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Using medical fiction to motivate students in public health fields

After defining the meaning of the acronym FASP (specialized fiction), I will consider what it entails in terms of language teaching and learning objectives and outline its motivational benefits in an ESP context, taking the specific example of a medical novel studied in class, *Transplanted Man* by Sanjay Nigam.

Transplanted Man offers contextualized language and metaphorical implications. In addition to linguistic knowledge and abilities, non-verbal communication can be analysed in the context of a holistic approach. Including FASP in class material aims at giving students more self-confidence in oral participation and a willingness to learn in an open, dynamic and long-term perspective.

The pedagogic exploitation of the “hypokinetic man” taken from Nigam’s novel allows for a three-dimensional exploration. First of all, it highlights the conscious and unconscious processes at stake in personal and professional skills regarding health matters. Secondly, it reveals individual or collective beliefs and patterns in medical fields. Last but not least, this Indian-American FASP is used to trigger new multicultural awareness.