

## Evaluative Clues in Academic English

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### Abstract

The centrality of evaluation has been investigated mainly in genre studies, pragmatics, discourse analysis, and text linguistics as, for example, in: Aijmer (2005), Mauranen (2004), Stubbs (2001), and Swales (2004). The present study focuses on *evaluation*, in particular *Research-Oriented Evaluation* as defined by Thetela (1997). The methodology is primarily a corpus-based approach. Data for the present investigation are drawn from a corpus of 1,035 research article abstracts (about 200,000 words) from two disciplines in two scientific international journals: *The International Journal of Primatology* (hereafter IJP) and *Mathematics and Computers in Simulation* (hereafter MCS). The present paper has attempted through a collocational analysis to investigate the linguistic resources of a precise type of evaluation which occurs with specific words, defined in this study as 'research process words'. Results of the present analysis support the hypothesis that evaluation is genre specific and embodies interactions between writers and readers, regardless of the discipline. Precise lexical choices and words appear to be more frequent than others. However, textual analysis and identification of evaluation pose serious problems to the methodological approach, especially with the application of computer-assisted analytic techniques in academic arguments.

**Keywords:** Corpus-based studies, Text analysis, Corpus Assisted discourse studies, Evaluation, Genre analysis.