

The importance of the English language in higher education and its perspective in the professional field

La importancia del idioma inglés en la educación superior y su perspectiva en el campo profesional

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Resumen

El objetivo de esta investigación se basó en analizar la importancia que posee el idioma inglés en la educación superior y su perspectiva en el campo profesional, aplicando una metodología de tipo documental con diseño bibliográfico que permita analizar las ventajas que posee este idioma y como mejora el desarrollo y desenvolvimiento a nivel profesional de las personas. Se concluye que, el idioma inglés es fundamental en la preparación de cualquier futuro profesional, sin embargo, no basta solo su enseñanza a nivel universitario, es importante considerar la preparación del estudiante desde temprana edad, esto porque el desarrollo cognitivo a temprana edad es más factible para el aprendizaje de idiomas. Actualmente las instituciones de educación superior se han dado a la tarea de implementar el idioma inglés como asignatura esencial en la preparación de sus estudiantes, para formar profesionales de calidad capaces de enfrentarse al mundo laboral y que puedan tener optar por mejores oportunidades de trabajo. En consecuencia, la enseñanza del inglés en los sistemas educativos debe estar en constante cambio, según las necesidades que se van presentando en la industria, partiendo en el desarrollo de estrategias más avanzadas en la enseñanza utilizando un enfoque hacia la pronunciación para que los estudiantes fortalezcan el habla de este idioma, lo cual estará en sintonía con las necesidades del mercado laboral actual.

Palabras Clave: inglés; educación superior; mercado laboral



Abstract

The objective of this research was based on analyzing the importance of the English language in higher education and its perspective in the professional field, applying a documentary-type methodology with a bibliographic design that allows analyzing the advantages that this language has and how it improves the development and development at the professional level of people. It is concluded that the English language is fundamental in the preparation of any future professional, however, its teaching at the university level is not enough, it is important to consider the preparation of the student from an early age, this because cognitive development at an early age is more feasible for language learning. Currently, higher education institutions have taken on the task of implementing the English language as an essential subject in the preparation of their students, to train quality professionals capable of facing the world of work and who can opt for better job opportunities. Consequently, the teaching of English in educational systems must be constantly changing, according to the needs that arise in the industry, starting from the development of more advanced strategies in teaching using a focus on pronunciation so that students strengthen speaking this language, which will be in tune with the needs of the current labor market.

Keywords: English; higher education; labor market



Introduction

In today's globalized world, mastery of the English language has become a fundamental tool for success in higher education and the professional field. Its importance lies in various aspects that allow students to broaden their horizons, improve their opportunities and access a world of unprecedented knowledge.

In this sense, Sarmiento et al.(2022), assure that using a foreign language, mainly English, has ceased to be a privilege, but has become a necessity for the different productive sectors, thanks to globalization, which has become the main reason why learning this language has taken great importance.

Likewise, Hernández et al.(2024), state that the English language has played an important role in recent decades, but in the current one it has a privileged place worldwide, given globalization and telecommunications, and the importance of communicating in different areas such as technology, science , social and academic.

The English language is the official language in 53 countries and is spoken by a large part of the world's population. In the professional field, the ability to communicate in English effectively opens the doors to international collaboration, the exchange of ideas with experts from around the world and participation in events and conferences of global relevance.

Romero et al.(2021), ensures that English is the most taught language worldwide, as a foreign language in more than 100 countries such as: China, Russia, Germany, Spain, Egypt, Brazil and Ecuador. For example, in the European Union this language is mandatory in 14 countries or regions, starting from the primary stage. By 2009 in the European Union, 73% of students enrolled in primary school were learning English, in secondary education it exceeded 90% and with respect to pre-professional and vocational training it reached 74.9%.

Multinational companies and international organizations look for professionals with multilingual skills, especially English. Mastery of this language significantly increases the chances of obtaining a better-paid job, accessing positions of greater responsibility and developing a successful professional career in the international arena.

As mentioned by Roca y Veliz(2022), the teaching-learning of languages, especially English, at the higher education level, is now imperative, since it is the language that is becoming more important and has a great presence in the workplace, so it is essential that in higher education institutions can adopt English to adapt to the demands of the current situation in the business and research environment.



Likewise, López et al.(2022), point out that including English in the curriculum in a transversal way would allow students to associate relevant terms in essential terms of their profession, and to be able to articulate the writing, speaking and listening of the English language, but teachers would also have to learn different contents in that language to contribute to the processes to strengthen the English language in undergraduate students, understanding the importance it has for all branches of understanding and it is the responsibility of teachers to carry out collaborative work to improve English levels in undergraduate.

On the other hand, Cazar et al,(2023), mention that teaching English in higher education institutions is focused on understanding the fundamentals of the language, to later develop communication skills, and also includes the understanding of grammar, reading and writing, as well as pronunciation, listening comprehension and conversation.

Universities worldwide are using English as a primary language in their graduate and research programs. To pursue master's or doctoral studies or participate in high-impact research projects, it is necessary to have a solid command of the English language.

Learning English not only represents an academic and professional benefit, but also contributes to the personal development of the individual. It allows you to broaden your cultural perspective, improve interpersonal communication skills and build self-confidence.

