

Modulo di Traduzione Inglese 2018-19

Lesson 3: 29 January 2019

Lexis: Register, etc.

Genre

- Culturally recognisable phenomena, e.g. crime fiction, recipe, sermon, company financial statement
- Not necessarily connected to usage and choices of specific individuals
- Not based on recognisable language patterns
- Extra-linguistic

Style

- A given style (or styles) may be appropriate to a particular genre (e.g. the revelation of 'whodunit' from a group of suspects in crime fiction, the list of ingredients and the procedural instructions in recipes, the (encouraging) forecasts in business reports)
- Style is rather an individual (or standardised) way of doing something, a language repertoire
- Half-way between extra- and intra-linguistic

Register

- Recognisable language patterns employed by users in particular contexts for particular objectives (e.g. different modal verbs used to make requests, differences between, written and spoken language, etc.)
- Fundamentally intra-linguistic

Genre, Style and Register

- A Genre can include various Styles
- A Style can include various Registers
- A Register describes a specific use of language

Types of Register (or Genre or Style)

- Literary forms (poems, drama, historical novels, crime fiction)
- Business usages: advertising, presentations, contracts, court proceedings

Types of Register (or Genre or Style)

- Specialised vocabulary (lawyers, doctors, experts (jargon, domain language))
- Type of communicative objective (informative, persuasive, descriptive); Text Type

Elements of Register

- Regional and geographic variations
- Pronunciation (accent)
- Dialects

Elements of Register

- Historical variations:
 - recognisable elements of historical usage
 - old-fashioned
 - neologisms
- Modifications in 'standard' usage over time

Elements of Register

- Impact of social context on language usage:
 - Interaction with peers
 - Interaction with (hierarchical) superiors
 - Interaction with children (dependents)

- Gender
- Class (Education, Economic Status)

Elements of Register: Medium/Mode

Spoken Language: Conversation – Public Speaking

Listener-orientated

Collaborative, Interactional, Social

Simpler, monosyllabic, high-frequency (Germanic) vocabulary, weak forms (can't, I'll see you tomorrow ...), short phrases

Spontaneous, frequent, uncorrected grammatical 'errors'

Imprecision (lack of concentration, informal context or subject matter (what do you call it?, stuff, loads of, greenish, etc.))

Intensification (unbelievable, horrible, ace, top-notch) – hyperbole

Neologisms (mega, maxi, workwise)

Discourse markers: you know, like, hmm, well ...

Deictics: this one here, you, her, now.

Elements of Register: Medium/Mode

Written Language: Literature – Academic Prose – Texting

Message-orientated

Uni-directional, Transactional

Informational – Directive

Sophisticated, select, polysyllabic (Latin) vocabulary

Structured, checked and revised for mistakes

More complex sentence structures : passives, impersonal forms

More subordination than coordination (maybe?)

Elements of Register: Tenor

Levels of Formality

- Frozen
- Formal
- Consultative
- Casual
- Intimate

Elements of Register: Tenor

Determined by closeness of interaction

Determined by perception of difficulty

Determined by application of pressure to achieve aim

Example

Can I ask a question?

May I ask a question?

Could I ask a question?

Might I ask a question?

Do you mind if I I ask a question?

Would you mind I asked a question?

Elements of Register: Tenor

Formal language makes use of complex sentence structures

In 2014, they signed the deal. This was good politically. Two countries united.

The agreement was signed in 2014, which resulted in a positive political move that united the two countries.

Formal language does not use contractions

If you'd been more careful, it wouldn't have happened.

Had you been more attentive, the problem would not have arisen

Elements of Register: Tenor

Formal language is objective

I think the economy will be a big issue at the meeting.

There is little doubt that delegates will address the topic of the economy at the meeting.

Formal language does not use colloquialisms

The President completely lost it when she saw the newspaper reports.

The President expressed extreme concern on viewing

Elements of Register: Tenor

Formal language focuses more on vocabulary choice

The assistant checked out the problem and got back to him the day after.

The assistant investigated the incident and reported to him the following day.

Formal language makes use of the discipline specific vocabulary

New laws will help prison inmates.

Detainees will benefit from the adoption of new legislation.