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### What is ESP?

Today, English is the most important language for global communication. It is growing every day. In many different jobs and subjects, English is used as a **working tool**. To help students reach their goals, many countries, including Algeria, teach English at all levels of school. At the university level, they use **ESP**. This is a popular teaching method that helps teachers give students exactly what they need for their future jobs and for society

### The History and Growth of ESP

Since the 1960s, **ESP (English for Specific Purposes)** has become a very active part of language teaching. It grew quickly because English became a global language. Because of this, teachers had to find new ways to help students with different needs. To understand ESP, we must look at how linguists define it.

### Three Key Definitions of ESP

**1. A Practical Goal** Some people say ESP is simply teaching English for any specific reason. Anthony (1997) explains it like this:

**“ESP is generally used to refer to the teaching of English for a clearly utilitarian purpose.”** (Anthony, 1997: 9-10).

**2. For Jobs and Study** Others say ESP is more precise. It is for academic study or for professional training. Mackay and Mountford (1978) state:

**“English should be taught to achieve specific language skills using real situations, in a manner that allows them to use English in their future profession, or to comprehend English discourse related to their area of speciality.”** (Mackay and Mountford, 1978: 2).

**3. Focusing on the Student's Needs** Usually, students do not study ESP because they love English literature or culture. As Robinson (1991) says:

**Students study English “not because they are interested in the English Language or English culture as such, but because they need English for study or work purposes.”** (Robinson, 1991: 2).

### The Main Goal

In ESP, students don't learn the language just to have a general education. Instead, according to Basturkmen (2006):

**“Language is learnt not for its own sake... but to smooth the path to entry or greater linguistic efficiency in academic, professional or workplace environments.”** (Basturkmen, 2006: 18).

**In short:** The role of ESP is to help students build the specific skills they need for their specific job or subject

To make this manageable for beginner students, I have summarized the core concepts while keeping the important academic terms. I have also used a simple table to show the difference between **ESP** and **General English**.

## 1. The Characteristics of ESP

According to **Dudley-Evans and St. John (1998)**, ESP has two types of features:

### Absolute Characteristics (ESP must always have these):

- **Specific Needs:** It is designed to meet the specific needs of the learner.
- **Specific Tools:** It uses the methods and activities of the student's work or study area.
- **Specific Language:** It focuses on the **grammar, lexis (vocabulary), and genre** that fit those activities.

### Variable Characteristics (These may change):

- It is usually for **adult learners** (university or work), but can be for high school.
- It is usually for **intermediate or advanced** students, but can be for beginners.
- It might use a different teaching method than General English.

**Key Takeaway:** As **Hutchinson and Waters (1987)** said, ESP is an "**approach**" to teaching. All decisions about *what* to teach are based on the **learner's reason for learning**.

## 2. ESP vs. General English (EGP)

While they both teach English, they are very different in **practice**.

Feature	General English (EGP)	ESP
<b>Focus</b>	<b>Language-centred:</b> Focuses on culture, literature, and general skills.	<b>Learner-centred:</b> Focuses on the student's specific goals and needs.
<b>Purpose</b>	Education for life or passing school exams.	A " <b>working tool</b> " for a specific job or subject.
<b>Learners</b>	Often children or students in compulsory school.	Mostly <b>adults</b> who know exactly what they need to learn.
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Indeterminate:</b> Learning English with no specific end point.	<b>Specific:</b> Going from "Point A to Point B" in the fastest way.

## 3. Important Quotes to Remember

- **Robinson (1980):** In General English, the language is the subject. In ESP, students learn English as a way to reach a "**different body of knowledge**" (like Medicine or Engineering).
- **Basturkmen (2006):** ESP is a "**practical endeavour**." It is designed to be time-efficient and energy-efficient to help students reach a **known destination**.

### Vocabulary Check

- **Lexis:** Vocabulary/words.
- **Genre:** The type or style of text (e.g., a formal report vs. a casual email).
- **Compulsory:** Something you must do (required).
- **Endeavour:** An effort or a task.
- **Tertiary level:** University or college level.

