Task and Genre Differences in L2 Writing Research

Some researchers have examined how task complexity affects linguistic features of written production while others have investigated how genre affects features of writing but few have discussed both lines of research. This paper will summarize the two lines of research with a focus on operationalization of task and genre dimensions. We discuss how these two lines of research may or may not interact and whether or not findings from research on task differences and on genre differences are related. Implications for second language (L2) acquisition and L2 writing pedagogy are discussed.

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Dr. Polio’s main area of research is L2 writing. She is particularly interested in the various research methods and measures used in studying L2 writing as well as the interface between the fields of L2 writing and L2A. She is the author of Understand, Evaluating, and Conducting Second Language Writing Research (Routledge, with Debra Friedman) and Authentic Materials Myths (Michigan, with Eve Zyzk). She is the co-editor of TESOL Quarterly (with Peter De Costa) and past associate editor of the Modern Language Journal.

Dr. Polio currently teaches in the TESOL and Second Language Studies programs at Michigan State University.

Seating is limited. Please RSVP to hroboskyt@duq.edu by Thursday, October 25th. Coffee and cookies will be served.