LEXICAL AND GRAMMATICAL FEATURES OF THE FORMAL STYLE

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Abstract:
The present study assesses a system that employs interpolated predictions of reading complexity, taking into account both vocabulary and grammatical characteristics. The effectiveness of this combined approach is compared to separate approaches based on grammar and language modeling. Although the vocabulary-based language modeling approach demonstrated superior performance compared to the grammar-based approach, the study suggests that combining grammar-based predictions with confidence scores from vocabulary-based predictions can yield more precise estimations of reading difficulty for texts in both first and second languages. Furthermore, the findings indicate that grammatical features may have a greater impact on the readability of texts in second languages compared to those in first languages.

Keywords: grammatical rules, sophisticated, precise, specialized vocabulary, contexts, punctuation serves, technical language, jargon, complicated syntax, antecedent agreement, language.

Linguistic stylistics is a field of study that focuses on analyzing language using scientific rules. This analysis encompasses various aspects such as vocabulary, grammar, figures of speech, context, and cohesion. In contrast, literary stylistics diverges from linguistic stylistics by placing greater emphasis on external factors like history, philosophy, and sources of inspiration to interpret a text. However, it occasionally incorporates elements of language usage. These two disciplines, literary stylistics and linguistic stylistics, differ not only in their areas of focus but also in their methodologies[1]. Literary stylistics centers on values and aesthetics, while linguistic stylistics relies on scientific analysis, employing tools such as grammar, syntax, and phonology[2]. The application of linguistic standards to literary works caused unease among literary critics, leading some, like Bateson, to vehemently resist this perceived encroachment[3].

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Formal writing plays a vital role in communication within academic, professional, and official environments. It possesses distinct lexical and grammatical attributes that differentiate it from informal or casual language. Proficiency in comprehending and utilizing these features is imperative for successful communication in formal settings[4,5]. This article aims to delve into the lexical-grammatical aspects of formal style, encompassing vocabulary, syntax, and punctuation while examining their importance across various forms of formal writing.

Formal writing is characterized by its utilization of sophisticated, precise, and specialized vocabulary. The language employed in formal contexts necessitates the use of words and expressions that are more specific, technical, and abstract in comparison to everyday language. For instance, terms like "utilize" instead of "use," "facilitate" instead of "help," and "implemented" instead of "did" are commonly found in formal writing. Additionally, formal vocabulary places a strong emphasis on accuracy and objectivity, avoiding the use of colloquial expressions, slang, or informal idioms[6,7].

In the realm of academic writing, the incorporation of scholarly and discipline-specific terminology holds particular significance. This practice not only showcases a profound understanding of the subject matter but also aids in effectively conveying complex ideas and concepts. Moreover, in professional communication such as business reports or legal documents, the use of formal vocabulary reflects expertise, credibility, and authority, thereby lending a sense of gravitas to the content[8].

Formal writing displays specific syntactic characteristics that distinguish it from other forms of writing. These features include the use of complex sentence structures, a variety of sentence lengths, and a greater emphasis on grammatical accuracy[9]. In formal contexts, it is common to find long and intricate sentences that incorporate subordinate clauses and complex phrasing. This complexity serves to enhance precision and clarity when conveying intricate information and presenting arguments.

Furthermore, formal writing strives to avoid sentence fragments and run-on sentences by adhering to strict grammatical rules. It places great importance on maintaining correct subject-verb agreement, consistent verb tense usage, and proper pronoun-antecedent agreement. These aspects of formal writing demonstrate a high level of language proficiency and meticulous attention to detail[10,11].

Another notable characteristic of formal syntax is the frequent use of passive voice. In formal writing, passive voice is often employed to highlight the object or action being discussed rather than the subject acting. This choice contributes to a more

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impersonal and objective tone, which is highly valued in formal communication[12,13].

Punctuation and mechanics play a crucial role in shaping the formal style of writing. In formal contexts, punctuation serves the purpose of conveying precise meaning and aiding in the clarity and organization of written communication. The correct usage of punctuation marks, such as commas, semicolons, colons, and dashes, is vital for accurately conveying the intended message.

Furthermore, in academic and professional writing, the proper citation of sources through the use of specific referencing styles, such as APA, MLA, or Chicago, is of utmost importance. This demonstrates respect for intellectual property, ethical research practices, and adherence to academic conventions. The accurate and consistent application of these citation styles is a fundamental skill in formal writing[14,15].

The level of formality in writing is also determined by the register, or style, and tone employed. Formal writing often adopts a more detached, impersonal, and objective tone. It avoids the use of emotional language, slang, and personal pronouns, instead opting for a more professional and authoritative voice. Consequently, the use of the third person is prevalent in formal writing, contributing to a sense of objectivity and academic distance.

Moreover, the formality of writing is also influenced by the specific genres and disciplines it belongs to. For example, scientific writing often employs the use of passive voice as a common convention, whereas business and legal writing tends to favor direct and active language. Writers must adhere to the conventions of their chosen genre and understand the appropriate register for their intended audience to achieve a formal writing style.

In contrast, formality in legal writing is expressed through the use of legal terminology, careful application of legal precedents, and precise interpretation of laws and regulations. The formal style is also manifested in business communication through the use of professional language, persuasive rhetoric, and adherence to business etiquette. The ability to adapt the lexical and grammatical features of formal writing to the specific needs of different disciplines and genres is critical to effective communication in these contexts, considerations that writers may face. A common challenge is finding the right balance between formality and approachability. While formal writing requires precise language and a professional tone, it is crucial to ensure that communication remains clear and understandable to the audience. To

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maintain reader engagement, it's important to avoid overly technical language, jargon, or complicated syntax.

In conclusion, the ability to navigate the expectations of different audiences and contexts is a complex task. It is crucial to understand the formal requirements of academic writing, professional communication, and official documentation in diverse settings to communicate effectively. Furthermore, the ever-changing nature of language and the influence of cultural norms on formality present challenges in maintaining appropriate language and tone in formal writing[16].

To achieve effective communication in academic, professional, and official contexts, it is essential to utilize the lexical and grammatical features of formal style. This includes employing sophisticated vocabulary, constructing complex sentence structures, and adopting a professional tone. By doing so, formal writing conveys authority, expertise, and clarity.

Mastering these features, while also understanding the specific conventions of different disciplines and genres, is crucial for success in formal communication. Despite the challenges of balancing formality with accessibility and meeting diverse audience expectations, a thorough grasp of formal writing features serves as a cornerstone for effective communication in a variety of formal settings.

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