

ABSTRACT

The Language in Conversational Writing and Interactional Speaking

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This research investigates some factors that make writing looks and feels like speaking. A database of 200 utterances taken from two subjects (100 utterances from each) in conversational writing (50 utterances per subject) and interactional speaking (50 utterances per subject) during the 6 months of data elicitation period is used. The data were analysed manually based on certain guidance such as The Oxford 3000TM (used for analysing vocabularies), lexical density formula (Halliday, 1985), and Parker's (1986) classification of speech act. The major finding in this research is that the words found in conversational writing and interactional speaking are of similar level of commonness based on the three criteria of The Oxford 3000TM. The utterances are also similar in terms of complexity. The only slight difference is the way they were uttered through variety of speech acts. One minor finding is that the subjects feel no difference during their involvement in both settings. One subject admits to have made no planning, the other one says that he directly uses the words he has ever used when writing or reading and remembered. In conclusion, there is no real difference between the language in conversational writing and interactional speaking in vocabulary, lexical density, and speech acts. This also implies that both of them can be used as techniques for developing one another. Therefore, it is suggested that the teachers and students of English use one of them, or even both, to strengthen any required area of productive skills.

Keywords : Language, Conversational Writing, Interactional Speaking