

Carmen Dayrell

Writing Research Papers in English



IME / USP
July 2013



Research English

A light gray world map is centered in the background of the slide. The map shows the outlines of continents and countries. A dark blue vertical bar is on the left side of the slide.

“We follow certain social conventions for organizing messages”

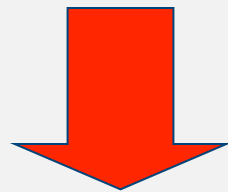
(Hyland 2004:6)

A thick red arrow points downwards from the citation text to the 'Academic Genre' text.

Academic Genre

Non-Native Speakers of English

- Master the lexical and syntactical features of the target language
- Be aware of **cultural differences**



genre practices, expectations and values may vary across languages

Research English

**The responsibility for clarity is
on the writer rather than on the
reader**

(Swales and Feak 2000: 16)

Research English

- have stricter conventions for sections and subsections
- point to “gaps” or “weakness” in prior literature
- present reasonable lexical variation
- use short sentences with less complicated grammar

Research English

“authors are expected to **take positions** and express points of view in **acceptable ways**”

(Milton and Hyland 1999:147)



Textual Patterns

Textual Patterns

- *as a result of*
- *the present study proposes*
 - *it is argued that*
 - *the results show that*
 - *we find that*
- *this paper concludes with*

Why are textual patterns of interest?

Textual patterns **facilitate** communication by making language more **predictable** and **reducing** processing time.

(Nattinger and DeCarrico 1992, Hyland 2008a, 2008b)

Why are textual patterns of interest?

- **Expert writers** are aware of the textual patterns most frequently employed by their discourse community and hence **make regular use of them**
- The **absence** of such patterns may be an indication of lack of fluency of a **newcomer**

(Nattinger and DeCarrico 1992, Hyland 2008a, 2008b)

Concluding section

Final Considerations

Concluding section

John Swales - *Research Genres* (2004:274)

“I have noted for example that **Brazilian** applied linguists are rather fond of a final section heading that translates literally as **Final Considerations.**”

“And I confess that I have adopted this myself on occasion.”

A grayscale world map is centered on the slide, showing the outlines of continents and countries. The map is set against a background of a fine grid of small squares. A dark blue vertical bar is on the left side of the slide.

Abstracts

Abstracts: Schematic Structure

Background

Purpose

Methods / Materials

Results / Findings

Discussion / Conclusions / Implications /
Recommendations

A grayscale world map is centered in the background of the slide. The map shows the outlines of continents and is overlaid with a grid of small squares. The word "Purpose" is written in a large, blue, sans-serif font over the map.

Purpose

Handout: Task 1

Task (1): Purpose

1) We introduce multi-state previewing tools to facilitate the proce ...(Comp)

In this paper we investigate a canonical weakening of the notion ... (Comp)

Using a micromagnetics calculation, **we explore** the properties of ... (Phys)

Task (1): Purpose

2) This paper describes a project to use the rodin tool-set to perf ... (Comp)

This study examines the record of high-palaeoflow phases in rive ... (Earth)

This article addresses the desktop search problem by considering ... (Comp)

Task (1): Purpose

3) The purpose of this study is to understand observed behavior and ... (Comp)

The objective of this study was to determine the effects of the ... (phys)

The aim of the article is to provide a unified and integrated pi ... (Comp)

Task (1): Purpose

4) The goal is to find the same fine-scale, chaotic mixing in the i ... (Comp)

The purpose here is to explore some abstractions that help read ... (Comp)

Our aim was to determine the mechanism of espf/snx9-induced mem ... (Biol)

Task (1): Purpose

5) A suite of ... methods ... was used **to examine** the mineralogy of ... (Earth)

... spectroscopy was used **to study** the spectral linewidth and fr ... (phys)

To investigate the trade-offs between ..., we compare, analytica ... (Comp)

Task (1): Purpose

6) Low- and high-field magnetotransport measurements o ... **are reported.**(phys)

Models for compensation of measurement overhead in par **are described.**(Comp)

... mtdna heteroplasmy **was studied** in oocytes and placenta of wo ... (Biol)

Purpose

What is the **preferred pattern** in your
research field?

A grayscale world map is centered on the slide, showing the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. The map is rendered in a low-contrast, dotted style. A dark blue vertical bar is on the left side of the slide.

