



STRUCTURAL EFFICIENCY AND ACCURACY: THE USE OF NON-FINITE CLAUSES AS DRAFTING TOOLS IN CONTEMPORARY LEGAL AND BUSINESS ENGLISH

Ionela IONIȚIU *

*Department of Foreign Languages, Faculty of Letters, Ovidius University of Constanța,
Romania

Abstract: *Non-finite clauses (including infinitives, -ing clauses, and -ed participial clauses) play a crucial role in the grammar of specialized English. They facilitate syntactic compression, allow background agents to be introduced, highlight foreground processes, and contribute to the compact informational style typical of scientific, business, and legal communication. Despite their significance, English for Specific Purposes (ESP) instruction, particularly Legal and Business English, often treats non-finite structures as general grammatical elements rather than recognizing them as resources specific to various registers. To analyse the functioning of non-finite clauses across chosen ESP registers and to assess teaching strategies for these structures, our research has concentrated on addressing the following questions: How do the types of non-finite clauses (infinitives, -ing clauses, -ed clauses) differ among the selected ESP registers? What communicative roles do these structures fulfil in each register? Which teaching method most effectively enhances learners' proficiency in using non-finite clauses in ESP writing? Each register employs non-finite structures in unique ways to achieve specific communicative objectives, such as precision, conciseness, impersonality, procedural clarity, or legal accuracy. Given that ESP grammar instruction frequently considers non-finite clauses as standalone grammar elements, overlooks the functional differences related to various registers, depends on exercises devoid of context, and seldom incorporates corpus-based or genre-specific methods, students often find it challenging to apply their grammatical knowledge to legitimate ESP writing.*

Keywords: *non-finite clauses, ESP registers, teaching method, TBLT.*

**Contact details
of the
author(s):** ionelaionitiu@yahoo.com

INTRODUCTION

Non-finite clauses—usually expressed through infinitives, -ing clauses (participial or gerunds), and -ed participial clauses—have been closely linked to syntactic compression and information density in English. Descriptive grammar highlights their function in diminishing full finite clauses, downplaying agents, and emphasizing processes or outcomes. Within English for Specific Purposes (ESP), these characteristics become especially pronounced, as specialized registers



frequently emphasize brevity, impersonality, and substantial informational content. Corpus-based research within English for Specific Purposes (ESP) has consistently demonstrated that non-finite constructions occur with greater frequency and exhibit a wider functional diversity in specialized texts compared to numerous general-purpose genres, particularly within formal written registers. This pattern encapsulates the communicative requirements of both professional and academic discourse, wherein writers are compelled to condense information, contextual agents, and prominent processes in order to attain precision and brevity. Research conducted across various domains—scientific, business, and legal—demonstrates that non-finite clauses fulfil register-specific functions, such as detailing procedures, indicating conditions, defining concepts, or expressing objectives. These clauses thus constitute a crucial grammatical tool for the construction of specialized knowledge. Consequently, comprehending the functionality of non-finite structures across ESP registers is vital for linguistic analysis and the implementation of effective teaching strategies. (Biber, 1995; Biber et al., 1999; Biber & Conrad, 2009).

