Lorentz workshop *The Paradox of Genres in Discourse*

online workshop 5-9 July 2021

(Version June 28, 2021)

**Workshop kick off session**

*Monday July 5th:*

4-6pm CEST / 8-10am AZ

- opening (organizers, Lorentz Center, 10 minutes)
- Kick off inspiring presentations
  - Doug Biber: *Genres (and Registers): A Text-Linguistic (TxtLx) Perspective*
    
    Abstract: In this talk, I discuss the analysis of genres and registers within the Text-Linguistic (TxtLx) theoretical framework. I will begin with the operational definitions of 'genre' and 'register' within the framework, and then very briefly describe methodological aspects of the approach, and survey some of the major research studies carried out to date. Finally, I will discuss some of the most important theoretical and methodological issues currently being explored within the approach.

  - Vivien Heller: *Contextualizing genres in interaction: the role of embodiment in the organization of situated activities*

    Abstract: I examine genres from the perspective of the sociology of knowledge and interactive discourse analysis with both a linguistic and a didactic interest. From a linguistic angle I ask how interactants manage to establish a shared orientation towards a particular genre in interaction. I assume that interactants use not only linguistic but also bodily resources to mutually display to each other which genre they are currently oriented to. From a didactic perspective, I consider genres such as explaining and arguing as academic discourse practices and outline possible research questions: What functions do discursive genres fulfill for acquiring subject-matter knowledge (or competencies such as understanding/interpreting texts)? And based on the fact that the acquisition of discourse skills spans the school years: How can learning opportunities for discursive genres be created in classroom discussions?

  - Roel Willems: *Narratives to understand the mind*

    Abstract: Humans are the 'narrative animal'. We are surrounded by narratives, and whether they are large or small, nice or horrible, we cannot seem to help to be fascinated by them. In our research we have taken narratives as a tool to investigate the neurocognitive basis of language comprehension. Specifically we are interested in how people mentally simulate a story world during reading. A conceptual starting point is that we need to study language in a contextualized manner. I am not an insider into genre research, but the focus on contextualization fits well with genre research.


  - Eliane Segers: *Genres in digital reading*

    I will discuss the matter of genre in digital reading, and how textual variations and typographic elements may play an additional role, especially when engaging in multiple document reading, which is often the case when being online. Regarding
burning issues, I will talk about the challenge to assess the quality of the situation model and how to relate reading process measures to reading outcomes.

- Discuss details of program and organization, introduce book plan + goals for book volume

6-6.30pm drinks in Common Room (using Wonder)

**Working sessions 1**  
*Monday July 5th (AZ) / Tuesday July 6th (CEST)*  
Goals: Work groups start working on their projects; during the plenary session preliminary results of the groups working on the ‘Basic issues of genre’ and ‘Stability and variation in discourse genres’ will be reported, informing us on their plans for book chapters (contents, organization of the chapters)
  - Work sessions of 2-3 hours each

**Plenary meeting 2**  
*Tuesday July 6th*  
4-6pm CEST / 8-10am AZ  
- Presentations of work sessions: Basic issues of genre & Stability and variation in discourse genres (approx. 30 minutes per theme)  
- Summary, update goal scheme, interim conclusions  
- Opportunity for other groups to raise issues resulting from their working session  
6-6.30pm drinks in Common Room (using Wonder)

**Working sessions 2**  
*Tuesday July 6th (AZ) / Wednesday July 7th (CEST)*  
Goals: Work groups continue working on their projects; during the plenary session preliminary results of the groups working on the ‘Methodological issues’ and ‘Application (1) Genre didactics’ will be reported, informing us on their plans for book chapters (contents, organization of the chapters)
  - Work sessions of 2-3 hours each

**Plenary meeting 3**  
*Wednesday July 7th*  
4-6pm CEST / 8-10am AZ  
- Presentations of work sessions: Methodological issues & Application (1) Genre didactics  
- Summary, update goal scheme, interim conclusions  
- Opportunity for other groups to raise issues resulting from their working session  
6-6.30pm drinks in Common Room (using Wonder)

**Working sessions 3**  
*Wednesday July 7th (AZ) / Thursday July 8th (CEST)*  
Goals: Work groups continue working on their projects; during the plenary session preliminary results of the groups working on the ‘Application (2) Genre in journalism’ and ‘Genre and cognition’ will be reported, informing us on their plans for book chapters (contents, organization of the chapters)
Goals: We have collected a set of promising, testable and theory inspired hypotheses on how genre representations including stability and variation can be explained with reference to cognitive mechanism; we have clear insights into the way genre insights can be used in education; Explanations for stability and variation

- Work sessions of 2-3 hours each

**Plenary meeting 4**

*Thursday July 8th:*

4-6pm CET/ 8-10am AZ(?)

- Presentations of work sessions: ‘Application (2) Genre in journalism’ and ‘Genre and cognition’
- Summary, update goal scheme, interim conclusions
- Opportunity for other groups to raise issues resulting from their working session

6-6.30pm drinks in Common Room (using Wonder)

**Worksessions 4**

*Thursday July 8th (AZ) / Friday July 9th (CEST)*

Goals: we have the building blocks for a book volume/ special journal issue demonstrating a multi-disciplinary approach to genre and the building blocks for one or more promising research application; we have clear agreements about how to continue. During the plenary session preliminary results of the group working on ‘Text optimization under the perspective of genre’ will be reported, informing us on their plans for book chapters (contents, organization of the chapters)

- Work sessions of 2-3 hours each

**Closing session: Towards a theoretical model of genre: research agenda, testable hypotheses, promising methods**

*Friday July 9th:*

4-6pm CEST/ 8-10am AZ

- Presentations of work session Text optimization under the perspective of genre
- Closing presentation
- Report back, where do we go from here? Finalize goal scheme (planning for book volume, funding schemes, distribution of tasks, planning of future activities)
- Goodbye