

«IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING ENGLISH FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS»

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**Abstract:** *There are several international languages in the world and it is used in different fields such as technology, media, science and sport in terms of specific purposes. Also, English is considered to play a central role in education, especially, in the field of medicine all over the world. The objective of this article is to demonstrate the importance for medical students to learn English for medical purposes, in order to be able to develop in different settings.*

**Key words:** *medicine, medical students, general purposes, professional development*

Over the years, it has been seen that medical students and doctors need the English language during their academic studies, as well as in professional contexts in which they develop. In the field of Medicine, it is evident how necessary the English language is for students to achieve their academic purposes and do textbook reading, search for information on the internet, to hold exhibitions, when present to exams, in interaction with teachers and for future study abroad. For doctors it is equally essential when it comes to participate in work meetings or conferences and to publish the results of your research. Learning the English language is vital for these professionals because all the updated information found in: books, articles, documents and magazines is available in English. Likewise, this language is necessary for their training and future performance as doctors. English language instruction is defined under a variety of terms that they have proliferated over the years. Initially it was associated with literature, but as that language became an international language emerged the need to link it with other areas of study. Several authors have analyzed and categorized the terms associated with the English that is learned for specific purposes, with the aim of differentiate it from English that is learned for general purposes. While the development of courses for specific purposes has led to a large number of acronym, the general term is: English for specific purposes, which is later subdivided into English for Academic Purposes (EAP) and English for Vocational Purposes (EVP). English for purposes Academics is subdivided into English for general academic purposes and English for specific academic purposes. In relation to the field of Medicine, the predominant term used is EMP (English for Medical Purposes). Inside



of the EMP, a subdivision is often made between: the EVP, related to the professionals who work in health, and English for academic purposes (ESAP, for its acronym in English), which is related mainly with university studies. Medical students differ from most others students in that they know what their future job will be. While a degree in literature or an engineer may have a nonprofessional career directly related to their university studies, the vast majority of medicine students will become doctors. In this sense, the English they learn can be linked much more to their future lives labor. Another aspect to take into account is the distinction between English for General Academics (EGAP) and the ESAP. The EGAP implies the development of skills for the study of academic subjects in English, so it is strongly associated with students who they undertake preparatory studies for courses taught in English. For other part, English for Specific Academic Purposes (ESAP) is studied to meet the specific needs of learners, based on their immediate and real needs. A clear difference between ESP and English with General Purpose (EGP) is that: ESP courses serve a useful purpose, whereas the EGP aims to establish a general level of competence. So it can be said that the difference between ESP and General English is not "The existence of a need, but an awareness of the need. The difference is "in theory nothing, in practice a lot." In the field of Medicine, the English language has gained the status of a language frank, due to its great importance and worldwide use. Most magazines are published in the English language. It has become a vital medium for transmission of information and traditional or digital communication, since its use is that it spreads rapidly in the computer network system. As a result, there has been a rapid export from English to other language cultures. Medical English is highly technical and based on the context of the professional. In the workplace, doctors use technical and academic language, and when at the same time they use jargon and common language. When they use the oral language, doctors hardly focus on proper sentence structure. Medical English is advanced English, so it cannot be taught with the same fundamental teaching method of the English language. The professionals of health and students of a given medical university are who is directed the teaching of English for medical purposes. The goal of EMP learning is not to learn grammar and structure mainly, but learn the language to use in their careers and social relationships. EMP courses, like IFE courses, must be designed according to the needs and purposes of the student. Through English courses, effectiveness should be improved communication of EMP students. This is based on methodologies of instruction such as content- and problembased learning may arise. The use of technological equipment is necessary to comply for the purpose of actual communication in the classroom. It is also included in the medical English courses, as well as the methods traditional grammar translation and the teaching method of vocabulary. Medicine students use the English language in different activities academic, among which we can mention: following instructions in class, in discussions



on medical topics, in seminars and conferences, to read books of text, articles and magazines, to understand graphs and tables, to write clinical reports, trials, laboratory reports, and research papers. In addition, during English classes, students' responses should be given in that language and this should start from the first year in which the students begin to take the course. Similarly, the IFM can be taught to medical students for the purpose of vocational, through examples of real work situations. Therefore, it is very important to know how to distinguish the different needs of each group of students, so that teachers can work effectively about these. Mastering this language is essential, from the early stages as students until they become doctors, since all language skills they acquire are important in the practice of their profession. The English language is used in many of your professional activities, for example: in lectures on health topics, to read medical texts that are published in English, in the understanding of medical equipment manuals, when communicating with foreign patients and healthcare professionals from other nationalities, to write letters for medical purposes, prescriptions and in the writing case reports. English has become the universal language; when the doctors are in foreigners are required to carry out their professional activities, meetings, presentations and lectures in English, as it turns out to be more useful than any other language in the world. They are also required to interact in English with professional trainers, chemists, co-workers and representatives of international medical organizations. How has it raised above, this language has achieved the status of a language international. Therefore, it is important that medical representatives of everyone is proficient in the use of English for their activities to professionals. Thus, doctors and students have different reasons for learn English for medical purposes. One of the main reasons is that constantly need to read up-to-date books and magazines of typology medical. Nurses also need it to: talk to their peer work, make use of the important databases available in internet, exchange in international conferences, write papers research to publish in journals, take postgraduate courses in countries English-speaking where technology is more advanced, and work in an effective in hospitals where English is used as the first language. Today, as English has become the universal language of the globalized world, both medical students in their activities academics, such as doctors in their professional careers, must master the English for medical purposes. In both cases, the level of competition in the different skills of that language (listening, reading, writing and expressing oral) is not what is required. Therefore, students and doctors must be well prepared to develop effective communication skills, as they face various problems in their academic and work performance due to their poor linguistic competence. Although the IFM is taught to all medical students in the different universities in the world, it can be said that students and doctors still have a hard time speaking English efficiently in seminars and conferences. Students present different levels of mastery of



the English, therefore, the possibility that these students and doctors with a low level of English proficiency, receive classes in English at other times, outside of school hours. English for medical purposes has always been a concern, especially when you are a medical student looking, once graduate, a good job and salary that guarantees you better opportunities for life. To do this, they must be aware of the importance of knowledge and command of the English language. It is true that English for medical purposes offers some challenges for both patients and doctors, which translates into in an obvious lack of communication between the doctor and his patient, due to low level of competence of physicians in the different skills of the English language. Today, the most influential medical journals publish in English, which is it has also become the language of international conferences. His domain for medical purposes, both for medical students and for doctors, it should be a compulsory subject along with subjects such as Pharmacology or Anatomy. It can be concluded that there are two fields in which the English language has featured: Information Technology and Medicine, where it has been used widely since the second half of the 20th century. The number of posts in English is increasing daily, and most of the journals indexed in prestigious databases publish their results in English. What's more, many health professionals work abroad in the states English speakers, which is why they should expand their practice of the language. The doctors and students are convinced of the importance of this language in their professional development. They have several reasons for learning English for purposes doctors and meet their needs in the academic environment and professional (reading books and articles published in magazines, participating in lectures, conduct seminars and communicate with natives). Teaching of Medical English must be adapted to meet these needs, as the Knowledge and command of English is useful for each and every one of the healthcare professionals.

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