

# ENGLISH AS A PROFESSIONAL LANGUAGE

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The author introduces her research in English used as a tool of communication in professions based on electrical engineering and information technologies. She, as an English teacher at a technical university, identifies the specific variety of professional English used by scholars and students in all branches of electrical engineering. On the basis of discourse analysis she has found the characteristic linguistic and extralinguistic parameters of the specific variety of English used as a foreign language in academic settings. The application of her research resulted in the new bachelor study programme English in Electrical Engineering and Informatics run by the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Communication at Brno University of Technology. The interdisciplinary study programme provides qualification for bachelor specialists in professional English. The acquisition of the professional variety involves not only the knowledge of English but also a certain degree of insight into disciplines of electrical engineering and informatics. Thus the courses represent a unique combination of liberal arts and technical courses, the spheres of life rather different and, unfortunately, very often separated from each other. The language of Electrical Engineering and IT is presented here as a special variety used by a specific discourse community. The author characterizes the typical features of the variety and its discourse community, its structure, features, roles and governance in the society. The variety in question is characterized by the necessity of precise description of reality without semantic shifts and ambiguities connected with mental schemata related to professional knowledge.

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**Milena Krhutová**, Ph.D., is Associate professor in linguistics of Germanic languages, head of Department of Foreign languages. She teaches graduates and postgraduates at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Communication in courses on English for Electrical Engineering and Academic English. She focuses on the research of English as a specific professional variety used in IT and all branches of electrical engineering. She is especially interested in its pragmatic aspects, discourse analysis, sociolinguistic and psycholinguistic features. Her research results are applied in all

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