

An insight into Technical Professional Education

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Technical Professional (TP) education is oriented to the development of abilities, competencies, and knowledge from a practical learning approach (MINEDUC, 2020). Moreover, this type of education is more flexible, which gives students the opportunity to adapt themselves to the changes that new technologies and new kinds of work demand. This type of education is offering several majors in 3rd and 4th year to give the students the chance to discover their talents. Thus, the English language should be taught in a different way in TP high schools.

In relation to the type of education that MINEDUC offers in our country, TP curriculum includes several subjects which are considered general formation, such as Science, History, Mathematics, and as it was anticipated, the English language, which is becoming a challenge for English language teachers. During the past few years, in my teaching context, students did not have the chance to study English for Specific Purposes. The reasons were probably the lack of tools, strategies, and motivation toward TP education and ESP approach. On the other hand, all groups from 3rd and 4th year are being taught English all together in the same classroom. This is because the school does not have enough students to hire more teachers to teach them separately (this situation happens in other subjects as well). Thus, the teaching process cannot be related to the major that every group is on (mechanics, construction, metal construction, air conditioning, refrigeration, and electricity). They are taught English as a subject from the general formation syllabus without getting any specific content related to the major they have chosen. These factors affect students' motivation in their English lessons. They are not really interested in the contents of the general curriculum and they think that all the structures, vocabulary, and tenses that they see in classes are not going to be useful when they graduate from their major.

What I have done to address this issue with my students is to incorporate the English for specific purposes (ESP) approach, through the use of booklets from the English Opens Doors Program (PIAP) to foster students' motivation towards the English class. The main objective of implementing the use of these booklets has been to encourage students to learn topics and vocabulary related to the major they are studying, developing in this way the four skills directly related. As a result, they have demonstrated to be more motivated and interested in the subject, making a huge difference in students' views and opinions towards the lessons.