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## THE REGISTER ANALYSIS OF PRESCRIPTION

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### *Abstract*

The study is about the discourse of prescription. Prescription is used in medical fields by doctors and pharmacists. The study shed light on the way this paper works to convey the function of communication. The study uses the modal that explains the two parts of the prescription as the linguistic one and situational one and how they work together to do the functions of prescription in medicine. The study has reached out to several fruitful results regarding the way the prescription is formed.

### **1.Discourse Community and Speech Community**

Language plays a key role in human's life as a way of communication. Simply put, these two terms refer to a language variation, which is inherent in people. However, these terms are not the same. The term is dated back to Bloomfield (1926:153-154) saying that, in certain communities, utterances are similar or different or sometimes are partially similar, therefore, any community like this is a speech community. Accordingly, Baker and Ellece( 2011:139) argue that speech community refers to some uses of language that are learned from communities where someone lives in. This kind of learning such forms of language



comes either by inheritance or adoption. Speech community, whether socially or regionally, determines the use of language concerning any group of people as the way they use the shared spoken language or language variety. The size of those who use such a spoken language varies from the smallest to the largest group ( Crystal, 2003: 427). From the point of sociolinguistics, Hudson(2001:24) states that the speech community is used to refer to the community that depends on language, this is the same with the concept of the linguistic community. Bizzell ( 1994: 222) describes a discourse community in which a discourse is used by many people that a specific language –using practices in common and these practices are conventionalized as people regulate their interaction within themselves and with outsiders. For that reason, the term discourse community is taken from the sociolinguistic concept of a speech community. Therefore, the discourse community is not outside of the speech community, rather it is within the speech community, but with specific features that make it different from the speech community. To put it another way round, Swales (1990:24-27) touches on discourse community in which must have some features to determine people or sets of people a discourse community, the features are, accepted group of goals, having the ways of two-way communication between groups, functioning other techniques for providing information, using more than one genre to enhance the aims, it has also specific lexis or vocabulary, finally, the members have equal knowledge of doing the discourse they share (Alakrash et al. 2020 ; Elaf&Hussien 2020) .



Consequently, the prescription is within the discourse community as a field of medicine. This field imposes specific features or choices for communicative purposes.

## **2. Register and Genre**

These two terms are sometimes used interchangeably. They even overlap regarding the concept of language variety. Crystal (2008: 409) refers to register as a kind of language that is used by specific rules in a certain social or religious or scientific situation, resulting in some kinds of register like register of religion, register of science, and so on. Biber et al (2007: 8) add that register is generally distinguished from genre according to the domain of using such the register in law or in medicine or certain administrative features that has especially vocabulary or syntactic structures that are used in certain contexts. When these situations determine these linguistic aspects of use. Martin (1984) speaks of the genre as "a staged, goal-oriented, purposeful activity in which speakers engage as members of our culture". Paltridge (2012:62-63) delves deeper in defining the genre in which genre is an activity that people take part in it by using the language. There are two types of genres, the spoken one is like the lectures in the academic institution and daily conversations, and the second one is written like the magazines, reports, and the essays of scientific places. These genres have some common functions and purposes and are performed by people according to the type of context or the situation of the event. However, Biber et al (2007: 8) contrast the term genre with register, in the way that genre is formed and recognized in cultures



to convey specific messages by the usual inner structure, for instance, the articles of biological investigation or business memo and affidavit. Genre studies The studies of genre focus on the way of conventional discourse structure or the predictable socio-cultural acts of a discourse community. The paper adopts Biber and Conrad's (2009:6) definition of the register as a variety that is relevant to a particular situation of use with specific communicative purposes. Prescription is a kind of register in this way of definition for communicative purposes. furthermore, the linguistic aspects of prescription are used about the way it has functioned (Alakrash& Bustan 2020; Bustan &Alakrash 2020) .

### **3.Prescription**

This form of paper is used in the medical field. It is very common among those who work in a pharmacy. One of the definitions of prescription is that it is used in the field of medicine in different forms to do several implications to convey the dispensing medications in health institutions. These forms can be written, computerized, electronic, or verbal from the doctor or the physicians to the pharmacists. this document is a medicolegal one that could be used in courts for different cases.(<https://slideplayer.com/slide/12624848/>)

Nanjwade (2015:16) also touches on prescription as a handwritten paper from a registered physician, dentist or veterinarian, and even surgeon, in other words, the person who is legally allowed to prescribe the drugs. This paper contains all the directives to prepare and dispense the medication by the pharmacist.

The word prescription has a root in Latin which is *prescriptio*. It means an order or prescription,



namely, doing the way of writing that happens before the drug is being dispensed (<https://slideplayer.com/slide/12624848/>).

