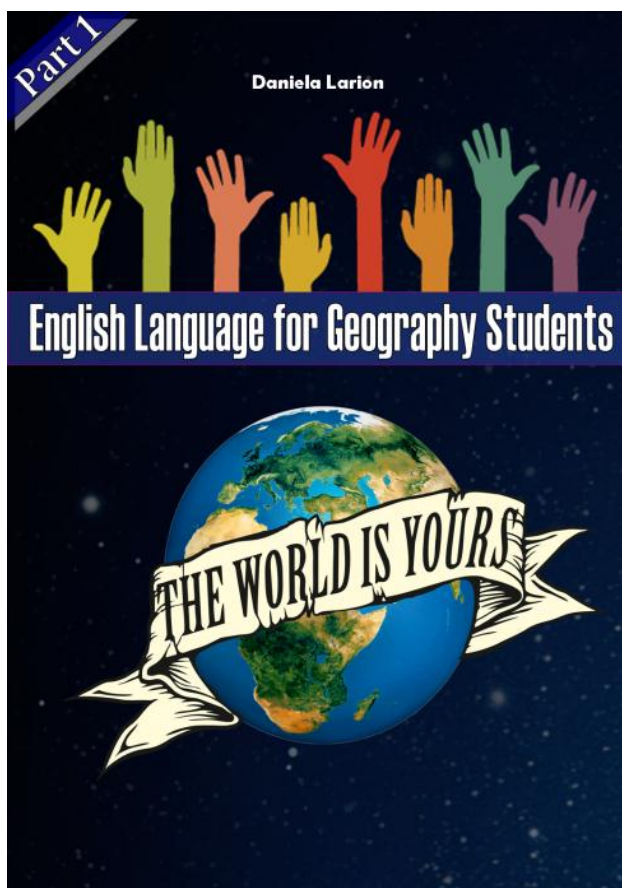


LARION Daniela (2017). *English Language for Geography Students*. Iași: PIM Publishing House, 259 p., ISBN 978-606-13-3592-3



*English Language for Geography Students* written by Daniela Larion, Ph.D., represents an element of novelty in the current academic context, as it is designed as a textbook meant to improve the command of English of its users by presenting Physical and Human Geography topics. Primarily, the textbook is intended to be used by the first year students of the Geography Department within *Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași*, but it has also proved to be useful to high-school students, Geography teachers and Geography alumni who want to improve their English language skills.

It is the first textbook written for Geography students in Romania, as this Content-Based Instruction approach of the English courses in higher

education is yet to be developed in this country. Considering the fact that the textbook aims to balance language and content and that prior basic knowledge of Geography constitutes a requirement, it cannot be considered a Content and Language Integrated Learning resource, but rather a Content-Based Instruction tool, although the characteristics of this field do not apply entirely to the concept of the book. In this context, the author herself gives the best definition of the book: "It is an English language tool, a practical and interactive instrument for learning and improving geographic thinking, concepts and vocabulary in English."

Additionally, *English Language for Geography Students* may be associated to the field of English for specific purposes. Thus, the textbook prepares students for the situations that require the use of English language in their academic activity and in their future careers, by addressing issues like the understanding of geographic texts, the interpretation of various types of cartographic and graphic information, the elaboration of papers, projects, essays on given geographic topics or the elaboration of a CV, a letter of intent, an application or cover letter for a job, scholarship, study mobility, and preparation for interviews.

The textbook combines the Grammar Translation Method with elements specific to Communicative Language Teaching, in order to provide the best results regarding the improvement of the language skills of the students. By mingling the classical teaching methods with the modern ones, the book addresses the needs of the less experimented users while providing development opportunities for the more experimented ones. The result is the formation of sound basis of the English grammar rules and the development of the communicative competence.

Reflecting the geographic outlook, the textbook is structured in fifteen multilevel units that offer an interconnected approach of the topics they cover and language related elements. While part A of each unit presents geographic content in the form of texts, maps, graphics, pictures and tables, part B consist of a geographic quiz that stimulates students' critical thinking. Part C includes straightforward explanations of basic grammar rules and specific exercises, as well as practical vocabulary elements regarding different fields. Each of these parts is designed to challenge the students to understand the meaning of new words and to use them in the appropriate contexts, to formulate and answer various questions, to elaborate explanations and essays on geographic topics and to exercise further their language skills by doing home assignments. In this way, the learning activity becomes a conscious process that fully engages the intellect.

Varying from topics like the Earth system, the atmosphere, climate and weather, volcanoes, glaciers, running water, vegetation to population, Economic Geography, agriculture and food, Geography of Tourism, UNESCO Heritage Sites in Romania and the Erasmus programme, the book also covers English grammar topics like the article, the prepositions, the noun, the adjective, the adverb, the cardinal numbers, the tenses of the verbs, the modal verbs, the sequence of tenses, the direct and indirect speech, and the passive voice.

The value of this book lies both in its interesting and innovative content and in its comprehensibility. Its integrated approach, organized text, clarity of style and friendly design facilitate learning and make the textbook an instrument useful for a wide range of users. Moreover, the fact that the book is addressed to the first year students, suggests that the author intends to develop the concept of this work for the second year students as well, ensuring its continuity.

The status of a world language makes English a mandatory intellectual tool for everyone who wants to develop professionally and on a personal level. However, the endeavour of mastering the English language is a challenge. By adapting English learning to the specific needs of geographers, *English Language for Geography Students* proves to be as useful as a map is in the quest of achieving a better understanding of our world.

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