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Language for Specific Purposes

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*To the memory of David Hall, our much loved
and deeply missed colleague and friend*

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General Editors' Preface

Research and Practice in Applied Linguistics provides the essential cross-over between research in applied linguistics and its practical applications in the professions. Written by leading scholars and practitioners, the series provides rapid and authoritative access to current scholarship and research on key topics in language education and professional communication more broadly. Books in the series are designed for students and researchers in Applied Linguistics, TESOL, Language Education, Communication Studies and related fields, and for professionals concerned with language and communication.

Every book in this innovative series is designed to be user-friendly, with clear illustrations and accessible style. The quotations and definitions of key concepts that punctuate the main text are intended to ensure that many, often competing, voices are heard. Each book presents a concise historical and conceptual overview of its chosen field, identifying many lines of enquiry and findings, but also gaps and disagreements. Throughout the books, readers are encouraged to take up issues of enquiry and research that relate to their own contexts of practice, guided by reflective and exploratory questions and examples that invite practical connections to their work.

The focus throughout is on exploring the relationship between research and practice. How far can research provide answers to the questions and issues that arise in practice? How should we warrant the relevance of research to practice? Can research questions that arise and are examined in very specific circumstances be informed by, and inform, the global body of research and practice? What different kinds of information can be obtained from different research methodologies? How should we make a selection between the options available, and how far are different methods compatible with each other? How can the results of research be turned into practical action?

The books in this series identify key researchable areas in the field and provide workable examples of research projects, backed up by details of appropriate research tools and resources. Case studies and exemplars of research and practice are drawn on throughout the books. References to key institutions, individual research lists, journals and professional organisations provide starting points for gathering information and

embarking on research. The books also include annotated lists of key works in the field for further study.

The overall objective of the series is to illustrate the message that in Applied Linguistics there can be no good professional practice that isn't based on good research, and there can be no good research that isn't informed by practice.

Christopher N. Candlin and David R. Hall
Macquarie University, Sydney

Acknowledgements

Stephen and I sincerely thank our families and David's for their support throughout this book's journey to completion.

And what a journey it has been! The idea for this book emerged from a partnership between David Hall and I when we were developing a course in LSP for the Master's in Applied Linguistics at Macquarie University. Both of us had worked separately for many years in EAP and ESP in Sydney, and David also had valuable experience developing ESP courses in Europe, the Middle East and Asia (particularly in Thailand). This book had a very long gestation, and unfortunately our careers and the ups and downs of life would not stop for the writing of a manuscript. At first, David and I were both heavily involved in our teaching and other work for the National Centre for English Language Teaching and Research (NCELTR) at Macquarie. David took on heavier responsibilities there, including head of postgraduate research, head and co-editor with Chris Candlin (1940–2015) of the RAPAL series, while I subsequently took up a leading role in EAP at The University of Western Sydney and finally took a tenure-track position in the USA. Consequently, much of the writing of this book took place at a distance, via email, Skype and meetings at international conferences as far-flung as Brisbane, Beijing and Madison, Wisconsin.

As lead author there are many people I want to acknowledge specifically. First, I want to acknowledge David, for his generosity in giving me his time and access to his unique and comprehensive LSP library whenever I returned to Sydney. It was with enormous shock and sadness that we received the news in 2013 that David had only a very few months to live. With tremendous courage, mental toughness and his irrepressible and self-deprecating humour, David continued to work on his parts of the manuscript until shortly before his death. I was overwhelmed that David bequeathed to me his LSP library, which is now mostly with me in the United States. It is poignant to open a reference work in LSP, and see 'David Hall, 1991' or 'David Hall, 2006' handwritten inside the front cover.

Secondly, I sincerely thank Stephen for agreeing to step in to 'lightly edit' David's chapters, write some of the final sections, and help bring the whole manuscript to the point of submission. He has done a wonderful job in preserving David's voice, while adding his own substantial intellectual contribution.

Thirdly I wish to acknowledge a debt to the English Language Institute at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. I was very fortunate to receive a Morley Scholarship in 2001 to do preliminary research for this book. John Swales was extremely generous with his time, his personal library and his incisive comments on some very early draft sections of this book. I returned to the ELI in the summer of 2004 to team-teach in the summer institute for international students of business and law. I thank Dianne Larsen-Freeman for this opportunity, and the teachers for allowing me to work with their students. I also thank the many new friends I made at the ELI, especially Elizabeth Axelson and Chris Feak, for their personal and professional hospitality while I was working on my research.

Finally, on a very personal note, I thank my husband, Professor Daniel Kies, for his extreme patience, his unfailing confidence in my academic pursuits, and his very pertinent and helpful comments on the manuscript.

Stephen and I would both like to acknowledge Chris Candlin, the Series Editor, for his continuing faith in our writing project over such a long and, at times, difficult gestation, and for his very supportive and timely editorial guidance and comments. Any remaining errors or omissions are entirely our responsibility.

Sandra Gollin-Kies and Stephen H. Moore
May 2015

About the Authors

Sandra Gollin-Kies is Associate Professor in the Department of Languages and Literature at Benedictine University, where she co-directs the MA in Linguistics (TESOL), and teaches EAP for Master's programmes in Business and Health, as well as academic writing for social sciences and sciences to undergraduates. Her career in LSP began in Australia in the mid-1970s. She set up the first university-wide EAP programme at the University of Technology, Sydney, and directed The Learning Centre at the University of Western Sydney. At Macquarie University she was a teacher professional developer for the national Adult Migrant English Programme, and also taught in the MA in Linguistics, where she developed a course in LSP with David Hall. She now lives and works in the USA. Her research interests are in the analysis of spoken and written discourse in EAP, workplace and professional contexts. Her work has appeared in the *ESP Journal*, *Quaderns de Filologia*, and several edited books pertaining to EAP/ESP.

David R. Hall (1947–2014) was Associate Professor in the Linguistics Department at Macquarie University, where he worked for more than 20 years. David was an applied linguist with broad interests. His research areas included Language for Specific Purposes, materials development, language teacher education by distance and learner-centredness/learner autonomy. His teaching and research supervision interests and knowledge of the field went far beyond these areas. For David, research was not separate from practice and he made significant contributions to the academy in research, research supervision, teaching and administration (including serving multiple terms as Head of the Linguistics Department and Associate Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences). David passed away in February 2014.

Stephen H. Moore is Senior Lecturer in the Linguistics Department at Macquarie University. He has worked in the fields of English language teaching, English for Specific Purposes, discourse analysis and language assessment for more than 20 years. His recent research has included investigating the discourse of financial planners and the spoken discourse of accountants. He also has a longstanding interest in English in and about Cambodia. In the 1980s, Stephen trained and worked as an accountant in London.