
Patterns of cohesion as dependent variables in a contrastive study of registers in English and German

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In studies of register so far, the focus has usually been on variation in lexicogrammar, and within one language (exceptions include Biber 1995). We argue in favour of adding cohesion as a linguistic level to the modelling of register, and we argue that lexicogrammatical properties can to some extent be understood as interacting with principles of cohesion in different text-types. Our talk will report on empirical testing of our hypotheses, relying on a linguistically annotated corpus of English and German texts in a number of parallel registers. The talk is based on the ongoing GECCo project funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (<http://www.gecco.uni-saarland.de/GECCo/index.html>).

The features we investigate are derived from five main types of cohesion (Halliday & Hasan 1976) as linguistic variables and their concrete instantiated variants. These variants include cohesive devices (e.g. proforms, ellipses, conjunctions and lexical items), and properties of co-reference chains and lexical chains (e.g. number of and distance between elements in chains, types of semantic relations (cf. Kunz *et al* in press; Kunz *et al* 2016)). Our findings demonstrate that cohesion is an important linguistic dimension for modeling functional variation. They provide important information on how registers vary in the development of topics in texts, the types of semantic relations established, the frequency and strength of cohesive relations, and the degree of variation in cohesion.

References: • Biber, D. (1995): *Dimensions of register variation. A cross-linguistic comparison*. Cambridge University Press • Halliday, M. A. K. and Hasan, R. (1976): *Cohesion in English*. Longman. • Kunz, K., Degaetano-Ortlieb, S., Lapshinova-Koltunski, E., Menzel, K. and Steiner, E. (in press): English-German contrasts in cohesion and implications for translation. *Empirical Translation Studies. New Theoretical and Methodological Traditions*. Mouton de Gruyter. • Kunz, K., Lapshinova-Koltunski, E., Martinez-Martinez, J.M. (2016): Beyond Identity Coreference: Contrasting Indicators of Textual Coherence in English and German. *Proceedings of CORBON at NAACL-HLT2016, San Diego, 16 June*.

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