

Core and non-core academic language: mapping the disciplinary territories

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It is widely agreed by the EAP literature that academic writing in English as an Additional Language (EAL) is complex and multidimensional. The aim of this talk is to better understand its complexity and multidimensionality by looking at two of its multiple dimensions. The first dimension is the one nurturing from linguistic theory and acquisition. The second dimension is the one addressing disciplinarity in academic writing. I will approach both dimensions through the analysis of EAL writers' use of formulaic language.

Academic formulas are recurrent lexico-grammatical patterns (word combinations) that occur significantly in written academic discourse. In the context of Second Language Acquisition, formulaic language has been described as crucial for accurate, appropriate, and fluent language use. This also seems an apposite description in the context of acquisition of EAL writing skills. Use of academic formulas is a reported feature of advanced academic writing and its usage is expected by the academic discourse community.

In this talk I will use corpus-driven analysis of academic formulas in texts spanning academic disciplines to compare formulaic language usage by scholars from Anglophone-based contexts and EAL scholars. I will describe core (common) and non-core (different) formulaic patterns in the two sets of texts and raise issues regarding those word combinations which do not comply with the Anglophone norm and, therefore, sound 'unnatural' and issues regarding why some disciplines may sound more 'unnatural' than others.

Biodata

Carmen Pérez-Llantada is Professor of English Linguistics in the Department of English and German Studies at the University of Zaragoza (Spain), where she teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses in SLA, intercultural communication and English for research and publication purposes. She is currently involved in the projects 'English as a Lingua Franca in Specialized Discourses' (funded by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness) and 'English in Europe: Opportunity or Threat' (funded by the Leverhulme Trust, UK, <<http://www.englishineurope.postgrad.shef.ac.uk/>>). Her research interests include genre analysis, socio-rhetoric and composition and English for international and intercultural communication. She is the author of *Scientific Discourse and the Rhetoric of Globalization. The Impact of Culture and Language* (Continuum, 2012) and co-editor of *English as a Scientific and Research Language. Debates and Discourses* (Walter de Gruyter, 2015). She is editor-in-chief of *Ibérica*, the journal of the European Association of Languages for Specific Purposes.