



10 years ESJ  
*Special edition*

## Preface

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[Doi:10.19044/esj.2022.v18n5p1](https://doi.org/10.19044/esj.2022.v18n5p1)

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Published: 21 February 2022

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*Cite As:*

Daniele F. (2022). *Preface*. European Scientific Journal, ESJ, 18 (5), 1.

<https://doi.org/10.19044/esj.2022.v18n5p1>

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This Special Edition of the European Scientific Journal (ESJ) results from the speeches that were held on 26-28 October, 2021 at the online *9th Mediterranean Interdisciplinary Forum on Social Sciences and Humanities Multidisciplinary Conference*. The Conference had several Special Sessions and I had the honor to chair the session on English for Specific Purposes.

For this session I did not carry out a research nor a survey of my own, I did not even prepare a paper for the Conference Proceedings, but I felt I had to clear some of the misunderstandings surrounding the world of English for Specific Purposes (ESP). So I decided to introduce this subject, and while I was preparing the slides I remembered that one day I was at my University with my colleagues, and my doctor colleague said to my English teacher colleague “*don’t you know the meaning of suboptimal gestational function? I thought you were an English teacher?*” At that point, I realized that for people who are outside this specific subject area, actually, it is difficult to understand that a language is used differently in different contexts (Gregory & Carroll, 2018). There is no way a language can be the same in all areas and at all times. ESP, *stricto sensu* involves language and communicative competence in a specific discipline (Savignon, 1991). In this milieu, languages started to be addressed as domain-specific languages, micro-languages, special languages, specialized languages, etc. ESP started to become popular and a number of different courses came out, like English for Academic Purposes, English for Occupational Purposes, Business English, English for Medical Professionals, English for Tourism, etc. Recently, ESP has been conveyed as a teaching method, as a learner-centered approach to teaching English as a foreign language (Montalbán, 2021). Thus, ESP could be viewed as a particular

branch of teaching English to non-native English speakers (Armas Pesántez, 2022). ESP teaching generally occurs at undergraduate and post-graduate level, but it could be undertaken at any age and especially to non-native English speakers (Labov, 2022).

We started from my doctor friend who asked my English teacher friend if she were an English teacher and now the question is: what makes a language a language for specific purposes? Is it its particular terms or syntax? Do the teachers and receivers require particular expertise? Which are the methods used to teach ESP? These are some of the questions that were addressed in this session and the first two papers deal with this specific area.

**Paola Clara Leotta** and **Tamari Dolidze** spoke to us about English for Academic Purposes and Needs Analysis: “the established importance of English worldwide, and notwithstanding the fact that in expanding circle countries (defined as *expanding* or *extending circle* countries those countries where English is used as a foreign language), English for Academic Purposes plays an increasingly important role. Studies on the linguistic needs of university students are still lacking their perspective, at least in Italy, where students studying English language in Higher Education institutions are expected to gain access to the discourses of the academia via language competence. For this reason, the present paper reviews the theoretical and practical bases of English for Academic Purposes in order to provide further thought-provoking ideas based on a study carried out in the Italian university context. As far as method is concerned, due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the study was conducted through Google Forms. The results of the authors’ questionnaire model are presented and analysed for the purpose of this research. Findings demonstrate both the complex network of elements that play a significant role in determining the needs of EAP students in Italy, and the unavoidable necessity to set priorities. It is a fact that needs in a learner-centred system are not static. In addition, learning EAP is bound to mean learning to be an independent learner”.

Then **Barbara Cappuzzo** delivered a speech on Traditional Chinese Medicine: “TCM has a very ancient history and its importance for human health has long been acknowledged worldwide. The significant role that TCM plays in the global healthcare system has been officially recognized by the World Health Organization, which devoted a chapter to TCM in the 2019 latest version of the *International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems*. TCM, alone or in combination with Western Medicine, has been recommended for various health conditions including mild COVID-19-related symptoms. As a result of globalization, which has fostered the spread of TCM in the Western world, and the prominent role of English as the language of international communication, there has been an ever-increasing need for translation and higher levels of accuracy and standardization in the English

terminology related to Chinese medical concepts. This issue has raised several debates over time among linguists, translators, and physicians as to the approach to be adopted for the English translation of Chinese medical terms. If on the one hand, a source-oriented strategy tends to preserve the original meaning and to convey concepts as closely as possible to the original language, on the other hand, a target-oriented method attempts to render those concepts more accessible to the target language, albeit the integrity of their *true* meaning is likely to be undermined. This paper intends to highlight the major questions that the translation of culture-bound terms poses when different cultures are involved. In this respect, two important works were analyzed and compared, namely *A Practical Dictionary of Chinese Medicine* (1998), and the *International Standard Chinese-English Basic Nomenclature of Chinese Medicine* (2008). Both works testify to the difficulty of carrying out advanced projects of standardization of Chinese-English nomenclature of medical terms in the joint effort to create a common reference language.”

