

Deconstructing research in BALEAP

How might we reconstruct it to
better serve new purposes?

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3 Recent Surveys of EAP



Riazi et al. (2020)

Data: research articles from JEAP, 2002-2019

Findings: Increased attention to intercultural rhetoric, assessment, student produced academic discourse



Hyland and Jiang (2021)

Data: research articles, 40 journals, 1980-2020

Findings: Increased attention to identity, interaction and genre



Ding et al. (2022)

Data: BALEAP discussion list, 1998-2021

Findings: Lack of attention to interests and concerns of practitioners

Data for this Study (Charles, 2022)

PIMS

66 meetings (1994-2019)

919 Titles (PIMS presentations word count)

Practitioner research

23 volumes

391 Titles

***Practitioner research
data***

Combined

1,310 titles (13,469 words)

Period: 1975 – 2019

Method: Bottom-up, Top-down

Corpus: 13,469 words

Sub-corpora: PIMS = 9,547; Proceedings = 3,922 words

Bottom-up Corpus Analysis (AntConc, Anthony 2020)

- **Word lists**
- **Corpus Keywords**

A word which occurs more often than would be expected by chance in comparison with a reference corpus.

Top-down Manual Analysis

- PIMs & proceedings classified by topic
- Topics cross-checked with keyword and wordlist data
- Associated terms identified
- Concordances run on all terms and checked for relevance, double counting of titles etc.

Research Questions

RQ1 What were the **most frequently addressed topics** over the period 1975–2019?

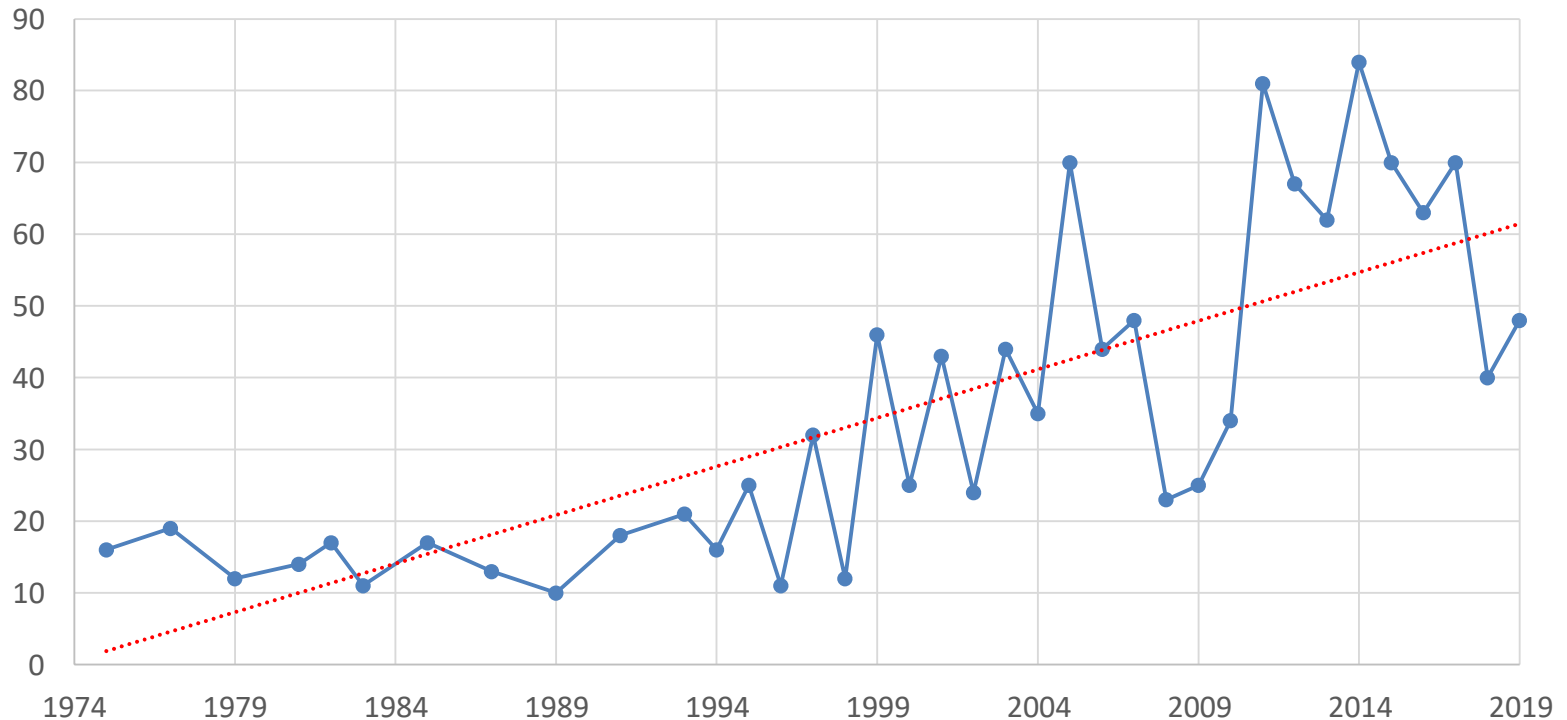
RQ2 To what extent have these **topics varied** over the period?