### Important Rules for the Economic Translator

1. **Context:** The word "**Issue**" in economics might mean "issuance" (of shares), in law it means a "matter/dispute," and in management it means a "problem."
2. **Double-Meaning Terms:** Be careful with words that look common but are actually technical. For example, "**Floor**" in economics means a "minimum limit" (like *Floor Price*) rather than a physical "floor."
3. **Specialized Dictionaries:** Rely on specific resources like an *Economic Terms Dictionary* rather than general dictionaries to ensure academic accuracy.

### The Word "Depression": One Word, Many Meanings

The word "**Depression**" is a perfect example of how meaning changes completely based on the field of study. Here is how to translate it in different contexts:

#### 1. Economics

- **Translation:** "كساد"
- **Concept:** A severe, long-term downturn in the economy—worse than a "recession."
- **Example:** *The Great Depression* الكساد الكبير

#### 2. Psychology & Medicine

- **Translation:** "اكتئاب"
- **Concept:** A mental health disorder characterized by persistent sadness.
- **Example:** *Clinical depression* الاكتئاب السريري

#### 3. Geography & Geology

- **Translation:** "منخفض" or "غور"
- **Concept:** A land area that is lower than the surrounding ground.
- **Example:** *Qattara Depression* منخفض القطارة

#### 4. Meteorology (Weather)

- **Translation:** "منخفض جوي"
- **Concept:** An area of low atmospheric pressure that often brings weather changes.
- **Example:** *Tropical depression* منخفض مداري

#### 5. Engineering & Mechanics

- **Translation:** "تجويف" or "ضغط"
- **Concept:** A hole, pit, or indentation in a surface, or the reduction of pressure.
- **Example:** *A depression in the surface* \ تجويف/بعج في السطح

#### 6. Astronomy

- **Translation:** "انحطاط"
- **Concept:** The angular distance of a celestial body below the horizon.

### Summary Table: Translation by Field

Field	Arabic Translation
Economics	كساد
Psychiatry	اكتئاب
Geography	منخفض (أرضي)
Meteorology	منخفض (جوي)
Engineering	تجويف / ضغط

## Part 2: Translation Variations Within Economic Branches

Even within the field of economics, a term's translation changes depending on the specific branch (Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Finance, or Accounting):

### 1. The term "Balance"

- **In Accounting:** Translated as "رصيد" (e.g., Account Balance).
- **In International Economics:** Translated as "ميزان" (e.g., *Balance of Payments* ميزان المدفوعات).
- **In Econometrics:** Translated as "توازن" (Equilibrium/Balance).

### 2. The term "Entry"

- **In Accounting:** Translated as "قيد" (e.g., Accounting Entry).
- **In Industrial Organization:** Translated as "دخول" (e.g., *Barriers to Entry* عوائق دخول السوق).

### 3. The term "Returns"

- **In Microeconomics:** Translated as "غلة" (e.g., *Law of Diminishing Returns* \ قانون تناقص الغلة).
- **In Finance & Investment:** Translated as "عوائد" (e.g., *Return on Investment* / العائد على الاستثمار).

## Part 3: Deep Examples (Economic vs. General Context)

### 1. The term "Appreciation"

- **In Economics:** "*Currency Appreciation*" means "ارتفاع قيمة العملة".
- **In General Context:** "*I show my appreciation*" means "أظهر تقديري/امتناني".

### 2. The term "Competition"

- **In Economics:** "*Perfect Competition*" means "المنافسة الكاملة" (a specific market model).
- **In Sports:** Translated as "مسابقة" or "بطولة".

### 3. The term "Capital"

- **In Economics:** Means "رأس المال" (money, machinery, and equipment used in production).
- **In Politics:** Means "عاصمة" (the seat of government).

## Summary Table for Students

Term	Economic Branch / Context	Arabic Translation
Balance	Accounting	رصيد
Balance	International Economics	ميزان
Entry	Accounting	قيد
Entry	Industrial Org.	دخول
Returns	Microeconomics	غلة
Returns	Finance	عوائد
Capital	Economics	رأس مال
Capital	Politics	عاصمة