Purpose

Handout: Task 2

Task (2): Purposive verb

1) We **introduce** multi-state previewing tools to facilitate the proce ...(Comp)

In this paper we **investigate** a canonical weakening of the notion ... (Comp)

Using a micromagnetics calculation, we **explore** the properties of ... (Phys)

Task (2): Purposive verb

2) This paper **describes** a project to use the rodin tool-set to perf ... (Comp)

This study **examines** the record of high-palaeoflow phases in rive ... (Earth)

This article **addresses** the desktop search problem by considering ... (Comp)

Task (2): Purposive verb

3) The purpose of this study is to **understand** observed behavior and ... (Comp)

The objective of this study was to **determine** the effects of the ... (phys)

The aim of the article is to **provide** a unified and integrated pi ... (Comp)

Task (2): Purposive verb

4) The goal is to **find** the same fine-scale, chaotic mixing in the i ... (Comp)

The purpose here is to **explore** some abstractions that help read ... (Comp)

Our aim was to **determine** the mechanism of espf/snx9-induced mem ... (Biol)

Task (2): Purposive verb

5) A suite of ... methods ... was used to **examine** the mineralogy of ... (Earth)

... spectroscopy was used to **study** the spectral linewidth and fr ... (phys)

To **investigate** the trade-offs between ..., we compare, analytica ... (Comp)

Task (2): Purposive verb

6) Low- and high-field magnetotransport measurements o ... are **reported**.(phys)

Models for compensation of measurement overhead in par are **described**.(Comp)

... mtdna heteroplasmy was **studied** in oocytes and placenta of wo ... (Biol)

Task (3) - Purposive verbs

- What are the **most typical purposive verbs** in your research field?
- What is the **preferred verb tense** for the purpose sentence?

A light gray world map is centered on the slide, showing the outlines of continents and countries. The map is semi-transparent and serves as a background for the text.

Result

Handout: Task 4

Task (4): Result Patterns

- 1) In this paper, we demonstrate that current procedures do not produce results which accurately characterize ...(Comp)

Task (4): Result Patterns

- 1) **In this paper, we demonstrate that** current procedures do not produce results which accurately characterize ...(Comp)

Task (4): Result Patterns

- 2) Our data indicate that this reduction in *aldh1a2* protein is an early event in human prostate cancer. (Pharm)

Task (4): Result Patterns

2) Our data indicate that this reduction in aldh1a2 protein is an early event in human prostate cancer. (Pharm)

Task (4): Result Patterns

- 3) These results show that dynamical processes can have a significant impact on the instantaneous nutrient distributions. (Earth)

Task (4): Result Patterns

- 3) These results show that** dynamical processes can have a significant impact on the instantaneous nutrient distributions. (Earth)

Task (4): Result Patterns

- 4) It is found that interconnects with large latency and low bandwidth are major bottlenecks for performance scalability ...
(Comp)

Task (4): Result Patterns

- 4) **It is found that** interconnects with large latency and low bandwidth are major bottlenecks for performance scalability ...
(Comp)

Task (4): Result Patterns

- 5) The paper shows experimentally that when preemption is ... lc substantially outperforms both ... (comp)

Task (4): Result Patterns

5) **The paper shows** experimentally **that** when preemption is ... lc substantially outperforms both ... (comp)

Task (4): Result Patterns

- 6) We present results from both simulations and our real implementation, which clearly show that our active system is a feasible approach ...(Comp)

Task (4): Result Patterns

6) **We present results from** both simulations and our real implementation, **which clearly show that** our active system is a feasible approach ...(Comp)

Task (4): Result Patterns

- 7) Measurements on a full implementation in linux indicate that trickles achieves performance comparable to ...(Comp)

Task (4): Result Patterns

- 7) Measurements on a full implementation in linux **indicate that** trickles achieves performance comparable to ...(Comp)

Task (4): Result Patterns

- 8) The cl_s is found to vanish when the mean square radius is twice as great transversely as longitudinally. (phys)

Task (4): Result Patterns

- 8) The cl_s **is found to** vanish when the mean square radius **is twice as great** transversely as longitudinally. (phys)

Task (4): Result Patterns

- 9) In-depth examinations of the experimental results in combination with semi-empirical models suggest that equilibrium charge state distributions are ... (Phys)

Task (4): Result Patterns

- 9) In-depth examinations of the experimental results in combination with semi-empirical models **suggest that** equilibrium charge state distributions are ... (Phys)

Task (4): Result Patterns

- 10) We found no evidence of a wave of excess cases corresponding to the peak of radioactive fallout from atmospheric weapons testing. (BioPh)

Task (4): Result Patterns

10) We found no evidence of a wave of excess cases corresponding to the peak of radioactive fallout from atmospheric weapons testing. (BioPh)

Task (4) - Results

- What is the **preferred pattern** in your research field?
- What are the most typical **'result' verbs**?

