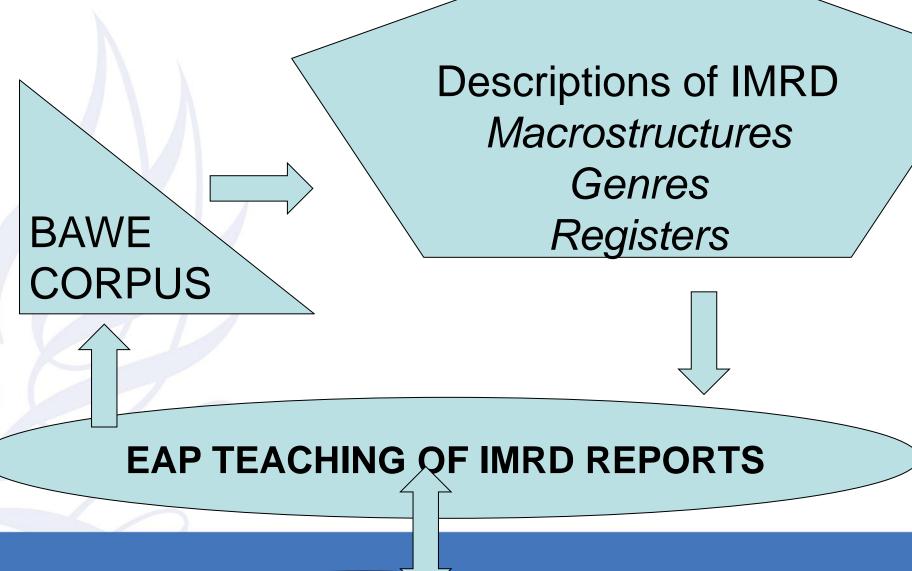
From macrostructure, genre and register descriptions of student IMRD type reports to the EAP classroom

Sheena Gardner

BALEAP PIM: Corpora and EAP, Coventry University 21 June 2014





Writing for a Purpose



An Investigation of Genres of Assessed Writing in British Higher Education



RES-000-23-0800 2004-2007

Hilary Nesi (PI), Sheena Gardner Paul Thompson Paul Wickens + Jasper Holmes, Sian Alsop, + Alois Heuboeck, + Signe Ebeling, Maria Leedham







6,506,995 words

2,896 texts; **2,761** assignments

1000+ modules & 300 degree courses

1,953 written by L1 speakers of English

1,251 "distinction" & **1,402** "merit" from **800+** students

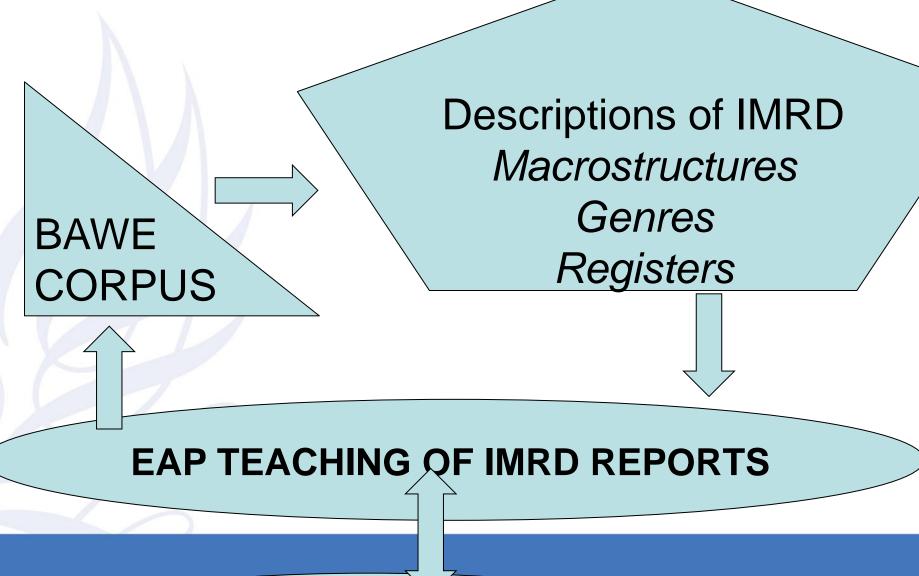
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Arts & Humanities	255	229	160	80
Life Science	188	206	120	205
Physical Science	181	154	156	133
Social Science	216	198	170	207

BAWE CORPUS contents



Arts & Humanities	Archaeology, Applied Linguistics, Classics, Comparative American Studies, English, History, Philosophy
Life Sciences	Agriculture, Biological Sciences, Food Sciences, Health, Psychology, Medical Science
Physical Sciences	Architecture, Chemistry, Computer Science, Cybernetics & Electronics, Engineering, Mathematics, Meteorology, Physics, Planning
Social Sciences	Anthropology, Business, Economics, HLTM (Hospitality, Leisure and Tourism Management), Law, Politics, Publishing, Sociology





