

Galina Gumovskaya, *LSP: English of Professional Communication*. Lap Lambert Academic Publishing, Saarbrücken/ Moscow, 2017, pp. 366.

Galina Gumovskaya, Phd in Philology, is head of Master's Programme of 'Foreign Languages and Cross-cultural Communication' at Moscow Higher School of Economics. Many a faculty member will certainly remember her as a visiting professor at Warsaw University's Department of Applied Linguistics and East-Slavonic Studies some fourteen years ago. While in Warsaw, she also published a monograph titled 'English for Special Purposes' (KJS 2005). Twelve years on, G. Gumovskaya expanded this monograph into an impressive work of almost 400 pages under the altered title of '*LSP: English of Professional Communication*'.

In this new monograph G. Gumovskaya clearly sets herself an ambitious goal of preparing a comprehensive compendium covering a vast area of professional communication in English for Specific Purposes. Several new chapters have been added to the earlier Polish edition, relating to such issues as language in fiction, English for business and economics, medical English, English for secretaries, English for language pedagogy, translation and style. The targeted audience for *LSP: English of Professional Communication* is students and teachers in diverse fields of professional communication and also people with an interest in English for specific purposes, or people working in jobs necessitating mastery of specialist languages.

Composed of four parts divided into twenty-three core chapters, plus a closing chapter dealing with new language varieties, this monograph discusses a considerable number of specific fields ranging from scientific disciplines to social sciences, including the religious and pedagogical spheres of communication. Each chapter is provided with a set of exercises, which incorporates a variety of tasks and activities targeted at expanding students' specialist vocabulary, stylistic patterns and models of professional discourse typical of specific domains. The book is also aimed at graduate students striving for master's degrees in English language teaching and linguistics.

Before approaching the specific communication fields in detail, G. Gumovskaya devotes four chapters of Part 1 to an ample elucidation of the conceptual and theoretical foundations of professional communication processes with special focus on English for Specific Purposes (ESP). In the forward to her book, G. Gumovskaya explains that, while discussing the theoretical approaches to the linguistic phenomena, she adopted the most generally accepted modern linguistic theories of specialist languages and categories of functional styles put forward, *inter alia*, by I.R. Galperin (1981) and later by T. Hutchinson and A. Waters in *English for Specific Purposes* (1987).

Then, in the successive chapters of Part 1, G. Gumovskaja provides the reader with historical background and survey of approaches to language, linguistics and

professional communication. She also mentions the concept of language formulated by F. Grucza and refers to the terminological works by J. Lukszyn, quoting J. Lukszyn's definition and properties of language for specific purposes. The fourth and last chapter of Part 1 is dedicated to the discussion of style and stylistic differentiation of the English vocabulary in languages for specific purposes.

Part 2, titled *English for Science and Technology*, comprises seven chapters covering the areas of medical English, English for science, scientific research and steps in scientific research, linguistic research as well as guidelines for students preparing an MA thesis.

In Part 3, composed of three chapters devoted to *English for Business and Economics*, G. Gumovskaya deals with the issues of style and translation of official documents as well as grammatical aspects of specialist communication in this vast field of study.

In Part 4, G. Gumovskaya offers the most extensive and varied collection of nine chapters covering essentially the following specialist disciplines: legal English, religious English, English for language pedagogy, news media English and journalistic English, and language in fiction. In this part Gumovskaya also includes a chapter discussing the issues of translation and style where she elaborates at length on these issues initially addressed in Part 1 of her volume. The chapter on translation may slightly surprise the reader because the suggested examples of translations from English are given in Russian, so the Russian-speaking readers will benefit most from this chapter.

The concluding parts of the monograph comprise a separate chapter giving some thought to new language varieties in our age of electronic communication, a glossary of specialist lexical items and terms used throughout the book as well as a bibliography containing one hundred and seven publications cited in the monograph.

One of the chief assets of G. Gumovskaya's book is the inclusion of concrete and practical tasks and exercises designed to help students develop their linguistic competence in the professional varieties of English for Specific Purposes. All the chapters are concluded with these tasks and miscellaneous activities, the amount of which may give us an assurance that the reader will acquire the necessary skills in different varieties of ESP.

Another good point of the book is that it deals thoroughly with the intricacies of master's thesis writing, successfully addressing the needs of students who are unaware of the complexity and specific requirements that have to be met. Anyone who strives for a master's degree in applied linguistics will gain considerable benefit from studying those chapters of G. Gumovskaya's book where she provides great advice for students undertaking an assiduous task of writing an M.A. thesis.

Overall, the book effectively caters to the needs of students, graduates and aspiring researchers in English for Specific Purposes. The information is presented in a precise manner and in a user-friendly and clear style that will prove approachable for both beginners and the more experienced students. Because of its wide thematic scope, G. Gumovskaya's book can also be used selectively by a diverse readership.

Let me continue with some minor but not insignificant quibbles about this book.

Firstly, Part 3 devoted to English in economics and business is relatively short as compared to the other parts of the book and seems to have been given too little attention by the author. Considering the complexity and significance of these fields of study in the modern world, the issues of economics and business deserve further expanding in the future editions. It might also be worthwhile to consider dividing this huge area into two separate subfields, namely into economics and business. This suggestion is based on the fact that economics refers to systemic and general principles governing the whole economy and is also a theoretical subject suitable for academic study, while business is a practical activity of individuals or enterprises. According to *The Penguin Dictionary of Economics* (2003), “Economics is the study of the production, distribution and consumption in human society”. There are multiple definitions of business, but almost all of them refer to business as a practical activity or craft, the aim of which is to make profit. The Investopedia Dictionary, for example, refers to business activities as “the organized efforts or activities of individuals to produce and sell goods and services for profit”. Both economics and business professionals function in different spheres and at different levels (society vs an individual or enterprise), pursue different goals, require different areas of knowledge and work with different communities of professionals. In consequence, the specialist languages of economics and business differ in many respects, although similarities are clearly noticeable, e.g. within specialist lexis.

Secondly, the chapter on linguistics has been included in Part 2 discussing *English for Science and Technology*, which is disputable. Rather, it seems that the chapter on linguistics would fit better in Part 4 dealing with *Social Sciences*.

Finally, the book would have benefited from a more careful editing in order to prevent typographical and formatting errors from appearing.

On balance, however, it may truly be said that the book under review serves well what it is supposed to serve as a professional communication handbook. Notwithstanding particular quibbles mentioned above, it should be emphasized that G. Gumovskaya’s monograph is not only a useful learning and teaching resource, but it also makes a significant and valuable contribution to the literature on professional communication in English for Specific Purposes.

Bibliography

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