

ESP IN THE COURSE OF HISTORY (FIFTY YEARS OF RESEARCH AND PEDAGOGY)

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- The early years: 1962-1981
- The more recent past: 1981-1990
- The modern age: 1990-2011
- The future: 2011 plus



Lord Acton (1832-1902):

“The knowledge of the past, the record of truths revealed by experience, is eminently practical, is an instrument of action, and a power that goes to the making of the future.”



THE EARLY YEARS: 1962-1981

- Register analysis: 1962-early 1970
 1. lexico-grammatical variation in scientific language (EST)
 2. Descriptive analysis at sentence level in written language
 3. Contrastive analysis of languages such as Spanish and Japanese
 4. Washington school represented by Lackstorm, Trimple, and Selinker
 5. Limitations: dense and inauthentic passages, unsupportive accompanying diagrammes, and repetitive exercises



- Discourse or rhetorical analysis: early 1970-1981
 1. Rhetorical organization of text types beyond sentence level (usually paragraphs)
 2. Analysis of grammatical features and their functions in scientific language such as research articles in astrophysics in written language
 3. Consultation with subject-specialist informants
 4. Widdowson and Washington school



- Target situation analysis: 1978
 1. Learners' needs in target situations
 2. Analysis of linguistic features of those situations
 3. Munby's communicative syllabus design



THE MORE RECENT PAST: 1981-1990

- The publication of ESPJ (English for specific purposes journal) in 1986
- The publication of Swales' aspects of article introductions in 1981
- The publication of Hutchinson and Waters' English for specific purposes in 1987
- The publication of Swales' genre analysis in 1990



BROADENING THE SCOPE

- Needs assessment
 1. Empirical, triangulated, and complex needs of learners
 2. Strategic needs in addition to grammatical needs
- Linguistic devices and their rhetorical purposes: written and spoken
- Technology: posters, slides, telexes, and computer-mediated instruction



- Error analysis
- Skills and strategies
- Learning-centredness




CENTRAL ESP CONCEPTS

- Genre
- Rhetorical moves
- Shortcomings of this period
 1. Absence of the sophisticated use of computers for gathering corpus data
 2. Focus on only written discourse



THE MODERN AGE: 1990-2011

- The introduction and importance of new international journals
 1. Journal of second language learning (JSLW) in 1991 by Leki and Silvia (writing processes and products, student errors, text analysis, academic argumentation)
 2. Journal of English for Academic purposes (JEAP) in 2002 by Hamp-Lyons and Hyland (evaluation in academic discourse, contrastive rhetoric in EAP, corpus-based EAP, and Academic English in secondary schools)
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○ Genre:

1. Macro and micro structure of text types
2. Descriptive and explanatory nature of genre studies
3. Influenced by composition studies in L1 (constraint and choice)
4. Study of genre sets such as academic essays
5. Advanced academic genres
6. Professional genres

