Steven Celi

ENC 1101

12:30

Swales, John. “The Concept of Discourse Community.” *Genre Analysis: English in Academic and Research Settings*. Boston: Cambridge UP, 1990. 466-478. Print.

John Swales begins is discussion of discourse community from the basis of one of his previous works *Genre Analysis.* He begins by stating many professors, instructors etc. have clarified discourse community as a type of social view. Swales uses Herzberg’s definition of discourse community and Porter’s thoughts to support and use their views to explain his own perspective. Swales compares speech communities and discourse communities by saying, “ …the need to distinguish a *sociolinguistic* grouping from a *sociorhetorical* one.”(471). Conceptualization of a discourse community proposes six components to identify the people involved in it. It has public goals, mechanisms of intercommunication, provide information and feedback , possesses one or more genres in the communicative furtherance of its aims, specific lexis and discoursal expertise (471-473). All these necessities lead to examples of discourse community which Swales discusses. One remaining issue is, “whether a community’s discourse and its discoursal expectations are constitutive or regulative of world-view is a contemporary reworking of the Whorfian hypothesis that each language possesses a structure which must at some level influence the way its users view the world.”(476).

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Swales explanations of discourse community were very confusing to me. I understand the general meaning of a discourse community which is the group of people that word be affected by a rhetorical situation. Swales uses ideas from previous works that I understood more which helped. He goes into deep detail of a speech community which I can not really distinguish the big difference between discourse community. His conceptualization of a discourse community gave detailed descriptions of each characteristic that was necessary. The six characteristics really help define clearly all the aspects of a discourse community.