Writing for a Purpose



D1 Macrostructures: Methodology

- 1. Section headings tagged in the XML files of the BAWE corpus (TEI for OTA)
- 2. Section headings extracted by file
- 3. Formal patterns of headings identified
- 4. Meaning potential of headings analysed
- 5. IMRD types across Disciplines



Ex 1. (textual) Section headings in assignment 6010a, Applied Linguistics

- <div1 type="text"><head rend="bold">Task 2. An interview concerning an area of contested language use.</head>
- <div2><head rend="underline">Introduction</head>
- <div2><head rend="underline">Experiment</head>
- <div2><head rend="underline">Method</head>
- <div2><head rend="underline">Results</head>
- <div2><head rend="underline">Comments</head>
- <div2><head rend="underline">Conclusion</head>



Ex 2. (ideational) Subsections 0159e, Engineering

```
<div2><head rend="bold">2.1 Product development
processes</head>
```

```
<div3><head rend="bold">2.1.1 First generation process</head>
```

<div3><head rend="bold">2.1.2 Concurrent engineering</head>

<div3><head rend="bold">2.1.3 Stage gate process</head>

Gardner and Holmes (2010)



Ex 4 (interpersonal) 0023c Engineering

```
<front>
<titlePart>ES21V INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY AND FIELD COURSE</titlePart>
<docTitle><titlePart rend="italic">Micro-hydro report</titlePart></docTitle>
</front>
<body>
<div1><head rend="underline">Background</head>
<div1><head rend="underline">What is the state of play of the stream?</head>
<div1><head rend="underline">What's the estimation of the pipe?</head>
<div1><head rend="underline">What about ROCs?</head>
<div1><head rend="underline">Is connection to the grid an option?</head>
<div1><head rend="underline">How about a new turbine?</head>
<div1><head rend="underline">Which pipe and how is it best to route it?</head>
<div1><head rend="underline">Would a grant be possible?</head>
<div1><head rend="underline">What is the likely longevity of the scheme?</head>
<div1><head rend="underline">Conclusions</head>
</body>
<back>
<div1 type="bibliography"><head rend="underline">References</head>
```

</back>

Gardner and Holmes (2010)



Ex 5 Mixed 0076 Business

<div1 type="abstract"><head rend="bold">Executive Summary</head>

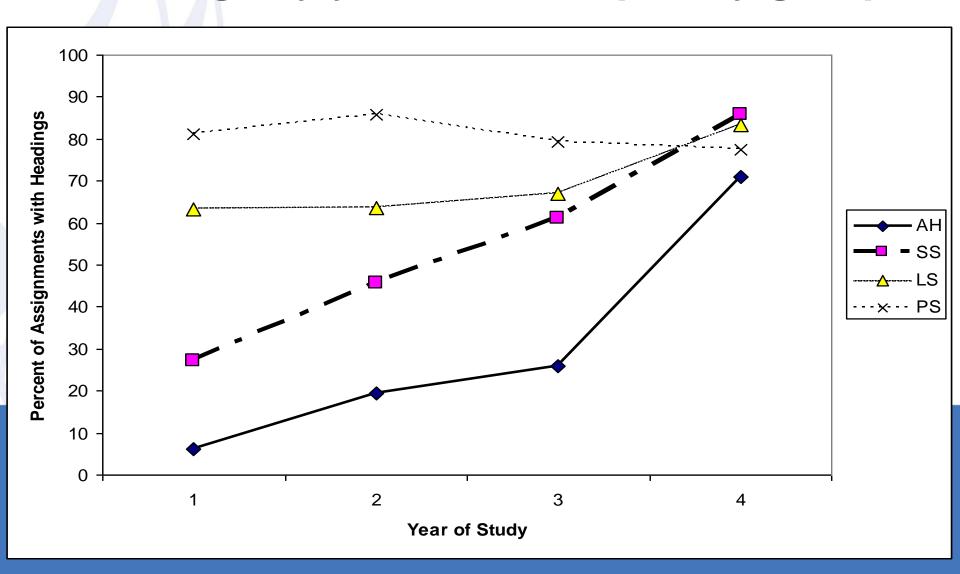
```
<div1><head rend="bold">Main Report</head>
<div1><head rend="bold">Customer Margin</head>
<div1><head rend="bold">Payback and Net Present Value (NPV) of the Project</head>
<div1><head rend="bold">Factors That May Change Over The Life Of The Project </head>
<div1><head rend="bold">Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT)</head>
   <div2><head rend="bold">a) Strengths</head>
    <div2><head rend="bold">b) Weaknesses</head>
   <div2><head rend="bold">c) Opportunities</head>
   <div2><head rend="bold">d) Threats</head>
<div1><head rend="bold">Reaction of Competitors</head>
<div1><head rend="bold">Conclusion</head>
<div1><head rend="bold">Appendix:</head>
```

