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The status of ESP across Albanian universities: The case of ESP at the Agricultural University of Tirana

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Abstract

English for Specific Purposes (ESP) is an integral part of English language programmes in most Albanian universities. With most universities in Albania being mainly of teacher training orientation, there is yet a handful where English is taught as part of the curriculum for vocational or professional purposes. There are various science tracks including engineering, mining, medicine, agriculture, bio-technology, forestry, veterinary medicine to which students get exposed in their ESP course. The purpose of the current study is to differentiate between ESP and English for General Purposes (EGP) in the Albanian university context. The study will also examine the very status of ESP at the Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT) by looking into the nature of approaches and methods of language teaching. We found out that the AUT is a step ahead other universities in implementing ESP since there are specific ESP textbooks in use for various science tracks. Yet, it was revealed that the contents of the syllabus and programme as well as the various approaches and techniques were not in line with the ESP requirements. Teachers were not prone to focus on communication skills, and memorization of grammatical items and translation methodologies were heavily present in the classroom situation, thus blurring the dividing lines between ESP and EGP.

Key words: *ESP, approaches, language learning and teaching, methodologies*