

An Analysis of Algerian Manufacturing and Engineering Master's Students' Needs

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Abstract

Needs analysis is considered as an effective tool to design a course of English for Specific Purposes (ESP) that best fits the students' needs. Thus, the present paper responds to a main research question focuses on what the Algerian Manufacturing and Engineering Master's students need English for. It aims at investigating the students' language needs and identifying the stakeholders' perceptions of the ESP course. For this purpose, this research is based on a case study design through which a target situation, a present situation, a learner factor and teaching content analyses were undertaken. In fact, this is done in order to help teachers and education leaders in Algeria to draw a clear policy to ensure successful implementation of ESP courses. Two questionnaires and two semi-structured interviews were addressed to Algerian Engineering Master's students, English language teachers, subject-specialists and administrators. The results revealed that Engineering students were highly motivated to learn English. They also indicated that there is an absence of an adequate proficiency level of English from the part of the students as they are unable to practice effectively the four skills namely listening, speaking, and communication. This is why they need to learn English in order to write exam answer, read textbooks, course handouts, follow lectures, and listen to instructions and explanations. Finally, designing a more focused English language course, training teachers, and providing financial support are highly recommended.

Key words: English for Specific Purposes (ESP), Manufacturing and Engineering students, needs analysis, present situation, target situation

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