May 10th, 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM

Aviation English Training in China: Current Trends, Challenges, and Future Directions

Xiaoning Guo
Georgia State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://commons.erau.edu/icaea-workshop

Scholarly Commons Citation
https://commons.erau.edu/icaea-workshop/2018/thursday/12

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Conferences at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in International Civil Aviation English Association by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact commons@erau.edu, wolfe309@erau.edu.
Aviation English Training in China: Current Trends, Challenges and Future Directions

Xiaoning Guo
Current Trends and Challenges
Training Program

• 4-year college degree education targeted for high school graduates, with 2.5 years of ground theory training and 1.5 years of flight training domestically or internationally.

• Occupational training targeted for college graduates with compacted 6 months of ground theory training and then approximately 1 year of flight training aboard or domestically.
Aviation English VS General English

• Curriculum indicates that student pilots in their 2.5 years of ground theory study spend 2 hours daily either on General English or Aviation English or both. Weekly time ratio between aviation English and general English is 1:1.

• However, when it comes to routine English conversations, their instructors point out that their performance are not quite satisfactory whether it is GE based or AE based.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Total class hour</th>
<th>Week time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>Flight English CEIR</td>
<td>36 36</td>
<td>2 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Flight English RT CEIR</td>
<td>54 54 36</td>
<td>3 3 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CEIR: College English Intensive Reading
Foci of Concern

- **Listening comprehension** and **oral proficiency** are foci of concern by civil aviation schools in China since these two abilities are a prerequisite and foundation for pilots’ smooth radio communication with air traffic controllers.
Pronunciation

- Students’ Intelligibility and comprehensibility are still being complained by their flight instructors.

- AE teachers follow ICAO LPR as a standard in pronunciation of phraseologies and terminologies.

- Super-segmental feature should be put into focus along with segmental features.
Comprehension Abilities

- Air ground communication “articulate with extra clarity often tend toward syllable-timing with grammatical word made prominent, and an even rhythm throughout.” Crystal (1995).

- Syllable-based rhythm is easier to acquire for Chinese AE learner and often helps them comprehend sound track of real time air-speak.
Comprehension Abilities

• Rate of speech and varieties of dialects pose some major problems for student pilots.

• Pilot English Proficiency Examination in China: 100-120 words per minute

• Controllers in US: 150 or more.

• Coping with dialect of English in China and abroad
• Plain English challenge the Chinese student pilots to the utmost difficulties in real-life non-routine situation.

• A Chinese student pilot’s experience

• Expansion of vocabularies of AE and how words learnt in classes can be activated and put into effect in real air-speak environment.
Template Sentences

• We have difficulty in ...

• We have difficulty in controlling cabin pressure.

• We have a ... problem.

• We have a cabin altitude problem. (flight control, avionics)
02

Future Directions
Application of Corpus in AE

• Construction and application of corpus in AE are in upswing in China

• Construction of AE corpus in the field of students’ oral test performance
Simulating RT Environment

Aviation English teaching and learning platform to be developed based on flight simulator.

Advantages: 1 encourage pilot to learn by doing and speaking
              2 provide authentic and engaging learning environment
              3 targeted language are incorporated into flight mission
Thank You