
Writer's Statement about "Genre Analysis of Moves in Medical Research Articles"

DANIEL HUANG

When I first found out the majority of my semester would be spent on researching one type of literature for a genre analysis paper, I created a list of the different genres associated with the medical field in order to further my studies in medicine. This project allowed me to have a glance at what the medical field had to offer and proved to be a golden opportunity for me to potentially offer guidance to pre-med students such as myself. Once I decided to research medical research articles, I had to find a niche to write about that would contribute to those aspiring to research in the medical field.

The first couple of weeks of this project consisted of finding a genre, analyzing the genre, and writing a research proposal to present to Professor Dadurka. In order to understand what a genre analysis entailed, our class was assigned readings on multiple genre analyses. One genre analysis in particular that caught my interest was a piece written by Huiling Ding. Her genre analysis on moves used in application essays to medical and dental school was related to my field of interest and the concept of moves was one that I was not too familiar with. After reading her genre analysis and researching similar genre analyses, I decided to structure my genre analysis similar to Ding's paper.

Once Professor Dadurka consented to my genre analysis, I immediately began to develop a corpus of medical research articles from the *Lancet* medical journal. My first challenge began once my corpus was complete. After reading several medical research articles, I realized that the language used in this particular genre was very exclusive to those outside of the discourse community. This setback forced me into researching the types of procedures carried out within the research articles in order for me to be able to analyze the lexical meaning, propositional meanings and illocutionary forces used in each section of the genre. After gaining a basic understanding of medical terminology, I was able to start my genre analysis of the moves used in medical research articles.

The task of analyzing moves used in medical research articles was quite challenging, but with the help of Professor Dadurka and several genre analyses on similar topics, I was able to complete a first draft within the span of a couple of weeks. My first draft consisted of 20 pages including the appendix and works cited. Within my first draft I was able to report twelve moves used in the majority of my corpus. With my first draft completed, I was able to receive peer reviews in class by my classmates and professor. After the numerous peer reviews, I began the process of adding final touches and edits to prepare my final draft.

As I wrote my final draft, I had the audience of pre-med students in mind. I wanted my genre analysis to serve as a guide to those in my field who have not written papers for clinical research and needed help in starting the process. I felt that I owed it to the community and myself to help out my peers in succeeding in this competitive field. This project was very informative to me

and helped me gain knowledge about styles of writing in the medical field. Medical research articles are an important source of communication in this field which is why it is imperative that scholars planning on pursuing a career in medicine understand the proper form of style and rhetoric used in the medical community.