

Module : Techniques de Communication et d'expression III

Chapter 01: Terminology

1. LANGUAGE REGISTERS: THE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF LANGUAGE

Objectives: Master communication situations. Adapt the form of the message to the target audience.

Mastering communication rules means adapting the form of your message to the target audience and the goal you have in mind. You do not approach a teenager, a friend, a colleague or an assembly of scholars in the same way. You do not write the same way for a scientific journal as for a popular newspaper. Each communication situation calls for the choice of a particular language register and the use of lexical and syntactic forms that correspond to it.

We usually distinguish three main language registers to which we can add a fourth, more specific, register the technical register.

1.1. The familiar register

The familiar register is used to create a sense of closeness and complicity, to reproduce the language of oral conversation, or to express a certain impertinence. It is also used for didactic purposes, such as popularizing science for children and teenagers.

- *Characteristics :*

- Vocabulary is restricted, popular, even cliché, and full of imagery. Abbreviations are often used (TV, the prof, ASAP, a cop), as well as fashionable English expressions.
- Simplified or even incorrect grammatical usage.
- Frequent interjections and interpellations.

1.2. The current register

This is the most "neutral" register. It differs from oral language, but avoids complexity. It is widely used in everyday written communication, in regular administrative or professional correspondence, newspaper articles and press kits.

- *Characteristics :*

- Use of standard vocabulary
- Use of simple, correct grammatical forms
- No particular stylistic devices

1.3. The sustained register

This is used to express a social or cultural distinction, to deepen an intellectual reflection or to show deference to the addressee. It requires a perfect mastery of expression and an appropriateness to the communication situation in question. It is used, for example, in an academic article or a very formal letter.

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- *Characteristics :*

- Use of rich, rare and often abstract words.
- Use of sophisticated syntax and complex sentences.
- Use of stylistic effects

1.4. The technical register

This is used for professional exchanges between specialists in the same trade or scientific discipline. It enables them to express themselves with a high degree of precision in the field concerned, and to demonstrate a shared sense of belonging.

- *Characteristics:*

- Use of a highly specialized lexicon
- Use of common syntactic structures
- Strive for precision

2. THE SPECIALIZED LEXICON OF BIOLOGY

The following list includes most of the prefixes, suffixes and roots used in biology terminology

Unit 1: Study of Biology	
Root/Prefix/Suffix	Meaning & Examples
a-	not, without: abiotic
bio-	life, living: biodiversity
-ology	study of: biology
de-	away from, down: deductive reasoning
in-	not: independent variable
duct	lead: inductive reasoning

Unit 2: Biochemistry	
Root/Prefix/Suffix	Meaning & Examples
ac/ad-	to, toward: adhesion, activation energy
-ate	verb form-the act of: carbohydrate
cata-	breakdown downward: catalyst
calor-	heat: calorimeter, calorie, kilocalorie
co-	with, together: covalent
iso-	equal: isotonic solution
di-	two: diploid, disaccharides
hydro-	water: hydrogen

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hyper-	above, beyond, over: hypertonic solution
hypo-	below, under, less: hypotonic solution
macr-	large: macromolecule
mono-	one, single: monosaccharide
phag-	eat: phagocytes
sacchar-	sugar: monosaccharide
solv-	loosen, free: solvent
-stasis	standing, placed, staying: homeostasis
tri-	three: triglycerides

Unit 3: Cell Biology	
Root/Prefix/Suffix	Meaning & Examples
aero-	air: aerobic
an-	without: anaerobic
-cell-	chamber, small room: cell wall
centr-	center: centriole
chlor-	green: chloroplast
chrom-	color: chromatid
di-	through, across, apart: diffusion
-elle	small: organelle
eu-	well, good, true, normal: eukaryotes
-gene-	origin, birth: genetics
hapl-	simple: haploid
homo-	same, alike: homologous pair
mut-	change: mutation
nuc-	center: nucleus
photo-	light: photosynthesis
re-	again, back: replication
-sis	condition, state: osmosis
zyg-	joined together: zygote

Unit 4: Heredity	
Root/Prefix/Suffix	Meaning & Examples
auto-	self: autosome
-some	body: autosome
co-	with, together: codominant
di-	two, double: diploid
fer	produce: fertilization

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gam	marriage: gamete
hapl-	simple: haploid
hetero-	different: heterotype
zyg-	joined together: homozygous
-ous	full of: heterozygous
homo	same, alike: homologous
kary	cell nucleus: karyotype
mut-	change: mutation
pheno-	show: phenotype
syn-	together: synthesis
poly-	many: polygenic
script-	write: transcription
trans-	across: translation

Unit 5: Evolution	
Root/Prefix/Suffix	Meaning & Examples
ad-	to, toward: adapt
di-	apart: diversity
ex-	away from: extinction
phyl-	related group: phylogeny
re-	again: reproductive
iso-	equal, same: isolation
sub-	under, below: subspecies
volve	roll, wander: evolve
con-	with, together: convergent evolution

Unit 6: Diversity	
Root/Prefix/Suffix	Meaning & Examples
angi-	blood, vessel, duct: angiosperm
-ation	noun form-the act of: population
auto-	self: autotroph
gymno-	naked, bare: gymnosperm
in-	not, non: invertebrate
-nom-, -nomy	ordered knowledge, law: binomial nomenclature
phyt-, phyte	plant: bryophyte
pro-	forward, favoring, before: producer
-sperm-	seed: angiosperm
stom, -stoma	mouth: stomata

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-troph-	nourishment, one who feels: autotroph
xyl-	wood: xylem

Unit 7: Ecology	
Root/Prefix/Suffix	Meaning & Examples
eco-	house: ecosystem, ecology
en-	made of: environment
ex-	out of, away from: extinction
geo-	land, earth: biogeochemical
im-	to, toward, into: immigration
inter-	within, inside: interdependent
non-	not: nonrenewable
path, pathy-	disease, suffering: pathogen
pre-	before, ahead of time: precipitation
prim-	first: primary
pro-	forward, favoring, before: producer, productive
sub-	under, below: sublimation
troph-	nourishment, one who feeds: heterotroph, trophic level

Unit 8: Human Anatomy & Physiology	
Root/Prefix/Suffix	Meaning & Examples
anti-	against, opposite: antibiotic, antigen
capill-	hair: capillaries
cardi-	heart: cardiovascular system
cerebr-	brain: cerebrum
dis-	apart, out: disease
-fer-	bear, carry, produce: fertilization
med-	middle: medulla oblongata
ocul-	eye: ocular, occipital
-ous	full of: contagious or communicable disease
pan-	all: pandemic
par-, para-	beside, near, equal: parietal lobe
path-, -pathy	disease, suffering: pathogen
tri-	three: trimester
vas-	vessel: vascular tissue
zyg-	joined together: zygote

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Références

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