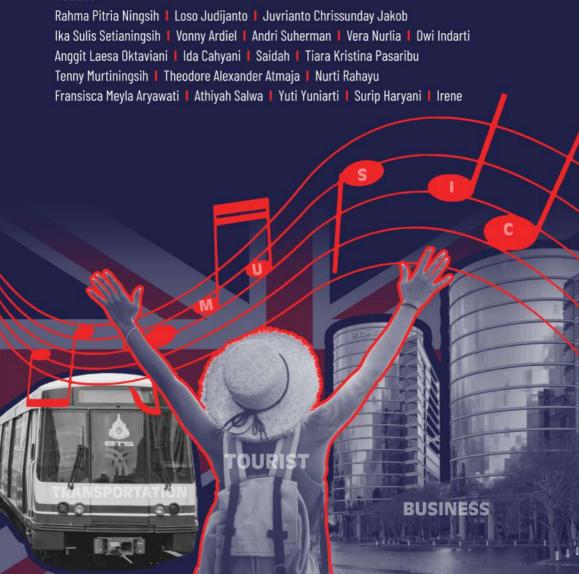
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Dr. Bertaria Sohnata Hutauruk, S.Pd., M.Hum



# THE HANDBOOK OF ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES IN THE LAST TREND ERA

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## THE HANDBOOK OF ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES IN THE LAST TREND ERA

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#### Editor: Dr. Bertaria Sohnata Hutauruk, S.Pd., M.Hum

Desain Cover: Nada Kurnia, S.I.Kom. Tata Letak: Samuel, S.Kom. Ukuran: A5 Unesco (15,5 x 23 cm) Halaman: xvi, 358

e-ISBN: **978-634-7216-38-0** 

Terbit Pada: Juni 2025

Hak Cipta 2025, Pada Penulis

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### PENERBIT FUTURE SCIENCE (CV. FUTURE SCIENCE)

Anggota IKAPI (348/JTI/2022)

Jl. Terusan Surabaya Gang 1 A No. 71 RT 002 RW 005, Kel. Sumbersari, Kec. Lowokwaru, Kota Malang, Provinsi Jawa Timur.

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# CHAPTER 1 AN INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

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#### 1.1. DEFINITION AND SCOPE OF ESP

Over the past three decades, the field of English for Specific Purposes (ESP) has evolved. As a learner-centered approach, its main purpose has been that of fulfilling the specific needs of target learners to satisfy either their professional or vocational demands. Dudley-Evans and St John (1998) addressed three of the most widely-recognized definitions in the field in their book Developments in ESP: A Multi-disciplinary Approach. The first is the one provided by Hutchinson and Waters (1987), who viewed ESP as an approach, not a product, which means that it does not involve a particular kind of language, teaching material, or methodology. This might be considered the most general of the definitions. Dudley-Evans (2001) also cited Strevens' definition, which aims at de-fining ESP by distinguishing both its absolute and variable characteristics. Among some of the absolute features, he mentioned ESP's relationship with other disciplinary areas and occupations by using their methodologies and activities, its focus on and analysis of the language related to a particular area, and its contrast to General English. Anthony (1997) stated that, during Japan's Conference on ESP, Dudley-Evans included another feature within this definition, that "ESP is defined to meet specific needs of the learners".

Moreover, Dudley-Evans (2001) briefly explained Robinson's view of ESP as a goal-directed approach that has a limited time period and is aimed at adults in homogeneous learning environments. According to Anthony (1997), Dudley-Evans also stated that ESP is usually aimed at professionals or tertiary-level students with some target language basic knowledge but is not limited to these populations exclusively. All these absolute and variable features emphasize the purposeful nature of ESP as an approach that shapes itself according to the learner's needs.

However, for the last decades, the definitions of ESP have evolved; each of them has evidenced the changes in theoreticians', researchers', and practitioners' views. However, all the definitions given have had common elements, sometimes referred to as "ab-solute features", that embrace ESP's aim at meeting the very specific needs of a very specific group of learners. English for Specific Purposes (ESP) is a branch of English language teaching (ELT) that focuses on developing language skills tailored to the specific needs of learners within particular professional, academic, or technical fields. Unlike General English (GE), which emphasizes overall linguistic competence, ESP is need-driven and customized to the learners' field of study or work (Dudley-Evans & St. John, 1998). ESP can be broadly categorized into two main areas, THAT IS English for Academic Purposes (EAP) AND English for Occupational Purposes (EOP).

#### 1. ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES (EAP)

English for Academic Purposes (EAP) is designed for students and researchers who need to develop their English proficiency for academic study. It focuses on the language skills necessary to succeed in higher education, including reading linguistics allowed researchers to analyze large datasets of specialized texts, leading to more precise and data-driven ESP course design (Biber et al., 1998). Additionally, computer-assisted language learning (CALL) emerged as an effective tool for enhancing ESP learning through simulations, virtual training modules, and industry-specific software (Chapelle, 2001).

