



## THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENGLISH VOCABULARY TEACHING IN SULAWESI FLIGHT MAKASSAR

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### Abstract

*This research explores the teaching of English vocabulary specific to the aviation industry at Sulawesi Flight Makassar. With the increasing importance of English in a global context, mastering relevant vocabulary is crucial for effective communication in aviation. The study employs a qualitative approach through classroom observations and semi-structured interviews with teachers and students. Findings indicate that while students possess general English proficiency, they struggle with technical terms essential for their careers. Gaps in teaching methodologies and a lack of suitable materials pose barriers to learning. This research emphasizes the need for a more contextual and relevant teaching approach, as well as better training for educators, aiming to improve English vocabulary instruction and better prepare students for professional demands in aviation.*

**Keywords:** English vocabulary, aviation industry, Sulawesi Flight, teaching methods, ESP

### INTRODUCTION

English for Specific Purposes (ESP) is an approach to English language teaching designed to meet specific communication needs in a professional context. This approach is particularly important in the aviation industry, where English is becoming a global language. ESP prioritizes learners' specific needs and goals, enabling them to develop language skills relevant to their expertise (Hutchinson, 1987). English for Specific Purposes (ESP) is defined as a type of English course designed to meet the specific needs and objectives of learners (Fitria, 2020). In the field of aviation, ESP is becoming increasingly important as English is the lingua franca in this global industry. Sulawesi Flight, located in Makassar, was chosen as the research site due to the rapid growth of the aviation sector in the region, which requires the improvement of relevant English language skills. This research aims to explore aviation-specific English vocabulary teaching methods and identify the challenges educators face in teaching such vocabulary.

Along with the rapid growth of the aviation sector in Sulawesi, the importance of mastering specific English vocabulary is becoming increasingly urgent (Tosqui-Lucks & de Castro Santana, 2022). emphasizes that effective communication in aviation contexts relies heavily on understanding technical vocabulary, which is often not taught in the general English curriculum.

The aviation industry is one of the critical pillars in global connectivity, with English serving as the primary language of communication. Mastery of English vocabulary, particularly in contexts relevant to airport and aviation operations, is essential to insure effective communication and operational efficiency (Ginusti & Ariebowo, 2023).

Vocabulary is the collection of words used in a language. Vocabulary refers to words related to a particular theme, such as family relationships and pronouns in English. Mastery of vocabulary is very important because it affects one's ability to listen, speak, read and write. By having a good vocabulary, students can more easily convey ideas and communicate effectively.

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Mastery of English vocabulary specific to the aviation industry is deemed crucial by experts to ensure efficient and professional communication in the sector (Singh et al., 2022). As a strategic region in Indonesia, Sulawesi is experiencing an increasing demand for aviation workers who are able to meet international standards through good English language skills. This not only supports operational efficiency but also contributes to the development of the tourism sector, which increasingly requires high-quality services for foreign tourists. However, teaching English vocabulary for special purposes in the context of aviation in Sulawesi is still relatively limited. Many of the teaching materials available do not fully meet the specific needs of the industry, resulting in students being underprepared for the challenges of the world of (Dudley-Evans & St John, 1998a). Therefore, this study aims to explore methods of teaching English vocabulary relevant to the aviation industry at Sulawesi Flight Makassar, as well as identify the challenges faced by educators in teaching this vocabulary.

In an era where technological advancements are transforming every aspect of our lives, education is one arena that is poised for transformation. In this dynamic landscape, the field of English for Specific Purposes (ESP) teaching is undergoing a profound evolution (Ningsih et al., 2023). ESP teaching is moving beyond traditional approaches that focus on static teaching materials. It opens up opportunities to create learning experiences that are more adaptive, interactive and relevant to the needs of the professional world. While there is a wealth of literature on English for Special Purposes (ESP) and the importance of English in aviation, little research has focused on vocabulary teaching strategies in the Indonesian context, particularly in Makassar's Sulawesi flight. Most of the existing research emphasizes general English proficiency or communication skills, leaving a significant gap in understanding how vocabulary relevant to flight operations is taught and how educators can effectively integrate it into their curriculum. This research fills that gap by exploring practical, context-based teaching methods tailored to the unique needs of Sulawesi flight Makassar in the aviation sector.

The importance of mastering vocabulary in the aviation industry cannot be underestimated. Proper vocabulary enables clear communication among the various parties involved in aviation operations, including pilots, cabin crew, airport staff, and passengers. In critical situations, the use of precise vocabulary can be a determining factor in safety and operational efficiency. Therefore, it is crucial for professionals in the aviation industry to have a deep understanding of specific and technical vocabulary.

In Sulawesi Flight Makassar, the rapid development of the aviation sector must be matched by an increase in relevant English language skills. Although there have been efforts to improve general English education, there is still a lack of approaches focused on the vocabulary needed for aviation contexts. This leads to many graduates being unprepared to meet job demands in the aviation world, where effective communication is vital.

## METHOD

This study used a qualitative approach to understand the implementation of English vocabulary teaching in an aviation context at Sulawesi Flight Makassar. This

method allowed the researcher to explore the experiences and perspectives of the educators as well as the students in depth. Qualitative approaches in English language teaching for special purposes (ESP) are essential as they can provide greater insight into existing teaching practices and the challenges faced by teachers (Robinson, 1991).

Data will be collected through classroom observations and semi-structured interviews. Classroom observations aim to assess teaching practices, including the use of teaching materials and interactions between teachers and students. This is in line with the guidelines provided (Dudley-Evans & St John, 1998b), who emphasize the importance of observing the learning context to understand how specific vocabulary is taught.

Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with teachers and students to explore their experiences, challenges and perceptions in learning aviation-related vocabulary. As described by (Bush, 2021), interviews can provide valuable information on how technical vocabulary is understood and applied in real situations in the aviation industry.

