

Financial Statement: Language View Points using Genre analysis

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Abstract: This research article examines accounting statements from the perspective of genre analysis and language usage. By applying genre theory and linguistic analysis, we aim to explore the various language viewpoints employed in the construction of accounting statements and their implications for financial communication. Through a comprehensive review of relevant literature and a qualitative analysis of a sample of accounting statements from several Europe countries, US, Asia and Africa, we identify and categorize different genres within the accounting domain. We investigate how the choice of language structures, lexicon, and rhetorical devices within these genres influence the representation of financial information and shape the perceptions of stakeholders. In addition, we investigate the potential impact of linguistic differences in accounting statements on information transparency, correctness, and comprehensibility. The study's findings contribute to a better understanding of the relationship between language and accounting procedures, giving light on the function of genre analysis in improving financial reporting efficacy and encouraging communication efficiency in the accounting industry.

Keywords: *financial statement, language, genre analysis*

INTRODUCTION

Traditionally, account is primarily concerned with the reporting figures of profit from the metamorphosis of natural capital. This account process occurs, still, without meaningful community deliberation about its impact on citizens, communities and nature. From account figures, investor or stakeholder should be make decision without in deep explanation about the meaning of figures. This lack of information should be describe using another form information. Account statement have five form of report, utmost of them are in form figures report. These issues are now more burning given that our accountants is hovered by explanation figures including accounts, global warming, resource reduction and population growth, possibilities' growth for establishment/institution.

Accounting claims to be the language of business: a clear, technical, unambiguous means of communication for decisions on investment and economic development. Accounting concepts have increasingly entered mainstream debate on issues affecting society at large. This makes the fairness and effectiveness of accounting as a mode of communication more important for business and social than ever before (Fülbiér, 2023). The objectives are aimed at the common interests of many users in the ability of



businesses to create positive cash flows, but they are articulated using investment and credit decisions as a reference to give them focus. The goals are meant to be broad rather than specific (FASB, 1978).

Several studies contend that accounting makes mistakes as a communication tool to resolve disputes, and that this failure was both unneeded and systematic in its support of economic goals (Killian, 2010). Politicians' use of language legitimation methods and devices is critical in the formation of agreement and the political quest for justification for government and parliamentary acts. Legitimation tactics, for example, can explain activities in neutral or positive terms, emphasizing their acceptability or downplaying their unacceptability, and providing reason for why we should do something a certain way. Liguori and Steccolini (2018)

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The word now includes parenthetical allusions to official statements within the sentences. Text length is shortened, making it much more readable for kids. Codification references occur in parentheses (e.g., ASC 740-10-15) (Beams, 2018). Elements of financial statements are the building blocks from which financial statements are made the categories of items that financial statements are made up of. The items in financial statements indicate particular entity resources, claims to those resources, and the impacts of transactions and other events and situations that result in changes in those resources and claims in words and figures (FASB, 1985).

The convergence of GAAP and IFRS: The concept of GAAP was one of the most important inventions that shaped modern capital markets. It may be argued that it would be even better if we had a single set of accounting rules for the entire world, making it easier for international investors to compare financial Accounting Statements (Weygandt, Kieso, & Warfield, 2020). Convergence from the US standard to the European standard necessitates the usage of the same terminology. The descriptive facts of English syntax, presented via a 'lexical lens' that allows students to recognize the fundamental contribution that words and word classes make to syntactic structure (Kim & Michelis, 2020).

Convergence from the US standard to the European standard necessitates the usage of the same terminology. The descriptive facts of English syntax, presented via a 'lexical lens' that allows students to recognize the fundamental contribution that words and word classes make to syntactic structure. It then moves on to the fundamental theoretical notions of declarative grammar (using the SBCG framework) (Kim Jong Boo; Michelis Laura, 2020).

Describes how interpretations that are not presented in accounting terms may be misunderstood or overlooked. This presumably gives arguments based on accounting vocabulary premises an edge, and any bias in this lexicon has important ramifications for social fairness. This is especially troublesome in a debate on the value of the environment, because accounting terminology offers those who see the environment primarily as a



commodity or resource to be exploited for economic gain an advantage. A further issue occurs when accounting technology offers accounting vocabulary a veneer of scientific precision, making it appear straightforward and incontestable (Sandell, 2016).

