Sudan University of Science and Technology

College of Graduate Studies

The Role of Needs Analysis in ESP Syllabus Design

A Thesis Submitted to Department of English, College of Languages in Fulfillment of the Requirements for M.A. Degree in English.

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Dedication

I would like to dedicate this work:

To my father for his support and his never-ending belief in education and knowledge

To my mother, the poetess, who introduced me to the beauty of language

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the role of needs analysis (NA) in ESP syllabus design. To this end, the ESP programme at the Faculty of Law, University of Khartoum was taken as an example. This programme was initiated a decade ago to principally meet the needs of the students of the Faculty of Law in dealing with some of their legal subjects which have continued to be taught in English after the decision of Arabicization. Two questionnaires and an interview were used to collect information about the students' needs and the contribution of the existing ESP programme in meeting these needs. The results of the interview and the questionnaire were then analysed and compared in reference to the linguistic analysis of the materials of the legal subjects and the materials used in the ESP programme. The findings of all these processes have confirmed the first hypothesis of the study in regard to the failure of the existing ESP programme in meeting the needs of the students in question and have also confirmed the second hypothesis which attributed the programme's inability to conduct a NA as the cause behind this failure. Responding to these findings, which clearly revealed the importance of NA in identifying students' difficulties, the study has outlined the procedures that should be followed to collect credible and reliable data about these difficulties. It has also recommended the most important guidelines of the syllabus which can best address the needs of the students in question.

ABSTRACT (Arabic Version)

مستخلص الدراسة

بحثت هذه الدراسة دور تحليل احتياجات الطلاب اللغوية في تصميم برامج اللغة الانجليزية للاغراض المحددة . ولتحقيق هذا الهدف قامت الدراسة بتقويم مدى نجاح برنامج اللغة الانجليزية بكلية القانون، جامعة الخرطوم في تلبية الاحتياجات اللغوية للطلاب المستهدفين . و يهدف هذا البرنامج بشكل اساسي الي مساعدة الطلاب في التغلب علي الصعوبات التي تواجههم في عدد من المواد القانونية التي لم تعرب . ولجمع المعلومات عن احتياجات الطلاب اللغوية تم عمل استبانتين : الاولي مع طلاب كلية القانون والثانية مع اساتذة المواد القانونية التي تدرس باللغة الانجليزية كما تم اجراء مقابلة مع الاستاذين المسؤلين عن برنامج اللغة الانجليزية. ايضا تم اجراء تحليل لغوي لمواد البرنامج والمواد القانونية المعنية. وقد خلصت الدراسة الي تاكيد فرضيتي البحث اللتين تتعلقان بفشل برنامج اللغة الانجليزية في تلبية احتياجات الطلاب نتيجة لعجزه عن تحديد تلك الاحتياجات. و نظرا لاهمية تحليل احتياجات الطلاب اللغوية الذي وضح من خلال نتائج الدراسة فقد تم تحديد السبل الفعالة لاجراء ذلك التحليل كما قامت الدراسة بالتوصية ببعض الموجهات العامة للمنهج الذي يلبي احتياجات الطلاب اللغوية.

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LIST OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS

1- (CBI) Content Based Instruction

2- (EAP) English For Academic Purposes

3- (EGP) English For General Purposes

4- (ESP) English For Specific Purposes

5- (NA) Needs Analysis

6- (TGG) Transformational Generative Grammar