Gardner and Holmes (2010)



8 Types of	Macrostructure	Examples
1. Simple	FM ^ Text 1 [section a] ^	Philosophy essay,
	(BM)	Sociology ethnography
2. Complex	FM ^ Text 1 [section a ^ sec	ction b (^ section n)]^ (BM)
2A	Complex with generic or	Lab Report,
Genre based	'textual' headings	SWOT analysis
2B	Complex with specific or	Long History essay
Topic based	'ideational' headings	Annotated bibliography
2C	Complex with contextual or	Exercise
Context based	'interpersonal' headings	Seminar notes
2D	Complex with mixed	Biology essay,
Mixed	headings	Engineering report
3. Compound	FM ^ Text 1 ^Text 2 (^ Te	xt N) ^ (BM)
3A	Parallel texts	Compilation of Lab Reports
Colony		
3B	Complementary Texts	Essay plus review
Portfolio		
3C	Parallel and Complementary	Compilation of Case Notes and

Prevalence of assignments with headings by year and disciplinary group



Top 10 Words in headings (Wordsmith Tools)

Word	Freq	Word	Freq	Word	Freq
<u>Introduction</u>	1020	Results	569	<u>History</u>	472
Conclusion(s)	951	Analysis/es	527	<u>Problem</u>	328
		Method(/s/ology)	473	Management	319
		Discussion(s)	396	<u>Issues</u>	305



IMRD macrostructures x discipline

Biological	Computer Science	Engineering	Food	Physics	Psychology
Science	A T	0	Sciences	·	v Ov
(Abstract) 32/52	(Abstract) 16/64	(Abstract) 44/83		(Abstract) 15/18	(Abstract) 5/10
Introduction	1. Introduction	Introduction	Objective	1. Introduction	Introduction
	2. Theory	Theory	Introduction		
Materials and	3. Design Apparatus and			2. Experimental	
Method		Methods Method		Details	Method
Results	4. Implementation	Observations	Results	3. Results	Results
		and Results			
Discussion	5. Results and	Analysis of	Calculation	4. Discussion	Discussion
	Analysis	Results			
(Conclusion)	6. Conclusion	Discussion	Discussion		
(Future Work)		Conclusion			
(References)	(References) 29/64	(References)	(References)	(References)	(References)
22/52		63/83	53/69	15/18	8/10



EAP Textbooks: not really taught?

Chaplen, F (1981:68-9) A course in intermediate scientific English.

 Lab Report, Chemistry Example: Purpose of Experiment, Equipment and Materials, Procedure, Results, Conclusions

In BAWE 'Procedure' is used with Design Specifications (to x do this).

Several other books on my shelves had nothing about report writing..

- De Chazal (2014) EAP (and related OUP textbooks) no guidance
- Bailey (2011:258) 3rd ed Academic Writing: A handbook for International students. IMRDC with bullet points, but no examples.
- Hewings (2012: 116-7) Cambridge Academic English.

Research Report: AbsAckTit I Lit MRDCRA with extracts from Business and example of Methods section from ELT.



Writing for a Purpose

Academic writing materials based on findings from the British Academic Written English (BAWE) corpus



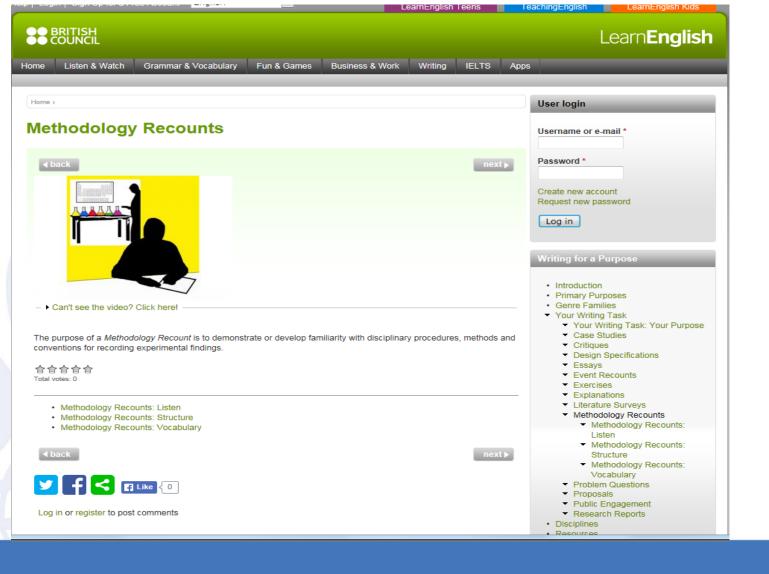
A follow-on project funded by the ESRC



The WfaP Learn English team

- Hilary Nesi and Sheena Gardner from the original ESRC project
- Andy Gillett materials developer (uefap.com)
- Tim Kelly video and multimedia
- Elly Hutchings icons
- Alex Woolner consultant from Coventry Serious Games Institute
- Adam Kightley British Council





www.britishcouncil.org/writingforapurpose www.britishcouncil.org/writingforapurpose



Methodology Recounts: Structure

∢ back

next▶

In a Methodology Recount you need to demonstrate or develop familiarity with disciplinary procedures, methods and conventions for recording experimental findings.

