The Role of Data in the Analysis of Academic Discourse

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I will start by looking at some books, published quite far apart from each other, and each bearing the title Academic Discourse: Bourdieu (1964/94); Flowerdew (1991); and Hyland (2009). I will consider the approach to data promoted and/or applied in each of these publications, highlighting the extent to which they promote an analysis from a more text-focused or a more contextually-focussed perspective. Continuing with the text/context dichotomy, I will consider two studies of my own, each illustrating one of the text/context perspectives, along with, time permitting, studies conducted by others considered in this light. I will aim to highlight the approach to data in all of these studies. I will conclude by making the point that the approach to data cannot be divorced from other dimensions of the research process: research question/goal, theory, method, analysis, and interpretation.

References