# 5. The 21st Century – The Digital Era and Multimodal Learning

The 21st century has witnessed the integration of artificial intelligence (AI), online learning platforms, and interactive digital resources into ESP instruction. Advances in AI-powered language tools, such as automated feedback systems and adaptive learning technologies, have revolutionized personalized ESP education (Chapelle & Sauro, 2017). The widespread use of multimodal learning, which incorporates text, audio, video, and virtual reality (VR), has further enhanced the engagement and effectiveness of ESP courses.

ESP continues to evolve in response to changes in global industries, academic research, and technological advancements, ensuring that learners acquire the specialized English proficiency necessary for success in their respective fields.

#### 1.3. CHARACTERISTICS OF ESP

ESP stands apart from General English due to its goaldriven and specialized nature. Below are its defining characteristics:

#### 1.3.1. Needs-Based Approach

ESP instruction is designed based on a comprehensive needs analysis that identifies learners' specific language requirements (Hutchinson & Waters, 1987).

#### 1.3.2. Specialized Content

Unlike General English, ESP includes vocabulary, discourse structures, and communicative functions tailored to specific disciplines or professions (Swales, 1990).

#### 1.3.3. Context-Driven Learning

In Context-Driven Learning, ESP courses incorporate authentic materials, case studies, and practical tasks that reflect real-world academic or workplace contexts (Dudley-Evans & St. John, 1998).

#### 1.3.4. Task-Oriented Approach

In this approach, it is believed that Learning is structured around tasks and problem-solving activities that mirror professional or academic tasks, helping learners develop relevant skills for their fields (Hyland, 2006).

#### 1.3.5. Learner-Centered Instruction

ESP emphasizes active participation and interaction, allowing learners to engage in role-plays, simulations, and projects that enhance their language proficiency within their specialized domain. By focusing on these characteristics, ESP ensures that learners develop English skills that are directly applicable to their academic and professional needs.

#### 1.4. THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN MODERN ESP

Technology has significantly transformed English for Specific Purposes (ESP) instruction by introducing innovative tools and methodologies that enhance learning effectiveness, engagement, and accessibility. The integration of digital resources has allowed for more flexible, personalized, and interactive learning experiences that cater to the unique needs of ESP learners.

#### 1.4.1. Digital Learning Platforms and Online Resources

The rise of Learning Management Systems (LMS) such as Moodle, Blackboard, and Google Classroom has enabled educators to design and deliver ESP courses that include multimedia resources, discussion forums, and interactive assignments. These platforms facilitate self-paced learning, allowing students to access course materials anytime, anywhere.

Moreover, specialized ESP websites and online repositories, such as academic journal databases, technical glossaries, and professional training modules, provide learners with authentic materials relevant to their fields of study or work.

#### 1.4.2. Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL)

Computer-assisted language learning (CALL) has become a fundamental aspect of ESP instruction. CALL tools, such as grammar checkers, vocabulary-building apps, and pronunciation software, offer immediate feedback and adaptive learning pathways. These tools help learners master discipline-specific terminology and communication skills more efficiently.

Examples of CALL applications in ESP include:

- a. Corpus-based tools like AntConc, which analyze specialized language use in different professions.
- b. Speech recognition software, such as ELSA Speak, for practicing pronunciation in medical, business, or technical English.
- c. Interactive simulations, such as virtual lab environments for medical or engineering students.

# 1.4.3. Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) in ESP

Emerging technologies like VR and AR have revolutionized ESP by offering immersive learning experiences that simulate real-world professional environments. VR applications allow

learners to practice workplace interactions in a risk-free, controlled setting. For example:

- a. Medical students can engage in VR-based patient diagnosis simulations.
- b. Aviation English learners can use AR headsets for flight communication training.
- c. Engineering students can explore 3D models of machinery and technical systems.

#### 1.4.4. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Adaptive Learning

AI-powered tools enhance ESP instruction by offering personalized learning experiences based on learners' proficiency levels and individual needs. AI-driven chatbots, like Duolingo's AI tutor, provide contextualized conversation practice relevant to specific industries. Additionally, adaptive learning platforms use AI to track learner progress and adjust content accordingly. This ensures that students focus on areas where they need improvement, optimizing their learning outcomes.

#### 1.4.5. Mobile Learning and ESP Applications

Mobile technology has made ESP learning more accessible and flexible, particularly through ESP-specific mobile applications and podcasts. Apps such as:

- a. Busuu and Babbel (with industry-specific English courses),
- b. FluentU (which uses real-world videos for contextual learning), and
- c. TED-Ed (which offers subject-specific listening exercises)

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## THE HANDBOOK OF ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES IN THE LAST TREND ERA

The Handbook of English for Specific Purposes in the Last Trend Era consists of 20 chapters: (1) An Introductory of English for Specific Purposes, (2) The Future of English for Specific Purposes, (3) Types of English for Specific Purposes, (4) English Language Skills in English for Specific Purposes, (5) Needs Analysis, (6) Assessment and Evaluation in English for Specific Purposes, (7) English for Academic Purposes, (8) English for Research Publication, (9) English for Business Administration, (10) English for Computer, (11) English for Science and Technology, (12) English for Music, (13) English for Nursing, (14) English for Mathematics, (15) English for Tourism, (16) English for Agriculture, (17) English for Maritime, (18) English for Transportation, (19) English for Civil Engineering, (20) English for Law





