

Redesigning English for Tourism Purposes (ETP) subjects during the period of emergency remote teaching: challenges and opportunities

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ABSTRACT

The six undergraduate degrees offered by the School of Tourism and Maritime Technology in the scientific area of Tourism (Tourism, Tourism and Hotel Management, Marketing for Tourism, Restaurant and Catering Management, Tourism and Recreation and Event Management) have English subjects as part of their curricula. Designed under an ESP (English for Specific Purposes) framework, which privileges the needs of the learners, these subjects focus mainly on work contexts and interactions, providing practical language skills for tourism professionals. Given that contents, methodologies, and assessment are designed and planned to consider the type of language and discourse related to what the learners will need in their jobs, these subjects fall under the category of English for Tourism Purposes (ETP).

Following the lockdown in March 2020, adjustments to online teaching and learning were implemented in those subjects in terms of teaching and learning methodologies, as well as in terms of assessment activities. Even though the teaching and learning contexts changed significantly, the aim of preparing students to perform specific job-related functions remained as one of the main concerns. Moving classes online was a challenging endeavor, but also created the opportunity to prepare students for their future participation in work-related online tasks. In this paper the authors describe the main adjustments made to ETP subjects and reflect on the challenges and opportunities created by the context of emergency remote teaching.

Keywords: ESP, ETP, Emergency Remote Teaching, Higher Education, Tourism Education