



Style, systems and genre:
a theoretical base for stylistic approaches to
authorship analysis

Andrea Nini



Cognitive approach

Chaski 2001

Idiolect is fundamental

The individual is unique in the use of
syntactic structures

Analysis of syntactic structures

Variability caused by differences in
cognitive structures

Stylistic approach

McMenamin 2002

Idiolect not necessary

The individual is unique because of style

Analysis of style markers

Variability caused by socio-historical
differences



Cognitive

Stylistic

Explanation of
variation

Scientific?

Undefined
concepts

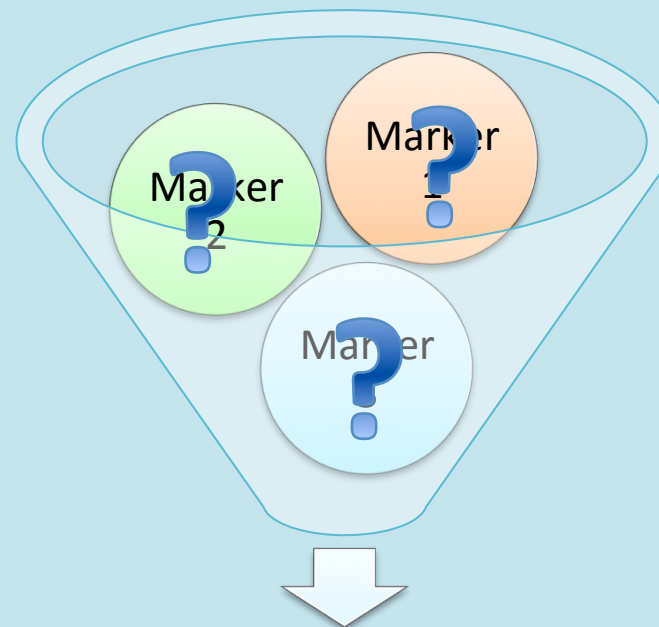
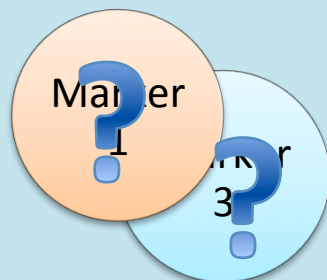
Analyst's bias

Scientific?





Grant & Baker's Method



Discriminator(s)

Grant & Baker's Method

Replicability



Analyst's bias



Undefined
concepts

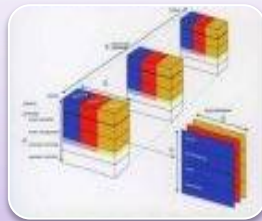


Explanation
variation



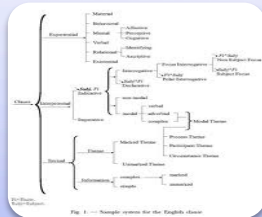


Systemic Functional Linguistics



Holistic

- Modern linguistic theory
- Coherence of description



Inherently sociolinguistic

- Based on notion of choice



Cognitively realistic

- Neurolinguistics; Natural Language Generation
- Correlation with findings in social psychology