You will typically need to include an introduction, methods and results, discussion and conclusion, but you may need to include one or more of the following:

- Abstract a summary of your experiment, including your aims, methods, main results and conclusion
- · Analysis of results a discussion explaining the meaning and significance of your findings
- · Apparatus a description of the equipment you used
- · Calculation the mathematical working out of your results
- · Conclusion a summary of what you found and its significance
- · Design an overview of the materials you used and procedures that you adopted
- · Discussion a consideration of the meaning and significance of your findings
- · Experimental details an overview of the materials you used and procedures that you adopted
- . Future work a summary of the future implications of your conclusions
- · Implementation an overview of the materials you used and procedures that you adopted
- Introduction a broad background to your experiment and a statement of your aims
- · Materials the equipment you used
- · Methods the procedure you adopted
- · Objective the purpose of your experiment
- Observations a description of your findings, what you found
- · References details of any external sources you consulted
- · Results a description of your findings, what you found
- · Theory a description of the theories you drew on in planning your experiment.

Examples of Methodology Recounts from different disciplines.

Biological Science	Computer Science	Engineering	Food Science	Physics	Psychology
Abstract	Abstract	Abstract	Objective	Abstract	Abstract
Introduction	1. Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	1. Introduction	Introduction
	2. Theory	Theory			
Materials & methods	3. Design	Apparatus & methods	Method	Experimental details	Method
Results	4. Implementation	Observations & results	Results	3. Results	Results
Discussion	5. Results & analysis	Analysis of results	Calculation	4. Discussion	Discussion
(Conclusion)	6. Conclusion	Discussion	Discussion		

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Writing for a Purpose

- Introduction
- · Primary Purposes
- · Genre Families
- Your Writing Task
 - Your Writing Task: Your Purpose
 - Case Studies
 - Critiques
 - Design Specifications
 - Essays
 - Event Recounts
 - Exercises
 - Explanations
 - Literature Surveys
 - Methodology Recounts
 - Methodology Recounts: Listen
 - Methodology Recounts: Structure
 - Methodology Recounts: Structure - Student Description
 - Methodology Recounts: Vocabulary
 - ▼ Problem Questions
 - Proposals
 - Public Engagement
- Research Reports
- Disciplines
- Resources
- · About Us

Tags in Admin

No terms applicable.





D2 Genres: Methodology

- Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL): genre as staged goal oriented social process (Martin 1997)
- 2. Stages: Macro and hyper themes (including section headings as above)
- 3. Goal oriented social purpose (interviews)
- Identify genres and group into Genre Families



Interviews with lecturers and students

Lab reports have a distinctive formal structure. Final-year project reports have a similar structure, though are longer. (Biology)

They do lab reports in all 3 or 4 years, culminating in a final year project report which has the same structure but is larger (6000-7000 words). (Physics)

[in the first year] students have to learn to explain: what happened; why it is interesting; how it relates to psychological theory. [at upper levels] the main difference is that students set themselves the problem. (Psychology)



Psychology IMRD texts Similarities:

macrostructure (IMRD)

methodology (questionnaires to students)

RQ (avoidance coping R alcohol consumption; guilt R embarrassment)

Differences:

length of text; relative length of section

Purpose > genre



Psychology	N	%*	Psychology	N	%
Project Headings	words		Experiment Headings	words	
Abstract	116	2	Abstract	98	6
Introduction	1913	30	Introduction	179	11
Method	641	11	Method	330	20
Participants	36		Design	40	
Materials	357		Participants	79	
Design &	248		Materials	86	
procedure					
/			Procedure	125	
Results	1281	20	Results	611	38
Discussion	2343	37	Discussion	403	25
	6294	100		1621	100
References (51)			References (1)		
Appendices (4)	1761				



Psychology Experiment

Introduction (6 sentences)

Guilt, shame and embarrassment are emotions of similar origin and type, in that they are moments of unpleasant self-consciousness that we all experience. It is sometimes believed that they are basically the same. However Tangney et al., (1996) described these emotions as distinctly separate experiences. A study was conducted amongst undergraduates to determine what sort of experiences lead to feelings of guilt, shame and embarrassment, and how different the three emotions were considered to be. It seemed that shame and guilt were similar emotions, with shame a more public experience, and that embarrassment was the most public of all, and milder than shame or guilt, (Tangney et al., 1996)....

