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Professional Discourse

Using a wide range of professional genres such as research papers, business reports, performance commentaries, guidebooks and legal documents, this study focuses on the discourse of professional writing, employing analytic paradigms from systemic-functional linguistics, pragmatics, text analysis, sociology and anthropological linguistics. Kenneth Kong argues that while professions use different sets of practices, their use of language displays many universals. This is demonstrated through the analysis of data from a broad cross-section of professional settings such as medicine, law, business, mass media and engineering. This examination of professional discourse, and its important role in society, will be of interest to researchers in applied linguistics, to professionals who want to understand the role of language in their work, and to teachers of English for specific purposes.

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Dedicated to the memory of my mother, Yip Yuk Chun
(1929–2006), whose inspiration and love never end.

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Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	<i>page</i> x
<i>List of tables</i>	xii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xiv
1 Introduction	1
What is professional discourse?	2
Social constructionism and social practice	4
Discourse, socialization and identity	5
Indexicality, reflexivity and performativity	8
Some characteristics of professional discourse	9
Why does professional discourse vary from situation to situation and across domains?	20
Who is the intended audience of this book?	26
How is the book organized?	26
Part I Conceptual issues	
2 Profession as a symbolic community: the different dimensions of professional discourse	35
Discourse communities	37
Profession's struggle for hegemony	38
Shared functions instead of shared goals	44
Community as defined by activities instead of language conventions	46
Role of knowledge in professions	47
Conclusion	50
Part II Linguistic realizations	
3 Ideology in professional discourse	55
What is ideology, and what are its functions in professional discourse?	56
Cognitive dimensions of ideology	56
Social dimensions of ideology	58
Representational dimensions of ideology	60
Realizations of ideologies in professional discourse	62
Participants	62
Inclusion versus exclusion	62
	vii

viii	Contents	
	Pronoun versus noun	63
	Passivization	64
	Personalization versus impersonalization	64
	Categorization	65
	Nominalization	65
	Attributed versus non-attributed	65
	Participants: a case study	66
	Circumstantial adjuncts	74
	Circumstantial adjuncts: a case study	76
	Process analysis	79
	Action processes	80
	Mental processes	80
	Relational processes	81
	Verbal processes	82
	Process analysis: a case study	83
	Conclusion	88
4	Communicative competence in the professional workplace: an identity-based perspective	91
	Introduction	91
	What is communicative competence?	93
	What does communication in the contemporary workplace involve?	97
	The relationship between language and identity	100
	Identity roles and identity virtues	103
	How can identity roles be analysed in professional discourse?	106
	Lawyer's letter of advice	113
	Conclusion	118
5	A model of interpersonal negotiation in professional discourse	123
	Transactional versus interactional functions of discourse: a false dichotomy	123
	Problems with the current models of interpersonal negotiation	124
	Stances and professional identity	130
	A model of linguistic indexicals in interpersonal negotiation	134
	Confrontational discourse in academia	136
	Conclusion	143
Part III Functions and global patterns		
6	Speech functions	149
	Words and meanings: what is pragmatics?	149
	Speech act theory	150
	The co-operative principle	152
	Applications of speech act theory to professional discourse research	154
	Directives	155
	Representatives	157
	Expressives	158
	Commissives	159
	Declarations	160
	Applications of the co-operative principle to professional discourse research	161
	Conclusion	164

Contents	ix
7 Intertextuality	167
Types of professional communication	168
Recontextualization and intertextuality	169
How can intertextuality be studied? A proposed model	171
Recontextualization of academic voices in institutional discourse	173
Recontextualization of institutional voices in academic discourse	176
Recontextualization of business voices in institutional discourse	178
Conclusion	179
8 Genre and text patterning	185
What is a genre?	185
How can genres be classified?	192
A more dynamic model proposed	193
Promotional genre	202
Case study: business proposal versus welfare funding proposal	205
Regulatory genre	211
Case study: legal terms and conditions in a bank product application	214
Negotiation genre	219
Case study: negotiation genre in business and office settings	224
Reporting genre	226
Case study: fund manager's report	231
Conclusion	237
9 Multimodality	242
Introduction	242
Word-image connections	244
The proposed taxonomy	247
Logico-semantic relations	247
Symmetry/asymmetry of relations	249
Spatial arrangement of relations	251
Meta-functions of relations	255
Evaluative nature of relations	257
Metaphorical nature of relations	259
An example of analysis	263
Logico-semantic relations and their hierarchical representation and meta-functional distribution	263
Spatial arrangement and evaluative and metaphorical functions	266
Conclusion	268
10 Conclusion	273
Developments in professional discourse studies	274
Future changes in professional discourse	278
<i>Author index</i>	283
<i>Subject index</i>	287

