A study on the current status and direction of improvement of English education for dental hygiene students

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Abstract. Pak Su Young (2015) A study on the current status and direction of improvement of English education for dental hygiene students. The purpose of this study is to analyze the present situation of English education in dental hygiene school of Korea, and to propose a way to improve it. To do this, this study investigates the achievement satisfaction of 16 registered dental hygienists at International Hospital of Korea. The detailed goals of each English class were not considered. However, this study provides actual and practical data for effective English education from a viewpoint of the students within the English classroom. Finally, further related studies in this field should be conducted. This study suggests that formal English education background obtained from universities lacked efficiencies in developing English communication skills of students at their present working environment.

Keyword: English education, dental hygiene students, registered dental hygienists

1 Introduction

1.2 The purpose and necessity of the study

English education implementation in most of dental hygiene school has been operated uniformly. It began to make a concerted effort to serve the special needs of its students in English education in most of university and has been operated in a relatively uniform curriculum. In this study, dealing with research problem is as follows. First, this study analyzes awareness of the importance of English courses for specific purpose was investigated. The survey is collected from four-year universities and three-year College. English courses in four Dental Hygiene schools were examined. The proportion of English credits in one of the total credits was analyzed on the website. Second, this study analyzes on the methods of teaching English (ESP) for dental hygienists who work in the international dental clinic through interview.
This study will increase the effectiveness of education through the interviews at International Hospital of Korea to analyze the English learning achievement satisfaction with to analyze the current status of English education for dental hygiene school students. This study analyzes the results and provides an optimal way for further dental hygiene English education. Also the background knowledge of English for Specific Purposes (ESP) was investigated for the definition.

2 English educational field survey

2.1 English program survey

Awareness of the importance of English courses for specific purpose was investigated. The following is a survey collected from four-year universities and three-year College. English courses in four Dental Hygiene schools were examined. The proportion of English credits in one of the total credits was analyzed on the website. Number in parentheses is the total number of credits allocated to the entire school year. If the same subjects were divided into one or two different units/levels, the credits were combined.

Table 1. college English course (2015 year standard)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>English courses</th>
<th>Total credits</th>
<th>Ratio (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(A) three-year college</td>
<td>practical English1(2) practical English2(2) TOEIC1(2) TOEIC2(2) dental English1(1) dental English2(1)</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(B) three-year college</td>
<td>ESL1(2) ESL2(2) ESL3(2) ESL4(2) ESL5(2) ESL6(2) dental English(2)</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(C) four-year college</td>
<td>College English1(2)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(D) four-year college</td>
<td>practical English1(2) practical English2(2)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 Interviews targeting the dental hygienists

3.1 If an English curriculum did not help you, can you list which?

Most of dental hygienists suggested that insufficient number of reading and listening classes.
3.2 What are some of the difficulties regarding English in dental clinic?
Most of dental hygienists answered that conversation and pronunciation problems.

3.3 How do you improve your English?
Most of dental hygienists replied that they learn listening through the broadcast media, at an English language institute, some of dental hygienists said that they even switch their majors to English language and literature.

3.4 Do you think that in college curriculum English education needs to be included for specific purpose?
Most of dental hygienists responded that it is essential. This proves that college English at present moment does not satisfy the needs.

4 Dental English education problems and the proposal of direction
Interview survey aimed at dental hygienist working in foreign dental clinic pointed out the problems of English education. All of Respondents answered that English is needed for specific purpose course. Having English classes associated with major will increase students’ motivation to learn. Long-term sustained efforts are required in consideration of the expansion of the specialty of foreign language education for a program to enhance the students' English skills. Selecting a suitable textbook for students to achieve the level of competence is also effective and efficient, and English classes will be an important factor. Ultimately, the students can learn through English training courses for specific purpose duties to experience in the future.

5 Conclusion
A Study is on the proposal of direction of English education for dental hygiene students. The purpose of this study is to analyze the present situation of English education in dental hygiene school of Korea, and to propose a way to improve it. This paper is to analyze the achievement satisfaction in the English classroom, and to develop a structured questionnaire for further studies. This study suggests that formal English education background obtained from universities lacked efficiencies in developing English communication skills of students at their present working environment. Most of students believed that increase in listening and hearing courses in the curriculum would definitely help them become better English speaker. English for specific purposes are provided that better English language skills are necessary for students to participate fully after graduation. This study will make a proposal to
provide students with better learning environments based on the report. This study claims that only with English for specific purposes are students sufficiently motivated to study. Through this study, it was confirmed that the need to execute the English language education to levels and majors is essential.

References