

The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of a study desk. In the foreground, there is a stack of several books, with the top one being an open notebook showing blank pages. To the right of the books, there is a white ceramic cup, likely containing coffee, and a small potted plant with green leaves and white flowers is visible in the background. The overall lighting is soft and warm, creating a cozy academic atmosphere.

# Features of Academic Writing

Week 2

English for Academic Purposes

English Language Teaching Unit

Faculty of Humanities and Sciences

# Learning Outcomes

- Identify the features of academic writing
- Create academic texts using the features of academic writing



# Language features

Complexity

Formality

Precision

Objectivity

Explicitness

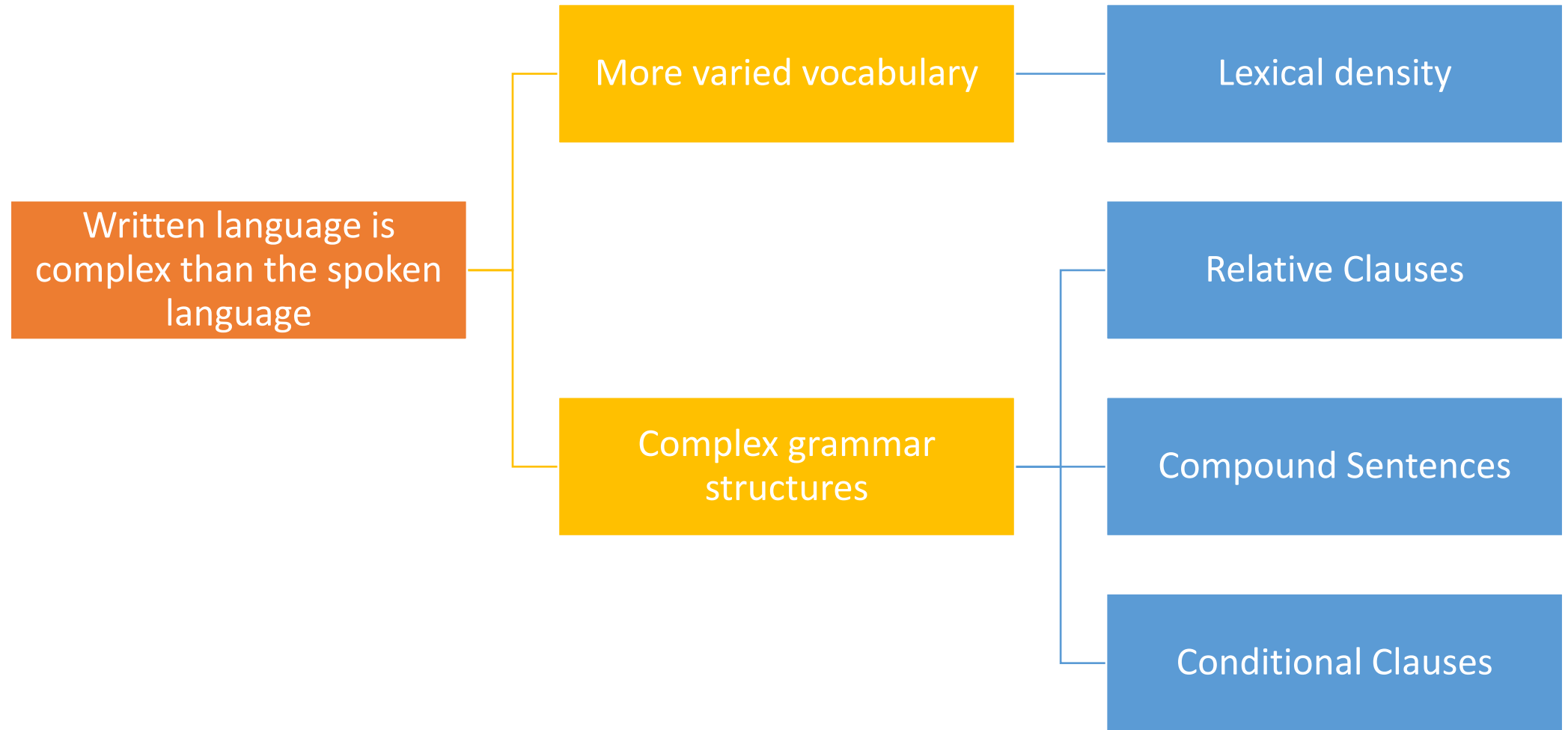
Accuracy

Hedging

Responsibility



# Complexity



# More lexical density: distinguish between content words and function words

- Content words

- nouns (e.g. dog, Susan, oil)
- adjectives (e.g. red, happy, cold)
- adverbs (e.g. very, carefully, yesterday)
- lexical verbs (e.g. run, walk, sit)

- Function words

- auxiliary verbs (e.g. can, will, have)
- prepositions (e.g. in, to, after)
- conjunctions (e.g. and, but, if)
- numerals (e.g. two, three, first)
- determiners (e.g. the, those, my)
- pronouns (e.g. she, yourself, who)

# Use Relative Clauses

- Air pollution can cause health problems. Air pollution is largely caused by motor vehicles.
- Air pollution, **which** is mostly caused by motor vehicles, can cause health problems.

