

El Inglés Profesional y Académico.

Author: Enrique Alcaraz Varó. Universidad de Alicante (Spain)

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Reviewed by:

Françoise Salager-Meyer

Facultad de Medicina. Hospital Universitario de Los Andes.

Universidad de Los Andes, Venezuela

English for Academic Purposes (EAP) has become an important focus for English as a Second Language programs not only in American universities but also in most universities worldwide whether it is in Western or Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America, etc. In Western Europe, Spanish universities are certainly no exception. On the contrary, there is nowadays an increasing interest in the teaching of EAP – or IPA (*Inglés Profesional y Académico*), as Dr. Alcaraz Varó labels it in Spanish— in Spain where it is seen, as elsewhere, as a separate activity within the broad field of English Language Teaching (ELT), and where ESP research has also become a clearly identifiable component of applied linguistic research. In fact, quite a few Spanish universities have lately opened EAP "*cursos de doctorado*" (doctoral courses) which are attended by an increasing number of students who carry out research in this area. The University of Alicante where Dr. Alcaraz Varó teaches is a good example. We could also cite the University of Valencia, Complutense, Castilla-La-Mancha, La Laguna (Sta. Cruz de Tenerife. Canary Islands), etc.

Dr. Alcaraz Varó's volume is best evaluated according to what it offers to the primary audience it targets: doctoral students for whom it provides an excellent basis to understand the lexical, syntactical, generic, rhetorical and socio-pragmatic tenets of IAP. Broadly speaking, *El Inglés Profesional y Académico* examines the theoretical and applied research possibilities IPA offers to both students and ESP

instructors. The book is divided into eight chapters. Chapter 1 serves as an introduction which deals, *inter alia*, with the role of English as a specialized, specific, academic and/or occupational language. To this end, the author offers a balanced overview of linguistic theories, models, and paradigms. Chapter 2 analyzes in great detail the lexical components of IPA: polysemy, monosemy, homonymy; word formation; anglicisms (lexical borrowings and calques); false friends or false cognates; metaphors, etc. Chapter 3 specifically focuses on English for science and technology, business and legal English: morphosyntax, compound words, nominalizations, modals, passivization. In Chapter 4, Dr. Alcaraz Varó addresses important issues of IPA from a pragmatic and pragma-linguistic standpoint by referring to discourse and text, the concepts of coherence and cohesion and those of theme and rheme. In Chapters 5 and 6, the author discusses some macro-structural and rhetorico-pragmatic features of IPA from a typology/generic stance by referring to some of the most highly-valued written and oral scientific genres such as the research paper, the scientific abstract, the business letter, legal texts, the language of scientific lectures and that of business meetings. In Chapter 7, Dr. Alcaraz Varó wisely chose to concentrate his attention on an important and now quite well-documented socio-pragmatic EAP topic, i. e., that of the linguistic formulation of courtesy (positive and negative courtesy, mitigation, face-threatening acts), an aspect of scientific discourse that is perhaps one of the most difficult to master for non-native English-speaking scientists precisely because courtesy and dissension are culture and language-dependent. The final Chapter is the most practical of all: it differs from the previous ones in the sense that it does not deal with linguistic aspects of IPA but with its teaching *per se* (syllabus design, the four communicative skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking). The comprehensive and up-dated bibliography Dr. Alcaraz Varó has consulted presents the advantage of mentioning the work of Spanish EAP/ESP researchers (their publications in Spain and abroad is rapidly increasing) which rarely appears in bibliographies of books published on the subject and written by Anglo-Saxon writers¹. *El Inglés Profesional y Académico* ends up with a very useful analytical index which includes the concepts the author deals with in his book and the page number where these are discussed.

El Inglés Profesional y Académico is a highly structured book presented in a most pedagogical fashion and perfectly accessible to both undergraduate and graduate students. Its clarity of expression will help newcomers to the field understand concepts they might not be familiar with. Avoiding the abstraction of some densely theoretical texts on the market, the author actually backs up his arguments and all research findings with excellent examples. He further combines research with practical guidelines for authentic teaching situations (cf. Chapter 7). As students

¹ I would like to refer here to another interesting book as well written by a Spanish ESP practitioner which is not mentioned in Dr. Alcaraz Varó's bibliography perhaps because it has been published in the same year as *El Inglés Profesional y Académico*. It is *English for Specific Purposes: Discourse Analysis and Course Design* by María del Pilar García Mayo. Universidad del País Vasco. 2000. The purpose of García Mayo's book is however different from that of Dr. Alcaraz Varó in the sense that it mainly deals with an ESP course design (Chapter 7 of the book under review here).

read the chapters, they will encounter useful information that will become part of their lives as EAP students and future researchers. On the other hand, legal, business, scientific and technical ESP practitioners as well as translators will undoubtedly find in Dr. Alcaraz Varó's volume important information for course design and other purposes.

Perhaps, in order to illustrate the concepts the author deals with in the various Chapters of his book, he could have provided less general/common English examples and more examples drawn from the ESP literature itself. An idea for a further edition of Dr. Alcaraz Varó's book could also be to include "questions for reflexion" at the beginning of each chapter or "reflection and review" questions at the end that could be used for graduate class discussion and to address issues related to diachronic and comparative (cross-linguistic) EAP studies.
