

## **Teaching English for Academic Legal Purposes: Different Beliefs and Practices in the UK and Greece**

Teaching English for Legal Purposes is an issue which frequently generates a great deal of heated debate among the language teachers in the field of teaching English for Academic Purposes. The highly technical nature of legal discourse can make things difficult for English teachers because of their potential lack of expertise in the domain. Therefore, it is sometimes necessary for legal English teachers to consult a disciplinary insider.

This presentation reports a study examining the perceptions, attitudes and experiences of three teachers of English for Academic Legal Purposes (EALP) in the UK and three in Greece. Data was gathered using semi-structured interviews. Participants' views on the materials used and on forms of co-operation between English teachers and subject specialists will be considered. Although collaboration led to the design of in-house materials in the case of the EALP instructors teaching in the UK, the lack of specialist help meant the Greek EALP teachers took a more conservative approach regarding materials design. To be more specific, in the first instance, the ESP teachers attended law lectures and then designed their own materials which they then evaluated and discussed with the law lecturers. In the case of Greek EALP courses though, the lack of collaboration between English teachers and Law lecturers led the English teachers to focus on published materials and more specifically on reading and comprehension of simplified legal texts. The implications of the findings are discussed, and it is argued that understanding the attitudes held by EALP teachers from various educational contexts can pave the way to designing a more effective approach to teaching English to students of Law.

Smaragda Kampouri graduated from the department of English Language and Linguistics of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece in 2006. She taught English to adults for four years. In 2008 she attended a master course on Teaching English for Specific Purposes at the University of Essex. Her dissertation was on the collaboration models that can exist between EAP teachers and Law Lecturers and the teaching of field specific or general English. She is currently at her 2nd year of PhD researching the domain of Legal English teaching Methods for students of Law and Professionals.