ABSTRACT

The term of English for Specific Purposes (ESP) has gained interest in the study of English as a foreign language. Specific English has been widely learnt by ESP students in many countries, including Indonesia. ESP must be able to meet what the present and future goals of the course demanded by both institutions and students. It is very important to design a need-based syllabus for ESP learners. The present research aims at knowing what type of syllabus can be constructed from an analysis of students’ needs of English in Aviation. English for aviation is commonly learnt by students at civil aviation academy in Indonesia. The present research was conducted at a Civil Aviation Safety and Engineering Academy in Indonesia by deploying Air Traffic Controller Students and Air Traffic Controllers who have worked at one of international airports in Indonesia. This research used questionnaires, a semi structured interview, and document analysis to collect data. The result of the data analysis has revealed that listening and speaking skills are mostly needed by Air Traffic Controllers in communicating with pilots. Besides, plain language is also needed to enhance communication in an emergency situation. Based on the findings on needs analysis, an ESP-based syllabus was constructed to be proposed to the institution. It is suggested that pilot and ATC have to have a good mastery on both specific and general English. Therefore, the proposed syllabus was designed to meet the students’ needs that will support their working professionalism in the future workplace.

Key words: English for aviation, ESP, ESP based syllabus, needs analysis.