

Scientific Language & Scientific Writing

This tutorial deals with the characteristics of scientific language and scientific writing style as well as the typical structure of a scientific paper in psychology.

The structure of a scientific paper in psychology.

1. What do I need scientific language for?

- To enter into a dialogue with the discipline's scientific community.
- Exposure to and familiarity with current discussions in the discipline
- Critically engage with a variety of beliefs
- to represent one's own position
- to build up knowledge

2. Characteristics of scientific work

- Every scientific paper starts with a research question and/or hypotheses.
- The central questions must be answered and the hypotheses proven/refuted.
- It must be stated how the process of answering the question will be approached.
- Each claim must be proven.
- The argumentation must be free of contradictions.
- Criticism and evaluations must be shown.
- The red thread links the claims so that a logical connection of the individual steps can be understood.

Guiding principles: Comprehensibility, unambiguousness, neutrality, verifiability.

3. Characteristics of the scientific writing style

In a scientific text, it is advantageous to use short concise main sentences. Try to avoid nested sentences. Often teachers demand a "first person ban", which means that passive constructions are used more often. Gender-sensitive language is also important. Technical terms should be used deliberately.

4. structure of a scientific paper

1. Title page

2. Table of Contents

optional, not always mandatory: Table of Figures, List of tables, List of abbreviations

3. Introduction

4. Theory

5. Method

6. Results

7. Discussion

8. Bibliography

optional, not always mandatory: Appendix, Explanation

- The abstract is a short summary and is based on the structure of the paper.
- The structure of the paper is derived from the table of contents.
- The introduction leads to the work itself.
- Afterwards the theory part begins, in which theories and the current state of research are discussed.
- In the method part one's own research is described. It is generally divided into sample, material and procedure.
- Subsequently, the results are presented and the hypotheses are confirmed/refuted.
- The discussion comes at the end. Here the goals and results of the work are summarized and interpreted as well as limitations presented.

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