English For Specific Purposes: From Theory To Practice
A Case Study Of The Language Centre
Programme At Yarmouk University

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Abstract

Recently, the focus in language teaching in many academic institutions has shifted from teaching common core English (i.e. the teaching of grammar, reading comprehension, and writing composition for no obvious purpose) to teaching subject-related or occupation related English, supposed to be tailored to accommodate the needs of both the learners and their sponsors.

The field of such a new perspective has been what is now known as ESP (English for Specific purposes).

According to ESP proponents, ESP programmes can save time and efforts on the part of the teacher, the student, and the course designer.

In addition, they claim that such programmes promote motivation and presumably contribute towards effective learning on part of the target learners. The importance of this study derives from the fact that it is the first (to the best knowledge of the researcher) at the Yarmouk University context, which addresses itself to exploring the feasibility of the above mentioned claims. The study is an attempt to provide insights and implications that may contribute to the decisions related to the design and content of these ESP courses set at Yarmouk University Language Centre(YULC).
The sample of the study consisted of 506 students covering five different academic departments at Yarmouk University. The majority of the subjects were first year students.

This study had the following purposes:

1. Investigating Yarmouk University students' language needs with regard to ESP courses offered to them within the framework of the University requirements in English.

2. Investigating the subject-teachers' expectations of the ESP courses offered to their students.

3. Investigating the Language Centre teachers' views, comments, and opinions with respect to the ESP courses they teach as university requirements in English.

4. Conducting content analysis of some of the ESP textbooks selected for implementing the objectives of the University requirement in English programme, with a view to find out the extent to which such textbooks meet the objectives.

5. Providing suggestions and recommendations inspired by the findings of the study with respect to the stated objectives.