

Siwaros Chanchanglek 2011: A Corpus Analysis of English Vocabulary Input in Course Materials Used for Engineering Students. Master of Arts (English for Specific Purposes), Major Field: English for Specific Purposes, Department of Foreign Languages. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Nongnuch Sriussadaporn, Ph.D. 215 pages.

The purpose of the study was to analyze vocabulary input in English for Engineering courses in three areas: 1) proportion of general service vocabulary input based on the general service list (GSL) 2) proportion of academic vocabulary input based on the academic word list (AWL) and 3) most frequently used academic words in the study in order to build the corpus of academic words for Engineering. The materials were textbooks in English for Engineering courses collected from universities running English for Engineering courses: 1) Thammasart University (TU) 2) Rangsit University (RSU) 3) Rajamangala University of Technology (RMUT). The lexical analysis software applied in the study was WordSmith.

The findings revealed that the majority (around 80%) of every text were comprised of general service words and printed course materials from RSU showed the highest coverage of general service words with over 84%. Moreover, 1,591 general service words or two thirds of the GSL were found in the analysis. Regarding academic words, they accounted for 6 % in each text approximately. Finally, the study revealed that 363 academic words out of 570 in the AWL were found and RMUT corpus was comprised of the least proportion of academic words with 5.61%. The findings provide some fundamental and practical vocabulary input for the teachers of English for academic purposes and course designers for Engineering students.

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