



9º Simposio de Ensino de Graduação

ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES: AVIATION ENGLISH

Autor(es)

PATRICIA GABRIELA PARIZOTTO SETTEN

Orientador(es)

OSVALDO SUCCI JÚNIOR

1. Introdução

1. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays air companies demand the International Civil Aviation Organization Test - ICAO Test for pilots because of the many accidents involving aircrafts which were caused due to miscommunication between pilots and air traffic controllers (see Kukovec). In Aviation area, pilots and air traffic controllers must be able to make a safe radiotelephony communication before, during and after the flights. A specific phraseology and terminology exist to standardize this communication. The ICAO Test evaluates if pilots and air traffic controllers are able to use this phraseology as well as plain language. Candidates have the opportunity to expose their abilities in unexpected situations, including pronunciation, structure, vocabulary, comprehension and interactions.

As a proficiency test, the ICAO Test requires the ability to comprehend spoken English and to speak a job-related general context, including unexpected situations and emergencies in Aviation area. It's aimed for pilots who conduct international flights. There are six levels in the ICAO Test: Level 6 (Expert), Level 5 (Extended), Level 4 (Operational Level), Level 3 (Pre-Operational), Level 2 (Elementary) and Level 1 (Pre-Elementary). Pilots need to get to Level 4 to work in international companies, because in this Level they are able to communicate with accuracy and clarity using radiotelephony, and also are able to resolve misunderstanding in general or work-related context. Candidates need to have an intermediate English Level to get the ICAO 4. Consequently, candidates have started looking for specific courses or materials that could help them to be prepared for this test.

There are many options of specific materials that can help pilots to be prepared for the ICAO Test. Some of them are well accepted in the market because they can attend the learner's needs. On the other hand, there are some materials which cannot help learners totally in their studies because the context does not focus only on the ICAO Test.

Developing a specific material requires a specific knowledge in ESP (English for Specific Purposes) theory that suggests tools to create a material design for a specific area. The ESP material design can help students to develop a specific English skill according to their needs, improving their proficiency in a specific syllabus to answer their specific needs and fields.

2. Objetivos

This paper is based on ESP that brings the theory to evaluate material designs that exist in Aviation area, analyzing their specific context which is focused on the ICAO Test. It was chosen two specific books that are well accepted in the market to be analyzed in this paper.

An interview with a specialist in Aviation area will also be used as input to the analysis process.

3. Desenvolvimento

The aim of this paper is to develop a contrastive analysis of two important materials that exist to prepare pilots to take the ICAO Test. Pilots need to learn a specific vocabulary, a specific phraseology, radiotelephony, real and unexpected situations in Aviation area. There are many options of specific materials in the market, but only two will be analyzed, which are "Aviation English" by MacMillan and "English for Aviation" by Oxford. This analysis will be based on Hutchinson's theory of ESP material evaluation process (1986) which is divided into five parts: audience, aims, content, methodology and other criteria, as we can see below:

Audience: who the material is intended for.

Aims: the focus of the course, what the material proposes for learners, what they are said to be.

Content: the points that the material covers, what kind of skills it has, what kind of texts it brings, the way that the topics are treated, how the context is organized within the units.

Methodology: the different kinds of exercises, what teaching-learning techniques can be used, what aids the materials require, like, radio or TV, flexibility.

Other criteria: the prices or another relevant point.

Through this analysis it will be possible to consider if the context of the books corresponds with learner's need which is be prepared to take the ICAO Test. An interview with a specialist in Aviation area also will be done based on these five steps. This information will be relevant in this analysis because he will report which are the real needs of the pilots, what specific situations they can find in their job.

After doing the analysis and the interview, I will conclude the analysis reporting the results and writing my own opinion about the books.

4. Resultado e Discussão

Through this analysis it will be possible to consider if the context of the books corresponds with learner's need which is be prepared to take the ICAO Test. This analysis also will be useful for teachers who need to chose a specific material to teach pilots because they can analyse if the books are suitable for their students.

5. Considerações Finais

This presentation is going to be about my project, I'm not going to show the results because I'm still working in this project, it is not ready.

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