

## Domains of language use for school science in Portuguese textbooks

Fausto Caels\*, Marta Alexandre\*, Carlos Gouveia\*\* \*CELGA-ILTEC / ESECS-IPL \*\* CELGA-ILTEC / FLUL

ESFLC 2018 - SFL on Language, Specialised Knowledge and Literacy University of Pavia, Italy, 5-7 July 2018













### Presentation outline

- 1. Contextualization
- 2. Genres of Natural Sciences: a typological view
- 3. The need for complementary views
- 4. Domains of language use



### Contextualization

European Comenius project:

Teacher Training for European Literacy Education (TeL4ELE)



The need for descriptions and examples of the genres of schooling in the Portuguese context (language and curriculum)



### Goals

- To map the genres of Portuguese compulsary education (grade 1-12), in the subject areas of Portuguese, Science and History
- To provide teachers with aplliable descriptions of the main genres in each subject area (social purpose, structure, lexicogrammatical features)



### Data

- 64 textbooks, comprising
  - Approx. 20 textbooks/subject area
  - Approx. 5 textbooks/grade

### Theoretical Framework

 Genre, Knowledge and Pedagogy in the Sydney School (Rose & Martin, 2012)



### Results (thus far)

- Genres of Study of Social Environment (grade 1-4)
- Genres of Natural Sciences (grade 5-9)
- Genres of History (grade 5-9)

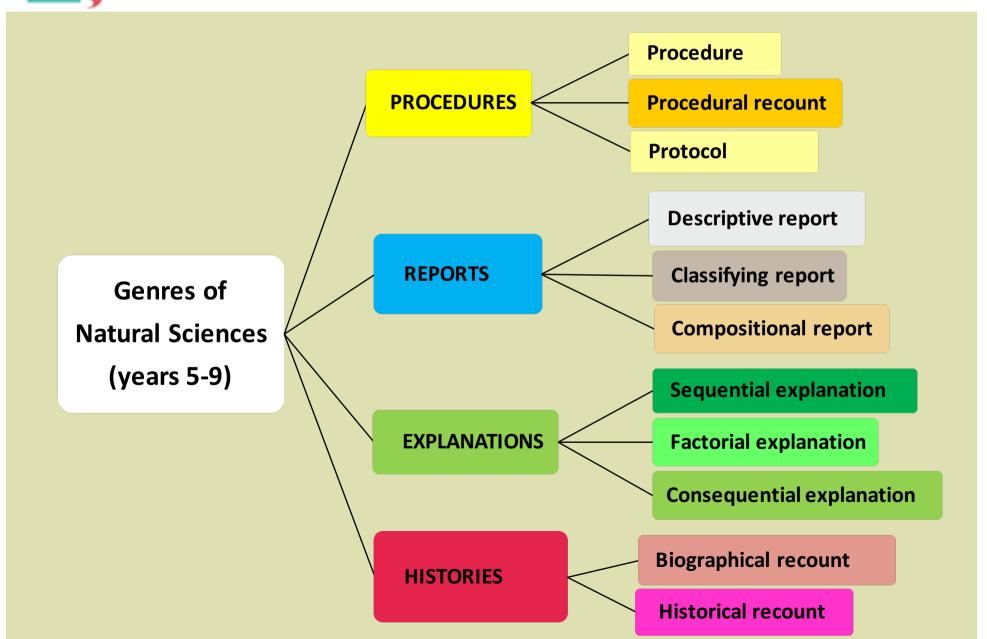


### Results (thus far)

- Genres of Study of Social Environment (grade 1-4)
- Genres of Natural Sciences (grade 5-9)
- Genres of History (grade 5-9)



### Genres in science textbooks: a typological view





### The need for complementary views

- How do the genres contribute to curriculum contents and goals?
- What pedagogic purposes do the genres embody?
- What type of knowledge do the genres convey?
- How are the genres used within thematic units?



### Strategy 1: adjusting social purposes

- One way to account for the specific pedagogic uses of the genres in science textbooks is to provide a more detailed definition of their social purpose.
- For example:

#### Protocol To defin

To define what to do and not to do (rules, warnings)

In science textbooks (grade 5-9), protocols are usually applied to one of the following social contexts:

- How to behave in the laboratory /during field visits?
- How to improve individual and collective health?
- How to preserve the environment?



