

## Subject Name & Code:

### ENGLISH FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION- BE02R00021

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#### PBL Assignment 5:

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##### GROUP DISCUSSION: "Is Technical English Different from General English?"

###### Q.1 Write your individual viewpoint (200 words) on the topic.

As an engineering student, I firmly believe that Technical English is distinctly different from General English, not in its fundamental grammar, but in its purpose, vocabulary, and stylistic conventions. While both share the same syntactic rules, Technical English is a specialized register designed for precision, clarity, and objectivity in professional and academic contexts. Its primary purpose is to convey complex information unambiguously, often involving data, processes, and specifications. This leads to a lexicon rich in discipline-specific terminology, acronyms, and symbols—words like "transistor," "algorithm," or "tolerance" have exact, non-negotiable meanings. Furthermore, its style is deliberately impersonal, favoring the passive voice, imperative mood for instructions, and a structured format with headings, bullet points, and diagrams to eliminate any scope for artistic ambiguity or emotional persuasion. General English, in contrast, prioritizes expressiveness, narrative, persuasion, and social interaction, embracing a wider range of vocabulary, figurative language, and subjective tone. Therefore, while rooted in the same language, Technical English is a tailored tool for efficient and error-free communication in science, technology, and business, where misunderstanding can have significant practical consequences.

###### Q.2 Mention:

- 1) Two arguments you presented.
- 2) One counter-argument you faced.

###### 1) Two Arguments Presented:

\* **Argument from Purpose and Clarity:** I argued that the core purpose of Technical English is deterministic information transfer, necessitating a style that avoids the ambiguity and figurative language often effective in General English. For example, a technical manual must state "Depress the actuator fully," not "Push the button quite firmly."

\* **Argument from Lexical Specialization:** I emphasized the critical role of jargon and standardized terminology. Terms like "impedance," "Reynolds number," or "SQL injection" are precise technical concepts with no direct, simple equivalent in General English, creating a functional linguistic boundary.

###### 2) One Counter-argument Faced:

\* A counter-argument posed was that this is not a difference in the *English language* itself, but merely a difference in **context and audience**. The opponent stated that any skilled user of General English can learn the specific vocabulary and adopt a more formal tone when needed, implying the underlying language and communicative principles are the same.

###### Q.3 Reflect on:

- 1) Your confidence level,
- 2) Listening ability, and
- 3) Turn-taking skill.

1) **Confidence Level:** My confidence was moderate to high. Being familiar with technical documents and their style from my coursework gave me a solid foundation for my arguments. However, initial hesitation arose when framing my thoughts concisely under time pressure.

**2) Listening Ability:** I consciously practiced active listening. I noted key points from others' arguments, like the counter-argument about context, which allowed me to refine my rebuttal. I sometimes focused too much on formulating my next point, which may have caused me to miss a minor nuance in someone else's contribution.

**3) Turn-taking Skill:** I aimed for balance. I avoided interrupting and waited for a natural pause to enter the discussion. I used phrases like "Building on that point..." or "To offer a different perspective..." to link my turn to the previous speaker. I could improve by more effectively inviting quieter participants into the conversation to make the discussion more inclusive.