Discussion (1 sentence)

..This was generally as expected and followed the pattern of results given by Tangney (1996)...



Different genres

Psychology IMRD	Project in	Experiment in
texts	Research	Methodology
	Report GF	Recount GF
	(0016c)	(0011c)
Introduction +	67%	36%
Discussion		
Methods + Results	31%	58%



Engineering Projects and Practicals



Engineering level 3 project (0329f) (main headings only)	Engineering level 2 practical (0243c)
Author's Assessment of the Project	
1.0 Summary	Summary
2.0 Contents	
3.0 Introduction	
4.0 Literature Review (29 citations)	
5.0 Theory	1. Apparatus and Method
6.0 Research Methodology	2. Theory
7.0 Experimental Equipment (11 figs)	
8.0 Set Up and Experimental Procedure	
9.0 Flat Plate	
9.1 Introduction	
9.2 Results	3. Results
9.3 Observations and Interpretation	3.1 Laminar flow
9.4 Additional Observations and Interpretation	3.2 Turbulent flow
9.5 Additional Notes and Evaluation of Methods	
10.0 120mm Tube	4. Discussion
10.1 Introduction	
10.2 Observation and Interpretation	
10.3 Evaluation of Methods	
11.0 Conclusions	5. Conclusion
11.1 Costing	Mac Al
11.2 Flat Plate	
11.3 120mm Tube	Coventry
11.4 In Reference to Specification	University
12.0 Acknowledgements	

6 Ribliography (3)

Annendices (4)

Research Report		h Report Engineering Met			ethodology Red	count
Project N words	%*	0329f	Main Sections	0243c	Practical N words	% *
250	3		Summary		214	10
216	2		Introduction		0	0
1523	16		Literature Review		0	0
230	2		Theory		397	18
1517	16		Equipment & Methods	3	323	15
694	7		Results		326	15
4065	42	Observat	ions and Interpretation/	Discussion	612	28
1114	12	~	Conclusion		300	14
9609	100				2172	100

Gardner (2012), Nesi and Gardner (2012, chapter 5)



Biology projects and practicals



Project (6214b) Main Headings	Practical (0243c) Headings
Abstract	
Introduction	Introduction
Principles of an aquaponic system	
Literature review (43 citations)	
Objectives	
Materials and Method (11 sections)	Methods & Materials
Results (7 sections)	Results & Analysis (2 tables, 2 figures)
Discussion	Discussion
Conclusion	
Future Work	
References (50)	
Appendices (4)	

Gardner (2012), Nesi and Gardner (2012, chapter 5)



Research Report		Biolo	Biology		Methodology	
					R	ecount
N	%	6214b	Main Sections	0243c		%*
 words					words	
427	4	Abstı	Abstract +Intro + Principles		118	13
2146	20		Literature Review		0	0
2456	24	Object	Objectives, Methods, Materials		116	12
3033	29]	Results [Analysis]		460	49
2408	23	Discus	Discussion [Conclusion, Future Work]		241	26
10470	100%		Total %		935	100
						%



Two different genres with IMRD macrostructures found across disciplines:

- Methodology recounts (e.g. experiments, practicals)
- Research reports (e.g. projects)

Although the stages are similar, the purposes are different as seen from the interviews, the relative lengths of sections and the language used (register)



EAP Textbooks

Chaplen, F

Lab Report, Chemistry Example: Purpose of Experiment, Equipment and Materials, Procedure, Results, Conclusions

Bailey

IMRDC with bullet points, no examples, so not clear which genre family

Hewings

Research Report: AbsAckTit I Lit MRDCRA with example from Business and example of Methods section from ELT.







D3 Registers: Methodology (SFL)

Comparison of sections across disciplines:

- the nature of the activity *field* is a determinant in the selection of options from experiential systems, including choices related to transitivity structure, or process, participant and circumstance.
- Role relationships tenor have a hand in determining the selection of interpersonal options, such as those from the systems of mood and modality.
- The symbolic organisation of the text mode is involved in the selection of options in textual systems, which relate to the overall texture of the text, including choices involving cohesion, and thematic and information structures. (Halliday 2009:55)



Which IMRD section? Which Disciplines?

- To determine how adjectives are used ... I decided to first build a wordlist using Concap for the broadsheet and online news services samples as I felt this would allow me an overview to evaluate my results which would in turn give me the opportunity to investigate any interesting features. (6062c)
- In order to investigate whether self-esteem levels were lower and deviant eating behaviours were higher in first year university girls than a control group of non university girls, between subjects multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) and Pearson's correlation co-efficient were used to analyse data. ... (0014a)
- Four sets of boiling tubes were prepared as described below and placed in the thermostat to equilibriate at each temperature.

Tube 1: 10 cm3 of 0.01 M phenol, 10 cm3 of the bromate/bromide solution (0.0833M Br- and 0.0167 M BrO3), 4 drops of methyl red.

