Back to the Future: LSP fifty years later
ESP in Spain

Guadalupe Aguado-de-Cea
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
Vila do Conde, September 22, 2012
Outline

• The past of ESP in Spain
  – From 1980-2002, before Bologna Agreement
  – From 2003-2010, Bologna Agreement
• The present of ESP in Spain
• Back to the future??
Administrative perspective

• First paper on ESP, 1983

• XVIII, XIX, Military institutions, & Mining : En-Fr

• Commerce Schools, En-Fr-Ar

• Engineering Schools, English

• **1984 University Reform**
  – Creation of University departments
  – Opened the door for tenured posts and academic career
  – Two scenarios:
    • LSP dptm. -> UPM, Madrid, UPV, Valencia
    • ESP teachers in Humanities Dpt
Teaching perspective (1)

- New challenges!!
  - Develop their own ESP materials
  - Get in contact with other ESP/LSP colleagues
  - Start new lines of research
  - Do their PhDs
Common issues in all Spanish universities
- High number of students with mixed ability problems
- Reduced teaching time for LSP
- ESP classes scheduled at inconvenient hours
- Lack of training courses for practitioners
- Lack of suitable materials
- Great variety of specialized languages

Courses designed based on
- Language
- Students needs
- Specific terminology
- Discourse and register studies
BUT, it was not “problem-free”!!!

Negative aspects:

Lack of recognition from university officials: ESP courses discarded

Lack of support/empathy from
  - Colleagues from traditional philological studies
  - Colleagues from other content subjects

So, doing PhDs on ESP issues was difficult: not attractive topics for traditional philologists
There is strength in numbers!!!

- 1985-1991 meetings of ESP teachers in ESP conferences in Spain & Portugal
- 1992, AELFE was created, UPM
- “The case for ESP has now been accepted internationally and it is now possible for teachers (...) to pursue a career in ESP work” (Johns & Dudley-Evans, 1991)

IS THIS TRUE?

Being promoted to full professorship still a tough target
Research evolution

- Three sources analyzed
  - **Rosario Bueno’s** complete study ESP-1985-2002
    - **1422** papers
  - **Proceedings of 5 conferences on LSP, (Canet de Mar) (1997-2001)** 318 papers
  - **IBERICA (1999-2011)** 163 articles
Topics studied between 1985-2002

- Course design: 34%
- Discourse analysis: 21%
- Lexicology (terminology): 18%
- Language learning and teaching: 9%
- Needs analysis: 8%
- ICT: 7%
- Corpus studies: 3%

1422 papers, 1997, 330 in 6 conferences
Iberica Evolution 1999-2002

533 keywords in all articles. Clear-cut divisions blurred
Authors’ nationality

Past 1980-2002
Past 2002-2009
Present 2010-2011
Future

0
1
2
3
4
5
6

1999 2000 2001 2002

Sp-authors
Non_Sp
A period of maturity:

– Many ESP teachers with tenured jobs
– Research groups were created
– International relationships established with well-known ESP practitioners

Some concern about Bologna Agreement & implementation
Educational aspects & teaching methodologies

- From sentence level/formal aspects of language, to professional communication skills
- Groups became more manageable
- New online courses designed on professional/academic English
- Reduction of LSP subjects in certain degrees
- Great pressure on ESP teachers to publish -> sexenio
Research in Ibérica


- Language learning and teaching
- Lexicology (terminology)
- Discourse analysis/Genre
- Course design
- Corpus studies
- TIC analysis
- Needs analysis
Research in Ibérica

Past 1980-2002
Past 2003-2009
Present 2010-2012
Future

- Language learning and teaching
- Lexicology (terminology)
- Discourse analysis/Genre
- Course design
- Corpus studies
- TIC analysis
- Needs analysis
Language of the articles and authors’ nationality

- English
- Spanish
- Sp_authors
- Non-Sp-authors

Past 1980-2002
Past 2003-2009
Present 2010-2012
Future
Administrative situation

- New degrees have started: ESP/EAP from compulsory to optional subject
- ESP courses have disappeared or been reduced
- Students are required to have B1-B2 level to follow EAP courses
- **BUT** few students have this level
- Greater internationalization of students and teachers
- EAP courses at Degrees and some Master programs
Educational Aspects & Teaching methodologies

- Teachers adapting their methodologies to new technological / educational requirements: MOODLE
- Transversal skills and key competences highlighted
- Few attempts to introduce CLIL methodologies
  - Lack of understanding with content subject teachers
  - ESP teachers as support for content teachers
  - Workload not well distributed
- Wide range of possibilities for European projects: Athens, Erasmus, Grundtvig, etc.
Research. Ibérica 2010-2011

• New topics have gained presence:
  – 2011 Academic skills, Content & language integration
  – Situation in Northern countries very well described
• New special issues are expected to appear, on Intercultural and International Business Communication.
• New journals and conferences have appeared, not ESP-oriented, but attract ESP practitioners
  – AELINCO,
  – AELCO...
IBERICA. Language of articles


76% English
22% Spanish
2% French
Iberica specialized domains 1999-2011

- **Academic** 36%
- **Business/Economics** 16%
- **Medicine/Biology** 11%
- **Scientific language** 7%
- **Computing** 7%
- **Engineering** 4%
- **Legal** 5%
- **Communication/Marketing** 4%
- **History/Politics** 3%

Past 1980-2002
- Academic/Teaching
- Business/Economics
- Medicine/Biology
- Scientific language
- Computing
- Eng.
- Legal
- Marketing/Comm.
- History/Politics
- Chemistry/Physics
- Arquitecture
- Odontontology
- Turism
- Military
- Sports
- Naval/Aeronautical

Future
Administrative situation

• **BLEAK!!!!**
• Only part-time jobs
• Staff reduction -> No vacant posts for young teachers
• More classes and less time for research
• Complaints on increase of administrative paperwork
• Lack of confidence in Bologna Agreement

Educational Aspects & Teaching methodologies

- More learner-centered approaches
- Experiments on content and language integration learning
- Increase in online courses
- Strengthening the field of ESP practitioners
- Providing support and mentoring for novices
- Creation of Networks of Universities on ESP studies in EU
- Creation of ESP/EAP Erasmus Mundus Master Courses
Research perspective

- Emphasis on interdisciplinarity in research teams
- Intercultural studies in a global world
- Emphasis on EAP issues, negotiations, and cultural issues
- New online terminological tools on specialized domains
- Lot of pressure on publications by authorities
- In sum, ESP/EAP will follow some of the trendy lines in applied linguistics
Muito obrigada!
Thank you!!
¡Muchas gracias!
Merci bien!!
Muito obrigada!
Thank you!!
¡Muchas gracias!
Merci bien!!