

The Placement of Aviation English in the Chinese Context: Developing the Theory of English for Specific Purposes

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Aviation English is not only confined to pilots and air traffic controllers (ATC), it also more generally refers to English in aeronautical and/or aviation universities. It can be designed as integrated English for Specific Purposes (ESP) curricula for students in the fields of aeronautics and/or aviation. This is especially true in China. Learners of ESP are supposed to master the vocabulary in their specific discipline as well as the English language skills. This paper explores the possibility of establishing Aviation English as an ESP specialty in aeronautical and/or aviation colleges and universities. A needs analysis has been conducted, and the curriculum has been designed for an integrated course of study in the Chinese context so that learners of ESP can learn the target language more effectively and meet the standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). It reconsiders ESP theory and aims to develop a possible approach to ESP teaching more suitable for Chinese learners.