

Michael Johnson*

Muroran Institute of Technology, Japan
migjohns@mmm.muroran-it.ac.jp

A QUALITATIVE EXAMINATION OF ESP INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND MOTIVATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Abstract

This study set out to examine foreign language learning motivation in reference to general EFL (English as a Foreign Language) and ESP (English for Specific Purposes) instructional materials. More specifically, it examined in-class behaviors of Japanese engineering students as they were instructed with EFL and ESP instructional materials in alternating class sessions over a twelve week period. Data were gathered through instructor post-class observation notes, and analyzed using two-step content analysis. Results suggested that motivational engagement was affected by instructional materials' type, content, and characteristics, as well as individual and group factors within the classroom. Overall, ESP material content appeared to more positively influence the degree of engagement in learners, with technical and engineering content drawing particular interest.

83

Key words

motivation, instructional materials, English for Specific Purposes.

* Corresponding address: Michael Johnson, Muroran Institute of Technology, 27-1 Mizumoto, Muroran, Japan 050-8585.