

Review of: "Refining ESP Learning and Increasing Motivation through the Incorporation of Technology into TBLT"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The research explores the incorporation of technology into Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT) to enhance English learning in the context of English for Specific Purposes (ESP), specifically for Hotel and Catering Management students in Malaysia. The study utilizes questionnaires to assess attitudes of ESP lecturers, Hotel and Catering Management lecturers, and students, focusing on the importance of English skills, the effectiveness of the current curriculum, and the potential impact of technology on motivation and language proficiency.

Strengths:

1. **Clear Research Objectives:** The research objectives are well-defined, focusing on the integration of technology into TBLT and its potential impact on students' attitudes and language proficiency. This clarity helps in understanding the purpose and scope of the study.
2. **Comprehensive Needs Analysis:** The inclusion of a needs analysis provides valuable insights into the perceptions of both lecturers and students regarding the current English language curriculum. This analysis lays a strong foundation for proposing improvements.
3. **Incorporation of Diverse Perspectives:** By involving ESP lecturers, Hotel and Catering Management lecturers, and students in the study, the research captures diverse perspectives, offering a more holistic view of the challenges and potential solutions.
4. **Relevance to Educational Context:** The study addresses a pertinent issue in the Malaysian educational context – the need to improve English proficiency, especially in technical fields. This relevance enhances the significance of the research.

Areas for Improvement:

1. **Methodology Clarification:** While the use of questionnaires is mentioned, more details about the design, distribution, and analysis of the questionnaires could be beneficial. This would enhance the transparency and replicability of the study.
2. **Technology Utilization by Lecturers:** The research indicates that only a small percentage of ESP lecturers utilize technology in their teaching. Further exploration into the reasons behind this and potential barriers could provide valuable insights for effective implementation.

3. **Integration of Technology:** The study emphasizes the positive view of technology but lacks specific details on how technology will be integrated into TBLT. Providing examples or potential strategies would strengthen the practical implications of the research.
4. **Quantitative Data Analysis:** The findings are largely presented qualitatively. Including some quantitative data analysis, such as statistical comparisons between groups or correlation analyses, could enhance the robustness of the results.
5. **Student Proficiency Levels:** While the research mentions students' interest in learning English, providing information about their current proficiency levels and how these might influence the proposed changes could add depth to the analysis.
6. **Review of Related Literature:** While the introduction touches on the importance of English in Malaysia, a more comprehensive review of relevant literature could strengthen the theoretical framework and provide a context for the study.
7. **Conclusion and Recommendations:** The conclusion could be strengthened by summarizing key findings and linking them back to the research objectives. Additionally, specific recommendations for educators and policymakers based on the study's outcomes would provide practical guidance.

In conclusion, the research has the potential to contribute valuable insights to the field of language education, especially in ESP contexts. Addressing the suggested improvements will enhance the clarity, rigor, and applicability of the study.