



University of HUDDERSFIELD

University of Huddersfield Repository

Bellard-Thomson, Carol

Joining The Stylistics Discourse Community: an empirical study of student development in learning stylistic analysis

Original Citation

Bellard-Thomson, Carol (2009) Joining The Stylistics Discourse Community: an empirical study of student development in learning stylistic analysis. In: University of Huddersfield Research Festival, 23rd March - 2nd April 2009, University of Huddersfield. (Unpublished)

This version is available at <http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/4766/>

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

<http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/>



Joining the Stylistics Discourse Community: an empirical study of student development in learning stylistic analysis

Carol Bellard-Thomson, BA, M.Phil., Researcher in English Language,
Department of Music, Humanities and Media, University of Huddersfield
Supervision: Dr. D. McIntyre and Prof. L. Jeffries

The stylistics 'discourse community' is a group of academics and researchers who may be said to use a shared disciplinary register and a demonstrate a shared mindset which prioritises a rigorous and explicit analytical approach to language.

This PhD project seeks corpus-based empirical evidence of when and how learners begin to approximate the academic discursal techniques of professional practitioners of stylistics

Methodology

- Build a mini-corpus of learner discourse from undergraduate coursework assignments produced in stylistics modules during the 2008-9 academic year
- Build a mini-corpus of professional discourse from published stylistics analyses produced by professional practitioners
- Use Wmatrix2 to analyse and compare usage in the learner corpus with the practitioners' corpus
- Make a cross-comparison of both mini-corpora against the British National Corpus, to identify deviation from non-stylistics usage
- Extract statistically significant data to characterise learner and professional discourse
- Extrapolate results to inform pedagogical practice



What professional stylistics practitioners do

- Produce coherent interpretations from their first impressions of a text or extract
- Analyse the text in detail, selecting those aspects of theory that are likely to provide interesting linguistic information
- Relate their interpretations to the data provided by analysis
- Re-evaluate or refine their interpretations as necessary ('Literary Stylistics'), or suggest new theory based on their findings ('Linguistic Stylistics').

