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Using Rhetorical Structure Theory for contrastive analysis at the micro and macro levels of discourse: An investigation of Japanese EFL learners' and native-speakers' writing

by Jonathan D. Brown

1. Studies in contrastive rhetoric have been overly concerned with identifying origins of errors rather than the errors themselves. (This dissertation, Chapter 1)

2. Contrastive rhetoric helped raise an interest among Western scholars in rhetorical frameworks outside the Anglo-sphere. (This dissertation, Chapter 2)

3. An artificial nucleus occurs when a nucleus appears to have a function in the structural design of the text but does not hold its intended function due to its content. (This dissertation, Chapter 4)

4. There is a correlation between the proportion of Subject Matter relations and the quality of a text. (This dissertation, Chapter 4)

5. It is difficult to quantify meaningful language use.

6. Language and culture relate to one another as chickens and eggs (or eggs and chickens) do—one cannot be without the other, and thus one cannot be more significant than the other.

7. Coherence develops and evolves over time; thus, what was once considered coherent may no longer be regarded as such, and what will eventually be considered coherent for a certain group may not presently be for that very same group.

8. It is possible to observe shifts in a society's values by analyzing the rhetoric of its discourse over the years.

9. Coming up with a humorous one-liner goes against what I know about academia—while no doubt there are comedic academics, I have never met one, funny or otherwise, who had a proclivity for brevity.

10. 遊び人暇なし (asobinin himanashi) Pleasure seekers have no free time.