### Strategy 2: domains of language use

- Another way to account for the specific pedagogic uses is to correlate genres with "domains of language use".
- Veel (1997); "Apprenticeship into scientific discourse"

An account of the language of school science must therefore do more than document genres and their grammatical features. Many institutional factors affect the types of meanings that can be made and the value accorded to these meanings. (...) To make sense of the way particular texts and particular grammatical patterns occur in school science, and why they occur in a particular order, it is essential to consider what is distinctive about texts within their particular institutional context. (p. 162)



### Strategy 2: domains of language use

- Another way to account for the specific pedagogic uses is to correlate genres with "domains of language use".
- Veel (1997); "Apprenticeship into scientific discourse"

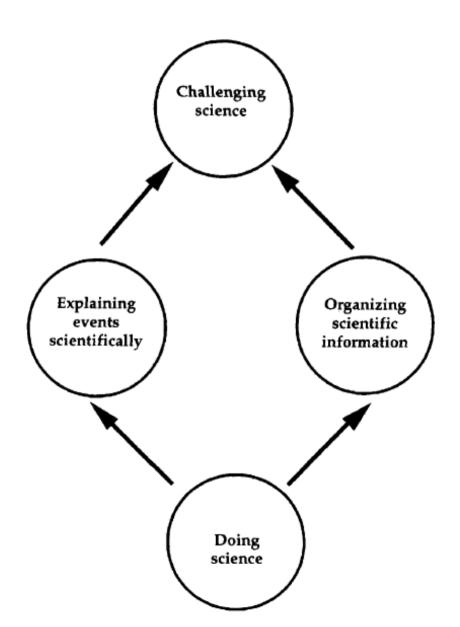
An account of the language of school science must therefore do more than document genres and their grammatical features. Many institutional factors affect the types of meanings that can be made and the value accorded to these meanings. (...) To make sense of the way particular texts and particular grammatical patterns occur in school science, and why they occur in a particular order, it is essential to consider what is distinctive about texts within their particular institutional context. (p. 162)

#### For example:

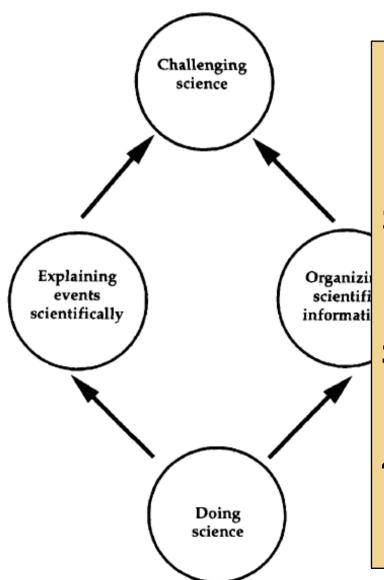
Procedures in laboratory research and in school science are (almost) identical in organization and linguistic features.

The social purpose of the texts and their contexts of use, however, are very different.



