

1. Genre is categorized as a way to communicate specific matters.
2. Genre has to possess specific purpose and its standard features are generally known among the members of communities.
3. Though one type of genre is seen as the prototypical one, other newly created genres may resemble or may have additional attributes.
4. A genre has its own restrictions in terms of positioning, form, and content.
5. It is important for discourse communities to use specific language for the domains in which they work with. (Swales, 1990: 45 – 57)

As can be seen, these are general characteristics of genre proposed by Swales (1990). However, Berquist and Ljungberg (1999) and Orlikowski and Yeat (1992) state that genres are employed and appreciated, but there are no certain definitions and descriptions of genres, and genres can be both written and spoken forms that are considered the functional instruments used to fulfill human communicative events.

In order to encapsulate a general depiction of genre, Bhatia (1993: 3) offers a clearer explanation of genre as follows:

...it is a recognizable communicative event characterized by a set of communicative purpose(s) identified and mutually understood by the members of the professional or academic community in which it regularly occurs. Most often it is highly structured and conventionalized with constraints on allowable contributions in terms of their intent, positioning, form and functional value. These constraints, however, are often exploited by the expert members of the discourse community to achieve private intentions within the framework of socially recognized purpose(s).

All in all, genres must be realized as the widely accepted special applications that are distinguished by their particular language use and linguistic contribution, by having specific purposes, and by being interacted by members of discourse spheres.

Present-Day Concepts of Genres in Discourse Communities

“Discourse is interactive in nature, being created by the reader’s interpretation of the text.” (Tench, 2003: 141) At the present time, it is hard to deny that most genres are produced to be conventionalized written forms that must go in accordance with the members’ allowable capabilities of interpreting the genre- texts and with the members’ reactions. Moreover, good genres for completing the discourse communities’ goals must be perceived as accepted superlative conventional facilitators bringing about simple and effective communication.

According to Latapy, Lopisteguy, and Dagorret (2004), today’s genres have to be tools that can make interaction within the communities and have to be socially accepted. Latapy *et al.* (2004) also offers a figure presenting the model genres that are produced and operated to serve specific purposes of some professional areas.

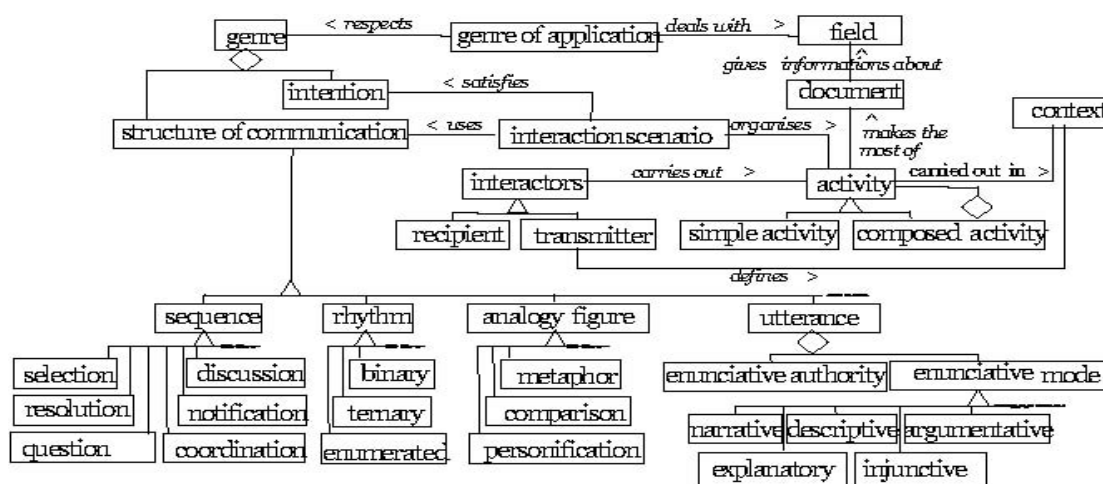


Figure 2.1 Part of Model of Genre

Source: Latapy *et al.* (2004)

As can be seen, Genres are created in forms of spoken and written discourse utterances that are purposely applied in the specific context of some discourse spheres that use genre as a tool for communication. Furthermore, what should be solidly focused on are potentialities of genres that must be rationally connected to the recognized types of specific contexts used in activities performed by both the transmitters and receivers within communicative organisations. On the other hand,

