

Call for Papers

Special Issue of ITL - International Journal of Applied Linguistics (2011)

LSP Research Today: General Approaches for Specific Purposes

Introduction

The origins of Language for Specific Purposes (LSP) research are to be found in the rapid development of science, technology and industry in the 20th century. Increasing internationalization led to supranational efforts to standardize terminology, as can be seen, for example, from the establishment of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in the forties. These internationalization efforts created their own theoreticians such as E. Wüster (1898-1977), the engineer and founding father of Terminology Theory. The twin drive of modernization and internationalization also demanded practitioners who could teach LSP as a native or foreign language - teachers who suddenly had to deal with new challenges with respect to course content and learning objectives.

Nowadays the term LSP is used to refer to linguistic manifestations that are specialized with respect to their form, content and use. Users of LSP are professionals who communicate with each other, and with non-specialists, in a wide range of knowledge-specific areas such as business, engineering, medicine, tourism, etc.

As for LSP research, it now covers an “area within which various phenomena of different degrees of complexity are being analyzed: (i) specific lexical sets, terminology in particular; (ii) sets of linguistic means (i.e. not only lexical ones) having special functions; (iii) specialized texts and their genres; (iv) specialized communication, including specialized oral communication” (Nekvapil 2006¹). When it is product-oriented and language-based, LSP research still has the concrete professional language user in mind, such as terminologists, translators, interpreters, teachers and students of foreign languages of specific purposes, journalists, copywriters, advertisers, technical writers, lawyers, etc. Nevertheless, there is a growing interest in the study of the communicative processes in LSP, written and spoken, “with a theoretical shift towards sociolinguistics and social constructivism, and a methodological shift towards ethnography, conversation analysis and critical linguistics” (Gunarsson 2008²).

The objective of this special issue of ITL is to contribute to these new trends by presenting papers that examine LSP in written and oral discourse and genres. We welcome papers from a wide variety of methodologies and theoretical frameworks, including interdisciplinary research. We are also looking for contributions that offer, or help develop, new linguistic tools for LSP practitioners such as IT applications for LSP teaching and learning, databases, ontologies, term extractors, and other linguistic resources that can be of use to professional language users.

¹ J. Nekvapil, ‘The development of Languages for Special Purposes’ in U. Ammon, N. Dittmar, K.J. Mattheier and P. Trudgill (eds), *Sociolinguistics. An International Handbook of the Science of Language and Society*, 2nd completely revised and extended edition, Volume 3, 2223-2232. Walter de Gruyter. Berlin/New York. 2006.

² B.-L. Gunarsson, ‘Professional communication’ in N. Van Deusen-Scholl and N. H. Hornberger (eds), *Encyclopedia of Language and Education*, 2nd Edition, Volume 4: Second and Foreign Language Education, 83–95. Springer Science+Business Media LLC. 2008.

Possible topics:

LSP and Second Language Acquisition theory
LSP and Second Language Teaching practice
LSP and Translation theory and practice
LSP and Interpreting theory and practice
LSP and Terminology theory and practice
LSP and Forensic linguistics
LSP and Discourse analysis
LSP and (Contrastive) Rethoric
LSP and Pragmatics
LSP and Intercultural communication research
LSP and Corpus linguistics
LSP and Survey-based research
LSP and Experimental research

Submissions

Proposals: 2,250 words, containing an abstract (250 words) and an extended summary (2,000 words), including all components of a research article (research questions, design, data, analysis, results and discussion).

Guidelines for authors can be found on the ITL website (http://www.peeters-leuven.be/Guidelines_ITL.pdf).

English is recommended but submissions in French, German or Spanish will also be considered. Please send your proposals in an MS Word-file (including all relevant contact information) to itl@arts.kuleuven.be.

Guest Editors

Kris Buyse
Antoon De Rycker
Lieve Vangehuchten

Important Dates

- Proposals (Abstracts and Extended Summaries) by 15 September 2010
- Notification by the end of December 2010
- Full papers (6,000-8,000 words) by 1 May 2011
- Reviews by 15 July 2011
- Final versions by the end of September 2011
- Publication by the end of December 2011

About the Journal

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