

Linguistic Colloquium
17 / 06 / 09

Academic Writing in English: Linguistic perspectives and projects

Josef Schmied & Christoph Haase
English Language & Linguistics
Chemnitz University of Technology
http://www.tu-chemnitz.de/phil/english/ling/presentations_js.php

2/10

Discourses Genres Functions&Forms Outlook: projects Case study: V perception

English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Academic Discourses (cf. Hyland 2001)

```

graph TD
    RD[research discourse] --> ID[instructional discourse]
    RD --> PD[popular discourse]
    ID --> SD[student discourse]
  
```

3/10

Discourses Genres Functions&Forms Outlook: projects Case study: V perception

EAP: the Genre Approach

research "output" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ research article <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ book reviews ▪ project proposals ▪ conference presentations <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small; border: 1px solid gray; border-radius: 15px; padding: 2px;">discipline-specific culture-specific</p>	teacher "talk"/e-learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ppt presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ lectures ▪ student presentations ▪ textbooks ▪ Wikis <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small; border: 1px solid gray; border-radius: 15px; padding: 2px;">subject-specific culture-specific</p>
science "journalism" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ popular science articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ popular blogs (DavidCrystal) ▪ popular science films (Horizon) ▪ popular science books 	student "literary" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ fieldwork notes / essays ▪ thesis ▪ seminar presentations <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small; border: 1px solid gray; border-radius: 15px; padding: 2px;">subject-specific culture-specific</p>

4/10

Discourses Genres Functions&Forms Outlook: projects Case study: verbs of perception

EAP Ling. Features: function -> form

research articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ novelty & ->lit. review -> evaluation, boosters ▪ stance & -> hedging ▪ complexity: ontology hyponyms 	instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ makro-/mikro-structuring ▪ meta-discourse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ interpersonal ▪ attitudinal <p style="font-size: x-small;">(compare MICASE)</p>
science journalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ metaphors ▪ multimedia text/image/sound 	student papers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ argumentation structure ▪ coherence -> cohesion

5/10

Discourses Genres Functions&Forms Outlook: projects Case study: V perception

Function: stance

key terms: stance > hedging > modality

- "personal feelings, attitudes, value judgments, or assessments" (Biber et al. 1999: 966)
- "subjective" evaluation on the basis of own knowledge, experience, etc.
- context-dependency
 - academic culture in the discourse community determines how stance is expressed!

6/10

Discourses Genres Functions&Forms Outlook: projects Case study: V perception

Function: hedging complex, gradient, culture-specific

G. Lakoff (1972) "Hedges: A Study in Meaning Criteria and the Logic of Fuzzy Concepts":

more than 60 'hedges and related phenomena', including *sort of, kind of, rather, basically, very, often, almost, as it were, in one sense, a regular, so to say, in name only, really, pseudo-*, etc.

Brown/Levinson (1987: 145) "a particle, word or phrase that modifies the degree of membership of a predicate or a noun phrase in a set; it says of that membership that it is partial or true only in certain respects, or that it is more true and complete than perhaps might be expected".

Ventola/Mauranen (1990): Finns writing in English showed the tendency to stick to a few 'safe' expressions of epistemic modality, had less variation in the expressions than did native speakers of English, i.e. they did not behave in a native-like manner

→ def.: hedging = down-(up)-scaling author commitment (stance)

Discourses Genres **Functions&Forms** Outlook: projects Case study: verbs of perception 7/10

Hypotheses : spec -> pop

- fewer hedges, more boosters?
- more metaphors
- fewer domain-specific features
 - lexicon less specific, more modification = less lexical - more syntactic complexity

Discourses Genres Functions&Forms **Outlook:** projects Case study: V perception 8/10

Outlook: why EAP projects?

- combines corpus-, socio- & cognitive linguistics
- combines practical & theoretical aspects
 - theory: an expanding debate of lingua franca English
 - practise: better form – better marks?
- part of language services
 - life-after-university

Discourses Genres Functions&Forms **Outlook:** projects Case study: V perception 9/10

Outlook: EAP Projects

```

graph TD
    RD[research discourse] --> ID[instructional discourse]
    RD --> PD[popular discourse]
    ID --> SD[student discourse]
    RD --- S1((SPACE1))
    RD --- S2((SPACE2))
    ID --- CH((China))
    SD --- BR((Brno))
  
```

http://www.tu-chemnitz.de/engl/engl/ling/SPACE.php

CHEMNITZ UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

Department English Language and Linguistics

SPACE Corpus Homepage

Corpus files - raw Corpus files - tagged

- Complete.zip
- popPhys.zip
- asPhys.zip
- popBio.zip
- adBio.zip
- Complete tagged.zip
- popPhys tagged.zip
- asPhys tagged.zip
- popBio tagged.zip
- adBio tagged.zip

ComplexAna Hedges

- Download ComplexAna
- ComplexAna scores table
- hedge taglist.pdf
- hedgetagged docs + color markup
- hedgetagged raw.txt

Miscellaneous Presentations and papers

- table collection.pdf
- work schedule
- presentation Nitra 2007
- presentation Lods 2007
- presentation Plzen 2007
- presentation Cáceres 2008
- presentation Lisbon 2008

Sie sind hier: FOSwiki > English Web > EnglishEAP (04 Jun 2009, AnneMessner)

Survey English for Academic Purposes

1. Special features of this approach

- 1.1. [A genre-based approach](#)
- 1.2. [A discourse-community approach](#)
- 1.3. [A functional-linguistic approach](#)

2. A critical analysis of EAP texts

- 2.1. A critical analysis of student writing
 - [EnglishMasterTheses](#)
- 2.2. A critical analysis of academic writing: editorial review of a journal article
- 2.3. A critical analysis of academic writing: abstract for a conference presentation
- 2.4. A critical analysis of academic writing: abstract for a PhD thesis
- 2.5. A critical analysis of academic writing: a review article

Homework:

1) Correct and comment an abstract from this conference
<http://www.tu-chemnitz.de/engl/euroschubert/voand/leu/epel/abstracts.php>

2) Write a 2-page review of a linguistic book.

3. Language features of Academic Writing

- 3.1. [Argumentation structure and information processing](#)
- 3.2. [Cohesion and coherence](#)
- 3.3. [Hedging and author involvement/commitment](#)