
Linguistic patterns of textual organization across registers

Stephanie Evert¹, Stella Neumann² & Gerold Schneider³

¹FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, ²RWTH Aachen University, ³University of Zurich

stephanie.evert@fau.de, stella.neumann@ifaar.rwth-aachen.de,

gerold.schneider@uzh.ch

Register refers to linguistic patterns associated with particular situational contexts (Seoane & Biber 2021, 2) where the linguistic patterns are clusters of features having a greater-than random likelihood to co-occur. In register studies, the focus has traditionally been on the aggregative analysis of lexico-grammatical features in entire texts, thus neglecting the dynamic unfolding of situations – linked by the above definition to register – over time. However, the situational characterization of a text as unfolding over time should not only allow predictions about characteristic linguistic features but also when these features can be expected to occur in the unfolding text. In linguistics, this sequential character has been mainly linked to genre, defined as a goal-oriented activity enacting social practices of a culture that exhibits a recurring structure in the form of stages or moves (Swales, 1990, Martin & Rose 2008). These approaches, however, tend to neglect the well-documented linguistic variation across registers, as well as recent progress in large language models (LLM), which have been applied to text structure segmentation (e.g. Braud et al. 2023).

This workshop aims to bring together research from all three fields – register, genre, and computational linguistics – to explore the interface between them and the possibility of integrating the temporal dynamics of textual organization with the situational patterning reflected in register.

References: • Braud, C., Liu, Y. J., Metheniti, E., Muller, P., Rivière, L., Rutherford, A. & A. Zeldes (2023). The DISRPT 2023 shared task on elementary discourse unit segmentation, connective detection, and relation classification. In *Proceedings of the 3rd Shared Task on Discourse Relation Parsing and Treebanking* (DISRPT 2023). Toronto: Association for Computational Linguistics, 1–21. • Martin, J. R., & D. Rose (2008). *Genre relations: Mapping culture*. Equinox. • Seoane, E. & D. Biber (2021). A corpus-based approach to register variation. In E. Seoane & D. Biber (eds.), *Corpus-based approaches to register variation*. Amsterdam: Benjamins, 2–17. • Swales, J. M. (1990). *Genre Analysis*. English in Academic and Research Settings. Cambridge: CUP.