Universidad de Guantánamo

Morgan Scott, S. M. (2015). *The integration of communicative and professional skills in the process of teaching-learning English for specific purposes in the major of Informatics Engineering.* PhD thesis. Santiago de Cuba.

REVIEW

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The integration of communicative and professional skills in the process of teaching-learning of English for specific purposes (ESP) in the major of Informatics Engineering, is the title of the thesis presented in 2015 by Auxiliary Professor Silvia Miriam Morgan Scott, director of the Language Center of the University of Guantánamo, as an option to the scientific degree of Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences.

The thesis deals with the insufficiencies in the communication in English language of the students of the Informatics Engineering major that limit their future professional performance. As the title indicates, it provides a didactic conception of the integration of communicative and professional skills from the point of view of linguistic-info-technological communication, specified in a didactic strategy for the integration of these skills.

It consists of synthesis, introduction, three chapters, nine subsections, general conclusions, recommendations, bibliography and annexes. The first chapter characterizes theoretically the teaching-learning process of ESP and the integration of communicative and professional skills in the major of Informatics Engineering, its historical evolution and current situation.

The second bases the didactic conception on the integration of communicative and professional skills in the aforementioned major, and the third exposes the strategy for the

integration of these skills in the reference major, while confirming the relevance of the contributions of the investigation.

In order to corroborate the need to propose a didactic concept for the improvement of the teaching of ESP and implement a strategy of the same nature, the analysis of the ruling documents of the Informatics Engineering major is carried out, that reveals the need to perfect, from the didactic point of view, the teaching-learning process of ESP with the purpose of favoring the use of the English language in order to solve the students' communicative professional needs.

For the design of the thesis, the author took into account the analysis of an interview with professors, and the analysis of the survey applied to the second year students of Informatics Engineering, which determined the existence of the necessity to propose a didactic conception for the improvement of ESP and a strategy of the same nature for its implementation that will benefit the future professional of Informatics related Sciences in Guantánamo.

This thesis, of marked actuality and concrete relevance, integrates communication skills and info-technological professional skills, which are a vital part of the content of the teaching-learning process of ESP and the subject *Database*, of the *Software Engineering and Management* Teaching Program, of the Informatics Engineering major syllabus, an aspect that constitutes a contribution to the Didactics of Foreign Languages in Cuba.

One of the most relevant characteristics of this thesis is that it fosters a dialogical, interactive, participative, developer, contextualized, text-centered set of activities designed for the Informatics Engineering student's professional training, for which the knowledge and skills taxed are integrated to the modes of action of the student, and their professional future, based on the conscious exercise of the systematic practice of activities based on communication in English language.

Chapter 3 presents the main results of the corroboration process of the feasibility and relevance of the didactic conception and the strategy proposed through the consultation of experts, the development of socialization workshops and a quasi-experiment. The

weaknesses and potentialities in the implementation of the components of each subsystem of the proposed conception are determined, by means of the diagnosis, in order to prepare and guide the professors of ESP, the students and professors of the Informatics Engineering major involved in the process of integration of communicative, professional, and info-technological skills, and the didactic components of the strategy are designed to achieve the goals proposed for this part of the research process.

Among the conclusions, it is worth highlighting the quality of the results obtained, which allowed to confirm the validity and relevance of the results of the research, evidenced in the transformations achieved in the students; also, the assessments made in the socialization workshops obtained favorable criteria in the teaching-learning process of ESP for the major.

This is, without any doubt, an important thesis that shows how to link professional skills with the implementation of the language strategy at the level of university education, which all language teachers should consult, in order to enrich their teaching practice.