Genre analysis

- Defining genre analysis
- Types of genres
- Approaches to genre-based studies
- Move analysis and steps
- Analyzing unfamiliar genres
Defining genre analysis

A genre is a recognizable communicative event characterized by a set of communicative purpose(s) identified and mutually understood by the members of the professional or academic community in which it regularly occurs. Most often it is highly structured and conventionalized with constraints on available contributions in terms of their intent, positioning, form and functional value. These constraints, however, are often exploited by the expert members of the discourse community to achieve private intentions within the framework of socially recognized purpose(s).
Types of genre

- Academic genres: a research article, a dissertation proposal, a dissertation, an academic essay, a term project, submission letters, seminar presentations, university lectures
- Professional genres: grant proposals, business letters and faxes, e-mails, morning and lab reports, application letters, newspaper law reports, business reports, phone calls
- Literary genres: short stories, novels, drama, comedies
Some useful genre-related terms

- Subgenres: different subsections of a single genre
- Genre sets or systems: clustering of texts to form social and cultural practices, i.e. the publication of a paper or selecting a mode for finding information such as an email
- Genre chains: chronological and logical sequences (submitting an abstract)
Occluded genres:
1. External evaluations
2. Evaluation letters for tenure and promotion
3. Book reviews
4. Reviews of articles submitted to journals
5. Responses or rebuttal to reviewers
6. Discussions between examiners
Analyzing unfamiliar genres

- Placing the given genre-text in a situational context
- Surveying existing literature
- Refining the situational/contextual analysis
- Selecting corpus
- Studying the institutional context
- Levels of linguistic analysis
- Specialist information in genre analysis