

METOOL: Tagging of rhetoric strategies in Spanish and English in research papers

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Nowadays, there are still some challenges in the identification, tagging and contrast of rhetoric strategies or, as Hyland (2005) refers to them, metadiscoursal categories, which are used in Spanish and English in academic papers. It should be noticed that there are different kinds of metadiscoursal strategies in scientific register and this is the reason why three corpora from different disciplines (engineering, medicine and linguistics) were compiled and studied. The analysis of corpora may allow us to determine variation in the use of metadiscoursal strategies by writers with different cultural backgrounds. The compilation, tagging and analysis of corpora is important to carry out a thorough analysis of the written production of academic writers. In this project, the two metadiscoursal categories proposed by Hyland (2005), i.e., interactive and interactional, are important to identify the elements that are part of rhetoric and, thus establish the patterns that will help us identify rhetoric strategies. A fundamental aspect of the analysis is METOOL, a tool designed jointly with the Research Institute for Information and Language Processing (University of Wolverhampton, Great Britain) to tag and analyse the rhetoric strategies used in academic writing. The hypothesis of this project is that metadiscoursal strategies are used in a different way in Spanish and in English due to cultural influences, and this fact may cause ineffective communication when used by non-native speakers. The objectives of this project are, on the one hand, to analyse the metadiscoursal strategies used in English and Spanish in several disciplines of the scientific register and, on the other hand, to detect the variation in these languages and disciplines. METOOL is essential to tag rhetoric strategies in an accurate way. In this seminar, I will describe the compilation of corpora, the tagging process, the creation of patterns, the process followed to design the tool and the results obtained in the project.