

# Academic Writing at Finnish Universities

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**Centre for Language and Communication Studies**

Exchange Student Orientation – Autumn 2023



**UNIVERSITY  
OF TURKU**

# Where are you from?



**What will I show you during this lecture?**

Intro to academic writing

Academic writing and culture

Three tools for academic writing

Plagiarism at UTU

# What is academic English?

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee  
Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj  
Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo  
Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt  
Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy  
Zz . , ! ? « » ♥ ♥ ♥  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

a b c d e f g h i j k  
l m n o p q r s t  
u v w x y z , . ? " ' !  
A B C D E F G H I  
J K L M N O P Q R  
S T U V W X Y Z  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**There are no native speakers  
of Academic English**

# What is academic writing?

# Academic writing is:

complex & formal

objective

supported

precise & accurate

hedged

# The features of academic language (Gillett, 2011)

Academic English  
should be ...

complex & formal

There are loads of scientists  
who bang on about global  
warming.

Scientists around the world  
have voiced their concerns  
about global warming.



# The features of academic language (Gillett, 2011)

Academic English  
should be ...

complex & formal

I think global warming is  
happening.

Significant evidence suggests  
global warming is occurring.

# The features of academic language (Gillett, 2011)

Academic English  
should be ...

complex & formal

objective

Human activity has a negative  
impact on the environment.

Human activity has a negative  
impact on the environment  
(Berlund, 2003; Goudie, 2018).

# The features of academic language (Gillett, 2011)

Academic English  
should be ...

complex & formal

objective

supported

It's hotter now than it used to be.

According to Statista (2019), the average temperature in the UK in July has risen by 3°C since 2015.

# The features of academic language (Gillett, 2011)

Academic English  
should be ...

complex & formal

objective

supported

precise & accurate

People are absolutely  
responsible for climate change.

Ample evidence suggests that  
people are responsible for climate  
change (Goudie, 2018).

**What do you  
need to  
consider  
when writing  
an academic  
text?**

purpose

audience

cultural  
conventions

field  
conventions

your own  
voice

**Ask yourself:**

**What is academic in  
your field or your work?**

**Use of 1st-  
person  
pronouns  
(I/we)?**

**Citation style  
(MLA,  
Harvard, etc.)?**

**Use of outside  
sources?**

**Find an example of  
good academic writing  
in your field, and ask:**

**What makes it good?**

# Academic Writing and Culture



# Does culture have an impact on academic writing?



Source: Edward T. Hall (1976), *Iceberg Theory of Culture*

# Are Finnish and English academic texts different?

Finnish	English
General Rhetorical Structure	
Information Placement	
Text and Meta-text	

# Are Finnish and English academic texts different?

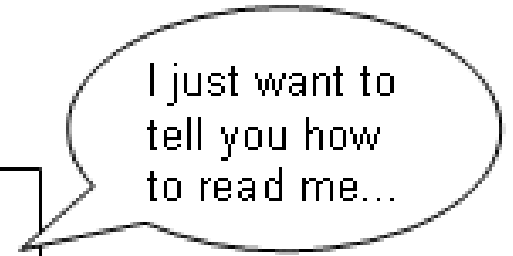
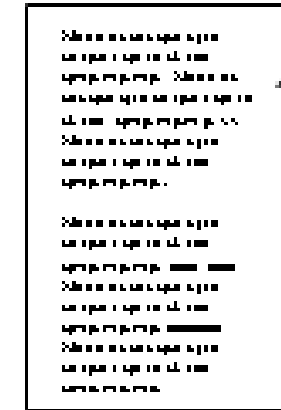
Finnish	English
<b>General Rhetorical Structure</b>	
implicit	explicit
<b>Information Placement</b>	
<b>Text and Meta-text</b>	

# Are Finnish and English academic texts different?

Finnish	English
<b>General Rhetorical Structure</b>	
implicit	explicit
<b>Information Placement</b>	
starts from a distance and makes its way to the main point toward the end	starts with important points and repeats them throughout
<b>Text and Meta-text</b>	

# Are Finnish and English academic texts different?

Finnish	
General Rhetorical Structure	
implicit	
Information Placement	
starts from a distance and makes its way to the main point toward the end	starts with important points and repeats them throughout
Text and Meta-text	
less text about text	more text about text



**Mauranen, A. (1992). Reference in Academic Rhetoric: A Contrastive Study of Finnish and English Writing.**

## (a non-American perspective)

“German texts, by virtue of their digressiveness, are versatile and multi-faceted, whereas Anglo-Saxon writing is repetitive and colourless. Equally, German text structure might be likened metaphorically to that of a ‘staircase’ or ‘spiral’ leading the writer through even more complex stages of reasoning to the conclusion. Viewed from this perspective, English academic style will appear like a walk over a perfectly flat country with no attempt to venture into mountainous territory.”

