A GENRE ANALYSIS OF MEDICAL REPORTS.

PERFUSTAKAAN UNIVERSITI MALAYA

BY: GURCHARAN KAUR.

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ENGLISH
AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
KUALA LUMPUR
1998
The writing of this dissertation owes much to my friends and family. I wish to acknowledge the following people who have provided me with help, guidance and support.

Dr. Azirah Hashim, my supervisor, whose invaluable advice and guidance are greatly appreciated.

My husband, Paramjit, for his unwavering support, confidence, and his invaluable help on the medical aspect of this dissertation.

My young daughter, Balvinn, whose time I used and who had to bear with my impatience through this course.

My parents, whose wisdom and constant support throughout my life has been unmeasurable.

My friends Renuka, Wai Leng and Vijaya who were ever so supportive and encouraging throughout this course. Chandra, whose assistance has been invaluable in preparing the tables.

Last but not least the hospital administration for granting me permission for data collection. Personnel from the records office were gracious in aiding me gather the reports.
ABSTRACT

This study attempts to discover the text organisation of medical reports and to provide an explanatory account of how medical reports are structured. It also examines the language that is found in the different moves which exist in the reports.

Twenty medical reports from a local hospital were selected and analysed using Swales' moves analysis and the language specific to each move was also examined to determine what sets this genre apart from all others.

It was found that a standard pattern of organisation exists and a model which contains four moves is proposed. It was also discovered that each move had certain linguistic features that distinguished it from the others.

The findings of this study will be of value to those involved in the teaching and writing of medical reports. The model proposed would offer practical assistance to the novice writer of medical reports and offer teachers practical suggestions for the ESP classroom.
ABSTRAK

Kajian ini menelidik organisasi teks serta memberi penerangan mengenai struktur laporan perubatan. Kajian ini juga akan mengkaji bahasa yang terkandung di ‘moves’ yang ada di laporan laporan ini.

Dua puluh laporan perubatan dari satu hospital tempatan telah dianalisa untuk ‘moves’ yang dapat dilihat berdasarkan analisa ‘Moves Swales’. Pengunaan bahasa yang spesifik bagi ‘move’ yang tertentu juga dikaji untuk menentukan perbezaan ‘genre’ ini dari ‘genre’ lain.

Hasil kajian ini menunjukkan satu corak organisasi yang menyeluruh dan setara dan berdasarkan ini satu model yang terdiri daripada empat ‘moves’ dicadangkan. Didapati bahawa setiap ‘move’ mempunyai beberapa ciri ciri linguistik yang membezakan setiap satunya.

Hasil kajian ini boleh dirumahkan oleh mereka yang berminat didalam bidang pengajaran dan pembelajaran penulisan laporan perubatan. Model ‘move structure’ yang dihasilkan merupakan satu model yang praktikal bagi membantu penulisan laporan perubatan serta sesuai digunakan oleh guru guru ESP.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements ii
Abstract iii
Table of contents v
List of tables viii

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Statement of problem 1
1.2. Background of study 3
   1.2.1. Medical Records 3
   1.2.2. Medical Reports 7
1.3. Purpose of study 9
1.4. Research Questions 11
1.5. Significance of study 12

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. The definition of genre 14
2.2. The definition of genre analysis 24
2.3. Review of Literature on Medical writings 28
2.4. Conclusion 36
CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY.

3.1. The Sample
3.2. Procedure for analysis

CHAPTER 4: RESULTS OF ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

4.1. Introduction
4.2. Genre structure of texts
   4.2.1. Move 1 - Patient's Particulars
   4.2.2. Move 2 - Previous Medical History
   4.2.3. Move 3 - Summary of Current Medical Complains and / or Hospitalisation
   4.2.4. Move 4 - Review or Condition upon Discharge
4.3. Structural Interpretation of Texts and Analysis of the Language in Medical Reports
4.4. The Move Structure Analysis
   4.4.1. Move 1 - Patient Identification
   4.4.2. Move 2 - Previous Medical History
   4.4.3. Move 3 - Current Medical Problems
   4.4.4. Move 4 - Review or Condition upon Discharge
4.5. The Communicative Purpose
4.6. Findings and Discussion
CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION, IMPLICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH.

5.1. Conclusion. 95

5.2. Implications of study. 96

5.3. Limitations of study. 99

5.4 Suggestions for further research. 99

Appendix A 101
Appendix B 122
Bibliography 143
LIST OF TABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TABLE 1</td>
<td>Information Required in Move 1</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE 2</td>
<td>Example of a Move 2 - Previous Medical Complaint</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE 3</td>
<td>Example of a Move 3 - Summary of Present Medical Complaints and/or Hospitalisation</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE 4</td>
<td>Frequency of Steps in Move 1 - Patient’s Particulars</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE 5</td>
<td>Frequency of discourse choices for referent</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE 6</td>
<td>Pattern and frequency of Steps in Move 3 - Current Medical Problem.</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE 7</td>
<td>Presence of Steps in Move 3 - Current Medical Problem.</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE 8</td>
<td>Frequency of Steps in Move 4 - Review or Condition Upon Discharge</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>