Dialectal Variation

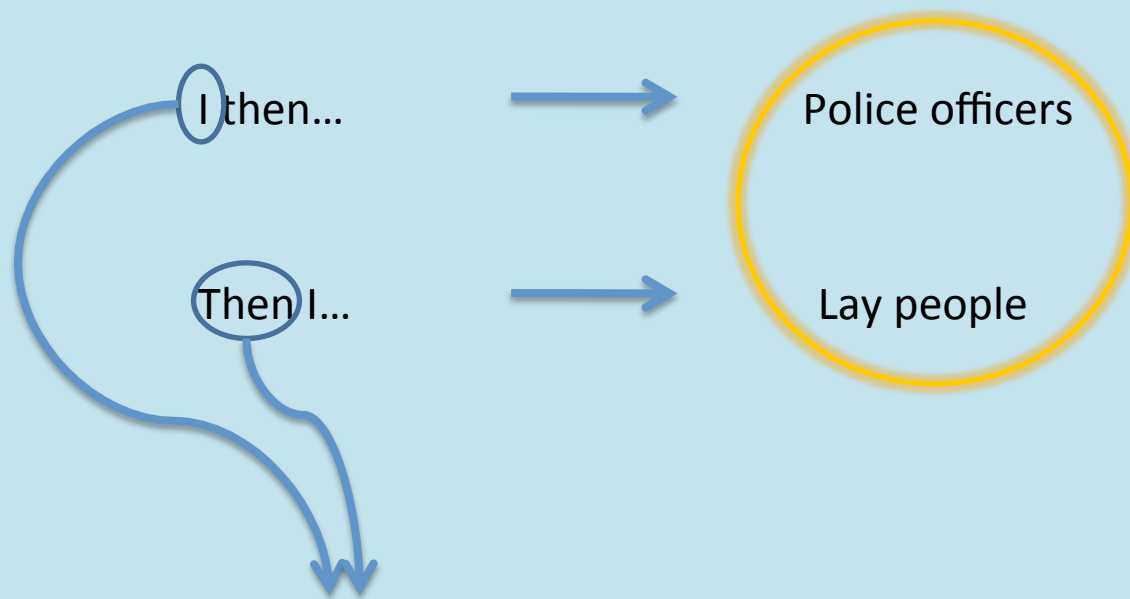
Codal Variation

Registerial Variation

-	Contextual Constant	Contextual Variation
Semantic constant	Semantic Variation	Semantic Variation
Lexicogrammatical Variation	Lexicogrammatical