

Text study

Genre

Objective : This lesson aims at explaining the term genre with regard to the text analysis . It covers the following points:

- 1- Definition of the term genre.
- 2- Language genre.
- 3- Purpose
- 4- Audience
- 5- Context
- 6- Format
- 7- Characteristics of genre

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genre

- 2 Dear sir... formal letter
- 3 6 eggs bread juice...
- 3 shopping list 6 eggs bread juice...
- 4 “The next station is...Al-Riqqah.”
- 4 “The next station is...Al-Riqqah.” metro announcement
- 5 This process is called photosynthesis.
- 5 This process is called photosynthesis. science textbook – explanation

What are genres?

The term “genre”... • From the French word “genre” (and the Latin word “genus”) meaning “kind, type, sort, category, or class” • Refers to a type or category of communicative or artistic production • Used in artistic fields: film genres, music genres, art genres, literary genres • Used in language to describe any type of written or spoken text

Language Genres... • Categories of texts • Determined by a set of parameters • Used for a variety of purposes • Used in a variety of contexts • Can be written or spoken • Can be formal or informal

Examples of Language Genres:Categories of Written Texts • Narrative: novels, short stories, biographies, autobiographies, historical accounts, plays • Expository:

letters, newsletters, definitions, instructions, guidebooks, catalogs, newspaper articles, magazine articles, pamphlets, essays, reports • Persuasive & Discursive: argumentative essays, discussion papers, advertisements, persuasive letters

Language Genres:Categories of Written Texts • Aesthetic & Wisdom: poems, songs, sayings, proverbs, mottos • Technical: research papers, lab reports, medical reports, accident reports, progress reports, directions (to a destination), manuals, evaluation forms, questionnaires, business letters, resumes, presentations, descriptions of features (products/designs/projects), instructions

Language Genres:Parameters The parameters that determine language genres are:
• Purpose • Audience • Context • Format

Purpose Why a speaker is speaking or a writer is writing – the reason for the text, related to the topic, function, & aim Examples of PURPOSE include: • To exchange information • To make arrangements • To negotiate a decision • To give instructions • To express feelings • To make a complaint • To express thanks

Audience Who the text is aimed at – target person/group of people (the reader or listener) Examples of AUDIENCE include: • General public, spectators, audience (theater, movie, concert, sport, etc.) • Students, colleagues, friends, family • Visitors to a website (“browsers” or “users”) • Participants in a workshop, presentation • Members of a sports team • Rhetorical audience, an anonymous listener or reader, or yourself

Context Where and when the written text will be read or the speaking is taking place – the time, place, and situation (the setting) Examples of CONTEXT include: • Time period (present, past, or future) • A public place (street, square, park) • At the

workplace (factory, office) • In the city, in a village, in the country • On TV, radio, a website, in the newspaper • In a meeting, workshop, or presentation • At an event (wedding, graduation, opening)

Format How it is delivered – what form it will be published or presented in
Examples of FORMAT include: Spoken: • Direct/face-to-face (conversation, meeting, recital, loud speaker) • Broadcast live on TV or radio • Pre-recorded video (DVD, video files, podcasts)/audio (CD, audio files)

Format Written: • Handwritten (letter, memo, notes, list) • Printed/“hard copy” (letter, book, magazine, newspaper, journal, document) • Digital/“soft copy” (CD-ROM/flash drive, website, computer files, online chats, scanned documents)

□ **What are the parameters that determine a language genre?** The parameters that determine a language genre are: • Purpose • Audience • Context • Format

□ **So, what exactly do the parameters determine?** • In other words, what are the characteristics of a genre?

□ **Characteristics of a Genre** The characteristics of a genre can be put into two groups: • Text structure • Language features Note: All texts, whether written or spoken, have text structure and language features. However, FORMAL TEXTS have CONVENTIONAL FORMS – with more established text structures and language features.

Text Structure Text organization and form: • Parts or sections of the text • Introduction, body, conclusion • Paragraphs & paragraph structure • Subheadings, subtitles, & summaries • Marginalia & visuals

Language Features Wording and style: • Nouns, verbs, linking words • Text markers (discourse markers) • Sections: introduction, body, conclusion • Paragraphs & paragraph structure • Subheadings, subtitles, & summaries • Marginalia & visuals

ALL LANGUAGES • All languages are genre-based regardless of whether the native speakers recognize that fact or not. • The more widely used a language is in the world the more genres are needed for the greater variety of contexts and purposes.