Investigations into academic discourse have repeatedly emphasized the significance of non-finite clauses within research articles, theses, and reports. Analyses of syntactic complexity in both student and expert writing indicate that proficient writers predominantly utilize non-finite constructions to convey information efficiently, particularly in sections such as abstracts, methods, and results. Infinitival clauses are commonly employed to articulate objectives and research goals (“to assess...”, “to investigate...”, “to determine...”), whereas -ed clauses play a crucial role in detailing procedures and outcomes (“samples taken...”, “data collected...”, “methods used...”). -ing clauses typically serve as neutral expressions to denote simultaneous actions or effects (“assessing results...”, “increasing accuracy”, “reducing variability”). Comparative studies of novice versus expert writers indicate that less skilled ESP practitioners are more inclined to use finite subordination, while expert writers prefer non-finite reduction, which culminates in more compact and conventional academic writing. These results highlight the significance of non-finite clauses as an essential indicator of disciplinary literacy and genre proficiency within academic ESP.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This article examines non-finite clauses, driven by two primary considerations. Firstly, non-finite clauses are widespread in written language, accounting for more than 50% of clausal elements in scholarly writing (Biber et al., 1999) and acting as indicators of grammatical intricacy (Biber et al., 2011). Nonetheless, Zhang et al. (2023) revealed that ESP educators frequently neglect the role of non-finite clauses in enhancing both the grammatical and stylistic complexity of academic compositions. Secondly, non-finite clauses present difficulties for L2 English learners specializing in Legal, Business, and Management studies due to their complex linguistic nature, which includes various forms (to-infinitives, -ing participial and gerund phrases, past participles) and the diverse functions they fulfill within a sentence (Parrot, 2000). Research regarding their prevalence (Granger, 1997; Yang, 2014) suggests that non-native speakers tend to use them less frequently in comparison to native speakers. Non-finite clauses are also identified as a feature that signifies syntactic complexity within academic writing, as observed by various researchers (Granger, 1997; Hinkel, 2003; Malá, 2013; Rafajlovičová, 2008; Silva, 1993). Hinkel (2003) asserts that academic writing is generally anticipated to display a considerable level of textual sophistication, which may be obstructed by an overly simplistic structure. In order to mitigate this challenge, it is advised that ESP learners integrate non-finite clauses into their compositions, as this could aid in establishing a more succinct and cohesive writing style (Hinkel, 2003).

A wider diachronic approach is offered through investigations of non-finite clauses in written English. Malá (2017) highlights a growing inclination to employ non-finite clauses—such as



infinitives, participles, and gerunds—in written prose over time, contending that this shift promotes enhanced syntactic compression and information density. This development is consistent with findings from comprehensive reference grammars like those of Biber et al. (1999), which demonstrate that academic prose particularly utilizes non-finite constructions, including gerund clauses, to a greater extent than conversational or fictional writing. Non-finite clauses enable authors to de-emphasize agents, emphasize processes, and consolidate multiple propositions within intricate noun phrases—precisely the type of structure that is preferred in scientific abstracts, as well as in methods and results sections.

In the realm of academic writing, comparisons between experts and novices reveal that experienced writers utilize non-finite clauses with greater frequency and functional diversity compared to student writers. This suggests that proficiency in these structures serves as a hallmark of disciplinary literacy (Qiu & Casal, 2025; Taşçı, 2023). Professional registers, including business and legal English, rely significantly on non-finite clauses to articulate objectives, delineate conditions, and convey obligations with both precision and efficiency (Bhatia, 1993). Computational examinations of business corpora additionally affirm the prominence of non-finite structures within mission statements, policy documents, and procedural texts, highlighting their contribution to achieving clarity and brevity (Ben Amor & Derbel, 2019). Collectively, these investigations indicate that non-finite constructions are not simply grammatical options but rather register-sensitive tools that influence the manner in which specialized knowledge is formulated and communicated throughout various ESP domains.

The previously referenced findings regarding the use of non-finite clauses across different ESP registers have motivated my personal inquiry into academic writing. As previously stated, my goals focus on juxtaposing two specific samples: legal and business scientific English. Therefore, one of the key objectives of this paper is to examine whether there are specific variations in the use of non-finite clauses by both native and non-native authors of academic research articles, and to potentially discuss the significant similarities and variations.

METHODOLOGY

This paper examines non-finite clauses, focusing specifically on infinitives, -ed participles, -ing participles, and gerunds within academic writing, particularly in research articles pertaining to the domains of business, management, and law. The data analyzed is sourced from international scientific journals available online at <https://www.sciencepublishinggroup.com/>. The research corpus consists of twenty-six articles (thirteen from each discipline, authored by both native and non-native English speakers) of comparable length, obtained from the aforementioned source. The texts chosen for this analysis were selected at random, with the sole criterion being the authors' backgrounds, to account for potential variations in the usage of the examined structures. The research articles were published between 2020 and 2026, with data collection occurring from December 2025 to March 2026.