Variation	Lexicogrammatical Variation
Expression Variation	-	-



Derek Bentley Case



Statement (constant)

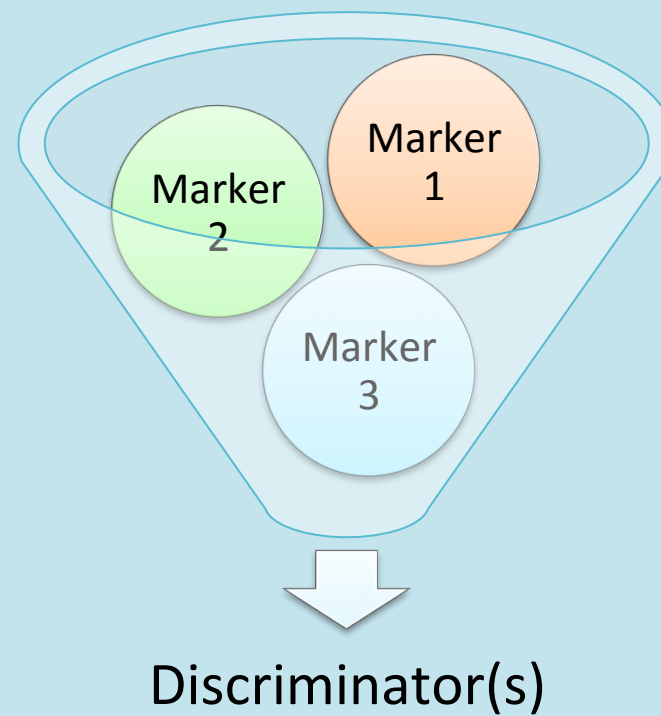
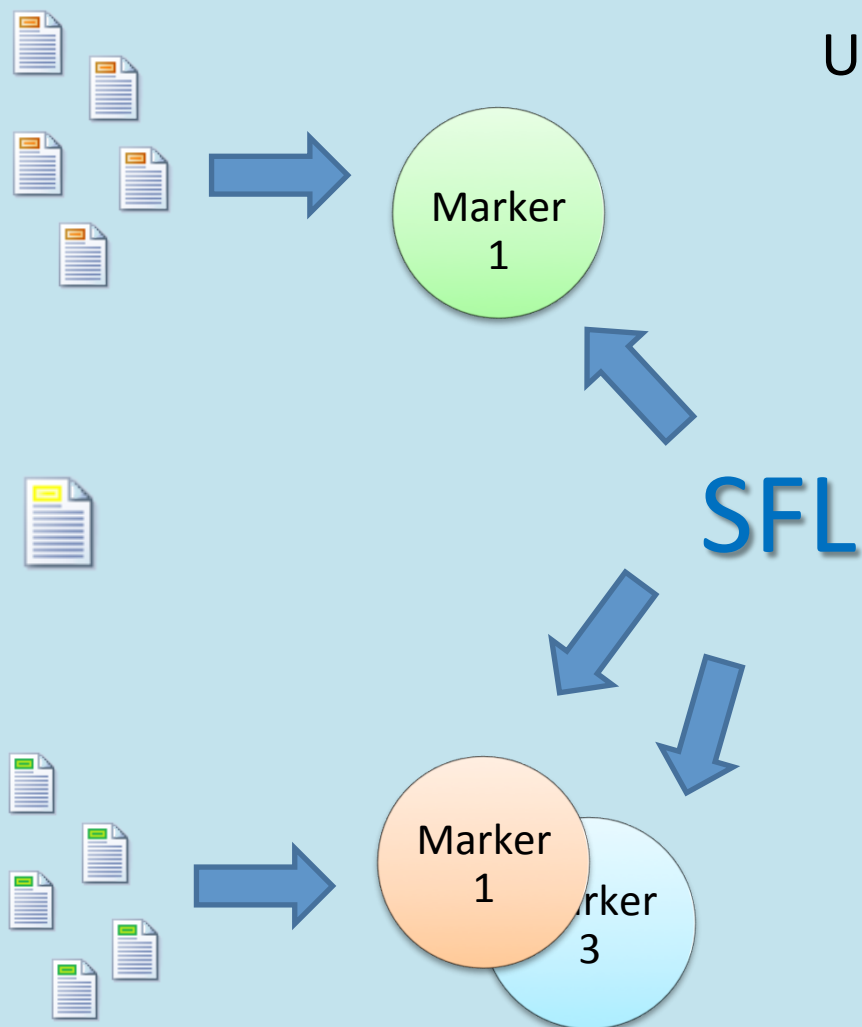
Semantic Variation
(Textual meaning)

