Physics research articles: a genre-based analysis of introduction sections

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The research article (RA) is a key genre of scientific discourse, thus RAs as texts have always received a considerable amount of scientific attention. Nevertheless, with a few notable exceptions like that of Mauranen (1993), Čmerjková (1996), Golebiowsky (1998), and Árvay & Tankó (2004), the literature tends only to examine the English traditions, whilst the differences between scientific writing traditions remain uncovered.

This research project compared the rhetorical structure of introduction sections of RAs written by physicists in Hungarian and English. The aim of the project was to map the structure of introductions and to identify the differences related to disparities in the textual conventions.

The analysis was carried out on a corpus of 50 introduction sections (25 in Hungarian and 25 in English), using Swales’ CARS model (1990) as a framework. Evaluation was primarily done quantitatively, complemented by qualitative analysis of peculiar stretches of text. The results showed that the rhetorical structures used by Hungarian and English physicists differ considerably in several aspects, and that similar aims are often achieved through different means in the two languages.

Thursday 9 September, 2010
1 to 2pm – Building 23: BA.23.G.40
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Coming up:

16 September
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Reflections on Critical Link 6, 2010: Ethics; mediation; research
Dr Uldis Ozolins
Adjunct Associate Professor, UWS Interpreting and Translation Research Group

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