

This Issue

It is a pleasure to present this issue of *the ESpecialist*, now under my responsibility. The new executive board expects to continue the work which has been done for the past 23 years of existence and to contribute to the development in the area.

This issue presents a variety of themes ranging from issues related to ESP teaching to a longitudinal study about critical comments in medical papers written in Spanish.

We start with Vian Jr.'s article on design of an ESP course focused on oral production for a bank located in the city of São Paulo, whose theoretical foundations are systemic-functional linguistics and genre/register theory.

Gomes' article, which is also in the area of ESP teaching, is a needs analysis of a specific target situation: hotels in Sorocaba (near São Paulo city) and surroundings. Its aim is to investigate possible differences to what concerns the demands of English language use by different professionals who work in this sector.

Gil's article analyses a foreign language class in order to verify how the focus on form mechanisms can be developed through interaction in the classroom.

The fourth article, by Sánchez Hernández, describes the procedures used in the compilation of a corpus of texts in the area of Biology which also consists of different sub-areas. Besides revealing some grammatical characteristics of Biology texts, it also points out possibilities of its use in vocabulary application.

Ramón-Sales and Aguado-Giménez report an English teaching experience with Spanish students of Librarianship in which Swales' (1990) CARS model is used. They also show the benefits of using such a model in the classroom.

This issue closes with Alcaraz Ariza and Salager-Meyer's research on critical comments in medical papers written in Spanish and published from 1930 to 1999. They report the evolution of the rhetorical features of criticism in Spanish medical prose, considering the historic-social context of their productions.

ROSINDA DE CASTRO GUERRA RAMOS