Siepmann, Dirk. “Academic Writing and Culture: An Overview of Differences Between English, French, and German.” *Meta*, vol. 51, No. 1, 2006, pp. 131-150.  
[www.erudit.org/revue/meta/2006/v51/n1/012998ar.pdf](http://www.erudit.org/revue/meta/2006/v51/n1/012998ar.pdf).

# Academic Writing Tools



# LexTutor Text Analysis (based on the Academic Word List)

<http://www.lextutor.ca/vp/eng/>

WEB VP OUTPUT FOR FILE: Untitled (7.74 kb)				
Words recategorized by user as 1k items (proper nouns etc): NONE (total 0 tokens)				
	Families	Types	Tokens	Percent
<b>K1 Words (1-1000):</b>	236	292	<b>903</b>	<b>72.88%</b>
Function:	...	...	(531)	(42.86%)
Content:	...	...	(372)	(30.02%)
> Anglo-Sax	...	...	(138)	(11.14%)
=Not Greco-Lat/Fr Cog:	...	...		
<b>K2 Words (1001-2000):</b>	36	39	<b>45</b>	<b>3.63%</b>
> Anglo-Sax:	...	...	(7)	(0.56%)
1k+2k			...	(76.51%)
<b>AWL Words (academic):</b>	71	88	<b>161</b>	<b>12.99%</b>
> Anglo-Sax:	...	...	(6)	(0.48%)
<b>Off-List Words:</b>	<u>?</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>10.49%</u>
	343+?	496	1239	100%

Current profile	
%	Cumul.
<b>72.88</b>	72.88
<b>3.63</b>	76.51
<b>12.99</b>	89.50
<b>10.49</b>	100.00

# Corpus Tools (based on the Corpus of Contemporary American English)

<https://www.english-corpora.org/coca/>

and scared about the way money's used in politics. And to try to **ameliorate** that, we try to be as transparent as possible. You have said, A bohemian life making furniture, hanging out in art galleries. Didn't this **ameliorate** somehow, whatever else might be missing? " Now, see, " Russell sectors of the line the two sides were edging to a modus vivendi that helped **ameliorate** some of the worst aspects of trench life. Many Germans could stamp, covering the soil with wood chips, leaves, straw or compost will **ameliorate** the lack of vegetation and create a living medium even without gree could result in an upward bias of treatment effects. There might be ways to **ameliorate** this problem, but existing studies do not report on the timing o sexual autonomy, freedom from any form of moral judgment, and government support to **ameliorate** the consequences of sexual libertinism are pres ? No. But kind of yes. " What Atlanta Public Schools did to **ameliorate** the effects of cheating \* APS developed a 12-week plan in 58 schools that the affirmative defense for patients who use marijuana for medicinal purposes - that is, to **ameliorate** the chronic pain often associated with medical cond . (Fang et al., 2008, p. 2079) # LTEs can help **ameliorate** this situation by raising their CTE colleagues' consciousness about the essential and pervasive r intravenous steroids either before or after rhinoplasty is common based on the belief that they **ameliorate** these unwanted effects. We believe, similar Figure 5). # DISCUSSION # The literature has shown that breast reconstruction helps **ameliorate** the known physical, emotional and psychological impa develop a firm understanding of the alphabetic principle. Training in phonological awareness can help **ameliorate** one of the core causes of poor readi that render them credible to those who hold them will lead to mutual understanding, **ameliorate** many sources of conflict, and have the greatest poter intervention services must be delivered more frequently and intensively and over a longer period to **ameliorate** the challenging behaviors of young chi provide tax preparation, financial counseling, and benefit access to the student body to **ameliorate** the impact of poverty on educational attainment (G



