



Séminaire de recherche
en Langues de spécialité, analyse de corpus, terminologie et traductologie

Professional communication in academic English: how evidentiality is expressed in the academic fields of engineering and medicine

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Abstract:

The way writers communicate their findings in academic papers is crucial for convincing readers about the objectiveness and validity of research (Hyland, 2005; Carrió-Pastor, 2014; Alonso Almeida, 2015; Hyland and Feng, 2016). Thus, one of the challenges to be faced by researchers is to convince readers of the reasoning processes that lead to a proposition and so, evidential devices, that is, the elements that express the source or mode of information should be used carefully in academic English. In this study, medical and engineering academic papers were analysed to detect variation in the use of evidential devices in these two domains. Furthermore, I studied the possible causes of the variation of evidential devices when used by writers with different academic backgrounds and, finally, I identified the phraseological units associated to the evidential devices found in the analysis. For this purpose, I divided the study into two phases. In the first one, I analysed a corpus composed of thirty research papers from the discipline of medicine and thirty research papers from the discipline of engineering. In the second one, I identified the evidential markers and the phraseological units associated to them. Then, the results of the study were contrasted to analyse the use of evidential devices in two specific fields of academic English. The conclusions showed that there are still challenges for academic writers concerning the use of evidential devices and their patterns in specific domains of academic English.