

**ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES:
WHAT DOES IT MEAN? WHY IS IT
DIFFERENT?**

Week 1

THE GROWTH OF ESP

- From the early 1960s, ESP has grown to be one of the most prominent areas of EFL teaching today.
- Evidences : 1) the increasing number of univ offering an MA in ESP (e.g. Birmingham & Aston Uni in UK), 2) a number of ESP courses offered to overseas students in English speaking countries, 3) a well-established international journal dedicated to ESP discussion “English for Specific Purposes: An International Journal”, 4) International ESP communities, i.e. ESP ISG groups, JACET ESP SIG group in Japan, JALT N-SIG

WHAT IS ESP?

- What is ESP? How do you define ESP?
- What are the absolute characteristics in your ESP definition?
- What are the variable characteristics in your ESP definition?

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.

Definition of ESP (Dudley Evans, 1997)

- *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 in a professional work situation. 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.

What can you infer from ESP definitions?

- ESP can but is not necessarily concerned with a specific discipline, nor does it have to be aimed at a certain age group or ability range.
- ESP should be seen simple as an 'approach' to teaching, or what Dudley-Evans describes as an 'attitude of mind'.
- "ESP is an approach to language teaching in which all decisions as to content and method are based on the learner's reason for learning" (Hutchinson et al., 1987:19).

Is ESP different from General English?

- Hutchinson et al. (1987:53) “in theory nothing, in practice a great deal”
- ESP approach has had on English teaching in general.
- What is an irony in ESP in contrast to General English?

The Future & Current Practice of ESP in Indonesia

Questions for discussion

- Why was ESP introduced in our country?
- Mention the examples of ESP teaching in Indonesia.
- ‘Tell me what you need English for and I will tell you the English that you need’ (p 8). How can you justify this claim for ESP?
- What do you think of the future of ESP in Indonesia?