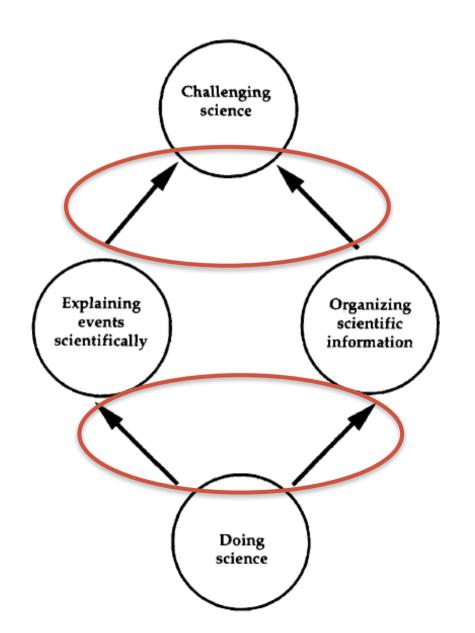






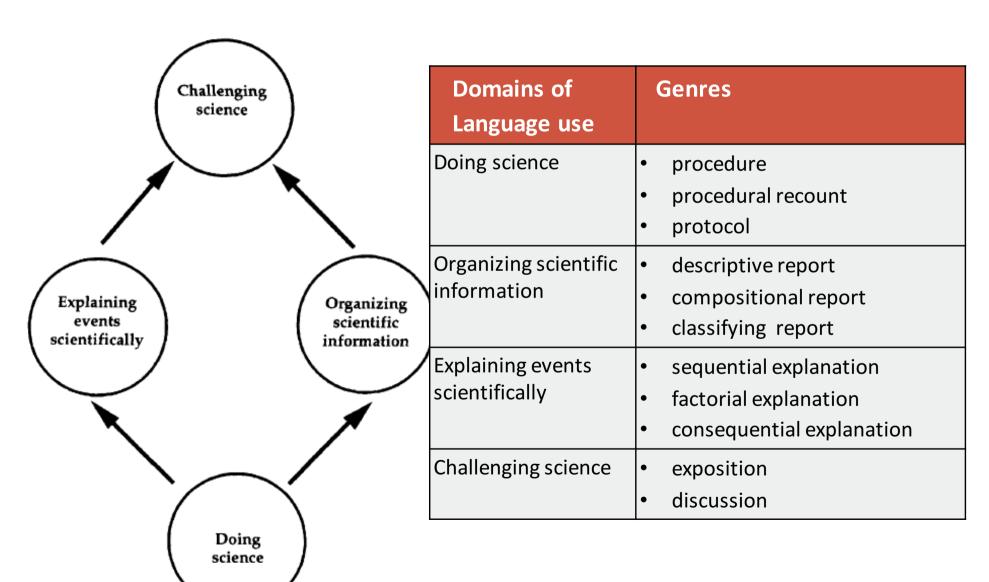
- **1. Doing science:** teaching and learning science through experimentation and first-hand observation.
- 2. Organizing scientific information: storage and systematization of scientific knowledge, mainly about entities.
- 3. Explaining events scientifically: explanations of phenomena based on causal relationships between events.
- **4. Challenging science** arguing and persuading about issues in science (e.g. theories, practices)





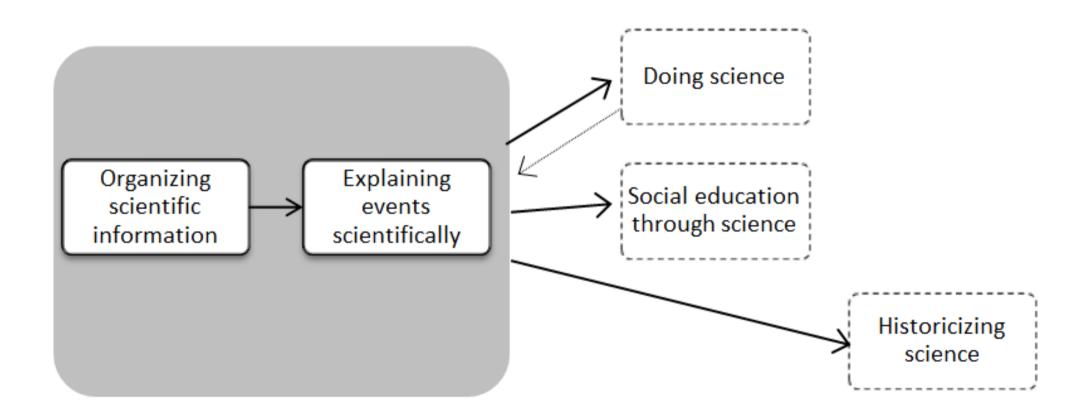
Lead(s) to







## Back to Portuguese textbooks





### Definitions of domains

- **1. Social education through science** refers to the use of scientific knowledge as a platform for civic education.
- 2. Historicizing science refers to the construal of a historical perspective on science and scientific knowledge (e.g. scientists, theories, equipment)



### Historicizing science



Deriva continental — continental drift mudado ao longo do tempo.



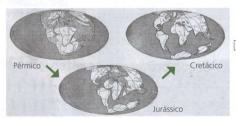
1 Alfred Wegener (1880-1930).

A Teoria da Deriva Continental

Durante muito tempo, a Terra foi considerada um planeta estático. partindo-se do pressuposto de que o mesmo pouco ou nada tinha

Alfred Wegener 1, meteorologista alemão, publicou em 1915 o livro Origem dos Continentes e dos Oceanos, apresentando ao Mundo a sua interpretação para estes e outros fenómenos, naquilo que ficou conhecido como a Teoria da Deriva Continental.

