

Sample academic texts

The texts below come from different academic disciplines. For each text:

- *Which discipline do you think it was written for?*
- *What do you think it is about?*
- *Highlight any linguistic features (lexis or grammar) which you think are noteworthy*

(a)

Infection after consumption of fresh duck blood and undercooked poultry products has been suspected in some cases of illness. Indeed, transmission to felids was observed after experimental feeding of infected chickens to domestic cats, and feeding tigers raw infected chicken led to outbreaks of illness in Thai zoos, in which felid - to - felid transmissions were also implicated. Infected birds shed high concentrations of virus in faeces . Direct intranasal or conjunctival inoculation while swimming in contaminated water or, perhaps, inhalation or ingestion of water could have been potential modes of transmission to some H5N1 - infected patients. As for human influenza, hand contamination from fomites and self - inoculation into the eye or upper respiratory tract remain possible modes.

(b)

As a learner-centred process approach to second language (L2) writing, peer response has been widely adopted and studied since the 1990s (Hyland & Hyland, 2006). The dialogic nature of peer response seems to foster multiple support systems (Hyland, 2000) and communicative behaviours (Villamil & de Guerrero, 1996). L2 research has shown that peer response can increase chances for meaning negotiation and language practice (Lockhart & Ng, 1995; Mendonca & Johnson, 1994), encourage collaborative reading and writing (Tsui & Ng, 2000), and promote writing revisions (Berg, 1999; Mendonca & Johnson, 1994; Min, 2006, 2008; Stanley, 1992). These interactive practices appear to draw upon and enhance interactional and writing skills.

(c)

Germany's centrality to all the key debates past and present which have preoccupied EU and Member State policy-makers – not the least of which is securing the future of the single currency – is clear. It is and will remain essential to the success of integration in all its guises. However, its evolution as an actor in foreign and security policy represents perhaps the most interesting example of how it has changed since 1990. Having initially been anxious to reassure its neighbours and European partners that unification would not threaten the peace and stability of Europe, the trajectory of change within Germany has been dramatic in the post-unification period. While it has not been alone in seeking to wrestle with the security challenges thrown up first by the collapse of Yugoslavia, then the War on Terror, and more recently by the need for a coherent and effective crisis management mechanism to respond to instability in the EU's near-abroad, these have posed an additional and unique set of political and moral dilemmas.

(d)

Panic attacks are a specific and severe form of anxiety disorder, typified by the sudden onset of overwhelming anxiety that presents with a variety of physical symptoms such as palpitations, shortness of breath, dizziness and nausea, and may involve fears of 'going crazy' or of impending doom or death (Ohman, 2000). The prevalence of panic attacks more than doubled in the population of the United States from 5.3% in 1980, to 12.7% in 1995 (Goodwin, 2003). Panic attacks occur in many anxiety disorders and may be associated with specific events or situations. However, panic attacks as a central feature of panic disorder (PD) generally occur 'out-of-the-blue' (American Psychiatric Association, 2000). The prevalence of PD appears to be relatively consistent across cultures at between 1% and 3% (Weissman et al., 1997).

(e)

The story of the Bible in translation is, like the text itself, far from straightforward. Private spiritual reading may well have lain at the heart of Protestant piety but, as Lori Anne Ferrell has pointed out, the Bible was desperately difficult to understand and Protestant writers of biblical text-books knew this only too well. Their approach was to warn readers of the 'knotty Passages' and 'things hard to be understood' whilst, at the same time, steering them to the 'Shallows where the Lambs may wade' with the assurance (and encouragement) that 'the Truths necessary to Salvation are plain, and of easy Access to the weakest understanding'.