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Abstract
Content-Based Instruction (CBI) had been used in a variety of language learning context in the past decade. It is used in English for Specific Purpose (ESP) programs, second language immersion programs and English for Academic Purpose (EAP) programs. More recently, it has wider application in English for Occupational Purpose (EOP) and workplace instructional context.
Based on CBI, this study intends to build up a workplace corpus and use it in an English training program. The first half of the study includes corpus construction, corpus analysis and word list formation; the second half focus on the design and application of a computer based interactive program for English training in the products and manufacturing domains.
The objective of the training program is to help subjects obtain both the content knowledge and the related workplace English literacy with designed training at the same time. Group discussion was conducted as a means for peer learning. Questionnaire survey, tests, and follow-up interviews were used as instruments for data-collection. An overall discussion was conducted after the training program as a feed-back will also be examined. Suggestions regarding the application of similar programs is made and some pedagogical implications are discussed. The findings of this study are summarized as follows :
1. There are three domains in any workplace content: (a) product and design, (b) manufacturing and quality control system, and (c) business and organization. The content of Workplace CBI. all within these three domains.
2. Learners' needs are all related to their job requirement or promotion. The need of language skills also vary among learners with different jobs. Most learners' motivation is instrumental in the workplace and the motivation of their learning are job requirement or promotion.
3. There are five kinds of instructions which can be implemented in the workplace: (a) theme-based instruction, (b) sheltered classes, (c) task-based instruction, (d) whole language, and (e) cooperative learning.
4. There are five types of teaching materials which are suitable for the CBI training program: (a) the interactive program, (b) the corpus and concordance, (c) the key word list, (d) the word game, and (e) the realia.
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