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## A speech of English for specific purposes (ESP)

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Talk by D.D. Waters, J.P., Assistant Director of Education (Technical) at the Seminar "Design of Courses of English for Specific Purposes", for teachers in Technical Institutes, held on Wednesday, 11th June 1980 at 9.30 a.m. at the Lee Wai Lee Technical Institute

Thank you for inviting me to come here today to open this seminar. I am, of course, very pleased indeed to be here. I normally manage to get roped into seminars of this nature and this, of course, is quite right because the Technical Teachers' College, which is helping to organise this seminar, is in my Division.

Since the Technical Teachers' College was first established in 1974 it has run a large number of seminars which have provided in-service training not only for staff within the Technical Education Division but also for some teachers working in schools and Colleges of Education.

Until now all these seminars have been on technical subjects or on educational management. This is the first seminar we have run on a non-technical subject, if I may use that term. However, perhaps this is a little misleading because although this is a seminar on English, nevertheless, it is ESP, which as you probably know, means English for Specific Purposes. A seminar has never been run, by the Education Department, on this subject before.

In other words, if, for example, at the Haking Wong Technical Institute we want to teach people to work in hotels, we have a limited amount of time that

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we can devote to English. So, in other words, we teach sufficient English so that they can carry out their specific jobs as waiters or cooks, or whatever else it may be.

The same would apply to a motor-mechanic who is attending a part-time day course in a technical institute. He again would learn English for a specific purpose. In other words, he would learn enough English and sufficient technical terms so that he could converse to a European who comes in to have his car repaired or so that he would be able to read an instruction manual.

I would like to thank the Technical Teachers' College (TTC) for organising this seminar. To go back through history; part-time courses for workshop instructors as well as for technical teachers were in fact run at the old Technical College. These started back in the early 1960s.

It was not until the Morrison Hill Technical Institute was established, however, on the 1st September 1969 that we started full-time courses for technical teachers. These were run by the Department of Technical Teacher and Workshop Instructor Training in Morrison Hill Institute.

Later we found that having a department within the Morrison Hill Institute was not sufficient and, as a result, at quite short notice the Technical Teachers' College was set up on 1st September 1974.

I am very pleased to say that I was very much involved with the setting up of this College.

Because it was set up at such short notice we had some difficulty in finding suitable accommodation and we were indeed lucky to be able to acquire the building in Queen's Road East which was until 1957 the Junior Technical School (JTS). It then became the Morrison Hill Primary School and remained as such until the building was taken over by the Technical Teachers' College in 1974.

At the present time, the TTC is handicapped to some degree because it has to work in three different buildings. It works in the building at Queen's Road East, which is its headquarters. You probably know it also has accommodation which it borrows from the Morrison Hill Technical Institute. Thirdly, it is also situated in the Jockey Club Primary School building not too far from the Morrison Hill Technical Institute. This is used as an annex.

It is expected that the old Victoria Technical School building will be refurbished and the Technical Teachers' College will be able to use that building commencing September 1981.

But that will only be a temporary stay. We are all looking forward to the time when the College moves over to its new building which was included in the White Paper on Senior Secondary and Tertiary Education. This new building will be situated on the north side of the Lee Wai Lee Technical Institute campus in Kowloon Tong.

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It will be extremely useful to have the new building for the Technical Teachers' College on the same campus as the Lee Wai Lee Technical Institute because then the two institutions will be able to share some of their specialised accommodation. At the same time their student teachers who are under training will be able to do "laboratory work" as it were. In other words, teaching classes in the adjacent technical institute.

Needless to say the new site will be very accessible because, among other modes of transport, it is situated between two stations of the Mass Transit Railway.

We have always thought the work of the Technical Teachers' College really consisted of three main areas. These are :

- (a) Training teachers to work in technical institutes and similar vocational type educational institutions;
- (b) Training teachers to teach technical subjects in schools; and
- (c) Training trade instructors and training officers who are employed "teaching" within industry itself.

Perhaps I should also say that there is a fourth area in which the Technical Teachers' College has been very much involved and that is the running of seminars for senior staff. Since the College first opened, it has run seminars in the following fields :

- (1) Seminar for Teachers of Technical Subjects.
- (2) Seminar for Heads of Departments of Technical Institutes and Government Schools.
- (3) 'Behavioural Objectives'.
- (4) Resource-based Learning Teaching.
- (5) 'Education & Management Today' Module I.
- (6) Use of the Laboratory, Demonstrations and Investigations in the Teaching of Science Subjects.
- (7) Planning of Technician study Programmes at Certificate and Diploma Level.
- (8) Management in Education Today Module II.
- (9) Seminar for Teachers of Craft Subjects.
- (10) Promotion of Moral Education in Technical Institutes.
- (11) Seminar for Moderators of TEC Programmes.
- (12) Seminar for Heads of Departments in Technical Institutes and Senior Staff in the Polytechnic who are offering TEC Programmes.
- (13) Management in Education Today Module III.

While on the subject of in-service training, in addition to these seminars, a large number of staff from the technical institutes have been attached to local industry to gain experience. I should also like to remind you that the Technical Education Division over the years has been very fortunate that a large number of staff have been sent overseas for courses or attachments. I should like to add that all staff,

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except perhaps those that have recently joined the Technical Teachers' College, have, at some stage, been sent overseas for training.

I should now like to thank Mr. Ray Tongue, the British Council English Language Adviser, who is attached to the Education Department, for all he has done in the organising of this seminar. He and I started talking about the possibility of running a seminar of this nature last summer. We both felt it would be a very good idea. Well, this seminar has now materialised and we are all looking forward to some real benefit coming out of the seminar.

I must say that I am very much impressed with the list of speakers that Mr. Tongue has managed to get lined up. It is a very formidable list indeed.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of them, even though some may not be present here today, for coming along and giving of their time and presenting their papers or whatever. All this will be extremely useful and I am sure, at a later date, these papers will be bound so that we shall be able to use them for future reference.

Once again, I would like to thank you for inviting me to open this seminar. I would also like to thank all the participants for attending. I would like to remind them that, as for all seminars - and this one is no exception - the more you yourself contribute, the more you can expect to get out of it.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to declare this seminar open.