

Unit 7 Abstract

1 Elements of an abstract

Moves	Content
1 Background	Situating the research (optional) Step 1 Setting the background knowledge (optional) Step 2 Indicating the problem to be addressed (optional)
2 Purposes	Announcing the purpose or the principal activity and its scope
3 Methodology	Describing the method used Step 1 Stating the materials/subjects Step 2 Describing the procedure (optional) Step 3 Justifying the method (optional)
4 Results	Reporting the main findings
5 Conclusion	Providing the conclusion Step 1 Indicating the improvement and the significance or implications (optional) Step 2 Pointing out the application or further research (optional)

Exercise 1

Directions: The following sentences are taken from three abstracts. Please reorder the sentences into coherent pieces.

Abstract 1

- A. The assumption is that as political relations between two countries deteriorate so does trade between them. History has shown, however, that there is no inevitable causality between these two phenomena.
- B. In addition to informing studies of human behavior more broadly, these findings may also be important at the multinational policy level.
- C. To accomplish this goal, a review and analysis of the literature and other scientific data published since 1975 was conducted.
- D. This paper endeavors to demonstrate this thesis by providing several examples of pairs of countries in Africa and the Middle East.
- E. The relationship between bilateral trade and political relations has been heatedly debated by economists, political scientists, and philosophers for centuries.
- F. The investigation reveals that, under certain conditions, bilateral trade does not necessarily decline when relations sour. This appears to be particularly the case with countries who are in a state of conflict with multiple others simultaneously.

Abstract 2

- A. The results reveal meaning features that function to construct the two fathers' identities: one as a sensitive and devoted servant, willing to do all he can for the physical and emotional well-being of his daughter, meanwhile inclined to self-criticism and hoping to improve his performance.
- B. The analysis demonstrates how a systematic analysis of one's meaning choices, supported by linguistic evidence, helps to avoid selective attention to certain discourse features, apart from shedding new light on identity construction.

C. This paper presents an analysis of letters written by two fathers to their daughters in the highly acclaimed Chinese reality TV show *Dad Where Are you Going*, exploring how father identities are constructed through meaning choices in language use.

D. The other as a perceptive and dedicated mentor, aware of both strong and weak points of his daughter and concerned with her personal development, setting out specific qualities and behaviors for her to acquire.

E. After the letters were coded, quantitative analyses were conducted of all meaning choices realized in lexicogrammatical forms—made by the two fathers in their letters.

F. Drawing on Systemic Functional Linguistics, three interrelated coding schemes were developed: Speech Function (what is done), Experience (What is said), and Evaluation (how things said are evaluated).

Abstract 3

A. They at once contradict and need each other in conveying the thematic message of the text.

B. This essay explores how the same verbal choices take on different degrees of importance and generate conflicting thematic meanings in the dual trajectory of signification in Ambrose Bierce's "A Horseman in the Sky," which forms an implicit yet sharp contrast with the single trajectory in Bierce's "The Affair at Coulter's Notch."

C. The gradual perception of the two coexisting trajectories increasingly complicates the response to the verbal choices in the narrative.

D. In some fictional narratives, literary significance resides in two parallel trajectories of signification.

E. Going along only one of the two trajectories will result in a partial understanding not only of the thematic message but also of the character images and the aesthetic value of the narrative.

F. Based on the analysis, the essay will discuss how to uncover the dual trajectory which has so far eluded critical attention.

G. Such dual signification is essentially different from previously investigated complicated meanings of literary texts.

2 Evaluating an abstract

Exercise 2

Directions: Read and evaluate the following abstract using the checklist that follows. The sentences are numbered for your convenience.

<p>[1] Health warning labels are commonly found on products that may be dangerous, such as power tools, strong medicines and, in some countries, cigarettes. [2] It is becoming increasingly apparent that mobile phones should be included in this category. [3] However, although several health risks associated with mobile phone use has been identified and reported in the scientific literature, most such devices are not accompanied by visible warning labels. [4] As mobile phones become more advanced, or "smarter," they also become more distracting. [5] This,</p>

in turn, is causing their users to become more prone to accidents; while they stare at their phone screens, they are less aware of the environment around them. [6] For this study, over two thousand individuals living in the same city were surveyed on their mobile phone habits and on their involvement in accidents. [7] The data clearly point to a need for visible health warning messages with information on the health risks of mobile phone use.

Checklist for an abstract:

- 1) Is the topic clearly recognizable and is an effort made to capture readers' interest?
- 2) Is background information provided to clarify the topic's importance?
- 3) Is the purpose of the research clearly stated?
- 4) Are the methods used to collect data given?
- 5) Are the key findings of the research provided?
- 6) Are the implications of the findings explained?