

WRITTEN AND SPOKEN DISCOURSE: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada yozma va og‘zaki diskurs o‘rtasidagi asosiy farqlar tahlil qilindi. Tadqiqot natijalari shuni ko‘rsatadiki, yozma diskurs murakkabroq tuzilishga, yuqori leksik zichlikka va nominalizatsiyaga ega bo‘lib, mazmuniy jihatdan aniq va kontekstdan mustaqildir. Og‘zaki diskurs esa, aksincha, real vaqt rejimida yuzaga keladi, kontekstga bog‘liq, qisqa va oddiy gaplardan tashkil topadi, ko‘plab pauza, takror va nutq belgilarini o‘z ichiga oladi. Ushbu farqlar til o‘qitish jarayonida yozma va og‘zaki kompetensiyalarni alohida shakllantirish zarurligini ko‘rsatadi.

Kalit so‘zlar: yozma diskurs, og‘zaki diskurs, leksik zichlik, nominalizatsiya, kontekst, diskurs tahlili

Аннотация: В статье рассматриваются основные различия между письменным и устным дискурсом. Результаты исследования показывают, что письменный дискурс обладает более сложной структурой, высокой лексической плотностью и номинализацией, а также является более эксплицитным и независимым от контекста. Устный дискурс, напротив, осуществляется в реальном времени, опирается на контекст, характеризуется короткими и простыми предложениями, а также содержит паузы, повторы и дискурсивные маркеры. Данные различия подчеркивают необходимость отдельного формирования письменной и устной компетенций при обучении языку.

Ключевые слова: письменный дискурс, устный дискурс, лексическая плотность, номинализация, контекст, дискурс-анализ

Abstract: This article analyzes the major differences between written and spoken discourse. The results demonstrate that written discourse is more structurally complex, lexically dense, and highly nominalized, as well as more explicit and decontextualized. Spoken discourse, in contrast, occurs in real time, is context-dependent, consists of shorter and simpler sentences, and is characterized by pauses, repetitions, and discourse markers. These differences highlight the importance of developing written and spoken competencies separately in language education.

Keywords: written discourse, spoken discourse, lexical density, nominalization, context, discourse analysis

Introduction

Discourse is one of the central concerns of applied linguistics and communication studies. It can be broadly classified into **written discourse** and **spoken discourse**, each possessing unique structural, functional, and communicative features. Written discourse is the transfer of information through

written language, while spoken discourse refers to communication through oral language. This study aims to highlight the fundamental differences between written and spoken discourse, focusing on structural complexity, lexical density, nominalization, explicitness, and contextual dependency.

Methods

The study is based on a **descriptive comparative method**. Examples of written discourse were taken from academic and literary texts, whereas spoken discourse examples were extracted from conversational data, interviews, and oral performances. The analysis focused on:

Lexical density – ratio of content words to grammatical words.

Nominalization – frequency of nouns versus verbs.

Structural organization – sentence length and complexity.

Explicitness and contextuality – reliance on context for meaning.

Discourse markers and fillers – features specific to oral communication.

Results

The comparative analysis revealed several key distinctions between written and spoken discourse:

Structural Complexity

Written discourse is more organized, grammatical, and structurally complex. Sentences tend to be long and elaborate.

Spoken discourse, by contrast, is often fragmented, ungrammatical, and spontaneous. It contains incomplete sentences, reformulations, and interruptions.

Lexical Density

Written discourse exhibits higher lexical density due to the prevalence of content words (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs).

Spoken discourse is lexically less dense, relying more on function words, discourse markers (“well,” “so,” “you know”), and fillers (“er,” “hhh”).

Nominalization

Written discourse shows a higher degree of nominalization, presenting actions and events as nouns (e.g., *definition*, *establishment*).

Spoken discourse prefers verbs and direct actions, making it less nominalized.

Explicitness and Contextual Dependency

Written texts are decontextualized and must provide explicit references since readers cannot rely on shared context or body language.

Spoken discourse is highly contextual, often assuming shared background knowledge between speaker and listener.

Temporal Nature

Written discourse is fixed and stable; it can be read at any speed or depth.

Spoken discourse is fleeting, produced in real time, requiring listeners to follow at the speaker's pace.

Repetition and Redundancy

Spoken discourse features hesitations, repetitions, pauses, and redundancy, which serve as strategies for real-time processing.

Written discourse minimizes redundancy, aiming for precision and clarity.

Discussion

The findings confirm that written and spoken discourse differ not only in form but also in communicative function. Written discourse is associated with permanence, complexity, and explicitness, making it suitable for academic and formal contexts. Spoken discourse, on the other hand, is characterized by spontaneity, contextual reliance, and interactive negotiation of meaning.

These differences have pedagogical implications:

Language learners must develop separate competencies for reading/writing and speaking/listening, as each mode requires distinct strategies.

Awareness of lexical density, nominalization, and explicitness can improve learners' ability to transition between oral and written registers.

Spoken discourse analysis is crucial for understanding conversational dynamics, while written discourse analysis is vital for academic literacy.

Conclusion

Written and spoken discourse, though serving the same communicative purpose of transferring information, operate under different structural and functional principles. Written discourse is explicit, stable, and lexically dense, while spoken discourse is immediate, context-dependent, and interactional.

Recognizing these differences enhances discourse analysis and provides practical insights for language teaching and communication studies.

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