

Academic writing

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Features of academic English

Complexity (longer words, more varied vocabulary, noun-based phrases, passives)

You can control the trains this way and if you do that you can be quite sure that they'll be able to run more safely and more quickly than they would otherwise, no matter how bad the weather gets.

The use of this method of control unquestionably leads to safer and faster train running in the most adverse weather conditions.

Features of academic English

Formality

Informal/Neutral

seem

begin

at first

so

understanding

enough

put off

Formal

appear

commence

initially

therefore

comprehension

sufficient

postpone

Features of academic English

Precision

There were a lot of people.
Several scientists claim that...

Features of academic English

Objectivity (arguments, not you)

We don't really know what language proficiency is but many people have talked about it for a long time. Some researchers have tried to find ways for us to make teaching and testing more communicative because that is how language works. I think that language is something we use for communicating, not an object for us to study and we remember that when we teach and test it.

The question of what constitutes "language proficiency" and the nature of its cross-lingual dimensions is also at the core of many hotly debated issues in the areas of bilingual education and second language pedagogy and testing. Researchers have suggested ways of making second language teaching and testing more "communicative" (e.g., Canale and Swain, 1980; Oller, 1979b) on the grounds that a communicative approach better reflects the nature of language proficiency than one which emphasizes the acquisition of discrete language skills.

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Explicitness (signposting, referencing)

He is born into a family, he marries into a family, and he becomes the husband and father of his own family. **In addition**, he has a definite place of origin and more relatives than he knows what to do with, and he receives a rudimentary education at the Canadian Mission School.

McGreil (1977: 363-408) has shown that though Dubliners find the English more acceptable than the Northern Irish, Dubliners still seek a solution to the Northern problem within an all-Ireland state.

Features of academic English

Accuracy (in vocabulary use)

money x cash x currency x capital x funds

Features of academic English

Hedging

(being cautious)

There is experimental work to show that a week or ten days **may not be** long enough and a fortnight to three weeks is **probably** the best theoretical period.

It may be said that the commitment to some of the social and economic concepts was less strong than it is now.

Features of academic English

Responsibility

- for demonstrating an understanding of the source text – paraphrasing, summarising, citation (no plagiarism!)
- providing evidence for any claims made

1. Members of avian species of identical plumage congregate.
2. It is fruitless to attempt to indoctrinate a superannuated canine with innovative manners.
3. It is fruitless to become lachrymose over precipitately departed lactate fluid.

1. Birds of feather flock together.

2. You can't teach an old dog new tricks.

3. It is no use crying over spilled milk.

Sources

<http://www.uefap.com/writing/writfram.htm>

<http://bcu.ac.uk/>