A literary perspective on accounting can empower students to take a critical perspective on accounting, rather than being passive consumers of accounting signs, by exploring what distinguishes accounting from other languages, not only in its grammar and structure, but also in the conditions of production of accounting texts (Graham, 2013). The findings of the studies highlight the importance of co-authorship in the development of functional organizational practices, and they warn that this may be jeopardized by information technology. Language games in the form of dialogical engagement between accountants and other relevant actors are used in co-authorship. This process creates a shared knowledge based on a fusion of conceptual models that is related to the local practice of individual partners (Baldvinsdottir, 2021).

English is very crucial. At the advanced level, you will need to study more about the nuanced connotations of words, features of register and style, and how words mix to form collocations, compounds, and fixed phrases, in addition to learning new words. There are nearly 3,000 new words and expressions to learn in this book. They are located on the left-hand page of each unit. Every new word or phrase appears in a sentence, in a dialogue, on a table, with a picture, or with some explanation of what it means. There are exercises and other activities on the right-hand page to help you practice using the terms and remember them. Where our study suggests that learners regularly make mistakes, we provide advice on how to prevent the most prevalent ones, as well as other helpful language recommendations (Mccarthy & Dell, 2017).

These first comparisons indicate that there is *prima facie* evidence for relatedness and that it is worthwhile to investigate the possibility further. 'Once relatedness is assumed, the labor-intensive process of determining correspondences and cognate sets begins... This work eventually yields a detailed picture of the branching structure of the family tree, and it frequently brings additional languages into the family that did not Gare in the initial assumption of relatedness' (McMahon & McMahon, 2019).

While all language user groups score worse in more conceptually (MC) focused subjects than in less conceptually (LC) oriented subjects, the relative performance of MC and LC is substantially related to English language user groups. The magnitude of the impact is calculated for the first time. The study has implications for accounting program instructional design in English-speaking universities as well as its offshore programs in non-English speaking countries (Yang & Farley, 2019).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Gap

Language has a big influence on how accounting reforms and the facts underlying them are communicated and legitimized. However, little attention has gone into researching what happens when investors or stakeholders make accounting changes. This article analyzes the use of language by examining how accounting should generate language-based descriptions for financial statements.



Research Purpose

By studying the language and legitimation tactics employed by accountants while preparing financial accounting reports, this study adds to the scant literature on the subject. It explores the symbolic power of language as wielded through the deployment of certain legitimation tactics by actors, the MPs, who generally have limited knowledge of the technical (accounting) subjects under discussion. It also responds to current requests to investigate how accounting is involved in debates about crises.

Furthermore, institutions with overall responsibility for graduate education, such as graduate schools, are offering more workshops for graduate students, many of whom are interested in improving their communication skills in some way. Finally, the traditional divide between native and non-native English speakers is eroding. There are a rising number of "expert users" of English in the academic sector who are not traditional native speakers of that language. This has given rise to the English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) phenomena in recent years, in which these skilled users, as well as individuals with inferior English language ability, communicate with one another on subjects of research, scholarly, or business (Belcher, 1995).

More broadly, the study helps to a better understanding of the processes through which accountants discuss and approve accounting terms, particularly with reference to investment from foreign nations. The following is how the paper is organized: The following section covers the relevant literature on the topic; the third section offers the methodology; and the fourth section summarizes the key findings of the empirical investigation. The final section closes by noting some consequences and proposing potential future study directions.

State Of The Art

The use of linguistic form by accountants is vital in the formation of consensus and in the accountants' search for explanation to government and investor activities. Legitimation tactics, for example, can depict activities in neutral or positive terms, emphasizing or de-emphasizing their acceptability (Liguori & Steccolini, 2018). The literature on legitimation methods has identified five different discursive tactics, where language is utilized to achieve information effectiveness, based on institutional theory and critical discourse analysis (Rutherford, 2013).

Genre theory has been applied to financial reporting research to help explain how accounting narratives conform to conventions and influence meaning (Rutherford, 2013). Rutherford (2013) argues that genre theory helps scholars map how accounting reports are shaped by institutional pressures, template constraints, and rhetorical choices. The genre-theoretic perspective has been adopted in later studies to understand how narratives are constructed in annual reports, including move structures and rhetorical strategies (Rutherford, 2005; Gutiérrez Ponce et al., 2023).

In cross-linguistic settings, translation and language choices in financial reporting can introduce ambiguity or bias; for example, terms may carry different connotations across languages, affecting stakeholder interpretation (Scott, 2016). A linguistic analysis of transnational financial reporting emphasizes that language interference and translation issues may undermine comparability and understandability (Flowerdew & Wan, 2010).

