Features of Academic Language

The Features of Academic Language operate within sociocultural contexts for language use.

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<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Performance Criteria</th>
<th>Features</th>
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| Discourse      | Linguistic Complexity (Quantity and variety of oral and written text in communication) | • Amount of speech/written text  
• Structure of speech/written text  
• Density of speech/written text  
• Coherence and cohesion of ideas  
• Variety of sentence types to form organized text |
| Sentence       | Language Forms and Conventions (Types, array, and use of language structures in communication) | • Types and variety of grammatical constructions  
• Mechanics of sentence types  
• Fluency of expression  
• Match language forms to purposes/perspectives  
• Formulaic and idiomatic expressions |
| Word/Phrase     | Vocabulary Usage (Specificity of word or phrase choice in communication) | • General, specific, and technical language  
• Multiple meanings of words and phrases  
• Nuances and shades of meaning  
• Collocations and idioms |

The sociocultural contexts for language use involve the interaction between the student and the language environment, encompassing the…

• Register  
• Genre/Text type  
• Topic  
• Task/Situation  
• Participants’ identities and social roles