



Curtin University

*8th International Conference on TESOL:  
ELT IN THE 21ST CENTURY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES*

Date: **Friday, Aug 11, 2017**

Time: **11:10-11:40**

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Presenter/s: **Mr. DO Chi Na**

**Bio:**

Mr. DO Chi Na is currently a lecturer in the Faculty of Foreign Languages, An Giang University. He teaches English Language skills, English for Business, and Linguistic courses. His research/academic interests include curriculum and material development, classroom second language acquisition, and task-based language teaching.

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Title: **Project-Based Learning in an English for Business Classroom**

**Abstract:**

The paper investigates the use of projects in an English-for-Business course at a university setting. Selecting English Language major has become an increasing trend for high school graduates. They hold the view that this major can support their future employment in a wide range of professions such as translation and interpretation, business, or tourism industries. Higher education institutions, therefore, have made English for Specific Purposes (ESP) courses an essential part of the curriculum. Among those ESP courses, a highly preferred one is English for Business. However, with the characteristics of being quite proficient in English and the need to stimulate learners' autonomy, the traditional approach of lecturing is no longer sufficient, and instead it is proposed project-based learning (PBL) helps learners develop both English language for Business discipline and understanding of the field. Through observations and questionnaires with 30 students and 3 instructors in an English for Business course, the findings of this study reveals positive effects on language, soft skills, and professional development along with certain drawbacks due to the lack of specialised knowledge of the discipline of both instructors and learners. As a result, recommendations for creating a solid foundation in both language and professional knowledge are proposed to enhance the effectiveness of PBL in English for Business courses. Curriculum modifications are also suggested to better the teaching and learning in the course.