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INTERDISCURSIVITY IN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION

Scientific texts are known to contain a lot of references, so it is obvious that there are some intertextual relations between them. In fact, we can identify various techniques of introducing multiple texts and voices in a research paper, in-text references, quotations, and indirect speech being the most common ones. The kind and number of references to other texts are determined by the author's intentions as well as by the conventions of a certain professional community. In general, the three main functions of intertextuality in scientific communication are to gain more confidence by providing further factual information to support an author's viewpoint, to dissociate oneself when criticizing or, on the contrary, praising and acknowledging somebody's contributions, and just to attract the reader's attention with a catchy quotation or impressive illustrations. Thus, these are snatches of other texts explicitly demarcated with quotation marks, reporting clauses, evaluative statements, etc.

The recent rapid developments in science and technology due to collaboration of experts in different areas of knowledge have resulted into vivid discussions on the interdiscursivity of professional communication, that is the use of elements of quite different institutional and social meanings, which can be found in some professional contexts as being borrowed from other discourses and social practices.

The term "interdiscursivity" was coined by Fairclough (1992) to designate a more overarching concept than "intertextuality". In fact, the classification of intertextuality proposed by French discourse analysts distinguishes between manifest intertextuality and constitutive intertextuality. The former indicates the explicit presence of one text within another, while the latter refers to the mixing configuration of genres, register, and styles associated with different types of discourse. In this connection, the term interdiscursivity is introduced to emphasize that constitutive intertextuality is focused on using other discourse conventions rather than other texts, which means that the analysis of interdiscursivity must involve both the linguistic analysis of a text and that of social events and practices.

In Bhatia's multidimensional model (2010) for the analysis of professional communication intertextuality is considered as the borrowing, mixing and embedding of resources across texts, which tends to be conventionalized and standardized, while interdiscursivity is viewed as a more innovative mixing, embedding and blending of generic resources across the contextual and text external boundaries of professional genres. This linguistic phenomenon of combining private intentions with socially recognized communicative purposes lies in continuously making choices on the language repertoire of forms and strategies to meet certain communicative

needs of discourse community members, and adapting interdiscursive elements, like lexical items and sentence structures, from different genres, discourses, or styles to approach specific pragmatic functions. These choices are made with communicative strategy awareness, or made automatically with lower degree of consciousness. At any rate, if employed, the patterns of interdiscursivity exert a pragmatic effect, thus constituting the necessity for being further investigated, especially in scientific communication, where one can encounter elements of interdiscursivity next to intertextual relations.

e.g. It is possible (see, for example Ref. [5]), that small heat networks will develop where quick wins are available and then be interconnected later [...].

In this extract from the Journal of the Energy Institute (Vol. 89 Issue 1 p. 68) *quick wins* comes from financial discourse and *Ref. [5]* refers to another text resource.

References

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