Segundo Wegener, os continentes atuais estiveram unidos no passado, formando um só continente, que designou por Pangeia (do grego, «toda a Terra»). Este ter-se-á fragmentado em diversos continentes, que se terão movido lentamente até às suas posições atuais 2.



Segundo Alfred Wegener, a Pangeia ter-se-á fragmentado em vários continentes, que, ao longo do tempo, se foram

Continental drift theory

History of the microscope



## Domains <---> genres

Domains	Families	Genres
Doing science	Procedures	<ul><li>procedure</li><li>procedural recount</li><li>protocol</li></ul>
Organizing scientific information	Reports	<ul><li>descriptive report</li><li>compositional report</li><li>classifying report</li></ul>
Explaining events scientifically	Explanations	<ul><li>sequential explanation</li><li>factorial explanation</li><li>consequential explanation</li></ul>
Social education through science	Procedures, reports, explanations	<ul> <li>protocol</li> <li>descriptive report</li> <li>factorial explanation</li> <li>consequential explanation</li> </ul>
Historicizing science	Histories	<ul><li>biographical recount</li><li>historical recount</li></ul>



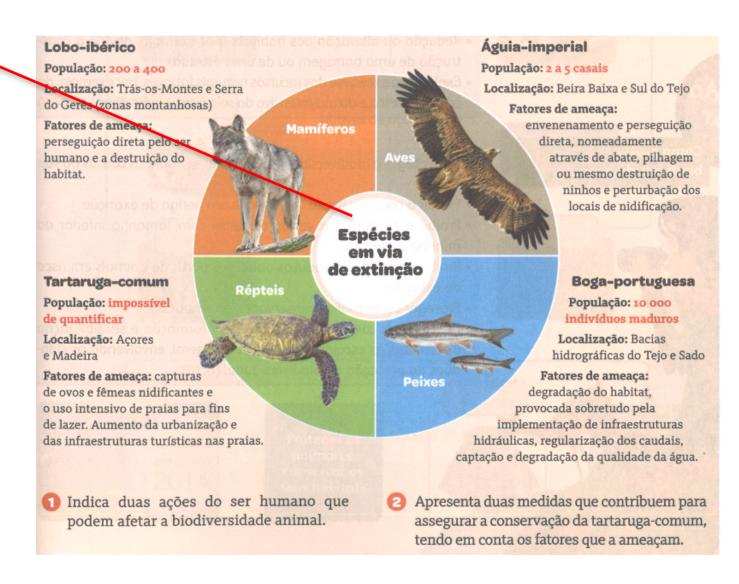
### Social education through science

- 3 scientific genres, enhanced by an evaluative stance
  - Descriptive report
  - Consequential explanation
  - Factorial explanation



Endangered species

# Descriptive report (with an ecological dimension)





# Descriptive report (with an ecological dimension)





# Descriptive report (with an ecological dimension)



What can you do about it?



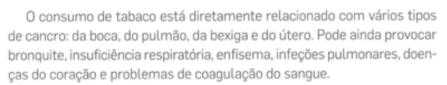
## Consequential explanation

## Possible effects of smoking:

- Death
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular disease
- Sudden infant death syndrome
- Fires
- Car accidents

#### Consumo de tabaco (tabagismo)

O consumo de tabaco (**tabagismo**) é uma das principais causas de desequilíbrios da saúde. A OMS estima que um terço da população mundial adulta seja fumadora, o que corresponde a cerca de 1,2 mil milhões de pessoas (47% da população masculina e 12% da população feminina). As mortes devidas ao consumo de tabaco correspondem a 4,9 milhões por ano, ou seja, 10 000 mortes por dia.



Nas grávidas, o consumo de tabaco atrasa o crescimento do feto e pode ser causa de malformações, baixo peso ao nascer e síndrome de morte súbita do bebé.

Os fumadores também prejudicam a saúde dos não fumadores que os rodeiam, que acabam por ser fumadores passivos. **Fumador passivo** é aquele que inspira fumo de tabaco por estar perto de fumadores, correndo os mesmos riscos de saúde.

O tabagismo está ainda na origem de incêndios em habitações, escritórios e florestas, podendo provocar acidentes rodoviários quando o condutor se distrai com o cigarro.

Por muitas razões, fumar não vale a pena!



O tatowo if uma planta (Normano Infrance) inigitationis America. A tailea, dapen do sessa, posto a unitariodes e enveltas em papel par formar objectos, ao enclados pers tormar objectos.





