

BET*WIXT*

Studies in Linguistics and Communication

SERIES EDITOR:

Giuseppe **BALIRANO**

Università degli Studi di Napoli L'*Orientale* (IT)

ADVISORY BOARD:

Paul **BAKER**

Lancaster University (UK)

Susan **BASSNETT**

University of Warwick (UK)

Vijay Kumar **BHATIA**

Macquarie University (Australia)

Giuditta **CALIENDO**

Université de Lille (FR)

Rudy **LOOCK**

Université de Lille (FR)

Catalina **FUENTES RODRÍGUEZ**

Universidad de Sevilla (ES)

Bettina **MIGGE**

University College Dublin (IE)

Tommaso **MILANI**

Göteborgs Universitet (SE)

Kay **O'HALLORAN**

Curtin University, Perth (Australia)

Corinne **OSTER**

Université de Lille (FR)

Oriana **PALUSCI**

Università di Napoli L'*Orientale*

Paul **SAMBRE**

KU Leuven (BE)

Maria Grazia **SINDONI**

Università di Messina (IT)

Girolamo **TESSUTO**

Università della Campania *Luigi Vanvitelli* (IT)

GIROLAMO TESSUTO

ENGLISH FOR MEDICINE

*A discourse- and genre-based approach
to specialised communication*

PAOLO 
LOFFREDO

Proprietà letteraria riservata

Finito di stampare nel mese di gennaio 2020

ISBN 978-88-32193-29-9

ISSN 2611-1349 (collana)

PAOLO
LOFFREDO



© 2020 **Paolo Loffredo** Editore s.r.l.

Via Ugo Palermo, 6 - 80128 Napoli

www.loffredoeditore.com

paololoffredoeditore@gmail.com

CONTENTS

Preface	9
SECTION ONE	
CHAPTER I	
DISCOURSE ANALYSIS: CONCEPTS AND USES IN MEDICAL DISCOURSE CONTEXTS	13
1.1 Discourse analysis: definition	13
1.1.1 Discourse simply defined	14
1.2 Broadening the scope of language and discourse as social practice: medicine and health	15
1.3 Discourse analysis: varieties and methods	16
1.4 The importance of discourse analysis in medicine- and health-related contexts	19
1.4.1 Interactional socio-cultural contexts: doctor-patient communication	22
1.5 Studies of medical and healthcare discourses: a short review	24
<i>Reflection and review</i>	26
<i>Extension: deciding what to look for and taking notes</i>	26
<i>Self-assessment questions</i>	26
CHAPTER II	
ESP AND EMP: CHARACTERISTICS OF ENGLISH MEDICAL LANGUAGE & PLAIN LANGUAGE IN HEALTHCARE	31
2.1 Language for Specific purposes (LSP) and English for Specific Purposes (ESP)	31
2.1.1 The scope of English for Specific Purposes (ESP)	31
2.1.2 More reasons for ESP	32
2.1.3 ESP as an inclusive concept	32
2.2 The global context of English	32
2.2.1 The use of English across circles	33
2.2.2 The global context of English as a <i>lingua franca</i> of international medical communication	33

CONTENTS

2.3	Characteristics of medical English language: lexis and grammar	34
	<i>Linguistic sources of medical English terms</i>	34
	<i>Derivation</i>	36
	<i>Compounds</i>	38
	<i>Acronyms and initialisms</i>	38
	<i>Monoreferentiality and denotation</i>	38
	<i>Synonymy</i>	39
	<i>Eponymy</i>	39
	<i>Metaphors</i>	40
	<i>Density of information: noun phrases</i>	40
	<i>Impersonal v. personal structures and passivisation</i>	41
	<i>Verb tenses</i>	42
	<i>Reporting verbs</i>	44
2.4	Plain language in healthcare	45
	<i>Reflection and review</i>	48
	<i>Practical applications</i>	48

CHAPTER III

	GENRE-BASED APPROACHES TO ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES & ENGLISH FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES	49
3.1	Understanding genre within different traditions of genre studies	49
3.2	ESP and genre studies: discourse community, communicative purpose, move	52
	<i>Academic genres</i>	52
	<i>Professional genres</i>	53
3.2.1	Understanding medical genres for their communicative purposes: examples	54
3.3	Colonization of genres: appropriation and interdiscursivity in Critical Genre Analysis	55
3.4	Variation in discourse and genre across academic disciplines	55
3.4.1	English for Medical Purposes: the discourse and genre of medical research	56
3.4.2	How language works in medical research writing	57
3.5	Metadiscourse in English for Medical Purposes	58
3.6	Interdisciplinarity in English for Medical Purposes	60
3.7	Genre and medical translation	61
	<i>Reflection and review</i>	63