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

Business English predominantly hinges on non-finite clauses (to infinitives, -ing forms, past participles) due to their capacity to condense information, highlight essential concepts, and cultivate a refined, professional tone. This section delves into various contexts alongside their typical functions as condensed sentences, facilitating the expression of actions, conditions, or outcomes without necessitating the repetition of subjects or complete clauses. Business communication—such as reports, proposals, corporate emails, and research articles—greatly depends on condensed, nominalized structures, with non-finite clauses being one of the primary grammatical tools employed



to achieve this. Extensive descriptive grammar and corpus-based reference materials (for instance, Biber et al., 2021; Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014) consistently demonstrate that written professional and academic contexts prefer non-finite constructions for their density and level of abstraction.

Research into yearly reports, corporate disclosures, and financial communications indicates that clauses with 'ing' and 'ed' are pivotal for extensive pre and post-modification of noun phrases. These allow authors to condense processes into succinct nominal forms (e.g., *issues **identified** during the audit, costs **arising** from restructuring, risks **associated** with currency fluctuations*). From an English for Specific Purposes (ESP) viewpoint, this implies that learners must approach non-finite clauses not merely as standalone clauses but as integral modifiers within dense noun phrases that encapsulate critical business information (e.g., risk descriptions, justifications, and qualifications). In other terms, non-finite clauses serve as a fundamental mechanism for the density of information and an impersonal style in business writing—attributes that are consistently emphasized in Business ESP analyses of reports and formal communications.

The typical functions they perform include:

- Expressing goals (utilized to demonstrate intent in a concise and strategic manner.)
 - o ***To increase** market share*, the company launched a new campaign.
 - o “***To avoid** distorting the results*, we remove the outliers if they are the result of data errors.” (Adapted from Ada, N., Prah, L. F., Bediako, F. E., Iredia, N. (2026). Medicare Utilization and Payment Analysis. International Journal of Economics, Finance and Management Sciences, 14(1), 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.11648/j.ijefm.20261401.11>)
- Summarizing actions and results (emphasizing results without extensive elaboration)
 - o The team completed the project, ***improving** overall productivity*.
 - o “This model controls for all time-invariant characteristics of individuals, ***thus eliminating** the bias* that might result from omitted variables that differ across entities but are constant over time.” (Adapted from Syukri, A., Mustafa, S., Suryadi, D. (2025). Navigating Unemployment in South Sulawesi: Interaction of Investment, Economic Growth, and Demographic Dynamics. Journal of Business and Economic Development, 10(4), 187-199. <https://doi.org/10.11648/j.jbed.20251004.13>) – adverbial of result
- Articulating policies and regulations (formulating an impartial, formal tone appropriate for directives)
 - o *Employees **working** remotely* must follow security protocols.
 - o “***Strengthening** public-private collaboration and **fostering** digital and entrepreneurial competencies* can further enhance employment quality and inclusivity.... ***Promoting** favorable investment climates* that attract industries capable of generating diverse job opportunities is vital for addressing unemployment challenges.” (Adapted from Syukri, A., Mustafa, S., Suryadi, D. (2025). Navigating Unemployment in South Sulawesi: Interaction of Investment, Economic Growth, and Demographic Dynamics. Journal of Business and Economic Development, 10(4), 187-199. <https://doi.org/10.11648/j.jbed.20251004.13>)
- Demonstrating causal relationships (effectively connecting actions to their outcomes)
 - o ***Approved** by the board*, the proposal moved to the implementation phase.
 - o “***Guided** by fiscal decentralization theory*, the government introduced key reforms, including the Local Revenue Enhancement Plan (LREP) and the deployment of Point-of-Sale (POS) systems, to promote transparency and operational efficiency in revenue administration.” (Adapted from Ngutunyi, D. J., Mtawa, H. (2025). Trends of Revenue Collection and Factors Influencing Financial Performance at Mwanza City

Council in Tanzania. Journal of Business and Economic Development, 10(4), 180-186.
<https://doi.org/10.11648/j.jbed.20251004.12>)

