

Abdelhafid Boussouf University Center of Mila

Socle Commun Sciences de la Nature et de la Vie

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Module T.C.E 2 COMMUNICATION AND EXPRESSION TECHNIQUES 2 (English)

Cours N04

4. Scientific text

We talk about scientific texts when we refer to all those written texts that contain information related to concepts, theories or other series of topics that are based on scientific knowledge, which is why they are written following a specialized technical language for the audience to which they are addressed.

It is often a type of text that arises as a result of a research process, in which different data and related aspects are recorded. It is presented in an organized and systematic way in which ; process descriptions, results and data, conclusions among other fundamental elements, are added.

4.1. Main characteristics of a scientific text

Good scientific writing is:

1/Clear : it avoids unnecessary detail

2/Simple : it uses direct language, avoiding vague or complicated sentences. Technical terms and jargon are used only when they are necessary for accuracy

3/Impartial : it avoids making assumptions (Everyone knows that ...) and unproven statements (It can never be proved that ...). It presents how and where data were collected and supports its conclusions with evidence.

4/Structured logically : ideas and processes are expressed in a logical order. The text is divided into sections with clear headings;

5/Accurate : it avoids vague and ambiguous language such as about, approximately, almost

6/Objective : statements and ideas are supported by appropriate evidence that demonstrates how conclusions have been drawn as well as acknowledging the work of others.

4.2. Identifying structure

Five common types of structure used in scientific texts are:

- **Generalization:** the extension or clarification of main ideas through explanations or examples.
- **Enumeration:** listing of facts(numberedlist).
- **Sequence:** a connecting series of events or steps; describe series of steps in a process.
- **Classification:** grouping items into classes or categories.
- **Comparison / contrast:** examining the relationships between two or more things. In comparison, both similarities and differences are studied. In contrast, only the differences are noted

4.3. The purpose of a scientific text:

The purpose of a scientific text is to inform, or to provide an explanation. When the author wants to provide an explanation for a scientific phenomenon, they will clearly explain a process or a scientific concept. Texts that provide an explanation are written simply to present information to the reader.

4.4. Scientific text analysis:

1. Begin by reading the introduction, not the abstract.
2. Identify the big question.
3. Summarize the background in five sentences or less.
4. Identify the specific question(s).
5. Identify the approach.
6. Read the methods section.
7. Read the results section and you finish with the conclusion.

*What tense to use in scientific writing?

First, some background about the verb tenses discussed below. In general terms, the tense of a verb reflects the **timing of the action**: the **past tense** indicates that **an action already occurred**, the **present tense** indicates that the **action is currently occurring**, and the **future tense** indicates that the **event has not yet occurred**. Verbs can also be conjugated into a past, present, or future perfect tense, in which the action is defined relative to another point in time (see the examples below).

Visit this link https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/GradCollege-VerbTenseScientificManuscripts.pdf

For example,

Title: For many journals, the manuscript title does not need to be a complete sentence, and no verb is necessary. In cases where a complete sentence is appropriate, use the simple present tense

Introductory statements describing the current understanding of the issue should use the present tense, references to previous research should use the present perfect, and descriptions of the methods and results should use the past tense.

In the discussion section, the past tense is generally used to summarize the findings. But when you are interpreting the results or describing the significance of the findings, the present tense should be used.

The results section usually requires the past tense to detail the results obtained. Example: Overall, more than 70% of the granite collected were non-radioactive. NOTE: Present tense may be used in the key/legend for figures, tables and graphs in the results section.

The concluding statements are usually written in the present tense, and if the author makes recommendations about the usage of the study findings as well as scope for further research, these are usually presented in the future tense. We hope this helps. All the best for your manuscript!. Authors may use a carefully selected (and contextually relevant) combination of present and past tense in this section.