

Table of Contents

Tables	13
Figures	15
Abbreviations	17
Chapter 1. Introduction	19
1.1 Speech vs. writing vs. conversational writing.....	19
1.2 Aim and scope of the study.....	23
1.3 Synchronicity of communication.....	30
1.4 Notes on terminology.....	34
1.5 Outline of the study.....	37
Chapter 2. Background	39
2.1 Introductory remarks.....	39
2.2 Survey of the literature on speech and writing.....	39
2.3 Biber's (1988) dimensions of textual variation.....	50
2.4 Halliday's and others' essentially qualitative approaches.....	60
2.5 Survey of the literature on CMC.....	66
2.6 Description of the media for conversational writing.....	77
2.7 Chapter summary.....	81
Chapter 3. Material and method	83
3.1 Introductory remarks.....	83
3.2 Creating and annotating a corpus of Internet relay chat.....	84

3.3	Creating and annotating a corpus of split-window ICQ chat.....	93
3.4	The Santa Barbara Corpus subset.....	96
3.5	Standardization and dimension score computation	100
3.6	Average figures for writing and speech, respectively	103
3.7	Chapter summary.....	106
Chapter 4. Salient features in conversational writing		109
4.1	Introductory remarks.....	109
4.2	Distribution of modal auxiliary verbs and personal pronouns.....	111
4.3	Word length, type/token ratio and lexical density.....	130
4.4	The most salient features	149
4.5	Paralinguistic features and extra-linguistic content.....	172
4.6	Inserts and emotives	189
4.7	Chapter summary.....	204
Chapter 5. Conversational writing positioned on Biber's (1988) dimensions		205
5.1	Introductory remarks.....	205
5.2	Dimension plots	211
5.2.1	Dimension 1: Informational versus Involved Production.....	212
5.2.2	Dimension 2: Narrative versus Non-Narrative Concerns.....	222
5.2.3	Dimension 3: Explicit/Elaborated versus Situation-Dependent Reference.....	228
5.2.4	Dimension 4: Overt Expression of Persuasion/Argumentation.....	234
5.2.5	Dimension 5: Abstract/Impersonal versus Non-Abstract/Non-Impersonal Information.....	241
5.2.6	Dimension 6: On-Line Informational Elaboration	247
5.3	Chapter summary.....	254

Chapter 6. Discussion	255
6.1 Introductory remarks.....	255
6.2 Hypotheses revisited quantitatively.....	256
6.3 From genres to text types.....	263
6.4 Research questions revisited	275
6.5 Chapter summary.....	289
Chapter 7. Conclusion	291
7.1 Summary of the study.....	291
7.2 Suggestions for further research	295
Appendices	297
Appendix I. Texts used in Biber's (1988) study	297
Appendix II. Descriptive statistics for genres studied.....	299
Appendix III. Raw frequencies of linguistic features.....	313
Appendix IV. Examples of excluded material	319
Appendix V. Features with a standard score >2.0	320
Appendix VI. Statistical tests of salient features.....	322
Appendix VII. Word lists for the corpora studied.....	323
Appendix VIII. Dimension score statistics for Biber's (1988) genres.....	325
Appendix IX. Computation of cluster affiliations.....	330
Appendix X. Dimension scores for individual texts	332
List of References	333

