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PERCEPTIONS OF INSTRUCTORS ON THE USE OF EGP AND ESP IN TEACHING ENGLISH: A STUDY CARRIED OUT IN TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSTITUTION

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Abstract: English Language Teaching (ELT) can be divided into two main branches such as English for General Purposes (EGP) and English for Specific Purposes (ESP). EGP is practiced to provide a solid foundation for the basic usage of the English language. ESP aims to equip learners with the language skills and knowledge necessary for specific disciplines or professionals. There is a modern trend of using ESP among ELT practitioners. This study aims to identify the perceptions of instructors on the use of EGP and ESP in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institution. The researcher focused on National Vocational Qualification level five mechatronic course at Sri Lanka College of Technology, Colombo 10. In this study, qualitative method was used. Three instructors were the participants. The data was collected through interviews. It consisted of two main sections such as Part A and Part B. Part A was about instructors' profiles. Part B was about instructors' perceptions towards the use of EGP and ESP. The collected data was analyzed thematically. The findings of the study highlighted that EGP is the stepping stone for ESP and students need EGP and after that it would be better to develop that level into ESP. It also highlighted that ESP courses should be prepared to face real-life experience in the workplace, the need of trained young energetic ESP instructors with modern teaching strategies, and also the need of activity-based learning with especially speaking and writing skills. The need of a specialized and updated English language curriculum for mechatronic students is also a very important factor.

Keywords: English for General Purposes (EGP), English for Specific Purposes (ESP), TVET institution, instructors