Genres

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Genres/Subgenres used by the Brown Corpus

Table 1: Genre and subgenre codes for the Brown Corpus

I. Press
   A. Reportage
   B. Editorial
   C. Reviews
II. Miscellaneous
   D. Religion
   E. Skills and hobbies
   F. Popular lore
   G. Belles-lettres
III. Formal documents
   H. Government and institutional
   J. Learned
IV. Fiction
   K. General
   L. Mystery
   M. Science fiction
   N. Adventure
   P. Romance
   R. Humour

What is a genre? It’s not a source, nor is it a topic …

Examples:
- newspaper article
- home page
- FAQ
- memorandum
- love letter
Dimensions of Genre Analysis

These are properties that all genres have, which distinguish some genres from others:

- degree of formality
- impersonality
- author’s involvement
- context-dependence
- narrative structure
- ...

Examples:

- official document: low involvement, little narrative, low context dependence, high abstractness

- personal letter: high involvement, much narrative, high context dependence, low abstractness
Cues for Genre Analysis

These are hints or indicators in a text of a genre’s value along some dimension:

- *I/you* (freq. per 1K tokens)
- passive verbs (freq. per 1K tokens)
- long words (average over text)
- short sentences (average over text)
- uncommon words (average frequency rank)
- adjective/noun ratio (frequency ratio)
- …

Cues are *not* dimensions.
Cues for Genre Analysis

Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Cues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>involvement</td>
<td><em>I</em>/you, <em>that</em>-deletion, &quot;private&quot; verbs, low type/token ratio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>narrative</td>
<td>past tense verbs, 3rd-person pronouns, &quot;public&quot; verbs</td>
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<tr>
<td>context-dependence</td>
<td>relative clauses, time/place adverbs</td>
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<tr>
<td>abstractness</td>
<td>passive verbs, conjunct words, <em>wh-is</em> deletion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>