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THE USE OF JARGON IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSROOM

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Abstract. *This article explores the role of jargon in the educational field, with a particular focus on its use in an English language classroom. Jargon refers to specialized language used by specific professional groups, which serves to facilitate quick and clear communication among members. The study highlights the importance of balancing jargon use with clear explanations to support effective communication and understanding in educational settings. This article contributes to a deeper understanding of how jargon functions in pedagogical contexts and offers practical insights for educators on how to use jargon thoughtfully to benefit all learners.*

Key words: *jargon, morpheme, syntax, rubric, scaffolding, syllabus, plagiarism, midterm.*

Introduction

Language is a powerful tool that helps people communicate with each other. Sometimes, people may use some special words and phrases that are not understandable to everyone. These special words are called jargon words that are used by people in a particular profession or group. It includes technical terms or expressions that are difficult to understand for others who are not a part of that field. For example, teachers use words like "IEP" instead of "Individualized Education Plan," and university students say "GPA" instead of "grade point average". These words make it easier and faster for people to understand each other in the same field. However, for people outside of the field, jargon can be confusing. Therefore, it is important to understand what jargon is and how it works. Jargon can be found in almost every profession and group. The main reason for using jargon is to communicate more quickly and clearly with others in the same field. It saves time and avoids long explanations. For example, in education, terms like "pedagogy", "assessment", and "inclusive education" are commonly used. In sports, players, and coaches often say things like "offside", "penalty", or "home run". Even students use jargon. For instance, they might say "IW" for "Independent work" or "finals" for "final exams." However, there are some problems with jargon, too. "We use jargon when we're feeling insecure, to try to help us feel like we have a higher status," Gilinsky says. Sometimes people use jargon to look smart or to make something seem more complicated than it really is. At that time, jargon stops being helpful and starts becoming a barrier. It can make others feel embarrassed and

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discomfort like they are not smart enough to understand. This can create misunderstandings or even mistrust. That is why it is important to be careful while using jargon. If you are speaking to people who do not know the terms, it is better to use simple and clear language, and you can also explain the jargon to avoid any misunderstandings, because good communication means making sure that everyone understands the message. This article explores what jargon really is, where it shows up, why people use it, and how it can affect communication in both good and bad ways. Whether you are a student, a future professional, or just someone interested in a language, understanding and using jargon can help you become a better communicator.

The linguistic status of jargon

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, jargon is defined as "special words or expressions used by a profession or group that are difficult for others to understand." In the field of linguistics, for example, terms such as *phoneme, morpheme*, or *syntax* are forms of jargon understood and used by linguists but they can create difficulties to most people outside that field. The main goal of using jargon is to allow people within the same profession or group to communicate more quickly, clearly, and effectively. It helps people to express complex ideas in a short and clear way. For example, teachers often use terms like *formative assessment, differentiated instruction,* or *inclusive education* when discussing students' learning needs, teaching strategies, or academic progress. These terms allow teachers avoid long explanations and provide clarity when discussing topics with colleagues who share the same knowledge background. Additionally, using jargon creates connections and a sense of identity among members of a profession.

Positive and negative sides of jargon

Jargon can have both beneficial and problematic effects in professional communication. One of the advantages is improving clarity and efficiency among people who share a common experience and skills. It enables faster communication, minimizes the necessity for detailed explanations, and promotes clearer comprehension in professional conversations. For instance, in the field of education, terms such as *scaffolding* which refers to the instructional support provided to students during the learning process and final *assessment* which means the evaluation of student learning at the end of an instructional unit are commonly used among educators. These terms hold specific meanings that are well understood within the educational community, thus it contributes to more effective communication and well-grounded decision-making. Turning to the disadvantages, overuse of jargon can create confusion and misunderstanding for people outside the field, such as parents, students, or new teachers. If a teacher tells a parent that their child "needs intervention based on low performance in diagnostic assessments," the parent may struggle

to understand what is the specific content of the communication. This can create a communication barrier, leading to frustration and even mistrust. In some cases, educators might use jargon to appear more professional or knowledgeable, but this can make others feel ignored or uneducated. Therefore, it is important for educators to be mindful of their audience and to explain technical terms when necessary, especially in communication with people unfamiliar with the terminology.

