Mini-course ALSFAL 9, Santiago

Advanced Level

Story genres: interpreting experience in academic and non-academic discourse

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The term narrative is widely deployed in discourse studies, and used in many different ways across disciplines. In this mini-course we’ll review a range of story genres from the perspective of SFL genre theory, focussing in particular on the interplay of ideational and interpersonal meaning as the texts unfold.

We begin in the morning by reviewing SFL work on the discourse semantics of spoken stories in domestic and workplace settings, and written stories in school: recount, commissioned recount, anecdote, exemplum, observation, narrative, gossip, news story, thematic narrative. Key issues to be addressed include: how to analyse a genre, genre and macro-genre, stage and phase.

In the afternoon session we turn to the field of academic research and consider some of the many ways that academic writers put story genres to work and the range of story genres they employ in persuading us of the validity or legitimacy of their research.

Essential bibliography:


Martin, J R & D Rose 2008 *Genre Relations: mapping culture*. London: Equinox. (Chapter 2 Stories)


**Power Point slides for the morning session to be provided for participants.**

**Readings for the morning session (read in following sequence):**


[A copy of Chris Jordens 2002 PhD Thesis is also available, which and provides an excellent introduction to SFL and SFL work on story genres]