

**THESES TO JOURNAL ARTICLES:
AN APPLICATION OF THE GENRE APPROACH TO WRITING**

**A Special Project
Presented to the**

**Faculty of the College of Graduate Studies
Philippine Normal University**

**In Partial Fulfillment
Of the Requirements for the Graduate Diploma in
English Language Teaching**

by

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February 2002**

ABSTRACT

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Title: Theses to Journal Articles: An Application of the Genre Approach to Writing

Key Concepts:

Genre Analysis

Process Approach in Writing

Structure of Journal Articles

Thesis

Specialization: English Language Teaching

Adviser: Prof. Phebe S. Peña

Statement of the Purpose

The main purpose of this study is to convert studies conducted by ELT students of PNU into journal articles.

Specifically, it will try to answer the following question:

What makes the writing of a journal article different from the writing of a magazine article?

Methodology

A survey of language teaching journals available at De La Salle University-Manila and those from the internet was done by the researcher with the goal of familiarizing herself with the structure of a journal article, the type of language used, and its characteristics of brevity, objectivity, and technicality. She also consulted books and

articles on writing and genre analysis for tips/guidelines that would help her in carrying out the aim of the study.

The researcher, with the help of her adviser, made a list of these materials available. These are results of the studies conducted by ELT graduate students of PNU from October 1990 to October 2001. They cover different areas – writing, testing, speaking, conversational analysis, materials development, etc. The accessibility of these materials was ensured.

Each thesis material was read by the researcher for the purpose of converting it into a journal article. She noted important details and the ones which she wanted to emphasize.

A new material was then composed by the researcher out of an old one. She saw to it that each journal article was concise, accurate, and following the principles of technical writing.

In writing the journal articles, this sequence was followed: abstract, introduction, method, discussion, and conclusion.

For revision, the journal articles were checked twice or thrice with analytical acuity. The researcher checked if the different parts achieve their function. She and her adviser evaluated the articles as to accuracy, clarity, and adequacy of information, grammaticality, objectivity and consistency.

Findings

The writing of a journal article is different from the writing of a magazine article. The writer can afford to become subjective in writing the latter. He may use nonstandard,

colloquial, or slang words. He does not need to prepare a bibliography or to interpret results. He is free to express himself – including his prejudices and his biases.

On the other hand, the writing of a journal article calls for objectivity, brevity, accuracy, and technicality. Here, the writer needs to give a clear statement of the problem, the proposed solution, and results achieved. He uses the language of a particular discipline. His style is direct, scholarly and disciplined. He may not give his opinions, emotions and comments.

A journal article focuses on describing the results in sufficient details to establish their validity; describing the novel aspects of the results; identifying the significance of the results: what improvements and impacts they suggest. It follows a definite structure.

Conclusions

The researcher found that the journal articles written out of studies conducted by ELT graduate students of PNU are publishable. The journal articles offer a practical way of providing faculty and students of research an easy access to studies on the learning and teaching of the English language. They do not have to go through the pains of reading ten complete theses materials in order to keep abreast.

Recommendations

The researcher recommends further review of the journal articles by language specialists at the PNU Language Center. She also recommends their publication in a journal.