SKILLS-CENTRED APPROACH FOR AN ESP COURSE DESIGN: CASE OF
MASTER PHYSICS STUDENTS WRITING SCIENTIFIC PAPERS AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF TLEMCEN

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ABSTRACT

The 21st century is characterised by its rapid shift towards a global as to a technological
movement. To this end, many disciplines witnessed many changes. The domain of education
is not an exception. A part from this, English for Specific Purposes (ESP) is seen nowadays
as a critical agent in resolving many problems in different domains where English is taught.
Amongst the difficulties, writing in English and more precisely a scientific paper is likely to
be the main concern. The main objective of this paper is to investigate the difficulties
encountered by master physics students at the University of Tlemcen while writing their
scientific papers. For this purpose, a case study was conducted as a research field work. The
data collected from a semi-structured interview, a questionnaire, and content analysis were
analysed both quantitatively and qualitatively. The main results obtained revealed that the
difficulties lie in terms of format and content. This is why; it is strongly believed that
rethinking about the ESP course is more than needed. Besides, training language teachers to
cope with those difficulties should alert the whole staff to ensure that training.

Keywords: ESP, Skills-Centred Approach, Course Design, Master Physics, Writing
Scientific Papers.