Lexicogrammatical
Variation
(Position of *then*)

-



Grant & Baker 's Proposal Using Systemic Functional Linguistics





Grant & Baker 's Proposal Using Systemic Functional Linguistics

Replicability



Analyst's bias

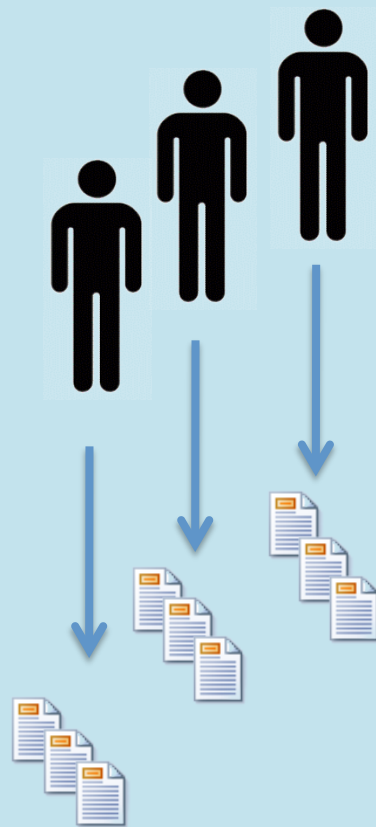


Undefined
concepts



Explanation
variation





- gender
- age
- education level
- social class
- ethnicity

- 300 words
- Introduction only

Analysis

Experiment 1

506
Variables



Results



- Determinative
- Ellipted

Number of
variables



- Relational

Subjectivity

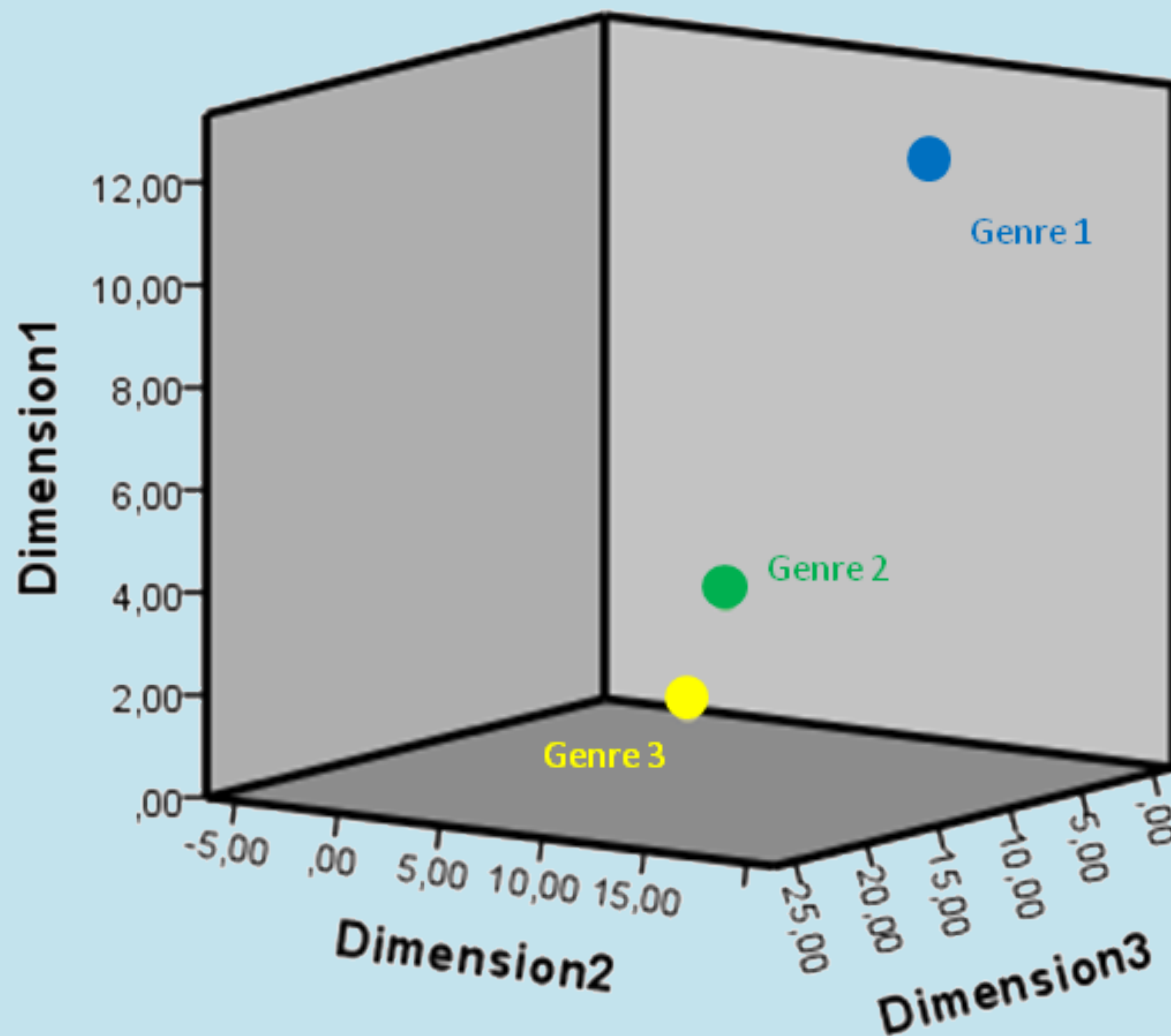


- No difference

Distribution
for genre

Biber's Multidimensional Analysis

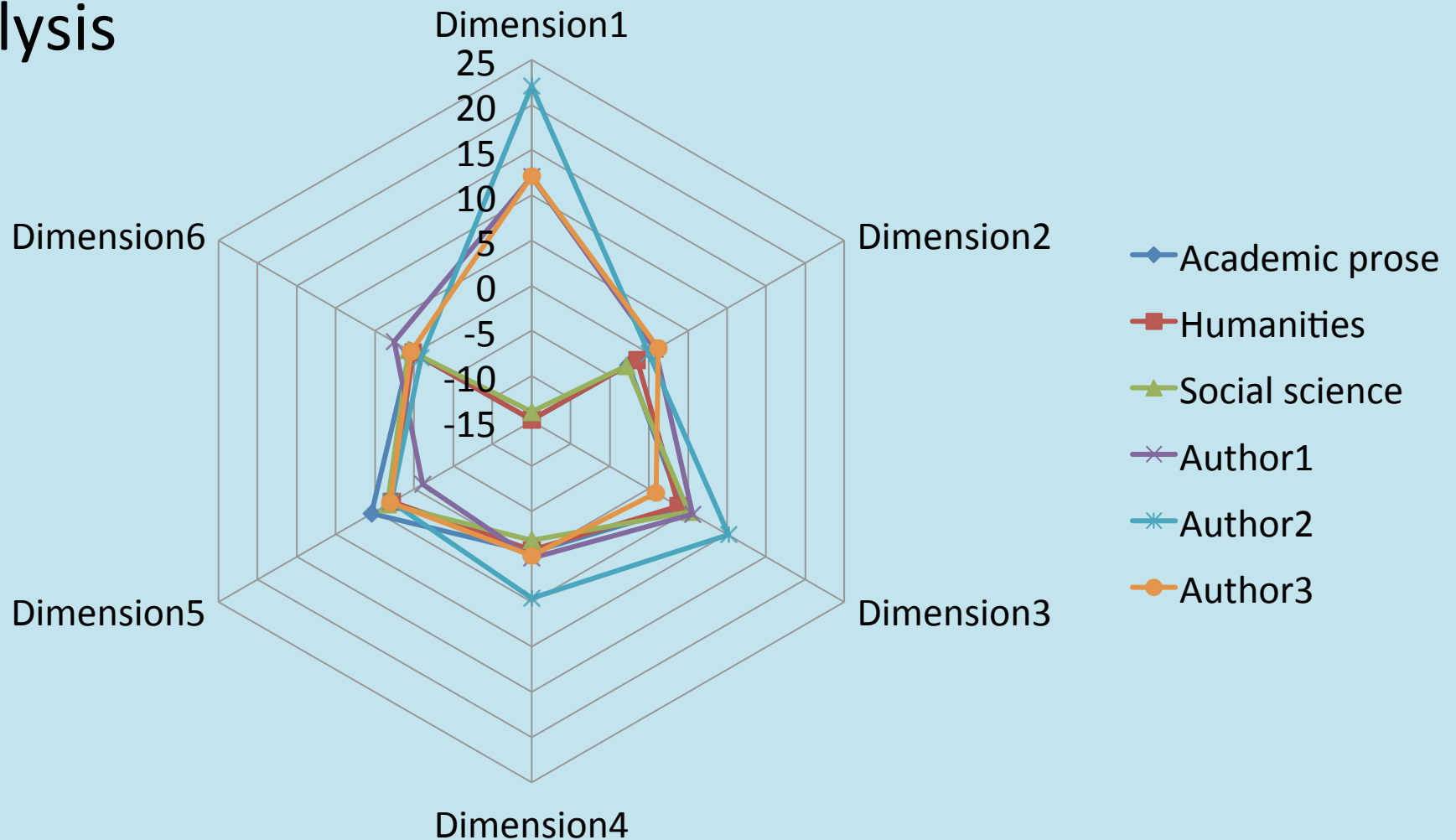
Experiment 2





Biber's Multidimensional Analysis

Experiment 2



Cognitive approach

Idiolect is fundamental

The individual is unique
in the use of syntactic
structures

Analysis of syntactic
structures

Variability caused by
differences in cognitive
structures

Stylistic approach

Idiolect not necessary

The individual is unique
because of style

Analysis of style markers

Variability caused by
socio-historical differences

SFL approach

Idiolect is theorised

The individual is unique
because of cognitive
differences in style

Style markers =
syntactic structures

Variability caused by
cognitive structures
caused by socio-
historical differences



Centre for
Forensic
Linguistics

Thank you