- Arranging reports and presentations (systematizing information into concise, impactful statements)
 - o **Designed for scalability**, the platform supports rapid expansion.
 - o “**Based on the table above**, when measured using the interval scale of regional relationships and capability levels, Buru Regency has an interval scale of 0-25 percent, indicating very low financial capability and an instructive relationship pattern from 2020 to 2024.” (Adapted from Wahyuningsih, T. (2025). Analysis of Regional Financial Performance in the Implementation of Regional Autonomy in Buru Regency. Journal of Business and Economic Development, 10(4), 170-179. <https://doi.org/10.11648/j.jbed.20251004.11>)

Business English favors non-finite clauses for their brevity, which minimizes redundancy, their professional tone as they convey a more formal and objective approach, aligning well with the requirements of reports, proposals, and emails, and their strategic relevance by highlighting the most critical information at the beginning of sentences. Such clauses are commonly observed in contexts like executive summaries, project updates, performance reviews, policy documents, business proposals, marketing reports, internal memos, and professional correspondence. By integrating these points, the literature identifies several pivotal roles that non-finite clauses play in business and professional English:

- **The compression of information and the use of nominalization**: -Non-finite clauses enable the encapsulation of processes within noun phrases (for example, *the decision to outsource production, risks linked to entering new markets*), thereby fostering the compact and succinct style anticipated in business reports and executive summaries-;
- **Objective and strategic intention** -To infinitives are extensively employed to articulate goals, strategies, and intended results (*to enhance shareholder value, to decrease operating expenses, to fortify market position*), which corresponds with standard structural moves in proposals and strategic documents-
- **The elements of stance, evaluation, and risk framing**—controlled infinitives including adjectives and nouns such as “*likely to*,” “*necessary to*,” “*plan to*,” and “*effort to*”—convey notions of evaluation, probability, and obligation, which are essential in communicating risks and performing strategic assessments in business documentation;
- **Backgrounding and cohesion** are achieved through the use of participial (ing) and past participial (ed) clauses that establish background conditions and connect various segments of text (for example, *reflecting on recent market fluctuations, drawing upon data acquired from clients*), thereby enhancing textual cohesion and enabling authors to emphasize vital propositions while relegating contextual details to non-finite structures.

The business register, similar to various professional discourses, is rich in non-finite clauses that illustrate its specialized character. Expressions like *maximizing return on investment, to offer a value proposition*, and *increasing market share* exemplify the register’s dependence on non-finite structures to communicate specific meanings effectively. Non-finite clauses are more commonly found in written discourse (Biber et al., 1999) and act as indicators of grammatical complexity (Biber et al., 2011). Business and professional communication employs non-finite clauses to succinctly articulate goals, strategies, and results within a formal framework. Infinitival clauses often convey



corporate objectives ("*to increase market share...*", "*to enhance efficiency...*"), while -ing clauses encapsulate outcomes or achievements ("*reducing costs*", "*boosting productivity*"). These grammatical constructs enable writers to efficiently connect actions to their outcomes, thereby adhering to the efficiency requirements of business communication. Although not as prevalent as in other ESP registers, such as the medical or legal discourse, -ed clauses are present in business reports to refer to actions that have been completed or the conditions of policies ("*Documents submitted after the deadline will not be processed.*"). The incorporation of these clauses adds to the formal, policy-oriented nature of corporate communication.

LEGAL & REGULATORY ENGLISH

Legal and regulatory English heavily depends on non-finite clauses, as they facilitate the articulation of rules, obligations, and definitions with utmost precision and minimal ambiguity. Such structures condense intricate legal concepts into stable and universally comprehensible forms, which is crucial in documents like contracts, statutes, compliance materials, and regulatory frameworks. The existing literature consistently highlights non-finite clauses as a fundamental grammatical characteristic of legal English. They enhance precision, brevity, and the compactness of information—qualities that are vital for effective legal drafting. Nevertheless, the syntactic intricacy of these clauses presents considerable challenges for ESP learners. Consequently, effective Legal ESP instruction should integrate genre-based pedagogy, corpus-informed resources, and explicit instruction on non-finite structures to enhance learners' abilities in reading and drafting.

