English Language and Translation 2
1st Language - 2018-19

Lesson 11: 19 February 2018

Texts 1

TEXT Forms

Literary/Fiction:

- Prose
  - Novel
    - Crime fiction/Science fiction/Historical novels etc.
  - Short stories
  - Cartoon strips

- Poetry
  - Sonnets
  - Haiku
  - Epic Poems
  - Songs, Ballads

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TEXT Forms - Realisations

- Drama (Theatre)
  - Comedy
  - Tragedy
  - History

- Film scripts

- Television screenplays

- Radio plays and adaptations

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TEXT Forms- Realisations

Non-fiction

- Reference texts
    - Histories
    - Biographies
    - Dictionaries, Grammars, etc.
    - Guidebooks, Travel Guides
    - How-to Manuals

TEXT Forms - Realisations

- Educational material
  - School teaching resources (books, video, audio)

- Scientific/Academic literature:
  - Articles
  - Books
  - Reviews
  - Criticisms
  - Presentations

TEXT Forms - Realisations

- Journalism:
  - Headlines
  - Reports/Articles
  - Comment/Editorials

- Reviews
  - Books, films, food, etc.

TEXT Forms - Realisations

- Business documents:
  - Letters, memos, correspondence
  - Company reports, financial statements
  - Presentations

- Business communications:
  - Advertising
  - Brochures, flyers
  - Promotions

TEXT Forms - Realisations

- Procedural texts

  - Laws, regulations, contracts

  - Handbooks, operating manuals

  - Recipes

TEXT Forms - Realisations

- Motivational texts

  - Sermons

  - Political speeches

TEXT Forms - Realisations

- Interactive texts

  - Social media contributions
    - Blogs
    - Forums
    - Chats
    - Audio/Video (Whatsapp)

  - Discussions/Conversations

TEXT Forms – Realisations

- Reflective/personal texts

    - Letters, mails, chats

    - Shopping lists, bucket lists, wish-lists

    - Journals, diaries

TEXT Forms – Genres: external to text, a social quality

Each of these (and many other) examples share certain characteristics:

- The author is probably known (or the recipient could probably find out)
- The author probably imagines the typical recipient
- The text has an explicit (or implicit) objective
- The text has a recognisable (and recognised) format (used by the author and recognised by the recipient)

These are characteristics of Genre and tend to be defined externally to the individual text.

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TEXT Forms – Style: external to text (social context) and internal to text (use of language)

A particular realisation of one of these texts by a given author would be realised in the manner of that author (of which the author is certainly aware and which many recipients will be able to identify)

- Consider a novel by Jane Austin or by Agatha Christie
- Consider a Guardian Headline or a Daily Mail Headline
- Consider a promotional letter of a letter demanding payment

This manner is a question of style

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TEXTS Types: internal to the text (register)

Description of a type of text (rather than a form) based on the communicative objective and determined by intrinsically internal (linguistic) characteristics that can be identified.

TEXTS Types: internal to the text (register)

- Narrative

- Descriptive

- Directive/Instructive

- Expository (Comparison/Contrast)

- Argumentative

Gramley,S., Pätzold, K.M., A Survey of Modern English, London, Routledge, 1992

TEXTS - Narrative

- Real-world context

- Fictional or Non-fictional (novels, newspaper report)

- Events and actions

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TEXTS - Descriptive

- Location/position of people and things

- Personal/emotional/subjective (fictional) or technical/rational/objective (non-fictional)

- Provides context and background

TEXTS - Directive

- Specific actions and events to be realised

- Instructions – commands - requirements

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TEXTS - Expository

- Identify and characterise phenomena

- Definitions, explanations, summaries

- Subjective or objective

- Analytical (from concept to part), e.g. definitions

- Synthetic (from features to concept), e.g. summaries

TEXTS/Argumentative

Aimed at persuading, convincing or changing opinion

Contradictions, negations,

Alternative hypotheses (conditional premises)

TEXTS

Most authentic texts are not pure examples of a single type, but a

mixture of types depending on function and objective.

TEXTS – Lexical and Grammatical characteristics

What are some of the typical characteristics of lexis and

grammar in examples of the various text types?

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TEXTS – Narrative: characteristics

Lexis

- Specific semantic groups (word families) depending on subject matter
- Complexity of lexis also dependent on subject
- Shorter sentences

Grammar

- Sequencing: dynamic verbs in simple form, past times
- Temporal adverbs and connectives
- State verbs in characterisation
- Mainly active voice

TEXTS – Descriptive: characteristics

Lexis

- Importance of adjectives and adverbs to differentiate
- Semantic fields
- Complexity of language choices determined by complexity of subject
- Varied sentence length
- Figurative language (collocations, etc.)

Grammar

- Uses state and positional verbs in progressive/perfect forms, spatial adverbs
- Simple and progressive forms to balance events and context
- Thinking/feeling verbs expressing writer's view

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TEXTS – Directive/instructive: characteristics

Lexis

- Simple, standardized rather than 'creative' vocabulary
- Limited variety in sentence structure
- Some 'technical' vocabulary
- Recognisable format

Grammar

- Imperative verbs or equivalents
- Action verbs
- Most information carried in verbs

TEXTS – Expository: characteristics

Lexis

- Abstract nouns
- Technical jargon
- Evaluative language
- Persuasive and creative terminology

Grammar

- Identifying statements with state verbs
- Perception verbs
- Use of modality
- Clear sequencing with connectives

TEXTS – Argumentative: characteristics

Lexis

Grammar

Semantic fields
Clear division of for and
against in organisation of
text
Some 'contentious'
vocabulary

Comparative structures
Conditional forms
Hedging expressions
Thinking/feeling verb
structures
Present tenses

TEXT EXAMPLE – Company History

Our history begins in 1866, with the foundation of the Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company. Henri Nestlé develops a breakthrough infant food in 1867, and in 1905 the company he founded merges with Anglo-Swiss, to form what is now known as the Nestlé Group. During this period cities grow and railways and steamships bring down commodity costs, spurring international trade in consumer goods.

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TEXT EXAMPLE – Presentation of Lyme Regis

Situated in the South West of Dorset, England, Lyme Regis is an historic unspoiled seaside resort and fishing port on the world famous Cobb harbour. Surrounded by beautiful coastlines and countryside, the area has now been awarded World Heritage Site Status; famous for its geology and fossil finds.

TEXT EXAMPLE – Safety Instructions

a) Keep work area clean and well lit. Cluttered and dark areas invite accidents.

b) Do not operate power tools in explosive atmospheres, such as in the presence of flammable liquids, gases or dust. Power tools create sparks which may ignite the dust or fumes.

c) Keep Children and bystanders away while operating a power tool. Distractions can cause you to loose control.

TEXT EXAMPLE – Product Information

Product Information!

Due to an unexpected product failure, Betterworths Ltd. are immediately recalling all Globetel 100 mobile phones. This is an immediate recall due to a major health and safety fault causing the telephone aerials on certain models to catch fire if exposed to direct sunlight. Please return all Globetel 100 mobile phones bought after 21/01/2011 to your nearest Betterworths outlet immediately for a refund.

TEXT EXAMPLE – Product Promotion

No matter the task, the new iPad Pro is up to it — and then some. It offers far more power than most PC laptops, yet is delightfully simple to use. The redesigned Retina display is as stunning to look at as it is to touch. And it all comes together with iOS, the world's most advanced mobile operating system. iPad Pro. Everything you want modern computing to be. Now even, well, better.