Tube 2: 5 cm3 0.5 M H2SO4 (6212d)



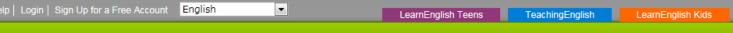
Methods Extracts from 3 Disciplines

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Methodology Recounts: Vocabulary

→ Instructions

Here are some groups of words that commonly occur in *Methodology Recounts*, with examples from different disciplines.

Click on Instructions for more information about the format.

word Groups in methodology Recounts	
the aim of this experiment/report is/was	Examples
in order to	Examples
is/are/was/were/has been used to	Examples
this is / may be / could be due to	Examples
can be seen	Examples
shown in table/figure	Examples
can be / is / are / was / has been found	Examples
is/are found	Examples
was found / has been found	Examples
as a result of the	Examples
was calculated to be	Examples
It can be assumed/concluded that	Examples
'It' constructions showing possibility, probability, necessity, evaluation	Examples

User login

Username or e-mail *

Password *

Create new account Request new password

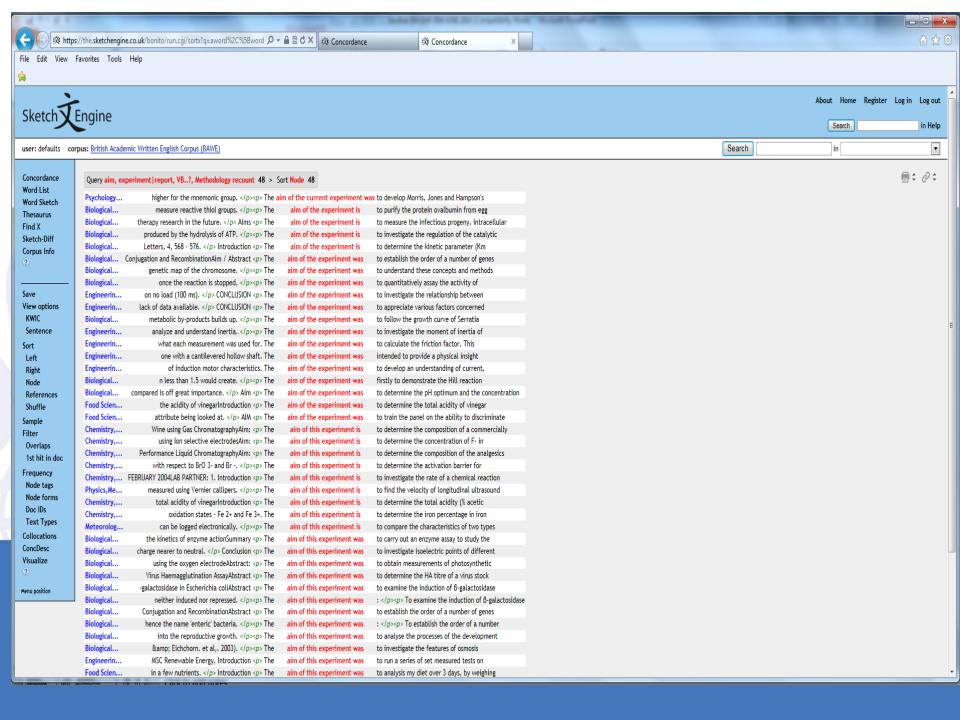
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 - ▼ Methodology Recounts
 - ▼ Methodology Recounts:
 - Listen
 ▼ Methodology Recounts:
 - Structure

 Methodology Recounts
 - Methodology Recounts:
 Vocabulary
 - Problem Questions
 - Proposals
 - Public Engagement
 - Research Reports
- Disciplines
- Recourred





