

TEACHING READING TO TRANSLATION STUDENTS

How can I make sure that what I am doing in my English class is relevant and appropriate for my students in their content areas?

An ESP course is purposeful and is aimed at the successful performance of occupational or educational roles. It is based on a rigorous analysis of students' needs and should be 'tailor-made'. Any ESP course may differ from another in its selection of skills, topics, situations, ad functions and also language. It is likely to be of limited duration. Students are more often adults but not necessarily so, and may be at any level of competence in the language: beginner, post-beginner, intermediate, ...etc. Students may take part in their ESP course before embarking on their occupational or educational role, or they may combine their study of English with performance of their role, or they may be already competent in their occupation or discipline but may desire to perform their role in English as well as in their first language.

Because the needs of the learners are paramount in an ESP course, one must analyze what the learners need to be able to do before attempting to design a syllabus. A needs analysis considers the needs expressed by the learners themselves, by the teaching establishment, by the user institution or by all three.

Reading skills can be identified by defining the reading tasks needed in a translation situation, by listing those skills that are basic of all reading levels (basic decoding skills), by delineating the reading level of printed materials at the various levels and defining reading skills as the ability to read those graded materials.

When teaching English to translation students, the following questions should be considered:

- The purpose for which the students are learning English.
- The setting in which students will be using it.
- The role the students will assume as well as the roles of their interlocutors.
- the communicative events or situations in which students will participate.
- The language functions