The enchanting world of medicine, everything surrounding it, and all the modifications that have taken place during this exceptional pandemic period are still under in depth debate. *Mariam Davitadze* introduces in the Conference the important problem of anti-covid vaccination especially involving public employees in the Autonomous Republic of Adjara: “the present article is dedicated to the discussion of such a topical issue as the mechanisms for encouraging vaccination of public and state-funded employees in the Autonomous Republic of Adjara. The paper is an observational analysis as it discusses the ongoing process of vaccination as one of the main means of combating the pandemic in Georgia and other topical issues related to it. Based on the observation of the situation in the public sector of Adjara Autonomous Republic, the advantages and disadvantages of vaccination are assessed, the risks are presented and recommendations are made for voluntary involvement of more citizens in the vaccination process. In particular, the forms of vaccination incentives for state-funded and public employees who will significantly contribute to the rapid and positive impact of vaccination are evaluated.”

A bridge between medicine and law was constructed by *Luís Carlos do Rego Furtado* reporting about the crucial problem of employability of nurses in Portugal. The paper focuses on the events after the crisis that occurred in the USA in 2008, and the consequences it produced all around the world: “the economic crisis that followed the financial crisis that began in the United States of America in 2008 quickly spread to the whole world, leaving structural problems in several countries unveiled, particularly in those that, due to successive deficits and high external indebtedness, were in a more fragile situation. In the Portuguese case, external assistance was needed, made available in exchange for structural reforms and the abrupt, and severe

reduction in public expenditure. The applied austerity had repercussions throughout society, but the public sector felt the weight of the used measures concretely, with health services being no exception. The shock waves caused by public expenditure containment policies were particularly felt in the Azores, an ultra peripheral region marked by geographical discontinuity. These are significant asymmetries at various levels from island to island and across several sectors. The public sector is the primary employer. This paper focuses on understanding if the Portuguese Economic and Financial Assistance Program, implemented between 2011 and 2014, affected the employability and dynamics of the labour market of new graduate nurses in the Autonomous Region of the Azores. This quantitative study used descriptive, inferential, and correlation statistics to establish relations with a statistical value between the sample's employability dimensions and the Portuguese Economic and Financial Assistance Program. From the analysis carried out, the study revealed that the restrictions imposed due to the external assistance program led to an increase in precariousness among new graduate nurses and, among other conclusions, a strong contraction in the capacity of hiring nurses by the public health services. As a limitation to the study, there is the need to emphasise that data on unemployment reflected the reality when the questionnaire was applied (May 2019), and the fact that the study did not explore the reasons underlying the unemployment rate found among the participants (although residual).”

The bridge between medicine and law was further fortified by *Shota Tkeshelashvili*, who had a beautiful presentation on policies concerning illegal drugs and drug abuse: “problems with illegal drug circulation have even become a destabilizing factor for many countries. Therefore, the topic under consideration is undoubtedly problematic. The present article according to qualitative research method focuses on the current situation, challenges and ways of solving problems regarding the drug policy in Georgia and some foreign countries. The research has shown that the problems connected to the drugs (use, sale, transportation and etc) are common to many countries and according to the existing reality, it will probably be a topic issue for a long time not only for Georgia, but also in many countries around the world. Determination of effective drug policy in Georgia is one of the most pressing problems and tasks, but resolving of issue of adequate and proper responsibility for drug use is the most urgent matter.”

*Muhammad Arif Rajput* and *Farid Samir Benavides-Vanegas* delivered their elegant speech on the criminal justice system in Pakistan and on what steps have been and will be taken in order to reform it: “this paper analyzes the loopholes and faults in the Criminal Justice System of Pakistan, which is under rising criticism for its ineffectiveness and has been ranked at 108<sup>th</sup> of the total 139 countries of the world in the Rule of Law Index, 2021.