Recent studies in accounting linguistics show that readability and disclosure complexity are key factors in how stakeholders interpret reports. For instance, Gutierrez



Ponce et al. (2023) propose new frameworks linking linguistic measures of readability with transparency in financial reporting. Bonsall et al. (2017) introduce the Bog Index, a plain English measure of disclosure readability, which captures attributes like fewer hidden verbs and active voice (Bonsall IV et al., 2017).

Additionally, empirical text analytics in accounting demonstrate how managers use subjective language in narrative sections to obscure negative performance or accentuate positive performance (Chen et al., 2012). That research shows that firms with declining earnings often employ more vague or tempered language, whereas firms with rising earnings use more assertive and positive phrasing (Chen, Liu, Chang, & Tsai, 2012).

In more recent work, Nordlund (2024) explores genres of accounting “small talk” – informal communicative practices within organizations that surround formal accounting texts – to better understand how everyday language complements formal reporting. The genre of persuasive or justificatory language has also been studied under the label “language of failure,” where accounts are used to justify, excuse, or mystify unfavorable outcomes in reporting (Sandell, 2016).

Together, these strands underscore that financial statements are not neutral record devices but communicative artifacts shaped by genre conventions, linguistic choices, and institutional pressures (Rutherford, 2013; Gutiérrez Ponce et al., 2023; Fülbier, 2023).

Research Road Map

This article investigates how accountants use language and diction when they review and approve financial accounting reports. The most typical method for accomplishing this is to replace terms in the source with synonyms and possibly change the grammar. Reread Sentence 3 from the text on new car safety systems. Nondriving-related devices, such as car stereos, mobile phones, and, more recently, navigation systems, divert drivers' attention away from the major sources of information required for safe vehicle operation: the road and other road users. Belcher (Belcher, 1995).

Design

Genre analysis is a method used in accounting research to examine the different types or genres of texts and their characteristics within the field of accounting. It involves analyzing different types of accounting documents, such as financial statements, annual reports, audit reports, and management letters, among others.

The aim of genre analysis in accounting research is to understand how these different genres of texts are constructed, what purpose they serve, and how they are interpreted by various stakeholders, such as investors, auditors, regulators, and managers. By studying the characteristics and conventions of these genres, researchers can gain insights into how accounting information is communicated and understood in practice.

Genre analysis in accounting research typically involves the following steps:

1. Identification of genres: Researchers first identify the different genres of accounting texts that are relevant to the research question. This could include various financial reports, disclosure statements, or industry-specific documents.
2. Textual analysis: Researchers conduct a detailed analysis of the selected genres, examining their structure, language, and content. They identify the common features



and conventions that define each genre and how these elements convey information to different audiences.

3. Comparison and contrast: Researchers compare and contrast the genres to understand their similarities and differences. By analyzing the variations in language, format, and content, they can identify the unique characteristics of each genre and how they cater to specific information needs.
4. Interpretation and evaluation: Researchers interpret the findings of the genre analysis and evaluate the implications for accounting practice. They assess how the different genres shape the understanding and use of accounting information, and whether certain genres are more effective or influential than others.
5. Conclusion and recommendations: Based on their findings, researchers draw conclusions and offer recommendations for practice or future research. They may suggest improvements in the design or presentation of accounting information to enhance its usefulness and transparency.

Genre analysis in accounting research provides valuable insights into the role and impact of different genres of texts in accounting practice. It helps researchers understand how accounting information is communicated, received, and interpreted by various stakeholders, contributing to the development of more effective accounting practices and policies.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Identification Genre use Several Countries

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THE GENRE OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENT COMMONLY USE IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES									
No	Country	Report	Standard		Income Statement	Financial Position	Change Equity	Cash Flow	Notes
1	England	Companies Act Financial Statements	International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)	UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP)	the profit and loss account	balance sheet		cash flow statement	notes to the financial statements
2	France	Comptes Annuels" or "États financiers".	International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).	French Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)	income statement	the balance sheet	statement of changes in shareholders' equity.		
3	German	"Jahresabschluss" or "Abschluss".	German Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP),	IFRS	income statement, „	the balance sheet,		cash flow statement	notes to the financial statements
4	Italy	Principi Contabili Italiani" (PCI)	GAAP	IFRS	income statement, „	the balance sheet,		cash flow statement	notes to the financial statements
5	United States	Annual Report	Generally Accepted Accounting		Income statement	Balance sheet		- United States: Statemen	Notes to the financial statements