Results

5 areas reported

- 1) PIMs and Proceedings
- 2) Courses and students
- 3) Major topics in BALEAP
- 4) The communicative skills of writing, speaking, reading and listening;
- 5) Approaches to EAP

PIMs & Proceedings: Research in BALEAP



Number of titles per year: PIMs and Proceedings combined

Huge growth in research

PIMs & Proceedings: Most Frequent Topics

PIMs Topics	No. PIMs	No. papers	% PIMs papers
Assessment	6	85	9.3%
Teacher education	5	72	7.8%
Writing	5	68	7.4%
In-sessional issues	4	76	8.3%
ESP	3	41	4.5%
Reading	3	25	2.7%
Technology	3	42	4.6%
Total	29	409	44.5%

Proceedings Topics	No. Procs.	No. papers	% Procs. papers
ESP	4	57	14.6%
Change & Development	3	57	14.6%
Collaboration	2	47	12%
Total	9	161	41.2%

Courses & Students: Combined Data

Topics	No. papers	% papers (n = 1,310)	Trend
Students	297	22.7%	stable
Courses	168	12.8%	stable
Graduates	102	7.8%	falling
Pre-sessional issues	89	6.8%	falling
In-sessional issues	92	7%	rising
Foundation	34	2.6%	rising

Students/Courses

Ongoing **practical** focus of research in BALEAP

Graduates

Surprising falling trend
Master's level: increase
Doctoral level: static

Pre-sessional

Early interest, now decreasing

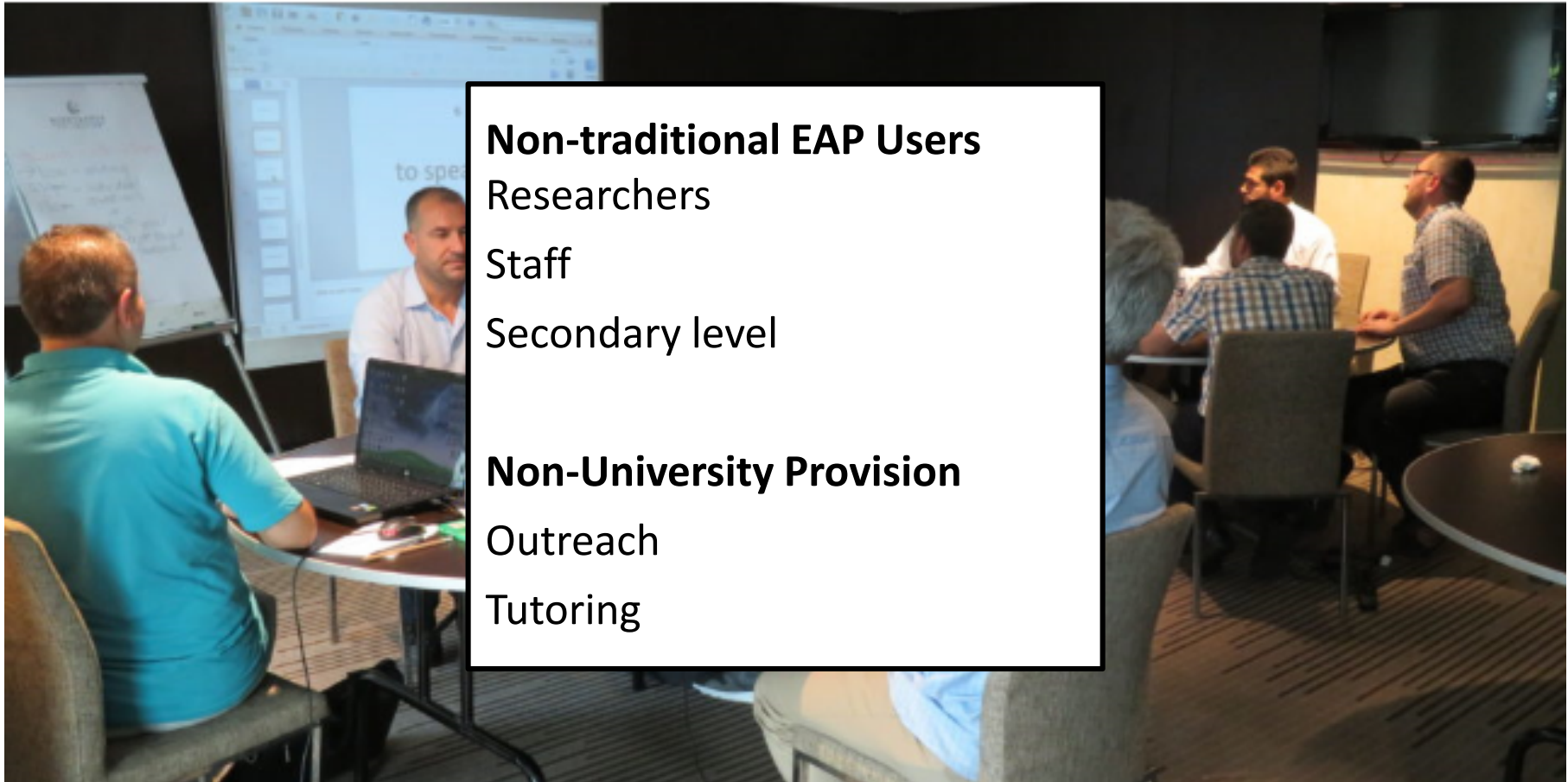
In-sessional

Ongoing interest
4 PIMs, 1998-2016

Foundation

Low interest

Research for New Purposes: Students & Courses



Non-traditional EAP Users

Researchers

Staff

Secondary level

Non-University Provision

Outreach

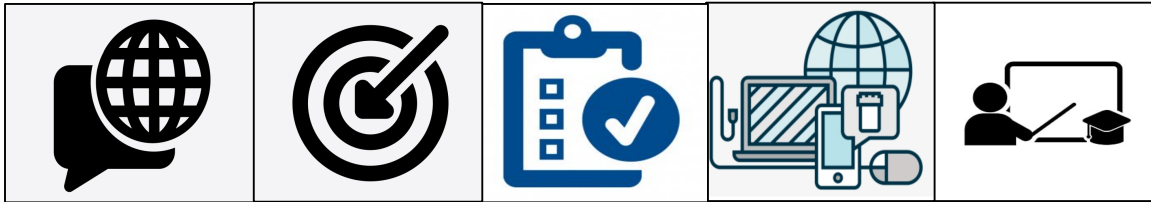
Tutoring

Major Topics: Combined Data

Topics	No. papers	% papers (n = 1,310)	Trend	
Language	273	20.8%	falling	Language Little recent interest Fall from 40% - 20%
Specificity	179	13.7%	falling	Specificity 4 Procs. 4 PIMs 1981-2011 Early interest; Fall: 38% - 9%
Assessment	187	14.3%	rising	Assessment Ongoing interest Rise 5% - 20%
Technology	113	8.6%	rising	Technology Ongoing interest Rise 4% - 10%
Teacher education	89	6.8%	rising	Teacher Education 5 PIMs 1997-2014 Ongoing interest