The prescription has several parts. Nanjwade(2015:19) refers to the parts of prescription as follows :

1. The first part contains the prescriber's information such as address telephone number, and registration number.
2. The second part contains the patient's information like name, ages, sex, and weight.
3. The third part consists of medical information for instance the address or the name of the medication in general or brand name, the amount from the dosage or dosages, and dosage of ardor. There are also the complete amount and the time of treatment, and the instructions of how to use medication that is written by the pharmacist.
4. The last part contains the prescriber's signature at the end of the prescription.

As a result, the prescription is a written paper that has been produced by a legal person in the medical field. This is a clear point about how it is considered as a specific type of register in the medical arena.

#### **4. Situational characteristics and Linguistic Features**

The paper adopts Biber and Conard's (2009: 40) register perspective that is based on three components: situational characteristics, linguistic features, and functional relations. Situational characteristics will be as follows :

##### **I. Participants**

A. the addressor(s) (i.e. the who speaks )

1. single, plural, institutional or unknown



2. the social characteristics: age, education, profession, and so on, etc.

B. The addressees \

1. Plural / single / no specific number .

2. Oneself/others

C. Are there any on-lookers in the process?

## **II. Relations among participants**

A. The Interactiveness

B. Social roles: relative status or power

C. The Personal relationship: e.g., the mates, the colleagues or the strangers

D. The common knowledge: personal and specialist or else.

## **III. Channel**

A. The kind of Mode: speech, writing, or signing

B. The Specific Medium:

Permanent: taped, transcribed, printed, handwritten, and e-mail / etc.

Transient speech: radio, telephone or face-to-face interactions, and so on.

**IV. Production circumstances:** the real-time, planned, scripted or revised, and the edited ones.

## **V. Setting**

A. Are the time and the place of communications determined by participants?

B. The Place of doing communication

1. Private or public situation.

2. The Specific setting

C. The time: contemporary or historical period and so on.

## **VI. Communicative purposes**

A. The general purposes: narrate or report, describe, prescribe or persuade, and so on.

B. The Specific purposes of the register: e.g., to summarize information from various sources, to describe some ways, to present the latest results of studies, and so on.

C. Factuality: factual, opinion, speculative, imaginative, and so on.

D. Expression of stance: it can be epistemic, attitudinal, and sometimes no overt stance

## **VII. Topic**

A. The general topical or field e.g., domestic, daily activities business / workplace, science, education / academic, politics, religion, and so on.

B. Specific topic about certain matters

C. The social status of the person being referred to is open to the situations

Linguistic Features are :

The linguistic features include all aspects of the sentences like verbs, nouns or adjectives, and so on. The features will be analyzed



according to the text of prescriptions and the way they connect to situational features (Biber and Conrad, 2009:78-82)

### 5.Data of Analysis

The data consists of five samples of prescription. These samples are chosen randomly to be analyzed as a specific register.

### 6.Analysis of Data

The analysis will be qualitative. The procedure is to analyze the situational aspect and linguistic aspect of data concerning functional relation in these two-component.

#### 6.1.The first sample

Dr. Donna Johns 7000 SW 1st Ave., Santa Fe, NM 54545 766-555-9097	
Name: James Wilson	53 Iris Blvd.
Rx:	Aspirin 3.6 g Codeine sulfate 0.4 g Mix and make 12 capsules.
Dispense as written	Dr. Donna Johns May substitute

#### A. Situational Characteristics

#### A. Situational Characteristics

##### 1. The Participants

A. The Addressor(s)

1. single

2. The social Features: doctor.

B. Addressee

1. single

2. others

C. Is there some of the spectators? No

##### 2. Connections between the participants

A. The Interactiveness the doctor asks some questions about the patient's health conditions to prescribe the drugs.

B. The Social roles: a kind of relative status

C. The Personal relationship: the strangers



D. common knowledge: individual or personal

### **3. The Channel of Communication**

A. The Mode: writing

B. The Specific Medium:

Permanent: it is handwritten

Transient speech: It occurs through two-way communication.

**4. Production of circumstances:** It occurs in real situations.

### **V. The Setting**

A. Is the time and the place of communication is used by participants? Yes.

B. Place of communication

1. It is Private

2. It is a particular setting

C. Time: It is contemporary

### **5. Communicative purposes**

B. Specific purposes: Prescribe the drugs to the patient.

C. Factuality: It is factual

D. The expressing of attitudes: there is no overt attitude

### **6. Subject**

B. Specific subject: Dispensing and prescription

C. Social status of the person being mentioned is different

## **B. Linguistic Features**

The prescription contains only nouns. It doesn't have long sentences and other explanations. It is written by a doctor to a pharmacist. It includes the names of drugs with more abbreviations. As it is clear in this prescription, there are only two verbs with a way of putting two things together. The other words are Aspirin with a dose of drug and codeine saltate.

