CHAPTER 11

SPECIFIC PURPOSE LANGUAGE TESTING:
THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTEXT

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING

In 2001, the journal *Language Testing* produced a special issue on “Assessing Language for Specific Purposes.” The issue was edited by Liz Hamp-Lyons and Tom Lumley, and includes papers by Alan Davies, Catherine Elder, Dan Douglas, and others.

For helpful information about needs assessment in the special purpose context, we recommend Diane Belcher’s (2006) article, “English for Specific Purposes: Teaching to Perceived Needs and Imagined Futures in Worlds of Work, Study, and Everyday Life.” If you would like to read some examples of needs assessments for various professions, please see Al-Khatib (2005) about the needs of workers in tourism and banking; Bosher and Smalkoski (2002) regarding healthcare communication; Gilabert (2005) about needs assessment for journalists; and Jasso-Aguilar (2005) regarding hotel maids’ language needs.

Good introductions to discourse analysis can be found in the books by Gee (2010, 2011). We also recommend Elana Shohamy’s (1991) article, “Discourse Analysis in Language Testing.”

If you have a particular interest in aviation English, we recommend Charles Alderson’s (2010) “A Survey of Aviation English Tests.” There is also an interesting article entitled “Air Traffic Communication in a Second Language: Implications of Cognitive Factors for Training and Assessment,” by Farris, Trofimovich, Segalowitz, and Gatbonton (2008).

To learn more about conversational cloze passages, please see the citations for Brown (1983), Hughes (1981), and Lennon (1989) in the reference list at the end of this book.


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**HELPFUL WEBSITES**

If you would like to read more about Captain Sullenberger and First Officer Jeff Skiles safely landing the plane in the Hudson River, you can go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cactus_1549.

A copy of the ICAO rating scale can be found by visiting the following site: http://www.macmillanenglish.com/aviationenglish/aviation-english-icao-scale.pdf.

The TIRF website includes a good reference list on specific purpose language assessment. Please visit http://www.tirfonline.org/resources/references/.