

The 2nd MAAL-SAAL Symposium 2016
The Asia-Europe Institute (AEI), University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur
(21 October 2016)

A Collaborative ESP: 'Engineering Specific Purpose' of Workplace English

Zarina Othman
Pusat CITRA, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

ABSTRACT

The absolute characteristics of ESP are defined i) to meet specific needs of the learners ii) to make use of underlying methodology and activities of the discipline it serves iii) to centre on the language appropriate to these activities in terms of grammar, lexis, register, study skills, discourse and genre. How do language teachers at tertiary level of education address these characteristics when preparing undergraduate students for 'real world' use of English at the workplace based on their learned subject disciplines? Often, teachers refer to ESP modules or textbooks available in the market without evaluating the definite needs of these students in enabling them to articulate and communicate their subject content knowledge when at workplace. This presentation shares the approach and practices of the ESP teaching and learning in engineering the 'English' for workplace for students of the two respective faculties; the Medical and the Engineering Faculties of one of the local institutions in Malaysia. It aims to highlight the evaluation of the definite needs of the students and the approach adopted in the ESP collaboration with the respective faculties. It also draws the attention of the understanding of ESP in a non-native English tertiary context.



E-mail: zothman@ukm.edu.my

Dr Zarina Othman is an Associate Professor at CITRA UKM. She obtained her Bachelor degree (B.Ed TESL) in Kent University UK, then obtained her Masters from University of Malaya in, and completed Doctor of Philosophy (PhD in Linguistics) in Lancaster University, United Kingdom. She was appointed the Deputy Director of Language Proficiency from 2007 till 2013. Her areas of interest are in ESP / ESL teaching, Discourse Analysis, Language and Professional Communication. She has conducted trainings for University internal departments and external organisations and industry focusing on Workplace English and English for Professional Communication. Currently, she holds the post of the Head of Latin American Studies (IKAL) at the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS) UKM.