Abstracts



Handout: Task 6

<http://www.americancorpus.org/>

A light gray world map is centered on the slide, showing the continents of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. The map is overlaid on a background of small, light gray squares.

Contemporary Corpus of American English (COCA)

[http://
www.americancorpus.org/](http://www.americancorpus.org/)

CORPUS OF CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN ENGLISH

410 MILLION WORDS, 1990-2010

EMAIL

PASSWORD

(HELP) LOG IN

DISPLAY

LIST CHART KWIC COMPARE

NOW AVAILABLE: TOP 60,000 WORDS You can now download list

based on COCA data. You can
see you

SEARCH STRING

WORD(S)

COLLOCATES

POS LIST

Email: c_dayrell@yahoo.com
Password: 123

SECTIONS SHOW

1 IGNORE

SPOKEN
FICTION
MAGAZINE
NEWSPAPER
ACADEMIC

2 IGNORE

SPOKEN
FICTION
MAGAZINE
NEWSPAPER
ACADEMIC

SORTING AND LIMITS

SORTING

MINIMUM

CLICK TO SEE OPTIONS

[Help / information / contact](#)

[WHERE SHOULD I START?]

[COMPARE TO OTHER CORPORA / ARCHITECTURES]

The Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) is the largest freely-available corpus of English, and the only large and balanced corpus of American English. It was created by [Mark Davies of Brigham Young University](#) in 2008, and it is now used by *tens of thousands* of users every month (linguists, teachers, translators, and other researchers). COCA is also related to [other large corpora](#) that we have created or modified, including the [British National Corpus](#) (our architecture and interface), the 100 million word [TIME Corpus](#) (1920s-2000s), and the new 400 million word [Corpus of Historical American English](#) (COHA; 1810-2009).

The corpus contains more than 410 million words of text and is equally divided among spoken, fiction, popular magazines, newspapers, and academic texts. It includes 20 million words each year from 1990-2010 and the corpus is also updated once or twice a year (the most recent texts are from Summer 2010). Because of its design, it is perhaps the only corpus of English that is suitable for looking at [current, ongoing changes](#) in

<http://www.americancorpus.org/>

• By genre: comparisons between spoken, fiction, popular magazines, newspapers, and academic, or even between sub-genres (or

CORPUS OF CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN ENGLISH

410 MILLION WORDS, 1990-2010

DAYRELL_C +

RESULTS: COCA COHA TIME BNC

[history](#) | [lists](#) | [profile](#) | [logout](#)

DISPLAY [?](#)

LIST CHART KWIC COMPARE

SEARCH STRING [?](#)

WORD(S)

COLLOCATES 0 4

POS LIST [?](#)

[RANDOM](#)

SECTIONS SHOW [?](#)

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| | NEWSPAPER | | NEWSPAPER |
| | ACADEMIC | | ACADEMIC |

SORTING AND LIMITS [?](#)

SORTING

MINIMUM 3

CLICK TO SEE OPTIONS [?](#)

SEE CONTEXT: CL

help

[\[HELP...\]](#)

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1	2297	47239	4.86	5.26

3.656

help

KEYWORD IN CONTEXT (KWIC)

[Help / information / contact](#)

CLICK ON TITLE FOR MORE CONTEXT
SECTION: NO LIMITS

PAGE: << 1 / 23 >>
SAMPLE: 100 200 500 1000

1	2010	SPOK	NBC_MeetPress	the emergency room as their primary access point for health care. In order to reduce costs , we can cut to a
2	2010	SPOK	ABC_ThisWeek	it will be a popular bill, and it will be popular because it does reduce costs . And it's not just accounting gimmi
3	2010	SPOK	ABC_ThisWeek	from some of the private-sector savings. So the reality is it's going to reduce costs . That average Americans
4	2010	SPOK	NBC_MeetPress	's not that we don't care about people and we don't want to lower costs . This lost its focus. It got to -- there's
5	2010	SPOK	NBC_MeetPress	they're talking about the savings. It's necessary to do this, to reduce costs in the long run. And this Congress
6	2010	FIC	Bk:DaddyWantsTVSaturday	course, but I've heard that the mayor promised the Party that he'd cut costs sixty percent by reducing house
7	2010	MAG	AmericanSpectator	. He said the right reform was not to pass a mandate, but to lower costs . " The reason Americans don't have
8	2010	MAG	CountryLiving	that was well worth the expense. STILL, THE DUO FOUND inspired ways to cut costs . " We sent pine trees cle
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12	2010	MAG	TechReview	wide, that were difficult to manufacture and install. The company says it has cut costs by using smaller mirror
13	2010	MAG	TechReview	(die only one without any banner, photos, publications, orprofessionalrecruiter, to cut costs), I was astonishe