From clusters in WST to Sketch Engine

Explaining cause, effect and significance	
(this) is due to (the)	https://the.sketchengine.co.uk/bonito/run.cgi/mlsortx?q=aword%2C%22is%2
()	2+%22due%22+%22to%22within+%3Ctext+genre%3D%22Explanation%22
	+%2F%3E;corpname=preloaded%2Fbawe2&attrs=word&attr_allpos=kw&ct
	xattrs=word&structs=g%2Cp&refs=%3Dtext.discipline%2C%3Dtext.genre&
	pagesize=50&gdexcnt=500&gdexconf=;ml1attr=text.discipline;ml1pos=0;ml
	2attr=text.genre;ml2pos=0;sortlevel=2□
as a result of	https://the.sketchengine.co.uk/bonito/run.cgi/mlsortx?q=aword%2C%22as%2
	2+%22a%22+%22result%22+%22of%22within+%3Ctext+genre%3D%22Ex
	planation%22+%2F%3E;corpname=preloaded%2Fbawe2&attrs=word&attr_
	$\underline{allpos} = kw\&ctxattrs = word\&structs = \underline{g\%2Cp\&refs} = \%3Dtext.\underline{discipline\%2C\%}$
	3Dtext.genre&pagesize=50&gdexcnt=500&gdexconf=;ml1attr=text.disciplin
	e:ml1pos=0:ml2attr=text.genre:ml2pos=0:sortlevel=2
an important role in¶	https://the.sketchengine.co.uk/bonito/nun.cgi/viewattrsx?q=aword%2C%22an
¶	%22+%22important%22+%22role%22+%22in%22within+%3Ctext+genre%
(e.g. to play/take/have an important role in -ing	3D%22Explanation%22+%2F%3E&corpname=preloaded%2Fbawe2&attrs=
	word&ctxattrs=word&structs=g%2Cp&refs=%3Ddoc.id&pagesize=50&gdex
	cnt=500&gdexconf=&fromp=1&setattrs=word&allpos=kw&setstructs=g&set
	structs=p&setrefs=%3Dtext.discipline&setrefs=%3Dtext.genre&refs_up=0&
	pagesize=50&newctxsize=50&gdex_enabled=0&gdexcnt=500©_icon=0
	&multiple_copy=0&tbl_template=X
be able to¶	https://the.sketchengine.co.uk/bonito/nun.cgi/mlsortx?q=aword%2C%22be%2
(e.g. modal+(not)+∴be able to)¤	2+%22able%22+%22to%22within+%3Ctext+genre%3D%22Explanation%2
	2+%2F%3E&q=sword%2Fi+-1%3C0%7E-
	3%3C0;corpname=preloaded%2Fbawe2&attrs=word&attr_allpos=kw&ctxatt
	rs=word&structs=g%2Cp&refs=%3Dtext.discipline%2C%3Dtext.genre&pag
	esize=50&gdexcnt=500&gdexconf=;ml1attr=text.discipline;ml1pos=0;ml2att
	r=text.genre;ml2pos=0;sortlevel=2:\(\Omega\)
this means-that □	https://the.sketchengine.co.uk/bonito/run.cgi/mlsortx?q=aword%2C%22This
	%22+%22means%22+%22that%22within+%3Ctext+genre%3D%22Explanat
	ion%22+%2F%3E;corpname=preloaded%2Fbawe2&attrs=word&attr_allpos
	=kw&ctxattrs=word&structs=g%2Cp&refs=%3Dtext.discipline%2C%3Dtext
	.genre&pagesize=50&gdexcnt=500&gdexconf=;ml1attr=text.discipline;ml1p
	os=0;ml2attr=text.genre;ml2pos=0;sortlevel=2;\(\Omega\)

Lesson Plans Needed

- For Teach English British Council Website
- Using Writing for a Purpose materials and resources



Lesson Plans please

BRITISH COUNCI	<u></u>	Teaching English
Title¤		Lesson plan
¶ Topico		
=		
a Aims¤		
+4 1 1		
a Age∙group¤		
□ Level¤		
Please express in	CEF-¤	
o Time¤		
□ Materials¤		
1.→·=		
n Introduction¤		
·=		
¶ Procedure¤		
1. Please write- name/aim-of- stage-here- (timing-in- brackets)¤	••Please write steps of stage here.¶ ••Please insert more rows as required. □	
2. ₪	•4D	
3.□	41:3	
¶ Contributed∙by	/II	
Write-your-name	here¤	
•	glish.org.uk	

