

International Linguistic Association

Monthly Lecture Series

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The Politics of University Discourse

This talk reports on the results of a study using critical discourse analysis of university handbooks for faculty and students that describes the writing test administered for admissions. The handbooks under study here have been issued fifteen years apart: the first one in 2002 and the last one in 2015. The handbooks were analyzed using the following parameters: intended audience, formality of language, genres utilized, and level of detail. The handbook as a genre was examined based on its elements (or moves): table of contents, general overview, description of assessment, assessment rubric, sample tasks, student-generated samples and general guidance section. It was concluded that macro socio-political changes over the fifteen-year period have had an impact on the way this particular university was conducting its admissions outreach and information dissemination utilizing a handbook genre. The results suggest a correlation between macro and micro socio-political trends in the country and their impact on the way the university creates, announces, conducts and sustains its admissions assessment policies. The role of social actions of these findings, their dissemination and application will be discussed.

Saturday, March 3, 2018
11 AM - 12 PM
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Room: N490
199 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007

NOTE: All attendees will be asked to show some form of ID in order to enter the college.