OUTLINE

• Introduction
• Theories
• Related literature
• Projected Findings
• Contribution to research in academic writing
• Conclusion
Introduction

- **Scope:** 200 acknowledgements accompanying MA dissertation and 100 students’ complaint letters (hereinafter, DAs and SCLs) from some major state university faculties in Cameroon in six disciplines.

- **Focus:** rhetorical patterns, lexico-grammatical and semantic features, socio-cultural features and politeness strategies.

- **Results:** more or less lengthy texts and expression of gratitude in a limited number of ways, and to a vast variety of individuals depending on the discipline.
The genre theory

• The genre theory as developed by Bhatia (1993; 1997; 2002; 2004) and other related theorists.

✓ factors influencing genre construction: content, form, intended audience and medium or channel.

✓ different types of genre portray “constraints on allowable contributors in terms of their intent, positioning, form and functional value”
✓ Genre analysis is a theory that accounts for the study of language in specific contexts.
✓ Contributors to genre analysis: purpose, products, practice and players
The politeness theory in terms of:

- Grice’s (1989) maxims of quantity, quality, relation and manner,
- Leech’s (1983) maxims of tact, generosity, approbation, modesty, agreement, and sympathy and
- Brown and Levinson’s (1987) notion of face.
Literature review

- Nkemleke (2006)
- Karakas (2010)
- Mingwei & Jiang (2010)
methodology

• Corpus-200 DAs and 100 SCLs from six disciplines in some renowned state university faculties in Cameroon
  ✓ Humanities- English language and literature
  ✓ Social sciences-history and economics
  ✓ Hard sciences-medicine and chemistry or biology
• analysis will be corpus-based
• Results will be presented on frequency tables and comparisons and generalizations will be made
Projected findings
Rhetorical patterns in DAs

- Step 1: opening
- Step 2: presenting participants
- Step 3: Thanking God
- Step 4: Thanking supervisor
- Step 5: Thanking other lecturers
- Step 6: thanking family members
- Step 7: thanking for access to material
- Step 8: Thanking for proof-reading
- Step 9: Thanking for moral support
- Step 10: Thanking informants
- Step 11: Thanking for technical assistance
- Step 12: invoking and promising to share good results
- Step 13: Accepting responsibility
- Step 14: making an excuse
- Step 15: closing
Rhetorical patterns in SCLs

• Step1: title- which captures the problem in one statement
• Step2: opening—an introductory statement to the whole text
• Step3: stating the problem—
• Step4: explaining the problem
• Step5: proposing a solution
• Step6: announcing expectation
• Step7: promising positive if problem is solved
• Step9: closing
• Step10: signing off
lexico-grammatical and semantic features

Lexico-grammatical features in DAs
- Noun phrases
- Verb phrases
- Adjectival phrases

Lexico-grammatical features in SCLs
- Perceptive verbs
- Suggestive nouns
Semantic features in DAs

- Simple thanking
- Complex thanking strategies
Politeness in DAs and SCLs

• Elements of politeness with close reference the Grician maxims of quantity, quality, relation and manner
• Elements of politeness with reference to Leech’s maxims of tact, generosity, approbation, modesty, agreement, and sympathy
• elements of face-saving or face-threatening acts
• elements of hedging
Socio-cultural identities in DAs and SCLs

• The definition of ‘society’ and ‘family’ with close reference to Nkemleke (2006)

• Academic identification and a construction of personality
Contribution to research in academic writing

• Reveal for the first time the organization of DAs and SCLs in Cameroon English
• Reveal how the politeness strategies in DAs and SCLs can enhance or threaten face in the Cameroonian society
• Act as the first comparative study in the analysis of DAs and SCLs across disciplines in CamE
• Raise awareness on the importance of the genre
CONCLUSION

• Cameroon English therefore maintains a peculiar place in the outer circle
Thanks for your attention and comments which will help this study take a beautiful shape