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**DEVELOPING FUTURE PSYCHOLOGISTS'
ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE SKILLS
WITH THE ACADEMIC ENCOUNTERS SERIES**

The paper presents teaching English for Specific Purposes (ESP) to university students of psychology. The study investigates the problem of preparing non-native speakers of English to study in English at the college or university level. After observing during the last academic year the second, third and fourth year students' learning when working with different course books and using a variety of authentic materials, the research has shown the necessity of analyzing the Academic Encounters series. The objective of the study is to reveal the advantages of application of the Academic Encounters series, which can provide students of psychology with the communicative skills they need to be successful in academic courses.

Keywords: *English for academic study, the Academic Encounters series, professional communication skills, students of psychology.*

Introduction

In ESP teaching is considered an effective tool used to efficiently receive and convey messages for academic and professional purposes. For example, students of a psychology department may need a suitable command of English to succeed in their academic careers (English for Academic Psychological Purposes – EAPP). Or they may also need English to communicate effectively at their place of work dealing for example with people who have psychological problems (English for Vocational Purposes – EVP). This paper will draw attention to academic approach (EAPP) and will present the analysis of the Academic Encounters series with the purpose to show how much it can help future psychologists to develop their academic skills for further study in English at university level and, of course, for their professional activity in the future.

Materials and methods

Course books selection, application and adaptation to students' needs is an important area in EAPP teaching, representing a practical result of

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effective course development and providing students of psychology with all necessary materials with the purpose to equip them with the skills they need in their study at university.

One of the most arguable points regarding EAPP course book choice is what the most appropriate ratio of general English to subject-specific English in the course book is. General English focus of a course book is good for the development of general ability to communicate more effectively, while specific focus of a course book is perfect for improvement of specific academic skills. Both general and specific oriented course books will provide students with necessary skills and knowledge, but the specific orientation of the course books in the *Academic Encounters* series is better for EAPP learners' special demands. Thus, if the choice of a course book does depend on the students' needs in relation to their future study at university in our case, we are inclined to choose the *Academic Encounters* series as a perfect source of EAPP materials that can be useful to develop all necessary academic skills like note-taking, study and discussion skills as well as can help improve students' academic reading, writing and listening.

The first course book *Academic Encounters: Human Behaviour* includes texts for reading taken from psychology and human communications textbooks used in English-speaking colleges and universities. It is designed to help learners improve their skills in reading when working with authentic samples of academic texts, and in writing when high-interest content of the texts also provides stimulus for students' writing assignments.

The second course book *Academic Listening Encounters: Human Behaviour* offers learners a large variety of tasks which involve listening and note-taking and which focus on critical thinking, sharing personal experiences or cultural perspectives. The course book contains authentic audio materials designed to involve students in listening informal and formal interviews, academic lectures in English with the purpose to expose them to different styles of discourse.

Thus, the *Academic Encounters* series includes the course books which are able to provide learners with authentic teaching materials adequate to their academic needs. It prepares students of psychology for success in academic settings as well as presents relevant cultural content, with the view to promoting discussion of cultural differences and universals. Therefore, progressing through the books, working on their academic skills, students will be able to acquire a basic foundation in the concepts and vocabulary of human behaviour on the one hand, and will manage to do an academic course when studying in English at university level in the future on the other hand.

Results

Using a content-based approach to teach students of psychology the skills they require to be able to do an academic course at university, the books presented in the Academic Encounters series have been chosen as major course books for future psychologists who are going to do an academic course in English. The series includes two course books and two teacher's books. The Academic Encounters Book helps students of psychology develop their reading, writing and study skills. The academic Listening Encounters Book helps learners improve their listening, note-taking and discussion skills. The two Teacher's Books are useful to get extra advice on the selection of structures, vocabulary, and measurement of students' progress and achievements through the academic course.

Discussion and conclusions

As we can see the course and teacher's books presented in the Academic Encounters series give EAPP teachers a possibility to offer their students a complete four-skills course in English for academic purposes. The great advantage of this series is that it offers students of psychology the possibility to work with carefully selected authentic materials which can provide a stimulus for students' great involvement into the academic course in the future.

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Анжела Гордєєва. Розвиток у майбутніх психологів англомовних професійно орієнтованих комунікативних умінь з використанням серії підручників Academic Encounters.

У статті розглянуто питання навчання студентів-психологів англійської мови професійного спрямування. Робота досліджує проблему підготовки студентів, які не є носіями англійської мови, до навчання в англомовних коледжах і університетах. Після

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*спостереження минулого навчального року за процесом вивчення студентами другого, третього і четвертого курсів факультету психології фахової англійської мови, які використовували різні підручники та велику кількість автентичних матеріалів, ми дійшли до висновку про необхідність аналізу книг серії *Academic Encounters*. Розглянуто два підручника для студентів і дві книги для вчителя, які представлені в рамках цієї серії. Метою роботи є виявити переваги використання книг *Academic Encounters* для забезпечення студентів-психологів комунікативними вміннями, необхідними для успішного опанування академічного курсу.*

Ключові слова: англійська для академічних цілей, серія підручників *Academic Encounters*, професійно орієнтовані комунікативні вміння, студенти-психологи.

Angela Gordeeva. Rozwój u przyszłych psychologów anglojęzycznych profesjonalnych umiejętności komunikacyjnych za pomocą serii podręczników *Academic Encounters*.

*Artykuł dotyczy szkoleń studentów psychologii w języku angielskim o kierunku profesjonalnym. Niniejsza analiza dotyczy problemu przygotowania przyszłych psychologów języka angielskiego do nauczania w języku angielskim w college'u czy na uniwersytecie. W trakcie zeszłego roku akademickiego, na podstawie obserwacji studentów drugiego, trzeciego i czwartego roku kierunku „profesjonalny język angielski w psychologii”, zauważono, że studenci wykorzystywali różne podręczniki i dużą ilość oryginalnych materiałów. Doszliśmy do wniosku, że konieczna jest analiza książek z serii *Academic Encounters*. Rozpatrzono dwa podręczniki dla studentów i dwie pozycje dla nauczycieli, które ukazały się w ramach serii. Cel studiowania – ukazanie istoty serii *Academic Encounters*, która może pomóc studentom psychologii zmienić ich przyzwyczajenia i przygotować do akademickich kursów językowych.*

Słowa kluczowe: angielski dla celów akademickich, seria podręczników *Academic Encounters*, profesjonalne umiejętności komunikacyjne, student psychologii.

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