**Statement of Purpose**

According to a publication by The British Council, the number of people learning English is likely to reach a peak of around 2 billion in the next 10–15 years (Graddol, 2006). Eighty to ninety percent of all scientific journals are written in English (Montgomery, 2009). Furthermore, a**ccording to Internet World Stats (**<http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats7.htm>**), English is the most widely used language on the Internet. Universities not only offer classes on campuses in English speaking countries, but also online. Moreover, many forms of entertainment: games, movies, and music, are produced in English.**

**When learning English as a foreign language, it is not enough to merely learn grammar, vocabulary, spelling, etc. Language needs to be meaningful to the learner so that he or she may effectively use the knowledge gained to communicate in a variety of circumstances. Feeling confident and comfortable with the English language will allow the learner to step into various cultures where English is spoken in order to build friendships, further education, improve or create business connections, share ideas, explore differences, and broaden his or her knowledge of the world. Competency of knowing when to use formal and informal language is one tool that can help build that confidence.**

**The clues used to determine when formal or informal language should be used may differ from those for the ESOL’s native language. In this unit, students will practice using their English skills in a variety of real and simulated formal and informal settings in order to expand vocabulary, learn about cultural expectations, and develop competency using English language skills acquired thus far.**

**A unit on formal and informal language is necessary for ESOL. As a result of this unit, students will learn vocabulary, grammar, and strategies to prepare and enable them to be active and proficient participants in future encounters where English skills will be required.**

References

Graddol, D. (2006). English next. *The British Council*. The English Company (UK) Ltd. Retrieved on May 16, 2012, from [**www.english.co.uk**](http://www.english.co.uk)

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