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Highlight all Match case

410 MILLION WORDS, 1990-20

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SECTIONS SHOW

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SORTING AND LIMITS

SORTING FREQUENCY

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KEYWORD IN CONTEXT (KWIC)

Help / information / contact

CLICK ON TITLE FOR MORE CONTEXT
SECTION: NO LIMITSPAGE: « < 1 / 23 > »
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x Find: job

 Highlight all
 Match case

410 MILLION WORDS, 1990-20

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WORD(S) [=reduce].[v*]

COLLOCATES costs 0 4

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SECTIONS SHOW

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| | NEWSPAPER | | NEWSPAPER |
| | ACADEMIC | | ACADEMIC |

SORTING AND LIMITS

SORTING FREQUENCY

MINIMUM MUTU 3

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KEYWORD IN CONTEXT (KWIC)

Help / information / contact

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x Find: job

 Highlight all
 Match case

Task 6

*Our data indicate that this reduction
in aldh1a2 protein is...*

**What other nouns could be used
in the position where “data”
occurs?**

410 MILLION WORDS, 1990-20

DISPLAY

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WORD(S)

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SECTIONS SHOW

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	FICTION		FICTION
	MAGAZINE		MAGAZINE
	NEWSPAPER		NEWSPAPER
	ACADEMIC		ACADEMIC

SORTING AND LIMITS

SORTING FREQUENCY

MINIMUM MUTUAL INFO 3

CLICK TO SEE OPTIONS

WORD(S) Our * indicate that

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KEYWORD IN CONTEXT (KWIC)

Help / information / contact

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 SAMPLE: 100 200 500 1000

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	SPOKEN		SPOKEN
	FICTION		FICTION
	MAGAZINE		MAGAZINE
	NEWSPAPER		NEWSPAPER
	ACADEMIC		ACADEMIC

SORTING AND LIMITS

SORTING FREQUENCY

MINIMUM MUTUAL INFO 3

CLICK TO SEE OPTIONS

WORD(S) Our * [indicate] that

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KEYWORD IN CONTEXT (KWIC)

Help / information / contact

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 SECTION: NO LIMITS

 PAGE: « < 1 / 23 > »
 SAMPLE: 100 200 500 1000

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x Find: job

 Highlight all
 Match case

Task 6

We found no evidence of a wave of excess cases corresponding.....

What adjectives would fit on the left of evidence?

410 MILLION WORDS, 1990-20

DISPLAY

 LIST
 CHART
 KWIC
 COMPARE

SEARCH STRING

WORD(S)

COLLOCATES costs 0 4

POS LIST

RANDOM

SEARCH

RESET

SECTIONS SHOW

1	IGNORE	2	IGNORE
	SPOKEN		SPOKEN
	FICTION		FICTION
	MAGAZINE		MAGAZINE
	NEWSPAPER		NEWSPAPER
	ACADEMIC		ACADEMIC

SORTING AND LIMITS

SORTING FREQUENCY

MINIMUM MUTUAL INFO 3

CLICK TO SEE OPTIONS

WORD(S) no * evidence that

COLLOCATES

POS LIST

KEYWORD IN CONTEXT (KWIC)

Help / information / contact

CLICK ON TITLE FOR MORE CONTEXT
SECTION: NO LIMITSPAGE: « < 1 / 23 > »
SAMPLE: 100 200 500 1000

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11	2010	MAG	TechReview	of packing DNA onto specially fabricated arrays with unprecedented density. The company aims to reduce co
12	2010	MAG	TechReview	wide, that were difficult to manufacture and install. The company says it has cut costs by using smaller mirro
13	2010	MAG	TechReview	(die only one without any banner, photos, publications, orprofessionalrecruiter, to cut costs), I was astonisher

x Find: job

 Highlight all
 Match case

410 MILLION WORDS, 1990-20

DISPLAY

 LIST
 CHART
 KWIC
 COMPARE

SEARCH STRING

WORD(S) [=reduce].[v*]