# Corpus Tools (based on the Corpus of Contemporary American English)

<https://www.english-corpora.org/coca/>

stake. It's what your brain and body do to help you **meet** a **challenge**. MATT-LAUER# Well, we've had people come on, experts come on the  
. So it's very complicated in this type of threat how to **face** the **challenge**. BURNETT# I mean, it's hard. I understand what you're saying  
needed to **meet** challenges such as these. He, he needed to **meet** the **challenge**. There were those who said he would not survive the year he would not  
great challenges of our day, and I believe we can rise to **meet** this **challenge**. Our forebears in this country emancipated the slave, and today we are called  
small groups intentionally split along ethnic lines. # Congregations like New Life **face** a **challenge** when it comes to small groups: the things that make sma  
farhow would I balance school and motherhood? # Thousands of women nationwide **face** that **challenge** and nearly half of Black women in college are rai  
expert, predicts that " by transforming agriculture, we will not only **meet** the **challenge** of feeding nine billion people by 2050 but do so in ways that create  
, but Dr. Abe is above all a terrific conversationalist, so I **accept** the **challenge**. The son of Holocaust survivors, he was born in Israel but raised in  
from liberal and less churchgoing segments of the population--soon will stagnate as they **face** the **challenge** of persuading tens of millions of Bible-believi  
the limits of government benevolence. Blacks would have to ready themselves to **meet** the **challenge** of being in a position to take advantage of opportun  
Dems (where Tim Farron is the heir apparent, though he might **face** a **challenge** from the health minister Norman Lamb) and Labour is mainly discussing  
existential crisis # " Imagine being called a geek by the guy who **presents** University **Challenge** " # HugoRifkind on Ed Miliband's mauling by Jeremy Paxma

# Plagiarism

based on slides from Maarit Koponen

“In some fields, young scholars may imitate the often out-dated style of their professors or of journal articles published many years ago. Nowadays, style is evolving, because of widening democracy and internationalization, and also increased printing costs.”

Carolyn Brimley Norris (2016). *Academic Writing in English*.  
Language Services, University of Helsinki. p. 3

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In some fields, young scholars may imitate the often out-dated style of their professors or of journal articles published many years ago. Nowadays, style is evolving, because of widening democracy and internationalization, and also increased printing costs.





# Clear plagiarism

No quotation marks to indicate direct quote

In some fields, young scholars may imitate the often out-dated style of their professors or of journal articles published many years ago. Nowadays, style is evolving, because of widening democracy and internationalization, and also increased printing costs.

Copied word-for-word, source not indicated



~~In some fields,~~ Young writers sometimes imitate the often old-fashioned style of their professors or of ~~journal~~ articles published many years ago. Nowadays, style is changing, because of widening democracy and internationalization, and also increasing printing costs.



# Still plagiarism

No quotation marks  
to indicate  
borrowed parts

~~In some fields,~~ Young writers sometimes imitate  
the often old-fashioned style of their professors or  
of journal articles published many years ago.  
Nowadays, style is changing, because of widening  
democracy and internationalization, and also  
increasing printing costs.

Copied almost word-for-word,  
source not indicated



According to Norris (2016), young writers sometimes imitate the often old-fashioned style of their professors or of articles published many years ago. Nowadays, style is changing, because of widening democracy and internationalization, and also increasinging printing costs.



# Deceptive paraphrase

Source indicated

According to Norris (2016), young writers sometimes imitate the often old-fashioned style of their professors or of articles published many years ago. Nowadays, style is changing, because of widening democracy and internationalization, and also increasing ing printing costs.

Copied almost word-for-word,  
lack of quotation marks falsely  
presents Norris' wording as  
the author's own.



In her recent guide on academic writing, Norris (2016) advises against imitating the style of older journal articles, for example, because academic style is changing. She argues the changes are caused by "widening democracy and internationalization" as well as printing costs (Norris 2016: 3).



# Paraphrase with citations

In her recent guide on academic writing, Norris (2016) advises against imitating the style of older journal articles, for example, because academic style is changing. She argues the changes are caused by "widening democracy and internationalization" as well as printing costs (Norris 2016: 3).

Passage has been  
paraphrased and source is  
provided; direct quotes used  
when needed.



**How do we detect  
plagiarism at UTU?**



# Turnitin (via Moodle)

Compares your  
work to others

Provides a report  
on the similarity

(Allows you to rewrite  
your work to fix problems)

