

BOOK REVIEW



BALANCE BETWEEN THEORY AND PRACTICE

Nadežda Silaški and Tatjana Đurović (Eds.). AKTUELNE TEME ENGLESKOG JEZIKA NAUKE I STRUKE U SRBIJI [CURRENT TOPICS IN ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES AT TERTIARY LEVEL IN SERBIA] (2013), Beograd: CID Ekonomskog fakulteta. 301 pp., ISBN 978-86-403-1323-0.

English for Specific Purposes (ESP) has come a long way over the last fifty years to clearly establish itself as a discipline which can successfully adjust to the current social trends and incorporate the latest theoretical and methodological solutions in the field of linguistics, applied linguistics in particular.

To mark the 50th anniversary of this scientific discipline and take this opportunity to focus attention on its significant role to help learners master the language used in various professional settings, the Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade, has published a thematic volume of articles entitled *Current topics in English for specific purposes at tertiary level in Serbia*, edited by Nadežda Silaški and Tatjana Đurović. Given that ESP has proved to be a multidisciplinary activity, the editors attempt to offer a comprehensive survey of research in this area at tertiary level in Serbia conducted as a synthesis of eclectic theoretical orientations and empirical approaches thus answering the question why ESP has become an integral part of English language studies (p. 6). Although ESP is closely tied to applied linguistics, its interdisciplinary character is obvious in all the papers presented in this volume, showing its relationship with a particular scientific discipline on the one hand, and with other linguistic disciplines such as pragmatics, systemic-functional linguistics, lexicology, cognitive linguistics, or discourse analysis, on the other.

The volume consists of 301 pages divided into four sections, each dealing with a specific area of study. Out of 18 papers contained in these four sections seven focus on ESP teaching practice at non-philological faculties in Serbia while

the others are research papers which reflect current trends in scientific research in this domain at the tertiary level of education in Serbia. In other words, research with significant pedagogical implications is intertwined with research into the language, discourse and rhetoric of varied disciplines taught at Serbian universities nowadays such as medicine, economics, electrical engineering, tourism, sport, music, business, biology, information technology.

The field of lexis and learning specialised vocabulary of particular sciences and professions is without doubt one of the most researched and most challenging areas in the domain of ESP. The first section of the volume entitled *Vocabulary and Terminology* includes six papers that deal with the analysis of lexis and terminology from various theoretical aspects. Thus, Sonja Filipović-Kovačević, using the integrated theoretical framework of communicative language teaching and applied cognitive linguistics, analyses the cases of polysemy and homonymy in advertisements and the intriguing effect that results from lexical ambiguity. Drawing on a detailed corpus analysis, Miloš D. Đurić focuses on semantic and syntactic features of multi-constituent constructs in electrical engineering discourse, showing how his results may be implemented in the classroom for improving students' comprehension of written and spoken discourse. Jelena Vujić investigates phrasal verbs with the particle *off* which belong to popular economic and political discourse, and proposes the semantic chain for particles be established for the purpose of facilitating the process of particle-verb acquisition and learning. Dragana Vuković-Vojnović explores the issue of lexical collocations and their rhetorical effect in promotional language of tourism, pinpointing the importance of the acquisition of specialist vocabulary in the development of students' confidence in expressing themselves in English. The last two papers of the first part raise the issue of standardisation and codification of terminology, stemming from the role of English as a *lingua franca* and its influence on different registers, frequently leading to terminological solutions that contravene the linguistic and conceptual foundations of Serbian. A theoretical model of creating standard technical terminology as well as its practical realisation in sports register is the topic of Mira Milić's paper. The author shows how this model may be applied to borrowed and translated sports terms as well as to those that result from English-Serbian language contacts. In their joint paper Sofija Mičić and Danka Sinadinović compare the influence of English on the Serbian language for medical scientific and professional purposes using three different data sets – scientific publications, popular magazine articles, and television programmes dealing with various medical topics, and analyse whether the use of anglicisms is justified in each of the data sets.

