version

المستخلص

تهدف هذه الدراسة لتصميم منهج في اللغة الإنجليزية للإغراض المحدده لترقية قدرات ومهارات التواصل لدى العاملين بقطاع النفط والغاز في السودان. در اسة حالة العاملين بالمؤسسة السودانية للنفط. نبعت فكرة هذه الدراسة من الإجابة على الأسئلة التالية: إلى أي مدى يستطيع العاملون في صناعة النفط والغاز إستخدام المهارات الأساسية للتواصل باللغة الإنجليزية لإنجاز أعمالهم؟ هل يوجد فارق في المهارات اللغوية لدى العاملين بالمؤسسة السودانية للنفط ومايحتاجونه بالفعل للتواصل باللغة الإنجليزية ؟، و هل تصميم منهج يتضمن إحتياجاتهم التعليمية يسهم بقدر كبير في ترقية مهارات التواصل لديهم ؟. هدفت الدراسة إلى التقصي عن أهمية تصميم منهج لترقية مهارات التواصل باللغة الإنجليزية في مواقع العمل لدى العاملين في قطاع النفط والغاز. أتبع الباحث في هذه الدراسة المنهج الوصفي التحليلي والمنهج الكيفي، حيث قام بتصميم إستبانتين وأجرى مقابلات ثم خلص إلى النتائج التالية: يوجد فارق كبير في مهارات اللغة الإنجليزية لدى العاملين في قطاع النفط والغاز ومايحتاجونه فعللاً للتواصل في مواقع عملهم. كما أن تصميم منهج لدارسي الإنجليزية للأغراض المحددة بقطاع النفط والغاز يسهم بقدر كبير في رفع قدرات التواصل لديهم. وبناءاً على تلك النتائج توصى الدراسة بالاتى: إعداد منهج يزيل الفارق بين القدرات الحالية لدى العاملين للتواصل باللغة الإنجليزية ومايحتاجونه فعالاً للتواصل بمواقع عملهم. و أن يحتوي منهج اللغة الإنجليزية المقترح على مواد تلبى إحتياجات الدارسين وتمكنهم من المفردات اللغوية التي تعينهم على أداء أعمالهم اليومية، وإعطاء عناية خاصة لمهارت اللغة الإنجليزية الأربع الأساسية في ذلك المنهج مع التركيز على مهارتي االإستماع والتحدث. وأخيراً تقترح هذه الدراسة تناول إحتياجات التواصل باللغة الإنجليزية لدى العاملين بمواقع العمل في قطاع النفط والغاز في السودان كدر اسة بحثية في المستقبل.

Table of Contents

Items	Pages
A Quranic Verse	i
Dedication	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Abstract (English)	iv
Abstract (Arabic)	V
Table of Contents	vi
List of Tables	xi
List of Figures	xii
List of Abbreviations	XV

Chapter One Introduction

	Items	Pages
1.0	Overview	1
1.1	Background	1
1.2	English as an International language	2
1.3	The statement of the problem	3
1.4	Objectives of the Study	4
1.5	Questions of the Study	5
1.6	Hypotheses of the Study	5
1.7	Significance of the Study	6
1.8	The scope of the Study	6
1.9	Methodology of the Research	7
1.10	Organization of the Research	8

Chapter Two

Literature Review

	Items	Pages
2.0	Overview	
2.1	Conceptual Framework of the Study	9
2.1.1	English as a Global Language	9
2.1.2	Definition of Communication	13
2.1.2.1	Types of Communication	14
2.1.2.1.1	Oral Communication	14
2.1.2.1.2	Written Communication	15
2.1.2.1.3	Nonverbal Communication	15
2.1.2.2	Purposes of Communication	15
2.1.2.3	Components of Communication	16
2.1.2.4	Factors that Influence Communication	17
2.1.2.4.1	Background of the Receiver	17
2.1.2.4.2	Appearance of the Sender	18
2.1.2.4.3	Barriers to Effective Communication	19
2.1.2.4.4	Language Skills of the Sender and the Receiver	20
2.1.2.5	The Communication Skills	21
2.1.2.5.1	Listening	22
2.1.2.5.2	Speaking	24
2.1.2.5.3	Reading	25
2.1.2.5.4	Writing skills	26
2.1.2.6	The Value of Good Communication Skills	27
2.1.3	The Origin of ESP	28
2.1.3.1	The Definition of ESP	28