List of jargon examples

There is a chance to find jargon in any field, from education to sport. Below are categorized examples based on roles within the educational system: Teachers often use technical pedagogical language that helps them plan, assess, and differentiate instruction effectively. Rubric **-** A scoring guide used to evaluate a student's performance based on a set of criteria. *Example: "Refer to the rubric before submitting your final essay."* Scaffolding **-** A teaching method that involves providing support structures to help students reach higher levels of understanding. *Example: "We'll start with guided questions to scaffold their analysis of the poem."* Formative Assessment **-** Ongoing assessment used to monitor student learning and inform instruction. *Example: "This quiz is a formative assessment to see how well they grasped the concept."* Students use a mix of academic and administrative jargon, especially in secondary and higher education contexts. GPA (Grade Point Average) **-** A standardized measure of academic performance. *Example: "I need a 3.5 GPA to qualify for the scholarship."* Credit Hours **-** Units used to measure academic workload. *Example: "This course is worth 3 credit hours."* Syllabus **-** An outline of the course content, policies, and schedule. *Example: "All deadlines are listed in the syllabus."*

Methodology

This study used a qualitative observation method to learn how jargon is used in the field of education, especially in an English language classroom. The main goal was to find out how often jargon is used, what types are used, and whether they help or make communication more difficult during lessons. The observation took place in a real classroom where the researcher was also working as a student. This helped give a deeper and more detailed understanding of how jargon was used in that case. During the lessons, notes were taken whenever jargon words or phrases were used. Special attention was paid to when and why they were used (for example, to give instructions, explain something, or motivate students), and how students reacted. In addition, common examples of educational jargon were written

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down, and their effect on students' understanding and participation was looked at informally. After the observation, the data was reviewed to see if using jargon helped the learning process or made it harder. This method was used to better understand how jargon works in classrooms and to add to the general knowledge about how language is used in teaching.

Result:

1.How often is jargon used? Jargon was used frequently throughout the lessons, especially during instruction, task explanation, and feedback sessions. On average, at least 3 to 7 examples of educational jargon were observed in each 80-minute lesson. These terms appeared more in student discussions and questions.

2.What types of jargon are used?   The types of jargon observed can be grouped into several categories: Instructional terms: assignment, deadline, submit, midterm   Administrative/structural terms: syllabus, GPA, credit hour   Academic integrity terms: plagiarism, referencing Digital/remote   learning   terms: zoom   class Collaborative   learning   terms: peer   review,   group   project These jargon terms are specific to educational settings and are typically not used in everyday casual conversation.

3.Do they help or make communication more difficult? In most cases, jargon helped make communication more efficient and accurate. Students who were familiar with the terms could understand instructions more quickly and clearly. However, in some cases, jargon created confusion, especially among students who were less experienced and unfamiliar with the terminology such as first-year students. Terms like plagiarism, office hours, or credit hour sometimes needed further explanation.

Conclusion

This study has shown that jargon is a common and influential feature in educational settings, particularly in English language classrooms. It plays a significant role in improving communication efficiency among experienced educators and students by providing a shared language for complex ideas. The findings reveal that jargon is frequently used in various categories such as instructional, administrative, academic integrity, digital learning, and collaborative learning contexts. While jargon enhances understanding for those familiar with it, it can also create barriers for new or less experienced learners. This highlights the importance of educators being mindful of their audience. To ensure effective communication, it is essential to balance the use of jargon with clear explanations, especially when addressing diverse groups. Ultimately, thoughtful use of jargon can support

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inclusive and meaningful learning experiences, helping all students engage more fully in the classroom environment.

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