Pulmões saudáveis



Pulmões



## Consequential explanation

## Possible effects of smoking:

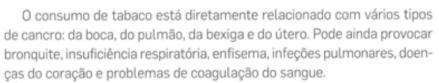
- Death
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular disease
- Sudden infant death syndrome
- Fires
- Car accidents

For many reasons, smoking is not worthwile

(= you should never smoke)

#### Consumo de tabaco (tabagismo)

O consumo de tabaco (**tabagismo**) é uma das principais causas de desequilíbrios da saúde. A OMS estima que um terço da população mundial adulta seja fumadora, o que corresponde a cerca de 1,2 mil milhões de pessoas (47% da população masculina e 12% da população feminina). As mortes devidas ao consumo de tabaco correspondem a 4,9 milhões por ano, ou seja, 10 000 mortes por dia.



Nas grávidas, o consumo de tabaco atrasa o crescimento do feto e pode ser causa de malformações, baixo peso ao nascer e síndrome de morte súbita do bebé.

Os fumadores também prejudicam a saúde dos não fumadores que os rodeiam, que acabam por ser fumadores passivos. **Fumador passivo** é aquele que inspira fumo de tabaco por estar perto de fumadores, correndo os mesmos riscos de saúde.

O tabagismo está ainda na origem de incêndios em habitações, escritórios e florestas, podendo provocar acidentes rodoviários quando o condutor se distrai com o cigarro.

Por muitas razões, fumar não vale a pena!



C tarboxo if uma pianta (Notatione Infrance) indipleticula America. A tolhos, dopole do secos, podes infrances e envistas em pages au formar objectos, as encidados per terrar concentra.





Pulmões saudávei



Putmões de um fumado





### Social education through science

- 1 genre outside the repertoire of scientific discourse
  - Protocol



How to maintain the health of the circulatory system?



# Protocols drawn from different social domains

#### Individual and collective health

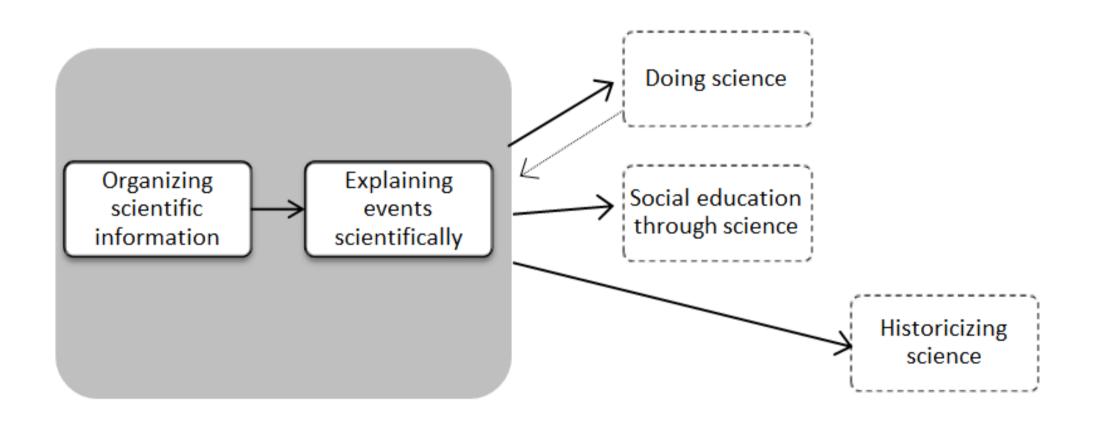




#### In the laboratory

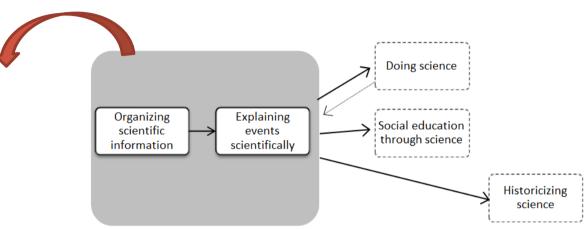




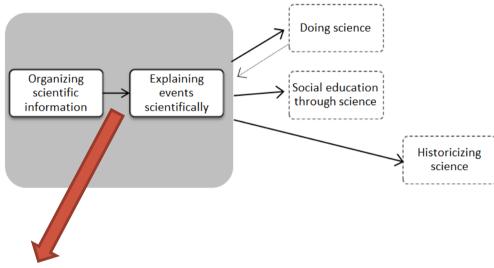




Thematic units convey mostly theoretical knowledge with the aid of reports and explanations