2.1.3.2	Key notions about ESP	31
2.1.3.3	Types of ESP	33
2.1.3.4	Characteristics of ESP Courses	41
2.1.3.5	The Meaning of the Word 'Special' In ESP	42
2.1.4	Distinction between Curriculum and Syllabus	43
2.1.5	The Syllabus	48
2.1.5.1	The Importance of having a Syllabus in ELT course	48
2.1.5.2	Syllabus Types	50
2.1.5.2.1	The Formal Syllabus	56
2.1.5.2.2	The Functional Syllabus	60
2.1.5.2.3	The Lexical Syllabus	65
2.1.5.2.4	Task-based Syllabus	66
2.1.5.3	Syllabus types summary	71
2.1.6	Needs Analysis	72
2.1.6.1	Definition	72
2.1.6.2	The purposes of needs analysis	83
2.1.6.3	Approaches to needs analysis	86
2.1.6.3.1	Target-situation analysis	86
2.1.6.3.1.1	Target situation analysis framework	88
2.1.6.4	Framework for analyzing learning needs	90
2.1.6.5	Present situation analysis	91
2.1.6.6	Deficiency analysis	93
2.1.6.7	Strategy analysis or learning needs analysis	93
2.1.6.8	Means analysis	94
2.1.6.9	Procedures for conducting needs analysis	95
2.1.6.10	Summary of needs analysis in ESP	100
2.2	The Review of the previous studies	102
2.3	Summary of the Chapter	108

Chapter Three

Research Methodology

	Items	Pages
3.0	Introduction	109
3.1	The study population	110
3.2	The Subject	110
3.2.1	The learners	110
3.2.2	The Teachers	110
3.3	Tools of Data Collection	111
3.3.1	The Questionnaire	111
3.3.2	The interview	111
3.3.3	The Learners Questionnaire	113
3.3.4	The Teachers' Questionnaire	113
3.4	Data Collection Procedures	113
3.4.1	The Learners' Questionnaire	114
3.4.2	Teachers' Questionnaire	114
3.4.3	Senior Officials and Experts' Interviews	114
3.5	Validity of the Two Questionnaires	114
3.6	Reliability and Validity of the Trainees' Questionnaire.	115

Chapter Four

Data Analysis, Results and Discussion

	Items	Pages
4.0	Introduction`	116
4.1	Data Analysis and Results of the Learners' Questionnaire.	116
4.2	Teachers' Questionnaire Analysis	154
4.3	Senior officials and engineers' interviews	168
4.4	Experts' interviews	169
4.5	Verification of the Study Hypotheses.	171
4.6	Summary of the Chapter	176

Chapter Five

Summary of the Study, Conclusions and

Recommendations

	Items	Pages
5.0	Introduction	178
5.1	Summary of the Study	178
5.2	The Findings	179
5.3	Conclusions	181
5.4	Recommendations	184
5.5	Suggestions for further studies	187
	References	188
	Appendices	195

List of Tables

Table 2.1 Major curriculum components of second language program	45
Table 2.2 The formal syllabus	58
Table 2.3 The functional syllabus	61
Table 2.4 The task-based syllabus	67
Table 2.5 Comparison of Approaches to needs Analysis	75
Table 2.6 Profile of Communicative Needs	87
Table 2.7 Features of Different kinds of Interviews	98
Table 4.1 The Participants' Gender	117
Table 4.2 The Participants' Adge	118
Table 4.3 The Participants' Specializations	119
Table 4.4 How important is English to you	120
Table 4.5 Performing Language Activities	121
Table 4.6 Conducting Conversations	122
Table 4.7 Giving Presentations	123
Table 4.8 Reading Articles in English	124
Table 4.9 Listening to Radio & Watch TV	125
Table 4.10 Communicating & taking part in conferences	126
Table 4.11 Reading literature for pleasure	127
Table 4.12 The Importance of Mastering English Language by the Sudanese	Oil & Gas
Employees.	128
Table 4.13 Assessing Listening Skills	129
Table 4.14 Assessing Speaking Skills	130
Table 4.15 Assessing Reading Skills	131
Table 4.16 Assessing Writing Skills	132
Table 4.17 Assessing Grammar	133
Table 4.18 Assessing Vocabulary	134
Table 4.19 Assessing Pronunciation	135
Table 4.20 Developing Listening Skills	136