In an increasingly interconnected world, English has become an indispensable language for professional success, where companies look for candidates who can communicate effectively with clients, colleagues and business partners around the world. In addition, mastery of English allows access to a wide range of resources and continuous training opportunities, which is essential to stay updated on the latest trends in the labor market.

Based on this, the objective of this research is to analyze the importance of the English language in higher education and its perspective in the professional field, applying a documentary-type methodology with bibliographic design that allows analyzing the advantages that this language has and how it improves the development and development of people at a professional level.

Method

The research was developed through documentary methodology with bibliographic design, where a series of searches are carried out in sources of different types, which are available on different websites.



In this particular case, information was collected using mainly the Google Academic search engine, where various scientific articles were located, as well as the review of various databases of indexed journals, such as Scielo, Dialnet, Elsevier, among other. This type of methodology allows us to extract the most relevant information on the research topic from different primary and secondary sources. Likewise, international and national books and publications were reviewed.

Results and discussion

In this way Chávez et al.(2017)mentions that being able to understand, speak and write in English has numerous advantages and among these are the following:

English has become a language with great relevance in the labor market, so it is necessary to adopt this language as “the first foreign language within higher education institutions” (Roca and Veliz, 2022, p. 369). Likewise, Beltrán(2015)mentions that it is of great importance to understand how teachers and students of this language can be able to understand the culture of that country, this allows them to understand and assimilate the language because according to the author, language and culture are related.

Likewise, it is necessary that there is motivation to learn the English language, that is, a good disposition so that the learning and acquired knowledge is processed and at the same time is meaningful, where the student is a participant and protagonist during their class sessions and That you have a vision for the future where you understand that this language can allow you to improve on a personal and professional level(Rodriguez, 2020).

Likewise Soncco (2022) expresses that all students have skills and abilities to achieve adequate levels of knowledge about the language, these are called competencies and vary for each student, since they are capable of developing various competencies to understand the English language such as the ability to express themselves oral, written, listening comprehension, written and audiovisual comprehension.

In this way, since English is a universal language of great importance, the challenges that come with implementing it in higher education classrooms as a necessary learning element in the professional and academic field cannot be hidden. These challenges are due to different factors, including the different skills that students have, the level of knowledge, motivation and needs of the students, which is why it is necessary to implement new strategies that give way to teaching innovation. of the English language, through the use of new technologies, active methodologies, among others, which contribute to improving the quality and efficiency in the teaching process, improving students' skills (Donoso et al., 2023).



In accordance with the above, in the research carried out by Avendaño et al.(2022)was able to determine that the participants in his study perceive language learning as a relevant factor in their life as part of their professionalization project and their personal development, the greater the effort and motivation that the student has to learn English will be if this has a well-defined established life plan.

Learning English as expressed by Feijó and Feijó(2020)It includes a process of dedication and effort, which becomes more complex when reaching higher levels of competence when it becomes formal and technical related to the work area in which the student is preparing. In this sense, it is important that the university student knows the terms that are used today in their field of work, so that they are updated, and when they reach their professional practice, they are competent and efficient in their work. And, in this globalized world, the English language is prevailing within the labor market and within organizations because, more than a complement, it allows communication to be productive and efficient.

Olivero et al.(2020)was able to confirm that students still have difficulties understanding the language, especially when understanding simple texts, they do not do so clearly, which makes them unable to have clarity to argue their ideas through writing. Because the interest that the student shows in their classes will be a key factor in understanding the language and thus being able to consolidate their linguistic capacity within the teaching of English (Garbey and Enriquez, 2023).

This is why it is necessary that, in every training process, teachers are an essential part of the training process, through procedures, techniques and activities, adjusting to the needs of the groups of students and thus contributing to the understanding of the language. English that allows students to develop each of the communicative functions and can have better opportunities in the workplace (Garbey and Enriquez, 2023)

Likewise, Chávez et al.(2017)expresses that teaching the English language today at an university level is essential, and a necessity that allows the student to be able to investigate new topics that are generally presented in this language, and to be up to date with relevant bibliography about their career, which allows them to be outstanding at a professional level. This allows and provides you with greater and higher quality employment opportunities, that is, you can opt for greater possibilities of insertion in the field of work.

Finally, companies such as large firms and corporations require mastery of English as a requirement, regardless of the area or branch of work, since this language gives access to international communication, greatly advantageous to those professionals who do not have the ability. to understand the language.



In this way Chávez et al.(2017)mentions that being able to understand, speak and write in English has numerous advantages and among these are the following:

- Increases international cooperation between countries through university scholarships.
- Allows access to research and development projects at international events.
- Contributes to business progress.

Conclusions

The English language is fundamental in the preparation of any future professional, however, its teaching at the university level is not enough, it is important to consider the student's preparation from an early age, this because cognitive development at an early age is more feasible for learning. of languages.

Currently, higher education institutions have taken on the task of implementing the English language as an essential subject in the preparation of their students, to train quality professionals capable of facing the world of work and who can opt for better job opportunities.

In the same way, this is why, in the curricula of a large part of the university courses, it consists of the teaching of English, a product of the fact that the majority of professional processes are based on international norms and standards, which They are described in the Anglo-Saxon language.

Consequently, the teaching of English in educational systems must be constantly changing, according to the needs that arise in the industry, starting from the development of more advanced strategies in teaching using a focus on pronunciation so that students strengthen speaking this language, which will be in tune with the needs of the current labor marke.

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