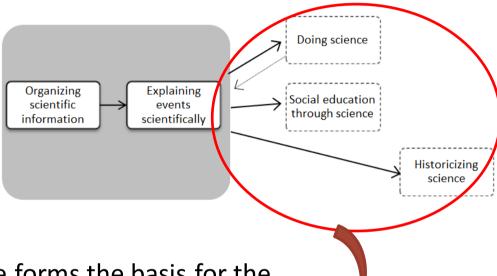






Reports usually precede explanations (e.g. definition and description of digestive system --» explanation of digestive processes)

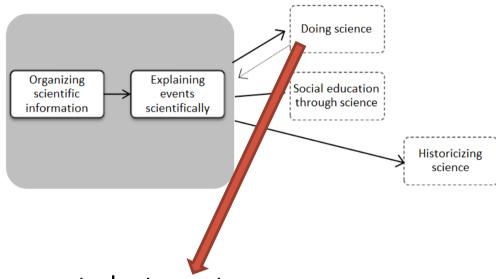




Theoretical knowledge forms the basis for the transmission of other types of information.

Units may employ one or several domains (doing science, social education, historizing science)

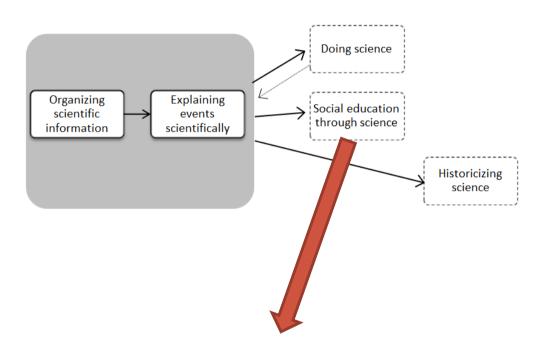




Practical activities allow students to consolidate/confirm theoretical knowledge (average of 2 activities/unit)

Only a minority of thematic units take pratical activities as a point of departure for learning science.

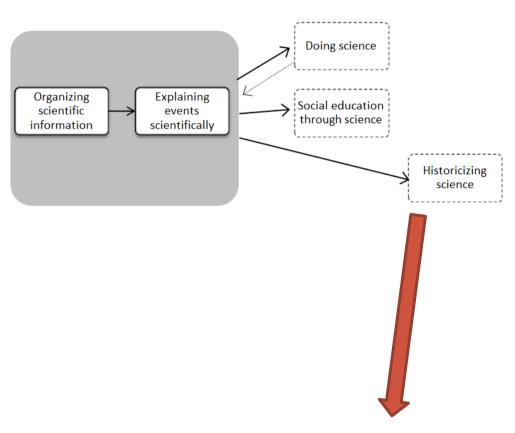




After introducing scientifical knowledge, units promote its social relevance and use it to orient students (future) actions and thoughts.

(e.g. how to build and maintain digestive health)

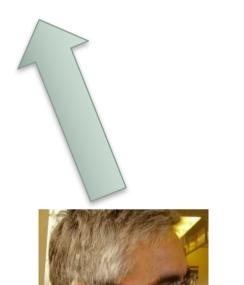




Units are "embellished" with historical knowledge (margins of pages, end of chapter)



### Obrigado!



Thank you!



Grazie!



carlos.gouveia@letras.ulisboa.pt || marta.alexandre@ipleiria.pt || fausto.caels@ipleiria.pt



### References

- Matthiessen, C.M.I.M. & Pun, J. (2017) Expounding knowledge through explanations: Generic types and rhetorical-relational patterns. Semiotica, 2017, 1-46.
- Rose, D. & Martin, J. R. (2012) Learning to Write, Reading to Learn: Genre, knowledge and pedagogy in the Sydney School. London: Equinox.
- Veel, R. (1997) Learning how to mean scientifically speaking: Apprenticeship into scientific discourse in the secondary school. In Frances Christie & J. R. Martin (eds.), Genre and institutions: Social processes in the workplace and school, 161–195. London: Cassell.