English: An International Language • The most widely used language in the world for education, business, and technology. • English has many conventional genres for various purposes and many more new ones as a result of new technologies. • A competent knowledge of English allows native and non-native users of English to respond to and interact with the international community.

□ **Does genre awareness help students learn a language better?** • Should genre awareness be included in the ESL/EFL curriculum?

□ **Genre Awareness & Text Study** • Genre-based learning helps native and non-native learners of English improve as it focuses producing a whole text. • “Studies show that explicit genre-based instruction with the attendant meta-language helps learners improve their writing.” [1]

□ **Genre Awareness & Text Study** • Genre awareness and text study empower both native and non-native users of English. • Genre awareness and text study gives both native and non-native users of English greater language independence.

□ **How has technology impacted literacy?** • What does genre awareness mean in the age of computers and the internet?

□ [Technology & Genres](#) • What technology has done is bring back “reading and writing as a normal activity for a huge group of peoples.” [2]

□ [Technology & Genres](#) • Technology means more genres • Technology means a greater need for literacy (e-literacy, information literacy), academic skills, & critical thinking skills .

□ [Technology & Genres](#) • Examples of new technology-based genres: emails, ebooks, blogs, wikis, online chats, podcasts, homepages, menu bars, drop-down menus, online website polls, textboxes, etc.

□ [Technology & Genres](#) English language skills for a technology-based society – higher level academic reading, writing, and critical thinking skills: • planning & prioritizing • skimming and scanning • identifying purpose, context, & audience of a written/spoken text • using appropriate text structure, language features in writing/speaking • interpreting information – including graphics and marginalia

[Technology & Genres](#) • evaluating the quality and relevance of information – fact/fiction/opinion, website evaluation • analyzing & synthesizing information • note-taking, summarizing, & paraphrasing • information transfer • develop academic speaking and listening skills – discuss, reason, reflect, hypothesize, speculate, question, clarify, summarize, explain, and interact

□ [Technology & Genres](#) • using process writing & word processing editing tools effectively (auto-correction) • using appropriate style, register, tone, and voice • identifying style, register, tone, and voice • acknowledging sources & referencing • using appropriate format, layout, & presentation

[Review](#) • What are genres? • What are the parameters of a genre? • What are the characteristics of a genre? • How does genre awareness help students learn better? • What does genre awareness mean in the age of computers and the internet?

☐ [Review](#) • What are genres? TYPES OF TEXT • What are the parameters of a genre? • What are the characteristics of a genre? • How does genre awareness help students learn better? • What does genre awareness mean in the age of computers and the internet?

☐ [Review](#) • What are genres? • What are the parameters of a genre? PURPOSE, AUDIENCE, CONTEXT, FORMAT • What are the characteristics of a genre? • How does genre awareness help students learn better? • What does genre awareness mean in the age of computers and the internet?

☐ [Review](#) • What are genres? • What are the parameters of a genre? • What are the characteristics of a genre? TEXT STRUCTURE, LANGUAGE FEATURES • How does genre awareness help students learn better? • What does genre awareness mean in the age of computers and the internet?

☐ [Review](#) • What are genres? • What are the parameters of a genre? • What are the characteristics of a genre? • How does genre awareness help students learn better? BY FOCUSING ON TEXT • What does genre awareness mean in the age of computers and the internet?

☐ [Review](#) • What are genres? • What are the parameters of a genre? • What are the characteristics of a genre? • How does genre awareness help students learn better? •

What does genre awareness mean in the age of computers and the internet? MANY
NEW GENRES

□ [REFERENCES](#) • [1] A. Henry/R. L. Roseberry. (1999) "Raising Awareness of the Generic Structure & Linguistic Features of Essay Introductions." *Language Awareness* 8:3-4 (190 – 200) website [Online]. Available: http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/custom/portlets/recordDetails/detailmini.jsp?_nfpb=true&_&ERICExtSearch_SearchValue_0=EJ608236&ERICExtSearch_SearchType_0=no&accno=EJ608236

□ [REFERENCES](#) • [2] Russ Juskalian, (2008) Interview with Clay Shirky, Part I "There's always a new Luddism whenever there's change." *Columbia Journalism Review* website [Online]. Available: http://www.cjr.org/overload/interview_with_clay_shirky_par.php?page=all

□ [Genre Awareness & Text Study in the ESL/EFL Curriculum](#) THANK YOU
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