THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEEDS OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA

USHA RANI GANAPATHI

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Registration/Metric No: TGB030025

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ABSTRACT

The Biomedical Science Programme in the Department of Molecular Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine, University Malaya offers an ESP course to students in their second year. This aim of this study was to establish the importance of the ESP course that the biomedical students are required to take in their second year and to find out to what extent the course fulfills the students' needs to use English. The study explored the participants' frequency of English use in a range of academic and non-academic activities as well as the kind of difficulties they face in using the English language within and outside their academic environment. The study used questionnaires to answer the two research questions: (1) What are the academic and non-academic activities which require biomedical students to use the English language and, 2) What difficulties do they have, if any, in the use of the English language in academic and non-academic situations. The findings of this study have clearly indicated that the participants need the ESP course to perform well in their field of study. The participants have to use the English language for listening, speaking, reading and writing in their academic context as English is an important medium of communication in biomedical work and research. The findings of this study will significantly guide the ESP course lecturer to further improve and re-align the course materials and the teaching focus with the English language needs of the biomedical students.

ABSTRAK

Program Sains Bioperubatan di Jabatan Perubatan Molekul Fakulti Perubatan, Universiti Malaya menawarkan kursus ESP kepada pelajar-pelajar dalam tahun kedua mereka. Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk memantapkan lagi kursus ESP yang ditawarkan kepada pelajar-pelajar Sain Bioperubatan dalam tahun kedua dan untuk mengetahui setakat mana kursus ini memenuhi keperluan pelajar dalam penggunaan Bahasa Inggeris.Kajian ini meneroka kekerapan peserta menggunakan bahasa Inggeris dalam pelbagai aktiviti-aktiviti akademik dan bukan akademik serta kesukaran yang mereka hadapi dalam menggunakan bahasa Inggeris di dalam dan di luar persekitaran akademik mereka. Kajian ini menggunakan soal selidik dan temu bual untuk menjawab dua soalan penyelidikan: (1) Apakah aktiviti-aktiviti akademik dan bukan akademik yang memerlukan pelajar bioperubatan untuk menggunakan bahasa Inggeris dan, 2) Apakah kesukaran yang mereka menghadapi, jika ada, dalam penggunaan bahasa Inggeris dalam situasi akademik dan bukan akademik? Dapatan kajian ini jelas menunjukkan bahawa para peserta perlu kursus ESP untuk mencapai prestasi yang baik dalam bidang pengajian masing-masing. Peserta perlu menggunakan Bahasa Inggeris untuk mendengar, bertutur, membaca dan menulis dalam konteks akademik kerana Bahasa Inggeris merupakan medium komunikasi yang penting dalam profesion bioperubatan serta bidang penyelidikan bioperubatan. Penemuan kajian ini akan membimbing pensyarah kursus ESP untuk meningkatkan lagi serta menyelaraskan semula bahan-bahan kursus dan fokus pengajaran kepada keperluan bahasa Inggeris bagi pelajar-pelajar bioperubatan.

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