Sub-headings and assignment types across the disciplines in student written assignments

Sheena Gardner and Jasper Holmes. University of Warwick. *
s.f.gardner@warwick.ac.uk, j.w.holmes@warwick.ac.uk


1. The BAWE corpus
   ➢ http://go.warwick.ac.uk/bawe

2. Structural and functional properties of assignments

"Once texts develop to [a] level of internal complexity, titles, subtitles, headings and subheadings are commonly deployed to keep track of the composition structure .." (Martin, 1992:443)

   a) (sub-)titles and (sub-)headings function as macro-themes that predict text (Ravelli 2004)
      ➢ ideationally
      ➢ textually
      ➢ interpersonally

   b) (sub-)titles and (sub-)headings also structure assignments
      ➢ simple (0022a, 0003b, 0029h)
      ➢ complex (3035a, 0006c, 0006a, 0099d, 0090c, 0023c)
      ➢ compound (3042f, 6066g, 6010a, 6045a, 6033g)
         ▪ "[function] as a unity with respect to [their] environment" (Halliday and Hasan 1976)
         ▪ parts are +/- independent (Hoey 2001)
         ▪ embedding:
            parallel or complementary
            simple or complex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>parallel</th>
<th>complementary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>simple</td>
<td>3042f</td>
<td>6066g, 6033g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>complex</td>
<td>6045a</td>
<td>6010a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The research on which this presentation is based was funded by the ESRC (RES-000-23-0800).
3. Characterising student writing

- Psychology 'essays' and Biochemistry 'lab reports': IMRD.
- Engineering lab reports: Introduction, Theory, Apparatus, Observations, Analysis, Conclusions.
- Sociology and Politics 'essays': Introduction, ...ideational labels..., Conclusion.
- Medical 'portfolio cases': proforma (Nesi and Gardner 2006)

---

Imagine you are designing a curriculum for primary school science classes. Consider how research in cognitive development could help you decide which concepts are taught when.

The structure of education has been shaped by

---


By xxx, History and Sociology. Tutor: zzz.

On Friday afternoon, the 26th of November, I

---

Experiment 15: Aspects of bacterial genetics: Conjugation and Recombination
Endosymbiotic Theory

Abstract

Introduction

History of Endosymbiotic Theory

Factors in favour of mitochondrial and chloroplast endosymbiosis

Summary

Word count: 2700

Reference

Research Proposal: Randomized Control Trial

Explanatory research question:

Null hypothesis:

Alternate hypothesis:

Study design
<div level="2"><p rend="bold">Participants:</p></div>
<div level="2"><p rend="bold">Interventions:</p></div>
<div level="2"><p rend="bold">Data collection:</p></div>
<div level="2"><p rend="bold">Reliability and validity:</p></div>
<div level="2"><p rend="bold">Data analysis:</p></div>
<div level="1"><p rend="bold/underline">Ethical issues</p></div>
<div type="bib"><p rend="bold/underline">References</p></div>

============================================================
<sourceDesc>
<p n="essayID">0023c</p>
<p n="dept">Engineering</p>
<p n="assignment type">report</p>
</sourceDesc>
<titlePart>ES21V INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY AND FIELD COURSE</titlePart>
<titlePart>Assignment 1</titlePart>
<titlePart type="main" rend="italic">Micro-hydro report</titlePart>

<div level="1"><p rend="underline">Background</p></div>
<div level="1"><p rend="underline">What is the state of play of the stream?</p></div>
<div level="1"><p rend="underline">What’s the estimation of the pipe?</p></div>
<div level="1"><p rend="underline">What about ROCs?</p></div>
<div level="1"><p rend="underline">Is connection to the grid an option?</p></div>
<div level="1"><p rend="underline">How about a new turbine?</p></div>
<div level="1"><p rend="underline">Which pipe and how is it best to route it?</p></div>
<div level="1"><p rend="underline">Would a grant be possible?</p></div>
<div level="1"><p rend="underline">What is the likely longevity of the scheme?</p></div>
<div level="1"><p rend="underline">Conclusions</p></div>
<div type="bib"><p rend="underline">References</p></div>

============================================================
<sourceDesc>
<p n="essayID">3042f</p>

4
TOURISM IMPACT ANALYSIS, U57266. Module leader: Jamie Elwin

COURSEWORK ELEMENT ONE

Analytical bibliographies

Alastair Wilkinson

02068371

March 2005


Notes

Comment & Analysis

Evidence to support argument

Key links


Notes

Comment & Analysis

Evidence to support argument

Key links


Notes

Comment & Analysis

Evidence to support argument

Key links


Notes

Comment & Analysis
Evidence to support argument

Key links

In the Iliad, is being a good hero compatible with good leadership?

By Phil Catt

Although there are many heroes in the Iliad who are rulers and

Bibliography

In the Iliad, is being a good hero compatible with good leadership?

Literary Criticism:

By Phil Catt

"So they spoke in tears to their dear son. But all their

Bibliography


Task 2. An interview concerning an area of contested language use.

Introduction

Experiment

Method

Results

Comments

Conclusion
Conclusion to tasks 1 and 2.

1097 words

Appendix 1
Appendix 2
References

Chimpanzees can use signs, but do they have language?

Children’s reading and writing has to be learnt in contrast to speech.

Does understanding the organisation of language in the brain contribute to the study of language?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Skeletal Report
Name of assessor:  
Skeleton number: (500) 20
Context: Hulton Abbey 00273

1) Description of Preservation:
2) Sex Estimate:

Skull:

Pelvis:

Metrical Data:

Age Estimate:

Skull:

Dentition:

Rib Ageing:

Pelvis:

Stature Estimate:

Ulna:

Radius:

Femur:

Summary:

Diary:

Practical session 1:

Practical session 2:

Practical session 3:

Practical session 4:

References:
Modern English.