

Text Selection: A Neglected Area

CONTEXTUAL PARAMETERS SCHEME

QUANTITATIVE

QUALITATIVE

GRAMMATICAL FEATURES		
Length	*number of words <small>Alderson (1996), Nuttall (1996)</small>	
Vocabulary	*character/word *type-token ratio *K-level evaluation *lexical density <small>Coxhead (2000)</small>	
Grammar	*words/sentence *sentence/paragraph *% passive <small>Berman (1984), Alderson (1996), Nuttall (1996), Weir (1993), Shiotsu (2003)</small>	The sentences in the text are: 1. mainly simple sentences 2. a balance of simple and compound sentences 3. mostly compound sentences 4. a balance of compound and complex sentences 5. mostly complex sentences
Cohesion	<small>Alderson (2000) Goldman & Rakestraw (2000)</small>	Throughout the text, are relations between the ideas explicitly marked through reference, conjunctions and connectors or are such relations not explicit? 1 (explicit) 2 3 4 5 (not explicit)
Readability	*Flesch Reading Ease *Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level <small>Masi (2002)</small>	
DISCOURSE FEATURES		
Genre		*Identify the most appropriate category. 1. text book. 2. magazine/newspaper article 3. research/academic journal article 4. report <small>Enright et al (2000), Alderson et al (2006) Weigle (2002)</small>
Rhetorical task		*Identify the most appropriate category. 1. exposition 2. argumentation/persuasion/evaluation 3. historical biographical/autobiographical narrative <small>Enright et al (2000), Weigle (2002)</small>
Pattern of exposition		*Identify the pattern(s) used in the text. 1. define 2. describe 3. elaborate 4. illustrate 5. compare/contrast 6. classify 7. cause/effect 8. problem/solution 9. justify <small>Enright et al (2000), Weigle (2002)</small>
Rhetorical organisation		*Does the text have an explicit organisational structure? 1 (explicit) 2 3 4 5 (not explicit)
READER-WRITER RELATIONSHIP		
	Hyland's (2005) metadiscoursal features	
CONTENT KNOWLEDGE		
Subject area		*Mark as it applies. 1. Medicine & dentistry, etc.

Subject specificity	*% of AWL words *% of off-list words Coxhead (2000) http://www.lexutor.ca/	*Is the topic of the text of general interest or does it require subject specific knowledge on the part of the reader? 1 (general) 2 3 4 5 (specific) Bachman et al (1988), Clapham (1993), Urquhart and Weir (1998), Alderson et al (2006)
Text abstractness		*Is the text concrete or abstract? 1 (concrete) 2 3 4 5 (abstract) Bachman et al (1988), Moore and Morton (2000) Alderson et al (2006)
CULTURAL SPECIFICITY		
		*Is the topic of the text culture-neutral or is it loaded with specific cultural content? 1 (culture neutral) 2 3 4 5 (culture specific) Bachman et al (1988), Alderson et al (2006)

Enright et al (2000): text material features
Grammatical/Discourse Features:
syntax (does not provide a definitive list of features)
vocabulary; vocabulary indices (different meanings of a word), formality measures (register or word length), type-token ratio, percentage of uncommon words (uncommon type-token ratio), collocability, syntactic behaviour (parts of speech, transitivity, etc.), basic forms and derivational possibilities, degree of abstractness
discourse features; theme-rheme structuring, given-new information, definiteness-indefiniteness, noun-predicate density in texts, the positions of main idea and topic sentences in texts
Pragmatic/Rhetorical Features:
pragmatic; exposition, argumentation/persuasion/evaluation, historical biographical/autobiographical narrative
rhetorical features; definition, illustration, classification, comparison/contrast, cause/effect, problem/solution, analysis

Alderson et al (2006)
text source, authenticity, discourse type, domain, topic, nature of content, text length, vocabulary and grammar

Khalifa and Weir (forthcoming): text model comprehension variables
text model building (linguistic structure of the text and its meaning), **text structuring, discourse organisation** (style, register, purpose for text, genre), **signalling of discourse structure, information structuring** (given-new relations, foregrounding main information-backgrounding secondary information)

<http://www.lexutor.ca/>

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