ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEEDS OF ENGINEERING UNDERGRADUATES OF AN AFGHAN UNIVERSITY

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for the award of the degree of
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SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that I have checked this thesis and in my opinion, this thesis is adequate in terms of scope and quality for the award of the degree of Master of Humanities and Technology (English Language & Professional Communication).

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I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citation which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at Universiti Malaysia Pahang or any other institutions.

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Dedicated to my beloved wife and lovely sons

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CLT	Communicative Language Teaching
CNPCWIG	Chinese National Petroleum Company and Watan International Group
CNP	Communication Needs Processor
EAP	English for Academic purposes
EFL	English as a Foreign Language
EGP	English for General Purposes
ELL	English language learner
ELLS	English language learners
EOP	English for Occupational Purposes
ESL	English as Second Language
ESP	English for Specific Purposes
JU	Jawzjan University
MOHE	Ministry of Higher Education
N.A	Needs Analysis/Needs Assessment
PSA	Present Situation Analysis
TSA	Target Situational Analysis

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ABSTRACT

The current study was conducted to investigate the English language needs of engineering undergraduates at engineering faculties of Jawzjan University. A survey questionnaire and an open-ended interview were used as data collection methods in this investigation. Survey questionnaire was administered to 212 engineering students from three engineering faculties of Jawzjan University to investigate their English language needs and their perceptions regarding the current English language program. In order to get a comprehensive and detailed response to the research questions, an open-ended interview was also administered to identify the perceptions of graduates of the engineering programs, currently employed as engineers regarding the English language program they have studied at Jawzjan University. The findings of the study indicated that English is used extensively at the workplace and plays a significant role in engineering field. The students have good attitudes towards learning English and they study English for academic purpose and their future career. Moreover, the engineering graduates reported that the English instructors need a set of specific skills and competences to teach effectively. They proposed to give more importance to speaking and listening skills. Finally, it was concluded that the current English language program did not match the students' professional needs. And the given time was not enough to enable the students to achieve the required level of English language proficiency. An investigation of academic English language needs of students through the perceptions of English instructors may provide a comprehensive source for curriculum renewal projects in the future.

ABSTRAK

Kajian kes ini dijalankan untuk mengenal pasti keperluan bahasa Inggeris untuk para pelajar ijazah sarjana muda fakulti kejuruteraan di Universiti Jawzjan, Afganistan. Borang soal-selidik dan temubual secara terbuka digunakan sebagai metodologi untuk mengumpulkan data dalam kajian ini. Sebanyak 212 borang soal selidik telah diedarkan kepada para pelajar di tiga fakulti kejuruteraan yang berlainan di Universiti Jawzjan untuk mengenal pasti keperluan berbahasa Inggeris dan persepsi mereka terhadap program bahasa Inggeris yang sedia ada ketika ini. Di samping itu, temubual secara terbuka juga dilakukan untuk mendapatkan data yang lebih komprehensif dan terperinci. Temubual ini dilakukan untuk mengetahui persepsi bekas pelajar ijazah sarjana muda yang kini sedang berkhidmat sebagai jurutera terhadap program bahasa Inggeris yang ditawarkan di Universiti Jawzjan dan keperluan sebenar bahasa Inggeris dalam dunia pekerjaan mereka. Hasil kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa bahasa Inggeris digunakan secara meluas di tempat kerja dan memainkan peranan yang penting dalam bidang kejuruteraan. Para pelajar dilihat mempunyai motivasi mempelajari bahasa Inggeris bukan sahaja untuk pencapaian akademik mereka tetapi juga untuk masa depan kerjaya mereka. Selain itu, hasil kajian juga menunjukkan bahawa program bahasa Inggeris sedia ada yang mereka sedang pelajari tidak bersesuaian dengan keperluan bidang profesional kejuruteraan. Para pelajar ijazah sarjana muda kejuruteraan juga mempunyai persepi bahawa tenaga pengajar bahasa Inggeris perlu mempunyai keupayaan dan kemahiran tertentu untuk mengajar mereka secara berkesan. Kebolehan bertutur dan kemahiran mendengar juga merupakan kemahiran yang perlu diberikan penekanan oleh para pelajar dalam menguasai bahasa Inggeris. Akhir sekali, kajian ini mendedahkan bahawa masa yang diperuntukkan kepada para pelajar ijazah sarjana muda adalah tidak mencukupi untuk mereka mencapai kemahiran penguasaan berbahasa Inggeris.

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