

Contents

Acknowledgements page ix

1 Registers, genres, and styles: fundamental varieties of language	1
1.1 Text varieties in your daily life	1
1.2 Texts, varieties, registers, and dialects	4
1.3 Registers and register analysis: an overview	6
1.4 Different perspectives on text varieties: register, genre, style	15
1.5 Register/genre variation as a linguistic universal	23
1.6 Overview of the book	25

Part I Analytical framework

2 Describing the situational characteristics of registers and genres	31
2.1 Introduction	31
2.2 Issues in the identification of registers and genres	31
2.3 A framework for situational analysis	36
2.4 Applying the situational analytical framework in a register study	47
3 Analyzing linguistic features and their functions	50
3.1 Introduction	50
3.2 Fundamental issues for the linguistic analysis of registers	51
3.3 Conducting quantitative analyses	58
3.4 Deciding on the linguistic features to investigate	63
3.5 Functional interpretations	64
3.6 Textual conventions: the genre perspective	69
3.7 Pervasive linguistic features that are not directly functional: the style perspective	71
3.8 Embedded registers and genres	72
3.9 A short introduction to corpus linguistics	73
3.10 Small-scale versus large-scale register analyses	74

Part II Detailed descriptions of registers, genres, and styles

4 Interpersonal spoken registers	85
4.1 Introduction	85
4.2 Conversation	86

4.3	University office hours	96
4.4	Service encounters	102
4.5	Conclusion	105
5	Written registers, genres, and styles	109
5.1	Introduction	109
5.2	Situational characteristics of newspaper writing and academic prose	110
5.3	Linguistic features in newspaper writing and academic prose	114
5.4	Variation within the general registers	124
5.5	More specific subregisters: research article sections	129
5.6	Research articles from a genre perspective	131
5.7	Variation in fiction due to style	132
5.8	Conclusion	139
6	Historical evolution of registers, genres, and styles	143
6.1	Introduction	143
6.2	Historical change I: the fictional novel	144
6.3	Historical change II: the scientific research article	157
6.4	Historical change in the patterns of register variation	166
7	Registers and genres in electronic communication	177
7.1	Introduction: new technology and new registers	177
7.2	Individual e-mail messages	178
7.3	E-forum postings	190
7.4	Text messages	199
7.5	Chapter summary	208
Part III Larger theoretical issues		
8	Multidimensional patterns of register variation	215
8.1	Comparing multiple registers	215
8.2	Introduction to multidimensional analysis	223
8.3	MD analysis of university spoken and written registers	226
8.4	Summary and conclusion	245
9	Register studies in context	253
9.1	Register studies in the broader context of linguistics	253
9.2	Register variation in languages other than English	256
9.3	Speech and writing	260
9.4	Register variation and sociolinguistics	264
9.5	Register studies in the broader context of the world	267
<i>Appendix A Annotation of major register/genre studies</i> (by Federica Barbieri)		271
<i>Appendix B Activity texts</i>		296
<i>References</i>		315
<i>Index</i>		339