**Who : person**

**Which : animals and things**

**That: people, animals and things**

For  
And  
Nor  
But  
Or  
Yet  
So

# Compound Sentences and Conditional Clauses

- Compound sentences consist of two independent clauses linked together with a conjunction such as 'and', 'for' or 'but'.
  - I really want to study, **but** I'm too tired.
- I will be really happy, **if** I pass the IELTS test.

If present tense + will/will not + infinitive without to  
Possible future situation

If past simple + would/ would not + infinitive without to  
Present or future situations which are not possible

If past perfect + would (not) + have + past participle  
Unreal past conditions



- Because the technology has improved it's less risky than it used to be when you install them at the same time, and it doesn't cost so much either.
- Improvements in technology have reduced the risks and high costs associated with simultaneous installation.



# Formality

- Avoid colloquial words and expressions  
things/stuff/a lot of/ sort of
- Avoid abbreviated forms: "can't", "doesn't", "shouldn't"
- Avoid clichés  
Last but not the least/First and foremost
- Avoid two-word verbs  
put off, bring up, set up

- Avoid Rhetorical questions

Industrial sites cause vast amounts of environmental pollution, so why do we still use them?

- Avoid Run-on expressions  
and so on, etc.

Do not have exact  
answers  
Do not expect an  
answer from the  
readers or the  
audience

A close-up, slightly angled view of a dartboard. Three darts with black shafts and yellow fletching are embedded in the bullseye, which is a small yellow circle in the center of a larger red circle. The target has concentric rings of red, blue, and black. The background is a solid grey.

# Precision

- Be precise when information, dates or figures are given.

Lot of people suffer from cancer.

50 million people suffer from cancer.

# Objectivity

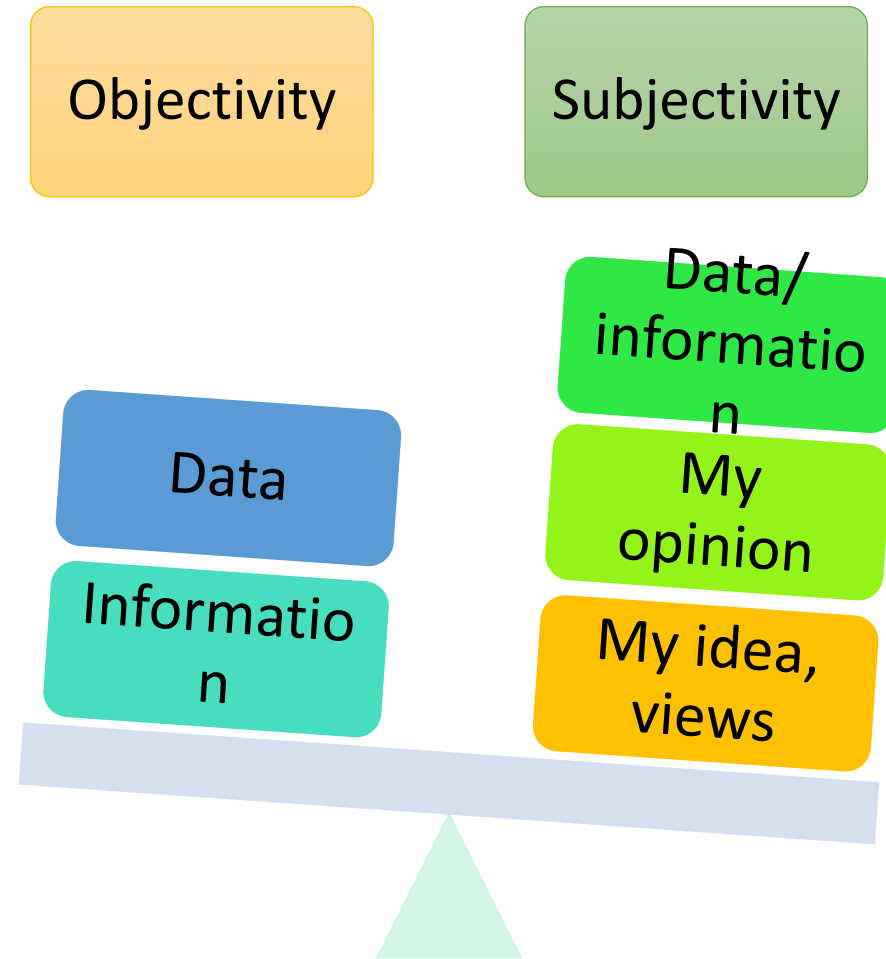
A pair of brass scales of justice is positioned on the right side of the image. The scales are made of polished brass and feature a central vertical pillar supporting a horizontal beam. Two pans are suspended from the beam by thin wires. The scales are placed on a light-colored wooden surface. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

80% of the girls at SLIIT like Korean dramas.