In addition, documents such as curricula, lesson plans and teaching materials will be analyzed to assess the integration of aviation vocabulary in educational programs. The thematic analysis process will be used to identify patterns, challenges and opportunities in vocabulary teaching, providing recommendations to improve teaching practices that meet the needs of the aviation industry in Sulawesi.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **FINDINGS**

The results of this study show that English vocabulary acquisition at Sulawesi Flight Makassar is still limited, especially in the context of aviation. Although many students demonstrated proficiency in general vocabulary, they lacked understanding of necessary technical terms, such as “boarding pass,” “passenger,” and “luggage.” This finding is in line with research conducted by (Santos & Berssaneti, 2024), which revealed that understanding technical vocabulary is key to effective communication in aviation situations, both in simulated and real environments.

English language teaching at Sulawesi Flight Makassar tends to prioritize grammar and general communication skills, while the focus on vocabulary acquisition remains lacking. This is consistent with (Dudley-Evans & St John, 1998b) findings that curricula often do not pay enough attention to specific industry-relevant vocabulary. Existing teaching materials generally cover basic vocabulary that is not specifically designed for the aviation context, hindering students' understanding of technical instructions.

Furthermore, the teaching methods used are not contextualized enough and do not meet the specific demands of the aviation sector. Teachers often rely on traditional approaches, such as memorization and the use of vocabulary lists, without engaging students in practical activities that encourage active use of vocabulary. This reflects the findings of (Batubara, 2022), which states that the use of more interactive teaching methods can improve students' understanding of technical vocabulary. Students who engaged in flight simulation or role-play showed significant improvement in their ability to use relevant vocabulary.

The limited availability of teaching materials specifically designed for the aviation context at Sulawesi Flight Makassar was another significant finding. Most textbooks and learning resources emphasize general English, without adapting the content to meet the specific needs of the aviation industry. The lack of relevant resources can reduce teaching effectiveness, especially for students targeting careers in the aviation sector (Puspita et al., 2023). Many students complain that they do not get enough practice in using technical vocabulary in realistic situations, which makes them feel underprepared for the challenges of the working world.

In addition, interviews with teachers revealed that they felt limited in their knowledge of the technical vocabulary to be taught. Some teachers stated that they had no specialized training in teaching English for specific purposes, thus feeling less confident in teaching relevant vocabulary. These findings suggest that there is an urgent need for a professional training program for teachers to enable them to develop the necessary skills to teach specific vocabulary in an aviation context.

Finally, the analysis of students' attitudes also shows that they recognize the importance of mastering technical vocabulary. Although they recognized the difficulty in learning new vocabulary, many students showed motivation to learn more, especially if the teaching materials could be linked to practical experiences in aviation. This suggests that with the right approach, English vocabulary acquisition in the context of aviation can be significantly improved.

## DISCUSSION

The findings of this study indicate that English vocabulary acquisition at Sulawesi Flight Makassar is still at a limited stage, particularly in relation to the aviation context. This is in line with previous research which shows that many students have general communication skills, but lack understanding of essential technical terms in the aviation industry. This limitation can negatively impact their ability to understand technical instructions and communicate effectively in real aviation situations.

Furthermore, English language teaching at Sulawesi Flight Makassar tends to focus more on grammar and general communication skills. An inadequate approach to vocabulary acquisition can be an obstacle for students preparing to enter the workforce in the aviation sector, where clear and precise communication is essential. This research reinforces the argument that relevant vocabulary teaching is essential to prepare students for the professional demands of this field.

One of the main challenges facing educators is the lack of teaching materials specifically designed for the aviation context. Many of the available textbooks and learning resources do not match the specific needs of the aviation industry, reducing the effectiveness of vocabulary teaching. This points to the importance of developing more relevant and contextualized teaching materials to enable students to understand and use the technical vocabulary required in their careers in the aviation sector.

Furthermore, interviews with students revealed that they have difficulty in connecting vocabulary learned in class with real-world flight situations. This suggests a gap between theory and practice in vocabulary teaching. To address this issue, it is important to adopt a more interactive and practical teaching approach, which allows students to apply vocabulary in relevant and real contexts.

Finally, the challenges faced by teachers in integrating aviation-specific vocabulary into teaching also point to the need for specialized training and professional development opportunities. Many teachers do not have adequate training in teaching English for aviation purposes, which impacts the quality of teaching. Therefore, the development of training programs and access to relevant resources should be a priority to improve teachers' competencies and, in turn, students' learning outcomes in aviation contexts.

## CONCLUSION

This research highlights the significant challenges in English vocabulary acquisition at Sulawesi Flight Makassar, particularly in the context of aviation. Although students have basic proficiency in English, their understanding of specific technical vocabulary is still very limited. This suggests that the existing curriculum does not fully meet the needs of the aviation industry, and teaching focuses more on grammar and general communication skills.

The teaching methods used tend to be traditional and less contextualized, which results in a lack of student engagement in the learning process. Students who engage in more interactive approaches, such as simulation and role-play, show significant improvement in vocabulary comprehension. Therefore, there is an urgent need to adopt more innovative and contextualized teaching methods so that students can be better prepared to face challenges in the world of work.

The availability of teaching materials specifically designed for the aviation industry is also an important concern. Most of the existing learning resources still focus on general English, which is inadequate to meet the specific demands of the aviation sector. In addition, professional training for teachers to deepen their knowledge of technical vocabulary is needed so that they can provide more effective instruction.

Overall, this study confirms the importance of improving English vocabulary teaching in the context of aviation through more interactive approaches, relevance of teaching materials and professional development for teachers. With these measures, it is hoped that students will be better prepared to enter the world of aviation with a better understanding of the necessary vocabulary.

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