

**Towards a linguistic consideration of technical documentation:  
Compilation and analysis of a representative corpus**

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As each technical product needs to be documented, there is a huge demand for technical documentation. Despite their significance, however, technical documents are underrepresented in linguistic research. This thesis argues that while it belongs to the genre of technical writing, technical documentation has specific characteristics and deserves more thorough linguistic analysis. For such analysis, a representative corpus is needed to revisit existing claims about characteristics and to unearth new ones.

The thesis reviews the types of technical documentation, not only based on existing research in fields like text linguistics, genre analysis and discourse analysis, but also by examining the services provided by leading companies in the documentation industry. On that basis, a representative corpus is compiled. With the aid of the corpus, it is established whether existing claims about technical documents, such as their limited lexical richness and low syntactic complexity, can be confirmed. Then, to possibly unearth additional characteristics, the corpus is analysed with methods such as collocation analysis and keyword analysis.

Altogether, this research contributes to different fields. Firstly, technical documentation itself can profit from the insights when it comes to optimising documents. Secondly, genre-based language teaching can utilise the results, especially in the training of future technical writers. Thirdly, within linguistics, this research promotes the understanding of different genres and uses of language, especially of those that have traditionally been overlooked. In the future, this newly compiled corpus can be utilised as the basis for further analysis in all of the above fields and beyond.

*Keywords: technical documentation, technical writing, corpus design, lexical richness, syntactic complexity, collocation analysis, keyword analysis*

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