**Genre revisited and explored: An Aspect of register or a distinct system**

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**Abstract:** Genre constitutes the rhetorical features of a text and the semiotic communicative purpose(s) it serves. It has marvelled Systemic Functional Linguistics’ (SFL) scholars as to whether it should be treated as an aspect of the situational context (register) or as a distinct cultural semiotic system that correlates with texture- i.e. the three register categories of field, tenor, and mode. This paper aims to explore genre and how it is conceptualized in SFL. Whereas Halliday associates genre with mode, Martin coordinates the three register variables of field, tenor, and mode in relation to social purpose. The elements of a schematic structure are generated by genre networks, which in turn preselect particular values of field, tenor and mode in a given culture. Both Halliday's context of situation and Martin’s context of culture levels are dynamic connotative semiotic systems through which new meanings are created by the three processes of semogenesis. Genre is conceived as a distinct cultural semiotic system, rather than an aspect of ‘mode’, that correlates with texture. Martin later avoided the intertextual glosses context of culture and context of situation since Halliday used them for instantiation, and not supervenience. The three register variables of language organize information at the level of genre into coherent texts. SFL scholars need to develop a stratified model of context which maps genre into the three register variables.

**Keywords: genre; Systemic functional linguistics (SFL); register; mode; language metafunctions**

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