Research for New Purposes:

Major Topics



- **Artificial Intelligence**
- **Interdisciplinary issues**

Writing, Speaking, Reading, Listening: Combined Data

Topics	No. papers	% papers (n = 1,310)	Trend	
Writing	265	20.2%	falling	Writing 1 Proc. 5 PIMs, 1985-2013 Ongoing interest But fall from 25% to 16%
Speaking	64	4.9%	rising	Speaking 2 PIMs, 1994 & 2018 Recent revival of interest
Reading	56	4.3%	rising	Reading 3 PIMs, 1994, 1998 & 2015 Recent revival of interest
Listening	34	2.6%	stable	Listening 1 PIM 2009 Ongoing low interest

Research for New Purposes: Writing, Speaking, Reading, Listening




- **Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing**
 - In/for online environments
- **Integrating skills**

Approaches to EAP: Combined Data

Topics	No. papers	% papers (n = 1,310)	Trend	
Intercultural	84	6.4%	stable	Intercultural Ongoing interest Proc. 1991, PIMs 2005, 2017
Academic literacy	56	4.3%	rising	Academic literacy Proc. 2003, PIM 2018 Low interest, but rising to 8%
Corpora	46	3.5%	rising	Corpora 2 PIMs 2003, 2014 Low interest, but rising to 5%
Critical	42	3.2%	rising	Critical Low interest, but rising to 4%
Genre	28	2.1%	rising	Genre Surprisingly, No Proc. or PIMs Low interest, but rising to 2.5%

Research for New Purposes: Approaches to EAP

- 
- Exploration of social context
 - Data-driven learning
 - Multi-modal and digital genres

Possible Future Directions

9 areas

1. Non-traditional users
2. Non-university
3. Artificial
4. Inter
5. Listening, re
environme
6. Inter
7. Exploration of social
8. Data-driven learning
9. Multi-modal and digital gen

Most importantly

***Let us keep our
diversity of research***



Thank you!

Any questions?

Acknowledgement & References

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Andy Gillett, who kindly let me use the data he had collected on BALEAP PIMs and proceedings.

References

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