			Principles (GAAP)					t of cash flows	
6	Japan	Annual Securities Report	Japanese Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (JGAAP)		Income statement	Balance sheet		- Japan: Statement of cash flows	Notes to the financial statements
7	Australia	Annual Financial Report	Australian Accounting Standards (AAS)		Statement of comprehensive income	Statement of financial position		Statement of cash flows	Notes to the financial statements
8	Canada	Financial Statements	International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)		Statement of comprehensive income	Statement of financial position		Statement of cash flows	Notes to the financial statements

Table 1: the genre of financial accounting statement commonly use in several countries

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The terms commonly used in accounting by countries around the world for the following categories

Table 2: Reports categorie

No	Countries	Genre term categori : Report
1	England	Companies Act Financial Statements
2	France	Comptes Annuels" or "États financiers"
3	Germany	"Jahresabschluss" or "Abschluss"
4	Italy	"Principi Contabili Italiani" (PCI)
5	United States	Annual Report (Form 10-K)
6	Japan	Annual Securities Report
7	Australia	Annual Financial Report
8	Canada	Financial Statements
No	Countries	Genre term categori : Standard
1	England	International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)
2	France	International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)
3	Germany	German Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and IFRS
4	Italy	GAAP and IFRS
5	United States	Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)
6	Japan	Japanese Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (JGAAP)
7	Australia	Australian Accounting Standards (AAS)
8	Canada	International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)
No	Countries	Genre term categori : Income Statement
1	England	The profit and loss account
2	France	Income statement
3	Germany	Income statement
4	Italy	Income statement
5	United States	Income statement
6	Japan	Income statement
7	Australia	Statement of comprehensive income
8	Canada	Statement of comprehensive income
No	Countries	Genre term categori : Financial Position
1	England	Balance sheet
2	France	The balance sheet
3	Germany	The balance sheet
4	Italy	The balance sheet
5	United States	Balance sheet
6	Japan	Balance sheet
7	Australia	Statement of financial position
8	Canada	Statement of financial position

Commonly the genre of financial accounting statements commonly used In Several Countries

1. England

- Companies Act Financial Statements: These statements are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and include the profit and loss account (income statement), balance sheet, cash flow statement, and notes to the financial statements.
- International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Financial Statements: Many UK companies, particularly those listed on the London Stock Exchange, adopt



IFRS as their financial reporting framework. These statements follow the standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and include the income statement, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows, and notes to the financial statements.

- c. UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP) Financial Statements: Some UK companies, especially smaller entities, may use UK GAAP as their financial reporting framework. UK GAAP statements encompass the profit and loss account, balance sheet, statement of cash flows, and related notes.
- d. Consolidated Financial Statements: Companies with subsidiary entities prepare consolidated financial statements that present the financial position, results of operations, cash flows, and related notes on a group basis. These statements consolidate the financials of the parent company with its subsidiaries.
- e. Interim Financial Statements: Interim financial statements are prepared for periods shorter than a full fiscal year and provide an update on a company's financial performance and position. These statements typically include condensed versions of the income statement, balance sheet, and cash flow statement, along with relevant notes.
- f. Statutory Financial Statements: Companies are required to prepare statutory financial statements in compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. These statements provide an overview of the company's financial position and performance and are often filed with regulatory bodies such as Companies House.
- g. Financial Statements for Not-for-profit Organizations: Non-profit entities, such as charities or educational institutions, prepare financial statements tailored to their specific requirements. These statements aim to present the organization's financial activities, assets, liabilities, and cash flows, often adhering to specific accounting standards for the non-profit sector.

These genres of financial accounting statements in England adhere to applicable accounting standards and regulations while providing relevant information for users, stakeholders, and regulators.

2. France

is generally referred to as "Comptes Annuels" or "États financiers". These statements are prepared in accordance with French Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and provide a comprehensive overview of a company's financial performance and position. The main components of these statements typically include the balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statement, and statement of changes in shareholders' equity. Additionally, companies listed on the French stock exchange are also required to prepare and publish consolidated financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

3. Germany

The genre of financial accounting statements used in Germany is generally referred to as "Jahresabschluss" or "Abschluss". These statements are prepared in accordance with German Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), which are known as the German Commercial Code (Handelsgesetzbuch or HGB). The financial accounting statements in Germany typically include the balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statement, and notes to the financial statements. Companies listed on the German stock



exchange may also prepare and publish consolidated financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Additionally, larger companies are required to prepare a separate management report providing additional information on the company's performance, strategy, and future prospects.

