“Rhetorical Analysis of Grant Recommendation Letters written by Faculty in a Ghanaian University”

JBA Afful

University of Cape Coast, Ghana

Given the increasing cost of postgraduate education worldwide in recent times, the genre system of application for grants has begun to receive serious attention from researchers in Applied Linguistics, Discourse Studies, and Higher Education. An under-researched genre in this system is the grant recommendation letter (GRL) or ‘letter of support’ written by faculty to enable applicants to win grants for their research. The aim of the study was to investigate the generic structure and persuasive features of a small corpus of twenty GRLs written by senior Ghanaian academics from the Humanities and Sciences. The analysis showed that most writers deployed a seven-move pattern. The next key finding concerned the use of evaluative lexis, personal pronouns, and disciplinary lexis as distinctive rhetorical features. The last finding was the apparent disciplinary variation in respect of some aspects of the generic structure and rhetorical features. These findings have implications for the scholarship on disciplinary rhetoric, genre studies as well as the need for staff development for faculty in universities.

**WHEN:** Thursday April 26, 15.15—17.00

**WHERE:** 6-0031, Engelska parken

HOSTED BY:
Section of rhetoric, Department of Literature
Department of English