

**Andijan Machine-building Institute**

# ESSAY

**The faculty:** Machine-building technology

**Direction:** Technological machines and tools

**Group:** 120    **Course:** 3

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# Occupations and Specializations

Technical and specialized language develops from a number of different sources, but it serves an even larger number of functions. Learning a trade or occupation involves the mastery of its language as well as its special skills and understandings. Only when the language of a group is mastered can a potential member have full status in the group. The language itself is a symbol of belonging. In addition to this symbolic value, group and professional languages (often called *jargons*) are often especially efficient, because they allow shortcut communication through well-accepted practices not usual in standard English.

Since such language is restricted, it may produce confusion or even resentment when used outside its ordinary circumstances. Group members may intentionally exclude others by using it, giving jargons a special snob value. Outsiders who try to use it with insiders often find year attempts rejected (even though they use the variety appropriately) simply because they are not bona fide group members. On the other hand, some outsiders are reassured when they hear jargon (even when they understand little or more of it) because they take it as a clue to the competence of the professional who uses it. This seems particularly true of legal, medical, and public service technical speech-areas in which specialists must converse with non-specialists.

In writing, all the functions of specialized language listed above may still apply, and the dimension of historical conservatism may be added. Lawyers, for example, depend on their special vocabulary having very specific meanings which do not suffer ordinary historical change.

While spoken technical language is often motivated by desire for convenience among professionals, written technical language is often produced under strong requirement for precision in technical writing (e.g. wordiness and repetition) seem to break ordinary linguistic rules for clarity. Written legal documents or meant to be legally break ordinary linguistic rules for clarity.

Bureaucrat: Mrs. Joris, OMB has asked us to checkout that REP from DOD.

Announcer: The S and P averages this week... four hundred industries advanced, twenty transportations off point 58, and forty utilities off point 92....

Doctor: Ms. Davidson, in the case of the ovine LH, the 15-minute incubation period..."

Police Dispatcher: Car Six. An one-three-one in progress at 16<sup>th</sup> and M. Respond Code Three.

Officer: Ten-four. En route

The following transcription from the tape is not an illustration of technical language; it illustrates how inefficient ordinary English is for the message given just above:

Police Dispatcher: Calling Car Number Six. There is an armed robbery with shots being fired going on right now at the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> and m streets. Please respond if you hear this and indicate whether or not you are able to go there at once.

Officer: I hear you, Dispatcher, (and I am) on my way there now.

Teenager: Hey, you guys, we're going on a picnic tomorrow! Think we'll have rain?

Weather Forecaster 1: Well, if you consider the turbulent mass of cumulus cloud cover that's sweeping in from the Gulf States and the strong high pressure system coming from the North that is certain to stabilize the existing low pressure frontage, there's an indication of imminent stress just ahead.

Weather forecaster 2: But Jane, you haven't considered the erratic barometric fluctuations generated by the general atmospheric instability. Now precipitation brought on by the hot and cold air pockets intermittently indicate an overall clearing trend ...

Truck Driver: Quaker Nine, There is a bear at the intersection of routes 495 and 66, and he's on my tail.

Announcer: This is your latest report from the New York Stock Exchange. Today prices continued to fall for the second straight week. Yes, it was a bear market!

Student 1: That course was a bear!

Student 2: You think that was tough! Wait till you take Linguistic!

The following example illustrates a specialist's failure to use jargon; the result is that the patient loses confidence in the doctor. The second conversation repeats essentially the same information, but the patient is reassured by the doctor's use of technical language.

Doctor: That (little) black box shows that there is something wrong with the old ticker. And those funny pains (you get) in your chest, when you do too much work probably means that your arteries are clogged and the blood isn't getting to your heart.

Patient: Maybe I better see a specialist.

Doctor: Your electrocardiogram indicates that your episodes of chest pain on exertion are suggestive of angina pectoris.

Patient: What's that means that there are transitory periods when your blood supply to the heart is insufficient.

Patient: Oh, I see....

This final example duplicates the insurance policy from the video:

Reader: Paid up dividend additions: used as a net single premium at the attained age of the insured to purchase additional paid-up life insurance, called paid-up dividend addition, which will also participate in dividends and (will) have increasing cash and loan values....

Suggestions for Discussions and Study

Bureaucrat: Mrs. Joris, The Office of Management and Budget has asked us to check out that Research Expenditure Proposal from the Department of Defense.

Announcer: The Standard and Poor's Index of stock prices averages for the week are as follows:

Four hundred industrial stocks increased in value. Twenty transportation stocks decreased in value by fifty-eight points. Forty utilities stocks decreased in value by nine-two points.

[Note that even this lengthy translation is still not adequate for someone who does not understand the rating of stocks by points.]

Teenager: Hey, you guys, we're going on a picnic tomorrow. Think we'll have rain?

Weather Forecaster 1: Well, if you consider that restless bunch of fluffy clouds coming up from the South and the high pressure in the North that will cause our low pressure to stay here, we may be in for some bad weather.

Weather Forecaster 2: But Jane, you haven't thought about how this changeable weather makes the barometer jump up and down. The rains that we've had because of the rapidly changing temperatures may mean that things are going to clear up.

Truck Driver: There's a policeman at the intersection of routes 495 and 66, and he's following me.

Announcer: This is your latest report from the New York Stock Exchange. Today's prices continued to fall for the second straight week. Yes, the market was characterized by very little sale of stock.

Student 1: That course was very difficult.

Student 2: You think what was difficult! Wait till you take linguistics!

After you have compared your versions of technical language with ours, discuss, such matters as the following:

1. Length of utterances of specialized versus ordinary language.
2. Vocabulary of the specialized message which was completely unfamiliar or which was modified from ordinary language items.
3. Grammatical contrasts between the technical and nontechnical styles .

State, in ordinary language, what is meant by the text of the insurance document reproduced above. Compare the vocabulary, length, and grammar of your re-statement to the original .

Think of as many specialized terms from foreign language teaching and learning as you can. Try to guess what the uninitiated would think of such terms as audio-lingual methodology, communicative competence, phoneme, minimal pair, transformation drill, single-slot substitution, and so on. Noticing the functions of your own jargon may help you in reassessing some varieties you have looked at in this section.