4. Italy

The genre of financial accounting statements used in Italy is generally referred to as "Bilancio". These statements are prepared in accordance with Italian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), which are known as "Principi Contabili Italiani" (PCI). The financial accounting statements in Italy typically include the balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statement, and notes to the financial statements. Companies listed on the Italian stock exchange may also prepare and publish consolidated financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Additionally, larger companies are required to prepare a separate management report providing additional information on the company's performance, strategy, and future prospects, similar to Germany.

Comparison And Contrast: Researchers Compare And Contrast The Genres To Understand Their Similarities And Differences. By Analyzing The Variations In Language, Format, And Content, They Can Identify The Unique Characteristics Of Each Genre And How They Cater To Specific Information Needs.

Comparison and contrast analysis is a research method employed by scholars and researchers in the field of accounting to understand the similarities and differences among different genres of accounting texts. By conducting a thorough examination of the variations in language, format, and content, researchers can identify the unique characteristics of each genre and gain insights into how they cater to specific information needs.

During the comparison and contrast analysis, researchers carefully examine multiple genres side by side. They analyze the language used in each genre, paying attention to the vocabulary, terminology, and syntax employed. By comparing the linguistic features, researchers can identify commonalities and differences in how accounting concepts and information are communicated across genres. This analysis helps in understanding how the language choices influence the tone, clarity, and effectiveness of the information conveyed.

Researchers also compare the format and structure of the genres under study. They explore how information is organized, the presence of specific sections or headings, and the sequence in which information is presented. By examining these structural aspects, researchers can identify patterns and variations that distinguish each genre. This analysis reveals how different genres prioritize and present information to meet the specific needs of different stakeholders.

Conclusion And Recommendations: Based On Their Findings, Researchers Draw Conclusions And Offer Recommendations For Practice Or Future Research. They May Suggest Improvements In The Design Or Presentation Of Accounting Information To Enhance Its Usefulness And Transparency.

Researchers may conclude that certain genres are more effective than others in conveying specific types of information to particular stakeholders. They may find that some genres excel in providing comprehensive financial data, while others are more



suitable for communicating strategic narratives or ESG performance. Researchers may also identify areas where genres could be improved in terms of language clarity, format standardization, or content relevance.

Researchers draw conclusions from their analysis of accounting genres and offer recommendations for practice or future research. The conclusions summarize key insights regarding how different genres shape the understanding and utilization of accounting information, while recommendations aim to enhance the design, presentation, and transparency of accounting information. Through their work, researchers contribute to the ongoing improvement and evolution of accounting practices and reporting standards, ensuring the relevance and effectiveness of accounting information in a dynamic business environment.

Genre analysis in accounting research provides valuable insights into the role and impact of different genres of texts in accounting practice. It helps researchers understand how accounting information is communicated, received, and interpreted by various stakeholders, contributing to the development of more effective accounting practices and policies.

CONCLUSION

By drawing meaningful conclusions and offering practical recommendations, researchers contribute to the advancement of accounting practice and pave the way for future research endeavors. Implementing these recommendations has the potential to enhance the usefulness, transparency, and decision-making value of accounting information, ultimately benefiting stakeholders and promoting more informed financial decisions.

Based on their research findings, researchers draw conclusions that provide valuable insights into the analysis of accounting information. These conclusions contribute to a deeper understanding of how accounting information is designed, presented, and perceived by stakeholders. The research highlights the strengths and weaknesses of current practices and identifies areas for improvement in the field of accounting.

1. **Enhance Clarity and Comprehensibility:** Researchers recommend improving the design and presentation of accounting information to enhance its clarity and comprehensibility. This could involve using plain language, avoiding excessive jargon, and providing clear explanations of complex concepts. Visual aids, such as charts and graphs, can also be employed to facilitate understanding.
2. **Standardize Reporting Formats:** Researchers suggest standardizing reporting formats to improve consistency and comparability across different companies and industries. This would enable stakeholders to easily analyze and compare financial information, leading to more informed decision-making.
3. **Increase Transparency:** Researchers emphasize the importance of transparency in accounting information. They recommend providing clear and detailed disclosures regarding accounting policies, estimates, and contingencies. Enhanced transparency builds trust and confidence among stakeholders and helps mitigate the risk of misinterpretation or misrepresentation.
4. **Embrace Technological Advances:** Researchers recommend embracing technological advancements to enhance the accessibility and usability of accounting



information. Leveraging technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data visualization can streamline data analysis, improve data accuracy, and facilitate real-time reporting.

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