

Contrastive Rhetoric? German and English Rhetorical Conventions in Academic Writing

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I often use George Orwell's "Politics and the English Language" in my academic writing courses for graduate students. Very often the response from students in these courses is that Orwell's advice is irrelevant.

Orwell was a journalist; they are scientists. In this workshop, I want to discuss the best strategies to respond to this argument – or similar arguments. The materials will address the following questions:

First, how can we help EFL students recognize good and poor writing (in one's discipline), both in English and in German?

Second, is it true that in German the rhetorical conventions for academic writing make a clear distinction between academic and journalistic style?

Third, what are the differences in English and German rhetorical conventions in academic writing?

Working language in this Workshop is English.