Table 4.21 Developing Speaking Skills	137
Table 4.22 Developing Reading Skills	138
Table 4.23 Developing Writing Skills	139
Table 4.24 Developing Grammar	140
Table 4.25 Developing Vocabulary	141
Table 4.26 The most Important Skills Needed by the learners	142
Table 4.27 Conversing with Colleagues	143
Table 4.28 Reading written or printed materials	144
Table 4.29 Making Translations	145
Table 4.30 English as a medium of instructions	146
Table 4.31 Reading and writing in English	147
Table 4.32 Gaps between the employees' current language skills and their actual	need for
English at the workplace	148
Table 4.33 Designing a new syllabus	149
Table 4.34 The syllabus does not help master language skills	150
Table 4.35 The revision of syllabus	151
Table 4.36 The extent to which the current syllabus is suitable	151
Table 4.37 Designing an ESP syllabus and its influence on Oil & Gas staff	
communicative skills	152
Table 4.38 Teachers' Academic degrees	153
Table 4.39 Period of English language teaching	153
Table 4.40 Teachers' experience at the PTC	156
Table 4.41 Language skills needed by learners to achieve short-term objectives	158
Table 4.42 Language skills needed by learners to achieve long-term objectives	160
Table 4.43 Syllabus provided by the PTC	162
Table 4.44 Teachers' views about the covering of learning needs	163
Table 4.45 Changes made by teachers on the program	164
Table 4.46 Source of teaching materials	165
Table 4.47 Time allocated to the program	166

List of Figures

Figure 2.1 The ESP Family Tree35	
Figure 2.2 ESP in USA	
Figure 2.3 English for Specific Purposes)
Figure 2.4 The basis of an EAP Syllabus70	
Figure 2.5 The Munby Model86	
Figure 4.1 The participants' gender	7
Figure 4.2 Participants' age	3
Figure 4.3 Participants' Specializations)
Figure 4.4 The Importance of English Language	1
Figure: (4.5) Performing language activities	
Figure: (4.6) Conducting face to face conversations	
Figure: (4.7) Giving presentation	
Figure: (4.8) Reading articles and printed materials	
Figure: (4.9) Listening to radio and watching TV125	
Figure: (4.10) Communicating and taking part in conference	
Figure: (4.11) Reading literature for pleasure	
Figure: (4.12) Listening skills	
Figure (4.13 Speaking skills	
Figure: (4.14) Reading skills	
Figure: (4.15) Writing skills	
Figure (4.16) Grammar	
Figure: (4.17) Vocabulary	
Figure: (4.18) Pronunciation	
Figure: (4.19) Developing listening skills	
Figure: (4.20) Developing speaking skills	
Figure: (4.21) Developing reading skills	
Figure: (4.22) Developing writing skills	
Figure: (4.23) Developing grammar	

Figure (4.24) Developing Vocabulary	141
Figure (4.25) Conversing with Colleagues	143
Figure (4.26) Reading written or printed materials	144
Figure: (4.27) Making translation	145
Figure: (4.28) English as a medium of instruction	146
Figure: (4.29): Reading and writing in English	147
Figure: (4.30): Designing a new syllabus	149
Figure: (4.31) the syllabus does not help master language skills	150
Figure: (4.32) the revision of syllabus	151
Figure (4.33) The extent to which the current syllabus is suitable	152

List of Abbreviations

CNP: Communication Needs Analysis.

EAP: English for Academic Purposes.

EBE: English for Business and Economic

EFL: English as Foreign Language.

EGAP: English for General Academic Purposes.

ELT: English Language Teaching.

EOP: English for Occupational Purposes.

EPP: English for Professional Purposes.

ESAP: English for Specific Academic Purposes.

ESE: English for Social Studies.

ESP: English for Specific Purposes.

EST: English for Science and Technology.

EVP: English for Vocational Purposes.

NNS: Non-Native Speakers.

OEPA: Oil Exploration and Production Authority.

PC: Personal Computer.

PSA: Present Situation Analysis.

PTC: Petroleum Training Center.

SPC: Sudanese Petroleum Corporation.

TSA: Target Situation Analysis.