Typical functions they perform:

- Establishing definitions and legal entities (formulating clear, reusable definitions that are consistently applicable throughout a document).
 - o *A person **acting** on behalf of the company...*
 - o “*Sexual violence, **trafficking, killing/branding**, militarization or state violence in the name of insurgency control, and the impact of development-induced displacement, etc., remain important issues and challenges for indigenous peoples.*” (Adapted from Singh, S. C. (2025). Recognition of Naga Customary Law and Practices in Northeast India: Convergence or Conflict. *International Journal of Law and Society*, 8(2), 83-102. <https://doi.org/10.11648/j.ijls.20250802.13>)
- Expressing stipulations and constraints (frequently detailing the circumstances under which a regulation is applicable or inapplicable)
 - o *Documents **submitted** after the deadline will not be accepted.*
 - o “***As mentioned**, article 234 of the Civil Code defines the institution of marriage, and this legislative choice is of vital importance, since, in addition to having a central implication, the Peruvian constitutional system considers marriage, together with the family, as a fundamental institution within society....**As previously documented** in the analysis of the Territorial Ordinance...*” (Adapted from Miguel, M. H., Kattia-Enith, G. T. (2026). Normative Tension Between Customary Law and Civil Law in the Native Amazonian Marriage: Analysis from the Pluralism Juridic y Human Rights. *International Journal of Law and Society*, 9(1), 46-68. <https://doi.org/10.11648/j.ijls.20260901.15>)
- Articulating obligations and requirements (to infinitive clauses are frequently utilized for obligations as they distinctly convey purpose and necessity, eliminating ambiguity concerning who is required to act and the rationale behind it)
 - o ***To comply** with regulations, all parties must disclose relevant information.*
 - o “*The article further discusses that the Office of the Prosecutor failed **to conduct an investigation** that could cover all relevant facts and evidence.... Finally, the*

article suggests the necessary measures that the Office of the Prosecutor needs *to take into account for effective investigation and collection of evidence.*” (Adapted from Amin, S. (2026). Rethinking the Office of the Prosecutor v Jean Pierre Bemba: A Case Note. International Journal of Law and Society, 9(1), 14-25. <https://doi.org/10.11648/j.ijs.20260901.12>)

- o “*To address these challenges*, the article proposes a reform agenda centred on clearer treaty drafting, specialised evidentiary methodologies, enhanced tribunal expertise in financial and criminal matters, structured coordination with domestic authorities, and increased transparency.” (Adapted from Amadi, P. U. (2026). Arbitrability of Economic Crimes Claims Under International Investment Arbitration. International Journal of Law and Society, 9(1), 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.11648/j.ijs.20260901.11>)

- Establishing legal ramifications (emphasizing the legal implications without superfluous language)

- o *Unless otherwise stated*, fees paid are non refundable.

- o “*Based on the above descriptions*, a correlation can be drawn that judges as the executor of judicial power who carry out criminal justice in Indonesia, have independence in examining and deciding criminal cases in court...” (Adapted from Amin, R., Efrianto, G., Putri, A. H., Novega, L. (2026). Judge’s Considerations in Issuing a Decision Stating That the Indictment Is Null and Void: A Study in Tangerang District Court, Indonesia. International Journal of Law and Society, 9(1), 35-45. <https://doi.org/10.11648/j.ijs.20260901.14>)

- o “*Given the facts of this case*, the Court concludes that the warrant was invalid.” (Source: U.S. Supreme Court, Illinois v. Gates, 462 U.S. 213 (1983).)

All the examples mentioned above emphasize that non-finite clauses are a crucial characteristic of legal English, allowing drafters and jurists to articulate intricate relationships with both precision and efficiency. Their structural adaptability and standardized application render them essential to the legal lexicon. Simultaneously, their capacity for ambiguity highlights the necessity for meticulous drafting and clear guidance in the teaching of legal English. Legal English favors non-finite clauses as legal documents need to be applicable across various contexts, jurisdictions, and time periods, and non-finite clauses help to eliminate tense-related ambiguity while maintaining the generality of statements. Given that both contracts and statutes frequently reference the same actions or entities multiple times, non-finite clauses facilitate the creation of shorter and more comprehensible documents. Legal writing is required to maintain an objective, neutral, and authoritative tone, which is enhanced by non-finite structures that eliminate superfluous personal or narrative components. These structures are predominantly found in contracts and agreements, terms and conditions, privacy policies, regulatory filings, compliance manuals, statutes and legal codes, as well as court orders and notices, all of which demand clarity, consistency, and enforceability.

