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Journal of the English for Specific Purposes Special Interest Group



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EDITORIAL

Welcome

Welcome

Welcome to Issue 43 of *Professional and Academic English*!

It is my pleasure to introduce you to the Winter–Spring issue of the journal. As in the previous issues, it includes a wide range of articles covering various topics in ESP and EAP from around the world, book reviews and conference reports.

This issue, as usual, demonstrates the wide range of contexts in which ESP is taught. In this case, the articles are all related to EAP, starting with EGAP and moving on to ESAP. Reina Wakabayashi starts by looking at teaching general academic writing to first-year university students in Japan. This is followed by teaching critical thinking in the EAP classrooms by Jianying Du in China. Again in Japan, but becoming more subject specific, Akira Tajino, Yosuke Sasao & David Dalsky investigate the effects of technical vocabulary knowledge on academic writing. Finally, two approaches to ESAP in Russia are discussed. Olga Vavelyuk is interested in teaching English to students of physics, and Irina Korotkina to students of social science education.

We would like to encourage all our readers to submit articles to the journal. Please visit http://espsig.iatefl.org/ for further information (also see this issue).

Finally, we are grateful to the colleagues at Garnet Education for their continuous support in publishing this journal.

Happy reading!

Andy Gillett UK

Message from the Joint Co-ordinators





Dear Colleagues,

We are very delighted to present Issue 43 of *Professional and Academic English* to you in the New Year. As usual, this issue contains a wide range of articles showcasing ESP research and practices from different parts of the world. We would like to thank the Editorial team, particularly Andy Gillett (the editor of the current issue), for their excellent work.

As the new Joint Co-ordinators we aim to organise more events either jointly with other SIGs or professional organisations. To this end, we worked closely with the British Council Turkey to organise our first webinar in February 2014.

We are grateful to our valued members for their constant support. We look forward to seeing many of you in Harrogate at the 48th IATEFL conference in April this year. We have a Keynote speaker (Professor Agnes Kukulska-Hulme, The Open University UK) for our PCE in Harrogate this year, which we have tried to make more interactive as well.

Finally, we would like to thank Garnet Education for their continuous support with our journal and book publications.

Aysen Guven and Prithvi Shresha
IATEFL ESP SIG Joint Co-ordinators

Disclaimer The ESP SIG Journal is a peer-reviewed publication. Articles submitted by prospective authors are carefully considered by our editorial team, and where appropriate, feedback and advice is provided. The Journal is not blind refereed.

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Reports

Report 1

The Magic of Innovation: New Techniques and Technologies in Teaching Foreign Languages

MGIMO University, Moscow, Russia, 4th–5th October 2013

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This high-profile international conference on innovations in FLT was organized by the English Department of the School of International Relations of MGIMO University to mark its 70th anniversary. MGIMO University is renowned as the only one in the world to teach 53 foreign languages, with each student having a course of two or three foreign languages for specific purposes as part of their professional training.

The conference brought together 210 presenters from 100 universities in Russia and 22 other countries. The geography of participants was impressive, ranging from Kaliningrad on the Baltic Sea to Vladivostok on the Pacific Coast, to Ukraine and Bulgaria on the Black Sea to India and Bangladesh on the Indian coast.

Throughout the two tightly-packed days, morning plenaries were followed by six parallel sessions in the afternoon. On the first day, the late afternoon also offered six parallel interactive workshops, two round-table discussions (one of which was via video conference) and a master class to choose from. A well-attended networking reception afterwards rounded off the rewarding day.

The keynote speakers set the tone for the conference. Elena Yastrebova and Dmitri Kryachkov (MGIMO) opened the plenary with a question “Is Innovation a Revolution or Evolution in LT?” and presented the results of their study of teachers’ and students’ views on innovations in LT. Elena Belyaevskaya, from Moscow State Linguistic University, an expert in Cognitive Linguistics, focused on its relevance to second language acquisition, while Peter Grundy, past president of IATEFL, gave an enlightening and witty presentation “Optimality in Neo-Gricean Pragmatics: the Challenge for E2L Users”. Gyde Hansen from Copenhagen Business School analyzed the challenges of human machine interaction in translation and assured the audience that translators need not worry about their jobs yet.

On the second day, Elena Solovova (Moscow State University) and Jesus Garcia Laborda (Universidad de Alcala, Spain) spoke on different aspects of teaching English (and other foreign languages) for Specific Purposes, with Dr Laborda giving an overview of current approaches to teaching ESP and Dr Solovova bringing to the fore the issues of curriculum design, effective assessment and professional development of ESP teachers. The final treat was a talk by Prof. Geoffrey Leach of Lancaster University, UK about the current changes in English Grammar in relation to society.

Session presentations and workshop discussions covered diverse issues related to innovative approaches to teaching students of international relations and cross-cultural communication, future experts in regional studies, linguists and translators/interpreters as well as other practitioners who will need foreign languages in their professional activities.

The session presentations focused on the cutting edge areas of FLT at tertiary level within the six sessions:

- E-learning, foreign language for specific purposes, methodology in LT E-learning: a Buzzword or a Recognized Need?
- Foreign Languages for Specific Purposes: What Purposes, What Means?
- Methodology in LT: Teaching, Teaching to Learn and Learning to Teach
- Linguistics: Practical Tips from Academics
- Towards Effective Models of Cross-cultural Communication
- The Art of Translation: Equivalence in Search of Adequacy

The conference was a great success not just in terms of numbers but, most importantly, in terms of the quality of the presentations, the sharing and caring atmosphere which made everyone welcome and each contribution valued, the unanimous feeling of getting a breath of fresh air both professionally and emotionally, and a desire to come back next year. Which means that the Magic worked.