Figures

2.1 Different dimensions of professional discourse	page 50
3.1 Rhetorical analysis of an extract from an English-language legal ordinance	77
3.2 Rhetorical analysis of an extract from a Chinese legal ordinance	78
5.1 Total distribution of interpersonal indexicals in three confrontational articles	139
5.2 Detailed distribution of indexicals of expressing	139
5.3 Detailed distribution of indexicals of reasoning	141
5.4 Detailed distribution of indexicals of relating	141
5.5 Detailed distribution of indexicals of distancing	143
7.1 Degrees of dialogism and explicitness in assertions and assumptions. Source: based on Fairclough (2003)	172
7.2 The level of intertextual implicitness/explicitness of genres in academic settings	180
8.1 Dynamic relationship among generic modes, goals and moves	202
8.2 Colonization of academic, professional and other institutionalized genres. Source: Bhatia (2004: 90)	203
8.3 Hourglass pattern of a research report. Source: Hill et al. (1982: 335)	229
9.1 Logico-semantic relations between words and images	250
9.2 Diagrammatic illustrations of various symmetrical and asymmetrical patterns	252
9.3 Example of a prototypical left–right and <i>given–new</i> arrangement. Source: Leica Camera AG (2012), <i>Leica D-Lux 6 Instructions</i> , p. 9	254
9.4 An example in which the <i>given–new</i> pattern is violated. Source: D&M Holdings Inc. (2010), <i>DenonS-5BD Blu-Ray Disc/DVD Surround Receiver Owner’s Manual</i> , p. 10	255
9.5 Meta-functions of word–image relations	256
9.6 An example of an evaluative relation between a picture and words. Source: <i>Eastern Europe</i> (2001: colour plate at 640).	

List of figures	xi
Reproduced with permission from <i>Eastern Europe</i> , 6th edition, © Lonely Planet Press	258
9.7 Classification of evaluative types	259
9.8 An example of metaphorical relation. Source: adapted from Horn (1998: 119). © Robert Horn	261
9.9 A diagrammatic representation of Figure 9.8	261
9.10 Network of relations	262
9.11 The logico-semantic relations of Appendix 9.1	264
9.12 The detailed diagrammatic representations of Block 3	265

Tables

1.1 Relationship between purpose and structure. Source: adapted from Hyland (2004) and Unsworth (2001)	<i>page</i> 23
3.1 Participant exclusion	70
3.2 Active versus passive voice	70
3.3 Nominalization	70
3.4 Use of animate versus inanimate subject	72
3.5 Participant categorization	72
3.6 Structure of nominals	73
3.7 Process types: their meaning and participants involved	82
3.8 Distribution of process types	86
4.1 Three simultaneous types of subject-positioning. Source: Ivanic and Camps (2001: 11)	108
4.2 Examples of linking devices. Source: Fairclough (2003: 89)	112
4.3 Different identity roles of a lawyer as exhibited in a letter of advice	117
5.1 Interpersonal indexicals in professional discourse	137
5.2 Total distribution of interpersonal indexicals in three confrontational articles	139
6.1 Sequencing of accounts in different relationships	156
6.2 Formal and informal language use by native and non-native English speakers	158
6.3 Inclusion of personal details by non-native English speakers	158
6.4 Use of initiated and uninitiated commissives by western and Chinese participants. Source: adapted from Bilbow (2002: 301)	160
6.5 Expectations of the native English speakers in the adjustment letter. Source: adapted from White (2001: 66)	161
6.6 Expectations of the Polish speaker in the adjustment letter. Source: adapted from White (2001: 67)	161
7.1 Frequency of occurrence of modals in Notes to Contributors	177

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-02526-4 - Professional Discourse
Kenneth Kong
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

List of tables	xiii
8.1 Structure of a narrative in systemic functional linguistics. Source: Martin and Rose (2008: 82)	189
8.2 Narrative genre across settings	195
8.3 Range of tropes in scam letters. Source: adapted from Blommaert (2010: 122)	199
8.4 A comparison of moves in business proposals and welfare funding proposals	208
8.5 English and Chinese request letters in comparison. Source: adapted from Kong (1998)	223
9.1 Distribution and percentage of logico-semantic relations	265

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