Re: {Spam?} Re: Chapter 5: Text analysis

From: Sárdi Csilla (sardi.csilla@btk.ppke.hu)

To: dedy.ummetro@yahoo.com

Date: Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 08:33 PM GMT+7

Dear Dedy,

I've looked at the three chapters (litreview, research design (RD), results and discussion(R&D)) regarding your disscussions on informational density (ID). Below are my findings regarding the topics and issues that you discuss. I have also included some suggestions.

Litreview:
Provides a definition of ID
Explains briefly how ID is calculated (ratio of lexical words to total number of words in the text).
Discusses differences between text types: spoken/written; academic writing/informal writing **I suggest you mention percentages in the case of academic writing too.**
Importance of nouns and verbs. **I suggest you explain the importance in more detail. Can you refer to empirical findings too?**
In general, I suggest that you also discuss findings of <u>empirical research</u> regarding ID in academic writing.
Explains again how ID may be calculated using. as a basis, either clauses or the complete text. **I suggest that you explain the usefulness/limitations of both so that you can explain in the RD chapter why you selected one of them.**
Introduces expanded noun phrases **I suggest that you include a definition of what the term means, and specify when a noun phrase is regarded as expanded. I also suggest that you avoid using the word 'longer', because its meaning is vague.**
Discusses empirical findings comparing texts written by L1 and L2 users and L2 users of different proficiency levels. **I suggest that your discussion place academic writing in the centre of the discussion rather than writing general texts.**

Research Design:
Discusses briefly how Coh-Metrix was used: 1. ratio of content words; 2. word frequency of content words; 3. TTR. **Frequency and TTR are not discussed in the literature review. I suggest that you provide a discussion there (i.e. definition, relevance regarding ID, research findings) in order to be able to discuss these aspects meaningfully here. As for the ratio of content words: why did you decide to look at the total number of words rather than the number of clauses?**

Discusses how to calculate word frequency for content nouns. **To me, the discussion is unclear. What exactly do you mean by frequency? How does it contribute to understanding ID?**

Discusses how to calculate TTR. **To me, this discussion is unclear too. It is also unclear why you mention function words here if TTR is calculated only for content words.**

No discussion is provided regarding expanded noun phrases. **I suggest that you explain your research methods and how you designed the part of research focusing on these. I also suggest that you consider both quantitative and qualitative ways of investigation.**

Results and Discussion:

Discusses ratio of lexical items to total number of words

No discussion is provided on the use of nouns and verbs in particular. **You mentioned this topic in the litreview, so a discussion should be provided here too.**

Discusses word frequency findings. **It is still unclear what you mean by this, and how frequency itself and relevant findings help understand the lexical density of students' texts. Also, I find the use of the phrase 'familiar words' problematic and misleading. It is also misleading to interpret the findings from the point of view of the reader.**

Discusses TTR findings. **It is unclear what the relationship is between ID and TTR. Also, at p. 3 you mention that a higher TTR indicates lower level density. It is unclear why, and this claim contradicts what you say about TTR scores in Table 3.11 in the RD chapter.**

No discussion is provided on the quantitaive findings regarding expanded noun phrases. **I think you need to look at expanded noun phrases from a quantitaive point of view too.**

Another comment about two aspects of your investigation: frequency and TTR. I haven't found evidence in the literature that word frequency of content words and TTR are used to measure lexical density. TTR is used to measure lexical diversity. Frequency may be used for the same purpose if it is done carefully. So you will need to clarify why and how you are using these indicators for the purposes of your study.

I suggest that you look at the sections of three chapters focusing on **abstraction** and compare the topics that you discuss there following the logic I've shown above. Do you find any inconsistencies between the content of the chapters? Are there topics which are not mentioned in all of them? Is there a justification for every method and aspect of investigation? Do you provie a definition for all the key terms you introduce? Do you provide existing empirical research findings as well as a theoretical discussions on the issues that you raise?

Let me know if you have any questions, and I look forward to talking to you soon.

Best wishes,
Csilla

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Tárgy: {Spam?} Re: Chapter 5: Text analysis

Dear Csilla,

Thank you for the comments and the questions regarding Chapter 5.

We will discuss the questions and comments next Wednesday via Skype.

As for the chapter related to the literature review, research methods, and how to measure density and abstraction, please find the attached file below.

Best wishes,
Dedy

On Monday, January 8, 2024 at 04:18:09 PM GMT+7, Sárdi Csilla <sardi.csilla@btk.ppke.hu> wrote:

Dear Dedy,

Please find attached your Chapter 5 with my comments. I hope they make sense, but we can talk about them on Skype next Wednesday too.

In general, I have a few questions / comments about the text:
1. I suggest that you do not discuss density and abstraction from the reader's perspective, because your study focuses on developing academic writing in the case of novice academic writers.
2. In the chapter, refer back to previous parts of the thesis (litreview and research methods) where you discuss what these concepts mean and how you measure them and why.
3. It would be useful to provide an explanation about the result of the C1 group in semester 3. Why did they underperform B2 students?
4. Does the analysis of TTR include content words only, or function words too?

Also, I would be grateful if you could send me parts of the literature review which discuss density and abstraction, and parts of the research design chapter which discuss your methods and procedures measuring these. It is extremely important that the three parts (theory - research methods and procedues - results) form a coherent and consistent whole. I'd like to see to what extent this is apparent in the text.

Let me know if you have any questions and remarks, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best wishes,
Csilla