The poor and defective investigation by the police, without any effective prosecutorial or judicial supervision over the process of investigation, is mainly responsible for crippling the CJSP adversarial system, which needs to be reformed to make it effective. A comparative analysis will show that Latin American countries such as Chile, Argentina, México and Colombia have moved from an inquisitorial to an accusatorial system, claiming that this is the best way to protect fundamental rights and to reduce the ever-increasing impunity in these countries. By applying a comparative approach, it shows that both inquisitorial and adversarial system of justice have systematic weaknesses and strengths in their composition. This certainly has motivated the International Criminal Court, China, Spain, Italy and many other countries to develop an *Adquisitorial System*-mixed inquisitorial/adversarial system- to get the benefit of best practices of both the systems. The Pakistan case, in relation to the Latin American one, shows that what is important is not to analyze the system in the abstract, but to determine which one solves in a better way the problem a judicial system has: in Pakistan, law and order, given the limitations of police action; in Latin America, the protection of fundamental rights during the criminal process. The case in Pakistan shows that the problems the judicial system is facing can be solved by appealing to a combination of inquisitorial and accusatorial features. This paper concludes suggesting that the existing investigation phase of the CJSP should be transformed, by legal transplant, to an inquisitorial pre-trial investigation process, with necessary modifications, led by the investigative judge while the trial phase remains to be adversarial.”

Consistently, **Zurab Morchadze** continued in the fascinating world of law and addressed a speech on the delicate theme of evidence in civil law proceedings, with particular attention to Georgia: “the civil law process is based on the principles of adversarial proceedings and disposition, and having complete information on these principles is crucial for the parties to the process. For example, even in an apparently "profitable" case, a party who did not take care of applying the perpetuating measures may not win anything, because at the time of enforcement of the ruling it may appear that the defendant has long since alienated her/his property, or if the party has not taken care of the request for evidence and the perpetuation of evidence in a timely manner, serious difficulties may arise in the consideration of the case and as a result, lose the case. Evidence is facts obtained from sources provided by law on the basis of which the parties defend their interests. The burden of proof at trial is shared equally between the parties. The parties try to prove their veracity in order to get the appropriate result. Therefore, the main purpose of the article is to focus on the importance of the perpetuation of evidence. The first chapter deals with the essence perpetuating evidence, the second chapter deals with the judge's ruling according to which s/he can load

the evidence with obligation even before the lawsuit is filed, the third chapter is devoted to the evaluation of evidence by the court and the judge's inner conviction. The fourth chapter deals with the rule of appeal, which is one of the problematic issues of this paper.”

Finally, *Amaya Epelde-Larrañaga, Ligia Isabel Estrada-Vidal and Fátima Chacón-Borrego* discussed the increasingly growing phenomenon of bullying and cyberbullying among adolescents. “Bullying and cyberbullying situations destroy the lives of adolescents causing direct consequences. It is necessary to take measures to stop these acts of violence. The education of adolescents, parents and teachers is essential to avoid these situations. The objective of the study was to predict what factors influence the three participants involved in a bullying situation (victim, aggressor and witness), based on the profile of these participants in situations of digital spaces, age and gender of the students, their teamwork and the type of school in which they study. Methodology: non-experimental quantitative study in which a multiple linear regression analysis is performed. The study has been carried out in two different educational centers in the City of Melilla. The sample has been composed of 227 school children between 11 and 14 years old. The instruments used were the Cyberbullying questionnaire: Screening of harassment among equals (Garaigordóbil, 2013) and the Teamwork Test. The main results indicate that the witness in a bullying situation was the strongest predictor for predicting the victim in a bullying situation ( $\beta= 0.350$ ), followed by the victim in a cyberbullying situation ( $\beta= 0.234$ ) and the predictive model of the aggressor in bullying situation included the predictive variables aggressor in a cyberbullying situation ( $\beta= 0.666$ ) and witness in a bullying situation ( $\beta= 0.144$ ). Therefore, it can be concluded that the behavior of the different participants of bullying and cyberbullying is conditioned by the behavior of the other participants, the aggressor who attacks in one modality, attacks easily in the other, and it is easier to attack if there are witnesses in these bullying or cyberbullying situations.”

The Conference and this Special Edition have been a valuable professional and human experience and I thank all of my Colleagues and the wonderful ESI team for having made it happen.

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