Summary 24.11.2019

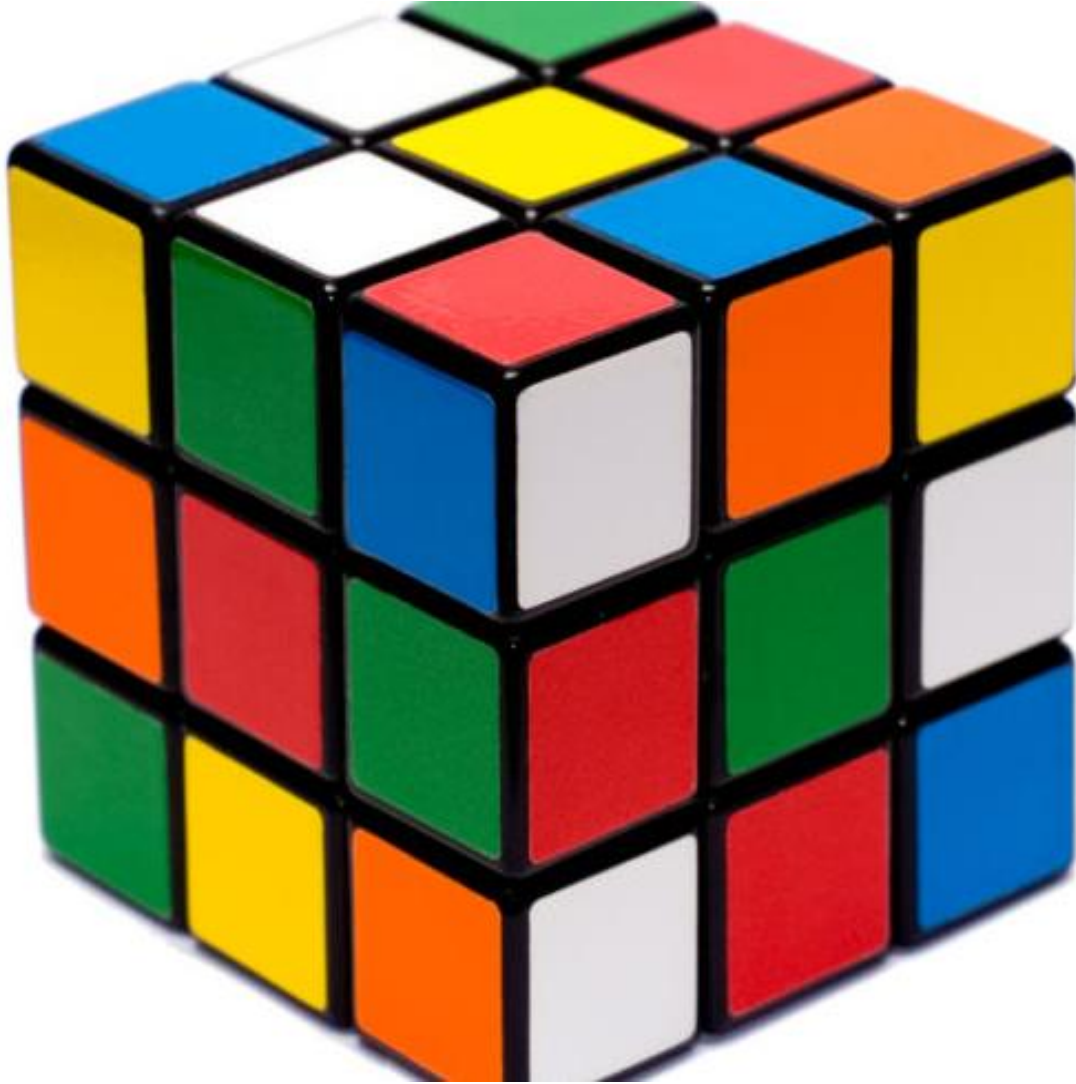
<sup>4</sup> Sarah E. Parkinson and Orkideh Behrouzan <sup>3</sup> are writing about the refugee-crisis in the <sup>5</sup> Middle-Eastern countries in their article "Negotiating health and life: Syrian refugees and the politics of access in Lebanon" which has been published in October 2015 as a part of a release called Social science & medicine.

One of the main points in the article was that the conflicts that are ongoing in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen make it crucial to focus on fostering the understanding <sup>1</sup> between health, violence and everyday life in the Middle East and North Africa. The evidence that <sup>1</sup> has been gathered from participant observation among Syrian and Palestinian refugees in Lebanon has shown that the <sup>1</sup> procedures like refugee registration or insurance contracting may actually <sup>8</sup> hinder or discourage refugees from accessing healthcare services and

### Match Overview

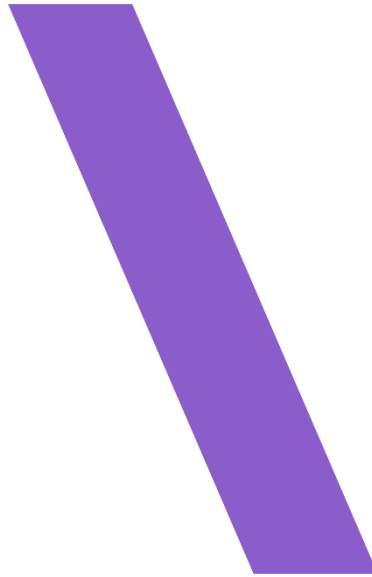
**48%**

1	<a href="http://eprints.soas.ac.uk">eprints.soas.ac.uk</a> Internet Source	24%	>
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**Remember:**  
Academic  
writing is a  
skill. It can be  
studied,  
practiced, and  
improved!

**KIEN2901 English for  
Multidisciplinary Teams**  
Registration closes 12.9 at  
noon  
2-3 ECTS



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