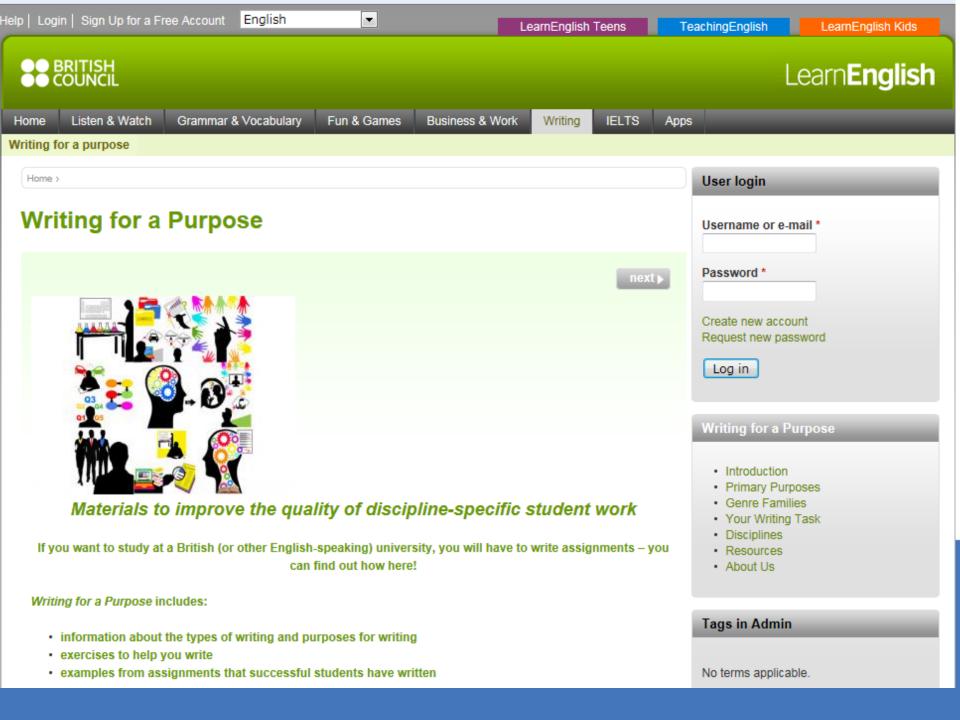


websites

www.coventry.ac.uk/BAWE
www.britishcouncil.org/writingforapurpose
https://ca.sketchengine.co.uk/open/

Thank you sheena.gardner@coventry.ac.uk





Descriptions of BAWE IMRD texts

- 1. Macrostructures (Gardner & Holmes 2009, 2010)
- 2. Genres (Gardner 2012; Nesi& Gardner 2012 chapter 5)
- 3. Registers (ibid)



www.coventry.ac.uk/bawe

For more information about

- The contents of the BAWE corpus
- How to download or search the corpus
- Publications and presentations on BAWE
- Visualisations and Word Lists
- Teaching and learning materials
- And more



Links to the corpus

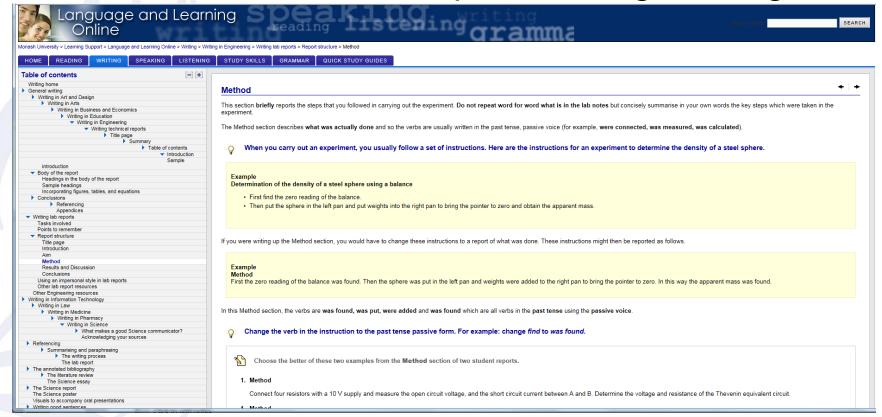
Clusters which commonly occur in specific disciplines and genres are first identified using Wordsmith Tools, then conflated, then found in Sketch Engine using corpus query language.

For example:

Methodology Recount (the) aim of this experiment/report is/was
Case Study it is important / recommended / suggested / vital that

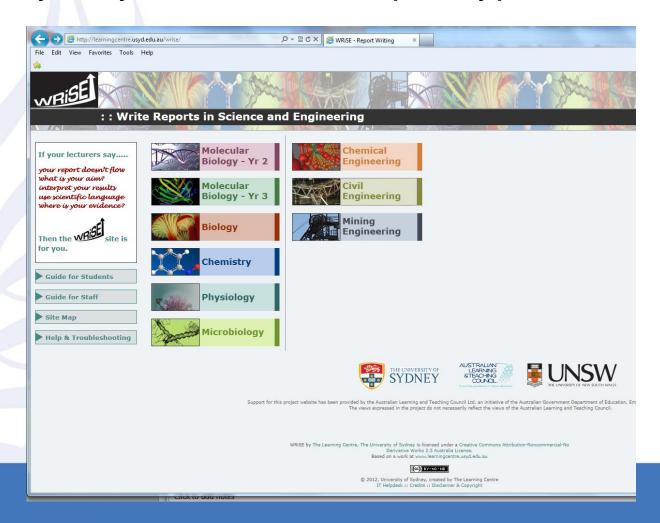


Monash Language & Learning Online has technical and lab reports in Engineering





Sydney has a mix of report types and disciplines





 Dudley-Evans, Tony 1985, Writing Laboratory Reports, Nelson

http://learningcentre.usyd.edu.au/wrise/



5 Social Purposes

Demonstrating knowledge & Understanding



Exercises Explanations

Developing powers of independent reasoning



Critique Essay

Building research skills



Literature Survey
Methodology Recount
Research Report

13 Genre families

Preparing for professional practice



Case Study
Design Specification
Problem Question, Proposal

Writing for oneself and others



Narrative Recount Empathy Writing





IMRD

- Introduction
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion



Selected References

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