CONTENTS

SECTION TWO

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSING THE DISCOURSE STRUCTURE OF ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL GENRES FOR COMMUNICATIVE MOVES AND LANGUAGE USE	67
<i>Reviewing genre</i>	67
<i>What are you guided through</i>	68
<i>The medical research article abstract: what is it?</i>	68
<i>Types of abstract</i>	68
<i>Structure</i>	68
<i>Language use</i>	70
<i>The medical research article introduction: what is it?</i>	71
<i>Structure</i>	71
<i>Language use</i>	72
<i>The medical research article: what is it?</i>	76
<i>Other sub-genres</i>	77
<i>Structure</i>	77
<i>Language use</i>	80
<i>The medical case report: what is it?</i>	80
<i>Case report vs. research article</i>	81
<i>Structure</i>	81
<i>Language use</i>	87
<i>Reflection and review</i>	89

CHAPTER V

PUTTING ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL GENRES INTO REAL CONTEXTS OF EMP PRACTICE	91
5.1 The Medical Research Article <i>Abstract</i>	91
<i>Task 1: Analysing rhetorical moves</i>	91
5.2 The Medical Research Article <i>Introduction</i>	97
<i>Task 2.1: Analysing rhetorical moves and metadiscourse</i>	97
<i>Task 2.2: Sentence fragments</i>	104
5.3 The Medical <i>Abstract</i> and <i>Research Article</i> put together	106
<i>Task 3.1: Identifying fragments of abstract and research article for content and structure</i>	106
<i>Task 3.2: Matching</i>	109

CONTENTS

<i>Task 3.3: Preparing your research: PowerPoint poster presentation</i>	110
5.4 <i>The Medical Case Report</i>	111
<i>Task 4.1: Analysing genre for language use</i>	111
<i>Task 4.2: Reading comprehension</i>	117
<i>Task 4.3: Keeping your move knowledge fresh</i>	118
REFERENCES	119
<i>Index</i>	127

PREFACE

Purpose and content

English for Medicine: A Discourse- and Genre-based Approach to Specialised Communication is a far-from-ordinary, descriptive resource book for student's use that brings the vast area of discourse and genre analysis relevant to English for Medical Purposes (EMPs) and guides readers in gradually putting theory into practice. Divided into five chapters, the book is directed at the level of English for Specific Purposes (ESP) and assumes the learner will have an intermediate (B) and above-level (C) English competency and skills. It is a source reference for non-native under/postgraduate students of Medicine and Nursing as well as medical and healthcare professionals who wish to study theoretical and practical topic areas through the medium of English.

This book provides only a brief orientation to the analytical approaches to and methodological tools used in discourse and genre analysis, and how the academic and professional goals of English for Medical Purposes may be defined in theory and practice. In a work of limited scope such as the current book, it would be impossible to present all approaches to discourse analysis and the ways they help the identification and characterisation of discourses and genres within medical and healthcare contexts. Nevertheless, I have chosen several perspectives and applications that are particularly relevant for the principal aim of this book.

The book offers students self-contained stages for the study of the key concepts of a specific topic alongside the major medical discourse genres used within the academic and professional contexts of medicine – the academic research article *abstract*, the academic research article *introduction*, the full academic *research article*, and the *case report*. Topics are presented through referenced sources and lucid, readable exposition and format, and are extended and intertwined with the student's understanding reinforced by chapter reviews, self-assessment questions, and practical applications at the end of chapters 1 to 4. Chapter 5 presents students with reading and writing tasks of genre materials, offering the chance to try out their ideas in practical contexts using their acquired knowledge. In this way, the five chapters enable students to engage with a variety of theoretical and

PREFACE

practical topics, while also developing the knowledge they need in Medical English usage in line with the requirements of the discipline.

The emphasis given in this book on socially and community-defined genres explains why discourse analysis is relevant in today's teaching and learning of English for Medical Purposes and reflects the need to enrich the student's competencies and skills in academic and professional medical communication. For the students to take full advantage of the theoretical and practical materials included in this book, a synthesis of research-informed perspectives on the areas of ESP/EAP encourages students to retrieve information from a selection of the most important discourse genres, and thereafter carry out activities in the real-world contexts of academic and professional medical communication.

The Author