The other parts are fixed according to the formal way of using a prescription. It must start with RX which is a Latin word that means recipe. The name of the patient, the age, the date, and the doctor's signature.

### **6.2. The Second Sample**



MICHAEL ROBERTS, M.D.  
344 City Heights  
New York, NY 10023

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Name Mary Schmidt  
Address 532 Park Lane Blvd, NY, NY 10023 Date 12/1/17

**Rx**

Dexcom G5 Receiver Dispense 1 / 0 Refills  
Dexcom G5 Transmitter Dispense 1 / 3 Refills  
Dexcom G4/G5 Sensors Dispense 1 box  
(4 sensors/28-day supply) / 13 Refills  
Use As Directed

Dr. M. Roberts  
(Signature)

## A. Situational Characteristics

### A. Situational Characteristics

#### A. Situational Characteristics

##### 1. The Participants

###### A. The Addressor(s)

1. single
2. The social Features: doctor.

###### B. Addressee

1. single
2. others

###### C. Is there some of the spectators? No

##### 2. Connections between the participants

###### A. The Interactiveness the doctor asks some questions about the patient's health conditions to prescribe the drugs.

###### B. The Social roles: a kind of relative status

###### C. The Personal relationship: the strangers

###### D. common knowledge: individual or personal

##### 3. The Channel of Communication

###### A. The Mode: writing

###### B. The Specific Medium:

Permanent: it is handwritten

Transient speech: It occurs through two-way communication.

##### 4. Production of circumstances: It occurs in real situations.

##### V. The Setting

###### A. Is the time and the place of communication is used by participants? Yes.

###### B. Place of communication

1. It is Private
2. It is a particular setting



C. Time: It is contemporary

### 5. Communicative purposes

B. Specific purposes: Prescribe the drugs to the patient.

C. Factuality: It is factual

D. The expressing of attitudes: there is no overt attitude

### 6. Subject

B. Specific subject: Dispensing and prescription

C. Social status of the person being mentioned in various

## B. Linguistics Features

The linguistic features are the same as the second sample. It tells the pharmacist what the drug is. The use of nouns as the names of the drugs is the common way of prescribing the drugs. Therefore, the use of other structures doesn't appear in the text.

### 6.3. The Third Sample

Dr. Debra Lawson 888 NW 27th Ave., Miami, FL 98885 247-555-6613	
Name:	Virginia Millhouse 678 Apple St.
Rx:	Indomethacin powder 1% Carbopol 941 powder 2% Purified water 10% Alcohol ad 90 mL
Sig:	Use as directed.
Dispense as written	Dr. Debra Lawson May substitute

## A. Situational Characteristics

### A. Situational Characteristics

### A. Situational Characteristics

#### 1. The Participants

A. The Addressor(s)

1. single



2. The social Features: doctor.

B. Addressee

1. single

2. others

C. Is there some spectators? No

### **2. Connections between the participants**

A. The Interactiveness the doctor asks some questions about the patient's health conditions to prescribe the drugs.

B. The Social roles: a kind of relative status

C. The Personal relationship: the strangers

D. common knowledge: individual or personal

### **3. The Channel of Communication**

A. The Mode: writing

B. The Specific Medium:

Permanent: it is handwritten

Transient speech: It occurs through two-way communication.

**4. Production of circumstances:** It occurs in real situations.

### **V. The Setting**

A. Is the time and the place of communication is used by participants? Yes.

B. Place of communication

1. It is Private

2. It is a particular setting

C. Time: It is contemporary

### **5. Communicative purposes**

B. Specific purposes: Prescribe the drugs to the patient.

C. Factuality: It is factual

D. The expressing of attitudes: there is no overt attitude

### **6. Subject**

B. Specific subject: Dispensing and prescription

C. Social status of the person being mentioned is different

### **B. Linguistic Features**

The linguistic features are the same as the second sample. It is dispensed to the pharmacist. The use of nouns as the names of the drugs is the way of prescribing the medications.

### **Conclusion**

The study has discussed three samples about the prescription. These samples follow the same procedural conditions that must be each time of writing the prescription. These characteristics are fixed in the formula of prescription regarding and the situational characteristics like the name, age, RX, signature, topic, setting, channel, relations among participants, and so on. And the linguistic features are not various and numerous. Therefore, through the analysis of three samples that situational characteristics are suitable



for linguistic ones. The use of nouns is functioned with a form of prescription to show the instructions of dispensing drugs, rather than using other structures that could make the prescription outside of the main goal of dispensing the drugs. Then, the way of using these two features together reflects functional relations. The main goal of prescription is to prescribe the drug and this can be achieved by using only the name of the drug, that is why the doctor doesn't write long and complex sentences in prescription.

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