CROSS REGISTER COMPARISONS AND RESEARCH GAPS

Non-finite clauses represent some of the most adaptable grammatical structures in the English language. Their absence of tense and the ability to exclude explicit subjects enable writers to condense information, emphasize processes, and develop compact, syntactically cohesive constructions. However, despite their inherent flexibility, non-finite clauses do not manifest uniformly across various registers. Instead, distinct fields demonstrate unique preferences for specific non-finite forms. Comprehending these patterns is crucial for writing that is sensitive to register differences, as well as for fostering disciplinary literacy and exploring applied linguistics. Non-finite clauses play a pivotal role in how ESP registers convey information, construct meanings



within disciplines, and facilitate effective communication. While they are commonly acknowledged as indicators of syntactic complexity, the discourse functional roles they play differ significantly across various professional and academic fields. This section consolidates insights from corpus-based and functional linguistic studies to explore the functioning of infinitival, -ing, and -ed clauses within business, management, and legal contexts. It emphasizes common trends—like information compression and impersonality—while also illustrating preferences that are specific to each register, influenced by communicative intent and genre norms. Despite valuable insights, the literature indicates significant gaps, such as a lack of cross-register comparisons and inadequate integration of both quantitative and qualitative methods. Non-finite clauses represent a crucial grammatical resource in English, allowing writers to condense information, provide background propositions, and convey logical relationships efficiently. In ESP contexts, where communicative requirements are influenced by disciplinary standards and institutional expectations, these constructions hold a particularly important role. Registers such as scientific research articles, business reports, and legal texts depend on non-finite structures to ensure precision, conciseness, and coherence. However, despite their prevalence, the functioning of non-finite clauses across ESP domains remains insufficiently explored. Non-finite clauses are present in every area of professional and academic communication, yet they manifest differently and for varying reasons. Their distribution varies as each register—science, business, law—functions under its own communicative demands. These demands influence how writers organize information, indicate relationships, and handle complexity. Consequently, there is a systematic, predictable variation in the usage of infinitives, -ing clauses, and participial forms across different fields. Non-finite clauses are appealing because they condense information, eliminate the need for explicit subjects, and enable writers to convey processes, objectives, and conditions effectively. Nevertheless, each register prioritizes different facets of communication, and these priorities dictate which types of non-finite structures become prevalent.

Across various ESP registers, several prevalent tendencies can be observed. To begin with, non-finite clauses are predominantly linked with written, formal, and institutional communication, as they enhance information density, maintain impersonality, and adhere to genre-specific conventions. Furthermore, distinct registers exhibit a preference for different non-finite patterns: scientific writing primarily employs -ed clauses for passive, result-oriented descriptions; business discourse emphasizes the use of infinitives to articulate goals and strategies; legal documents utilize non-finite clauses to convey conditions and definitions. Moreover, non-finite constructions fulfill crucial semantic and discourse roles that contribute to textual coherence (Green, 2017; Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014), thereby making their examination vital for comprehending how authors organize information across various registers. Non-finite clauses fulfil essential discourse roles, such as indicating logical connections, directing interpretation, and strengthening arguments in scholarly writing. Understanding their meanings illuminates their prevalent use in particular discourse communities (Römer, 2010). In business writing, there is an emphasis on action, strategy, and progress. Infinitives are particularly effective in conveying objectives and intentions, making them a suitable choice for this context. Expressions like *to increase revenue*, *to streamline operations*, or *to expand into new markets effectively* convey purpose in a quick and straightforward manner. The efficacy of infinitives matches the business sector's inclination for succinct, results-oriented communication. Legal writing is required to articulate obligations, conditions, and scope with utmost clarity. Non-finite clauses assist lawyers in delineating requirements without any ambiguity. Phrases such as *failure to comply*, *designed to safeguard*, or *relevant to the parties involved* facilitate layered and precisely controlled definitions. As legal documents need to be both comprehensive and clear, non-finite clauses are indispensable tools for organizing complex conditions within a single sentence.