COLLOCATES costs 0 4

POS LIST

RANDOM

SEARCH

RESET

SECTIONS SHOW

1	IGNORE	2	IGNORE
	-----		-----
	SPOKEN		SPOKEN
	FICTION		FICTION
	MAGAZINE		MAGAZINE
	NEWSPAPER		NEWSPAPER
	ACADEMIC		ACADEMIC

SORTING AND LIMITS

SORTING FREQUENCY

MINIMUM MUTUAL INFO 3

CLICK TO SEE OPTIONS

WORD(S) evidence

COLLOCATES [*j]

1

0

POS LIST

KEYWORD IN CONTEXT (KWIC)

Help / information / contact

CLICK ON TITLE FOR MORE CONTEXT
SECTION: NO LIMITSPAGE: « < 1 / 23 > »
SAMPLE: 100 200 500 1000

1	2010	SPOK	NBC_MeetPress	the emergency room as their primary access point for health care. In order to reduce costs , we can cut to a
2	2010	SPOK	ABC_ThisWeek	it will be a popular bill, and it will be popular because it does reduce costs . And it's not just accounting gimmi
3	2010	SPOK	ABC_ThisWeek	from some of the private-sector savings. So the reality is it's going to reduce costs . That average Americans
4	2010	SPOK	NBC_MeetPress	's not that we don't care about people and we don't want to lower costs . This lost its focus. It got to -- there's
5	2010	SPOK	NBC_MeetPress	they're talking about the savings. It's necessary to do this, to reduce costs in the long run. And this Congress
6	2010	FIC	Bk:DaddyWantsTVSaturday	course, but I've heard that the mayor promised the Party that he'd cut costs sixty percent by reducing house
7	2010	MAG	AmericanSpectator	. He said the right reform was not to pass a mandate, but to lower costs . " The reason Americans don't have
8	2010	MAG	CountryLiving	that was well worth the expense. STILL, THE DUO FOUND inspired ways to cut costs . " We sent pine trees cle
9	2010	MAG	PopMech	was airborne. This, alas, is a common problem. In order to cut costs , airlines over the past couple of decades
10	2010	MAG	TechReview	risk in the A380. But in an effort to reduce its own investment and cut costs , " Boeingtook it a lot further, " sa
11	2010	MAG	TechReview	of packing DNA onto specially fabricated arrays with unprecedented density. The company aims to reduce co
12	2010	MAG	TechReview	wide, that were difficult to manufacture and install. The company says it has cut costs by using smaller mirro
13	2010	MAG	TechReview	(die only one without any banner, photos, publications, orprofessionalrecruiter, to cut costs), I was astonisher

x Find: job

 Highlight all
 Match case

410 MILLION WORDS, 1990-20

DISPLAY

 LIST
 CHART
 KWIC
 COMPARE

SEARCH STRING

WORD(S) [=reduce].[v*]

COLLOCATES costs 0 4

POS LIST

RANDOM

SEARCH

RESET

SECTIONS SHOW

1 IGNORE

 SPOKEN
 FICTION
 MAGAZINE
 NEWSPAPER
 ACADEMIC

2 IGNORE

 SPOKEN
 FICTION
 MAGAZINE
 NEWSPAPER
 ACADEMIC

SORTING AND LIMITS

SORTING FREQUENCY

MINIMUM MUTUAL INFO 3

CLICK TO SEE OPTIONS

WORD(S) **debate**

COLLOCATES

POS LIST

Select
adj.ALL

KEYWORD IN CONTEXT (KWIC)

CLICK ON TITLE FOR MORE CONTEXT
SECTION: NO LIMITS

	Year	Genre	Title	Text
1	2010	SPOK	NBC_MeetPress	point for health care. In order to reduce costs , we can cut to a
2	2010	SPOK	ABC_ThisWeek	it will be a popular bill, and it will be popular because it does reduce costs . And it's not just accounting gimmi
3	2010	SPOK	ABC_ThisWeek	from some of the private-sector savings. So the reality is it's going to reduce costs . That average Americans
4	2010	SPOK	NBC_MeetPress	's not that we don't care about people and we don't want to lower costs . This lost its focus. It got to -- there's
5	2010	SPOK	NBC_MeetPress	they're talking about the savings. It's necessary to do this, to reduce costs in the long run. And this Congress
6	2010	FIC	Bk:DaddyWantsTVSaturday	course, but I've heard that the mayor promised the Party that he'd cut costs sixty percent by reducing house
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