The second part of the book entitled *Discourse and Conceptualisation* comprises five papers which combine the theoretical foundations of cognitive linguistics and discourse analysis within the framework of ESP. Recent decades have witnessed a growing interest in applying the main postulates of cognitive linguistics to ESP and how language, as a tool of conceptualisation, reflects the

categories which help structure particular sciences and types of communication. In their co-authored paper Nadežda Silaški and Tatjana Đurović explore the role of the FOOD metaphor in a highly persuasive genre of culinary tourism advertising. They show how copywriters of promotional discourse utilise topic-triggered metaphors, especially those that blend our deeply embodied concepts with distinct cultural connotations. Modern theories in cognitive science, as suggested in a paper written by Mihailo Antović, may contribute to teaching ESP in university-level schools of music. Exemplifying different areas where cognitive linguistics meets applied linguistics, such as figurative idioms or the learning of the definite article, the author offers plausible arguments for further implementation of insights of cognitive linguistics and cognitive musicology into both EFL and ESP classrooms. The topic of image schemas is also dealt with in the joint paper by Tatjana Đurović and Nadežda Silaški. They analyse the visually rendered MOVEMENT, VERTICALITY and CONTAINER image schemas and the related conceptual metaphors and metonymies, in an attempt to show how this cognitive apparatus is used to structure the concept of the global financial crisis as depicted on magazine covers in English and Serbian. Drawing on the framework of genre analysis and rhetorical structure theory, Jelisaveta Šafranj explores the inherent structure of English business discourse and the most frequent rhetorical relations that are established between different textual spans. The last paper in this part of the volume is set in the framework of systemic-functional linguistics. The authors Violeta Stojičić and Sanja Krimer-Gaborović explore the structure of the clause within the textual metafunction of language, i.e. the configuration of Theme and Rheme in English scientific texts of biology.

Language skills are an indispensable part of ESP teaching and learning, whose importance is heavily determined by students' needs and thus designed ESP curricula. *Development of Language Skills* is the third section of the volume and includes four papers. Nataša Bikicki investigates a frequently neglected area of ESP learning – reading, showing how the perceived use of reading strategies affects IT students' comprehension of two different types of texts, a printed internet text and a coursebook text. Ljiljana Knežević explores oral presentation skills as an important aspect of an ESP course taught in an academic setting. Her results show that the proper teaching of those skills in an ESP class can help increase the students' metacognition as well as their presentation skills in subject specific courses in Serbian. The issue of teaching and learning language appropriate to different social situations is thoroughly investigated by Sabina Halupka-Rešetar whose analysis proves that the development of pragmatic competence of ESP Serbian students, extremely important in today's cross-cultural professional communication, does not go hand in hand with the development of their linguistic competence. This part of the volume ends with a paper by Vesna Pilipović who studies the acquisition of the passive voice in English for medical purposes. She suggests that the teaching of the passive should depart from the traditional

teaching of this grammar unit using drills and instead focus on the passive as an independent structure with specific semantic and functional features.

The last part of *Current topics in English for specific purposes at tertiary level in Serbia* is dedicated to some novel ideas in the realm of ESP, whose objective is to further enhance the processes of teaching and learning. This part, entitled *New Trends in Teaching Practice*, comprises three papers. Unlike all other contributions which explore the domain of ESP from various theoretical and methodological aspects at the level of undergraduate studies, Savka Blagojević deals with the focal areas in teaching English for academic purposes at a master's level, such as reading comprehension of scientific written texts, comprehension of academic lectures in English, and summary writing. Teaching and integrating culture in ESP classroom has long been a controversial issue in ESP teaching and learning. In order to test whether and to what extent cultural elements are represented in ESP taught at Serbian universities, Biljana Radić-Bojanić has conducted a research on attitudes and teaching practices of ESP teachers in Serbia with respect to cultural content and concluded that the amount of culture-based information in ESP textbooks is heavily contingent on the particular scientific field and the students' future profession. The volume ends with the paper by Jasmina Đorđević, who illustrates how computer-assisted learning could boost the intrinsic motivation of law students and in turn improve their overall ESP performance. The book also contains three useful appendices: a selected list of doctoral dissertations dealing with ESP defended at universities in Serbia from 1980 to present, a subject index and an author index.

Due to the fact that it introduces a wide range of theoretically and practically oriented topics, the volume is intended both for linguistic experts in the domain of ESP and students of English and linguistics at graduate and doctoral studies, as well as for all those who can relate their research interests to the topics which are explored in the book in a competent, original and above all creative and innovative way. It covers a wide range of topics that draw upon a variety of theoretical frameworks and linguistic disciplines, which reflects the nature of the ESP field itself, at the same time familiarising the reader with the current teaching practices at tertiary level in Serbia, thus achieving a fine balance between theory and practice. In a nutshell, *Current topics in English for specific purposes at tertiary level in Serbia* is an outstanding and expertly-edited volume which makes a valuable contribution to the existing literature and further study in the field of ESP, both from a research and a pedagogical perspective.

[Review submitted 20 Oct 2013]

[Revised version accepted for publication 5 Nov 2013]

Reviewed by **MELINA NIKOLIĆ**

Alfa University

Serbia

nikolicmelina@ikomline.net