These constructs bolster the legal register's imperative for precision by allowing for layered, tightly controlled definitions that reduce interpretative ambiguity.

Non-finite clauses exhibit varying behaviors based on the specific ESP register in use. Scientific writing, business reports, and legal documents all incorporate non-finite structures, albeit for distinct communicative objectives. Investigating these variations provides valuable insights into how English condenses information within specialized contexts. Grasping the functionality of non-finite clauses across scientific, business, and legal registers is crucial for delivering effective ESP instruction. Pedagogical strategies ought to encompass corpus-based noticing tasks, which assist learners in recognizing register-specific patterns; genre-based instruction that underscores the role of non-finite clauses in achieving communicative objectives; contrastive analysis that illustrates how identical grammatical forms fulfill various functions across different domains; and task-based writing exercises that compel learners to create authentic professional documents. Such methodologies allow learners to progress beyond mere general grammar expertise toward disciplinary literacy, thus enabling the production of precise, professional, and contextually appropriate texts. In other words, comprehending these patterns is essential for anyone aiming to write across various disciplines. It aids writers in adjusting their style to different contexts, anticipating the expectations of their audience, and crafting texts that conform to the standards of their respective fields. Furthermore, it emphasizes that grammar extends beyond being a mere collection of rules; rather, it comprises resources utilized by distinct communities in diverse ways.

TEACHING NON-FINITE CLAUSES ACROSS VARIOUS ESP REGISTERS USING TBLT

Instructing on non-finite clauses across various ESP registers is most effective when teaching is rooted in the actual application of infinitives, –ing clauses, and –ed clauses within each professional field. The fundamental principle is that non-finite structures serve not merely as grammatical components but as genre-specific instruments for promoting conciseness, abstraction, and the effective organization of information. Non-finite clauses enable learners to succinctly convey information, articulate processes and directives efficiently, diminish the visibility of the agent (which is typical in academic and legal contexts), foster a formal and impersonal tone, and facilitate the management of stance and hedging, which are crucial in business and scientific communication. Although non-finite clauses serve as a universal grammatical tool, their occurrence, functionality, and favored constructions differ markedly across various contexts, including scientific writing, business communication, and legal texts. This section examines the application of Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT) as a method for instructing non-finite clauses in Business and Legal English for Specific Purposes (ESP) and suggests a detailed TBLT-oriented pedagogical framework that is underpinned by genuine tasks, input informed by linguistic corpora, and instruction focused on form. Despite their significance, non-finite clauses present difficulties for students because of their syntactic intricacies and the nuanced semantic differences they convey. TBLT provides an effective framework for tackling these issues. By integrating grammar into meaningful, goal-driven tasks, TBLT allows learners to grasp non-finite structures as instruments for achieving professional goals instead of treating them as disparate grammatical elements.

TBLT has emerged as a significant approach in the realm of second language education, focusing on the integration of meaningful, goal-directed tasks as the core component of instruction. Instead of structuring lessons based on isolated grammar topics, TBLT emphasizes communicative results, active learner participation, and applicability to real-world situations. This characteristic renders it especially suitable for ESP, where teaching should align with the genuine communicative behaviors found within professional and academic settings. The fundamental principles of TBLT constitute a



cohesive pedagogical framework that fosters both communicative growth and the learning of intricate grammatical forms, including non-finite clauses. Each principle plays a distinct role in the learning process, and collectively, they establish an environment where grammar arises from meaningful engagement instead of detached exercises. A detailed exploration of each principle illustrates the strong alignment of TBLT with ESP, which prioritizes authenticity, needs assessment, and the practices of discourse communities (Dudley Evans & St John, 1998). A common misunderstanding is that TBLT overlooks grammar. However, TBLT actually integrates grammar through a focus on form, which Long (1991, 2015) defines as a brief and context-sensitive attention to linguistic elements that emerge during communicative interactions. This approach contrasts with the conventional focus on forms, where grammar is taught in an explicit and sequential manner. A focus on form is especially beneficial for intricate grammatical constructs, such as non-finite clauses, because learners encounter these structures in meaningful contexts. Attention is directed toward them when a communicative necessity arises, cognitive involvement enhances memory retention, and learners observe how grammar operates within genuine discourse. This perspective is consistent with Schmidt's (2001) noticing hypothesis and Robinson's (2011) cognition hypothesis, both of which contend that attention and the complexity of tasks are crucial for language acquisition.

