International English: Ways to Determine the Clearest Communication Among Native and Non Native English Speakers Within the University

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INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH

Ways to determine the clearest communication among native and non-native English speakers within the University

By: Jordyn Bollinger
WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH?

- A style of communication that enhances understanding for the most number of English language speakers (both native and non-native)
- Chooses language (diction) carefully
- States the “action” of a sentence clearly
  - The subject and verb are stated first
- Can be easily translated into other languages
HOW WELL ARE WE COMMUNICATING AT PSU?

• ENGL 100 for International Students and ENGL 101 for International Students

• A group of 23 students volunteered to read and interpret 3 small passages from The Office of International Programs and Services web pages

  • Passage 1: Copy on IPSO’s home page
  • Passage 2: Medical/Immunization instructions on Student Health Center web page
  • Passage 3: Copy on University Housing web page
# THEIR ANSWERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passage 1: Home page</th>
<th>Number of students indicating trouble</th>
<th>Diction</th>
<th>Passage 2: Immunizations</th>
<th>Number of students indicating trouble</th>
<th>Diction</th>
<th>Passage 3: University Housing</th>
<th>Number of students indicating trouble</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diction</td>
<td>7/15 (46%)</td>
<td>Diction</td>
<td>3/8 (37%)</td>
<td>Diction</td>
<td>4/8 (50%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence Structure</td>
<td>6/15 (40%)</td>
<td>Sentence Structure</td>
<td>4/8 (50%)</td>
<td>Sentence Structure</td>
<td>3/8 (37%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Meaning</td>
<td>9/15 (60%)</td>
<td>Overall Meaning</td>
<td>6/8 (75%)</td>
<td>Overall Meaning</td>
<td>5/8 (62%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHAT DO THEIR ANSWERS TELL US?

• Students have more difficulty comprehending specific words than sentence structures and syntax.

• Students who did not note difficulty with diction or sentence structure still note difficulty in the overall meaning of each passage.
CAN INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH BE USEFUL AT PSU?