Objectivity

Subjectivity



80% of the girls at SLIIT like Korean dramas as they have no sense of proper art and are stupid enough to watch them.







# How to achieve objectivity

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- **Avoid** words like I, me, myself
- **Don't write:** In my opinion, this is a very interesting study.
  - **Write:** This is a very interesting study.
- **Avoid** 'you'
- **Don't write:** You can easily forget how different life was 50 years ago.
  - **Write:** It is easy to forget how difficult life was 50 years ago.


- Minimize the use of active voice and try to use the passive voice
  - Active: We used a standard graphical representation
  - Passive: A standard graphical representation was used to...
  
  - Active: We have observed that
  - Passive: It has been observed that
- Use the generic pronoun “one”

Underline all the examples of subjective language in the following paragraph.

Everybody knows about the threat of global warming to our earth. We all pollute the atmosphere with gases and we all throw away rubbish that could be recycled. As far as I am concerned, these are two aspects that can be improved. I believe that everyone should use more public transport and leave their car at home. I also think that we can all learn to recycle more of our plastic and glass bottles. Even our left-over food can be used as compost.

# Explicitness

The background of the slide is a stylized illustration of a road that splits into multiple paths. Several yellow diamond-shaped signs with black arrows are placed along the road, pointing in various directions (up, down, left, right, and diagonally). The scene is set against a blue sky with soft, white clouds. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

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- Use signposting
  - Give the source
  - Managing people is not easy. However, it can be done successfully with proper planning.
  - According to Peters (1983), evidence from the case study of foreign students indicates culture shock is inevitable.

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a green pencil with a wooden body, positioned diagonally from the top right towards the bottom left. The pencil is in the process of drawing green checkmarks inside a series of black-outlined square boxes. The boxes are arranged in a diagonal line across the frame. The word "Accuracy" is overlaid in a white, outlined font in the center-left area.

# Accuracy



➤ Correct use of grammar

➤ Correct use of words

- Choose the correct word, for example, "meeting", "assembly", "gathering" or "conference".

A close-up photograph of a person's hands using a pair of long-handled hedge shears to trim a dense, green hedge. The person is wearing a blue and red plaid shirt. The shears have green handles and dark metal blades. The hedge is composed of small, vibrant green leaves. The background is a blurred green, suggesting more foliage.

# Hedging



- Use of cautious language
- Using suitable modal verbs (e.g. can, could, may, might, should...)
- Using a suitable reporting verb (e.g. claim, suggest, assert, maintain, argue)
- Avoiding words like “all, everyone” (unless this is actually true)
  - This concept appears to establish three categories.
  - It may be possible to obtain...

A conceptual image for 'Responsibility'. In the foreground, a small green seedling with two leaves grows from dark, rich soil. To the left of the plant, a discarded cigarette butt with a filter lies on the ground. To the right, a shovel with a dark handle and a metal head is partially buried in the soil. In the upper left, a hand is visible, pouring water from a watering can onto the plant, creating a spray of water droplets. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a garden or natural setting. The overall tone is one of care and growth, contrasted with the presence of the cigarette and shovel.

# Responsibility

- **Demonstrate knowledge of the source text (paraphrase/summarize)**
- **Provide evidence (citations)**
- **Provide justification (citations)**

# References

- <http://www.uefap.com/writing/writframgenre.htm>
- [http://lib.vcomsats.edu.pk/library/ENG401/COURSE%20CONTENT/LECTURE%20SLIDE/LECTURE%20\(22\)/COMSAT%2021%20Features%20of%20Academic%20Writing.ppt](http://lib.vcomsats.edu.pk/library/ENG401/COURSE%20CONTENT/LECTURE%20SLIDE/LECTURE%20(22)/COMSAT%2021%20Features%20of%20Academic%20Writing.ppt)
- <https://www.ieltsadvantage.com/2015/03/27/ielts-writing-complex-sentence/>
- <https://www.futurelearn.com/info/courses/english-for-study-intermediate/0/steps/35258>



thank you