TBLT necessitates the design of tasks that cater to the needs, objectives, and professional contexts of learners. In the realm of Business and Legal English, this implies that tasks should mirror authentic workplace genres, allowing learners to utilize their disciplinary knowledge, while instruction is tailored to meet the proficiency levels and communicative requirements of the learners. A focus on learner-centeredness enhances motivation and relevance, which are vital for adult ESP learners. Furthermore, it guarantees that grammar instruction—such as the use of non-finite clauses—is not presented in an abstract manner but is connected to the genres that learners need to master, including reports, proposals, and presentations. This principle aligns with ESP frameworks that highlight the importance of needs analysis and the specificity of learners (Dudley Evans & St John, 1998; Hutchinson & Waters, 1987). Authenticity plays a pivotal role in both TBLT and ESP. Authentic tasks simulate the communicative requirements found in professional settings, allowing learners to engage with the same grammatical structures employed by experts within the industry. In the context of Business and Legal English, these authentic tasks inherently prompt the use of non-finite clauses, as such structures are essential for articulating objectives (*to increase revenue/ to resolve disputes*), summarizing data (*data collected during the trial/ evidence presented*), clarifying reasoning (*considering market conditions/ violating these terms*), and drafting policies (*funds allocated for this purpose/ documents submitted after the deadline*). Authenticity guarantees that grammar instruction is integrated within the genres and discourse practices of the business community rather than being decontextualized. This principle is consistent with genre-based pedagogy (Swales, 1990; Bhatia, 1993) and corpus-informed ESP instruction (Flowerdew, 2015). When these principles are combined, they foster a learning environment in which learners come across non-finite clauses in significant contexts, communicative pressure prompts them to employ more concise and formal structures, focus on form episodes assist them in improving accuracy, tasks offer repeated chances for practice and transfer, and authenticity maintains relevance to real-world business and legal communication. This combination elucidates why TBLT is especially effective in teaching the grammatical features that define professional discourse.

CONCLUSION

Non-finite clauses play a crucial role in the way ESP registers create meaning, encapsulate expertise, and organize information. Their use and functions are systematically different across the scientific, business, and legal fields, illustrating the communicative intents and genre standards of



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each sector. A thorough investigation across registers—based on corpus evidence and functional analysis—would greatly enhance ESP research and shape educational practice. By merging grammatical knowledge with an understanding of discourse, ESP instruction can more effectively equip learners to engage successfully in specialized communicative settings. Non-finite clauses play a crucial role in the linguistic framework of scientific, business, and legal English. Their intricate nature and prevalence make them a key focus in English for Specific Purposes (ESP) education. The differences in non-finite clause application across various registers are not arbitrary. They signify underlying trends in how distinct fields perceive knowledge, authority, and communication. Scientific writing emphasizes neutrality, the business sector strives for efficiency, while the legal domain calls for precision. Non-finite clauses provide the versatility needed to fulfill these requirements, with each register leaning towards the structures that most effectively further its communicative objectives. Gaining an understanding of these trends is beneficial for individuals learning to write in multiple disciplines. It assists writers in modifying their style to suit new contexts, forecasting audience expectations, and creating texts that conform to the standards of their discipline. It further emphasizes that grammar is not merely a collection of rules, but rather a variety of resources utilized differently by diverse communities. TBLT provides a robust, research-backed framework for instructing these structures in a manner that is significant, genuine, and in line with the communication requirements of professionals. By incorporating real-world tasks, corpus-based input, and focused instruction on specific forms, educators can enable learners to master non-finite clauses as essential tools for effective communication in business and legal settings.

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