English for specific purposes: an introduction

The purpose of this publication is to provide a short introduction to the teaching of ESP to those ELT practitioners who wish to add ESP as their new chosen specialism. The advice given focuses, inter alia, on, the nature of ESP; needs analysis; finding appropriate materials; lesson planning; assessment.

**Keywords**

English language, ESOL/EAL, ESP, Materials, Methodology
INTRODUCTION. English for specific purposes (ESP) refers to language research and instruction that focuses on the specific communicative needs and practices of particular social groups. Emerging out of Halliday, MacIntosh, and Strevens' (1964) groundbreaking work nearly 40 years ago, ESP started life as a branch of English language teaching, promising a stronger descriptive foundation for pedagogic materials. In the years since, ESP has consistently been at the cutting-edge of both theory development and. called “English for General Academic Purposes” or “English for General Business. Purposes” courses are still widespread, there is a growing awareness in the field of the limited transferability of skills, forms, and discourses across situations (Hyland, 2002a).