Register, Genre, and Style

This book describes the most important kinds of texts in English and introduces the methodological techniques used to analyze them. Three analytical approaches are introduced and compared, describing a wide range of texts from the perspectives of register, genre, and style.

The primary focus of the book is on the analysis of registers. Part 1 introduces an analytical framework for studying registers, genre conventions, and styles. Part 2 provides detailed descriptions of particular text varieties in English, including spoken interpersonal varieties (conversation, university office hours, service encounters), written varieties (newspapers, academic prose, fiction), and emerging electronic varieties (e-mail, internet forums, text messages). Finally, Part 3 introduces advanced analytical approaches using corpora, and discusses theoretical concerns, such as the place of register studies in linguistics, and practical applications of register analysis. Each chapter ends with three types of activities: reflection and review activities, analysis activities, and larger project ideas.

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Contents

	Acknowledgements				
1	Regi	sters, genres, and styles: fundamental			
	_	eties of language	1		
	1.1	Text varieties in your daily life	1		
	1.2	Texts, varieties, registers, and dialects	4		
	1.3	Registers and register analysis: an overview	6		
	1.4	Different perspectives on text varieties:			
		register, genre, style	15		
	1.5	Register/genre variation as a linguistic universal	23		
	1.6	Overview of the book	25		
Pa	art I	Analytical framework			
2	Desc	ribing the situational characteristics of registers			
	and	genres	31		
	2.1	Introduction	31		
	2.2	Issues in the identification of registers and genres	31		
	2.3	A framework for situational analysis	36		
	2.4	Applying the situational analytical framework in a register study	47		
3	Ana	yzing linguistic features and their functions	50		
	3.1	Introduction	50		
	3.2	Fundamental issues for the linguistic analysis of registers	51		
	3.3	Conducting quantitative analyses	58		
	3.4	Deciding on the linguistic features to investigate	63		
	3.5	Functional interpretations	64		
	3.6	Textual conventions: the genre perspective	69		
	3.7	Pervasive linguistic features that are not directly functional: the			
		style perspective	71		
	3.8	Embedded registers and genres	72		
	3.9	A short introduction to corpus linguistics	73		
	3.10	Small-scale versus large-scale register analyses	74		
Pa	art II	Detailed descriptions of registers, genres, and styles			
4	Inter	rpersonal spoken registers	85		
	4.1	Introduction	85		
	4.2	Conversation	86		

	Cont	ents	
	4.3	University office hours	96
	4.4	Service encounters	102
	4.5	Conclusion	105
5	Wri	tten registers, genres, and styles	109
v	5.1	Introduction	109
	5.2	Situational characteristics of newspaper writing and academic	109
	5.2	prose	110
	5.3	Linguistic features in newspaper writing and	110
	5.5	academic prose	114
	5.4	Variation within the general registers	124
	5.5	More specific subregisters: research article sections	129
	5.6	Research articles from a genre perspective	131
	5.0 5.7	Variation in fiction due to style	132
	5.8	Conclusion	132
	5.0	Conclusion	157
6	Hist	orical evolution of registers, genres, and styles	143
	6.1	Introduction	143
	6.2	Historical change I: the fictional novel	144
	6.3	Historical change II: the scientific research article	157
	6.4	Historical change in the patterns of register variation	166
7	Reg	isters and genres in electronic communication	177
	7.1	Introduction: new technology and new registers	177
	7.2	Individual e-mail messages	178
	7.3	E-forum postings	190
	7.4	Text messages	199
	7.5	Chapter summary	208
Pa	art II	Larger theoretical issues	
8	Mul	tidimensional patterns of register variation	215
U	8.1	Comparing multiple registers	215
	8.2	Introduction to multidimensional analysis	223
	8.3	MD analysis of university spoken and written registers	226
	8.4	Summary and conclusion	245
9	-	ister studies in context	253
	9.1	Register studies in the broader context of linguistics	253
	9.2	Register variation in languages other than English	256
	9.3	Speech and writing	260
	9.4	Register variation and sociolinguistics	264
	9.5	Register studies in the broader context of the world	267
	App	endix A Annotation of major register/genre studies	
		(by Federica Barbieri)	271
		•	296
		•	
	•	rences	315
	Inde	X .	339

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