

Basic conditions regarding the genres in the subcorpus of Great Britain of the GeWiss corpus

This document will give you detailed information about the british institutional framework the recordings for the GeWiss corpus were made in.

English specialist presentations in the subcorpus of Great Britain

For this part of the corpus two different forms of specialist presentations were recorded. Firstly, we have papers given by invited guest speakers who presented within the institutional framework of the research seminar series of the English department. Papers are normally 45 minutes long and followed by a discussion. The seminars are public events and mostly attended by members of academic staff and postgraduate students. Their aim is scholarly exchange and networking. The speakers recorded here are well known scholars in the field of English and Applied Linguistics. Some speakers use power point presentations or handouts.

Secondly, we recorded papers delivered as part of a colloquium for postgraduate students in German Studies. The speakers are doctoral students, presenting mostly topics in the area of literature studies. These papers are normally 30 minutes long, followed by ten minutes discussion. The audience are mostly fellow doctoral students.

English student presentation in the subcorpus of Great Britain

Most modules studied by British students contain an element of presentation which is normally assessed by ten to twenty percent of the overall mark. Presentations are thus a requirement to pass the module. Students are informed about the details of the assessment by a module description which is part of the student handbook. Depending on the module, these presentations differ in length and focus: they are delivered either by individuals or by groups; they can be based on posters or power point slides, or can be part of an experimental game such as a „mock conference“. The audience consists normally of fellow students in the module, and the module convenor. Convenors can decide how to design the assessment for each module. New module descriptions are examined and discussed by the School's teaching committee. The length of student presentations also depends on the module and can vary between five and twenty minutes.

English oral exams in the subcorpus of Great Britain

The oral examinations recorded for the GeWiss project are part of an MA module which leads to a research dissertation as an integral part of all MA programmes offered by the School of Languages and Social Sciences. Before students can proceed to writing their theses, they are required to introduce the topic and the concept of the planned work in a public presentation. This presentation is assessed on „pass/fail“ basis by the supervisor of the planned thesis. During the presentation, the supervisor and fellow MA students are present. Staff and postgraduate student from across the department are normally invited to come along, although normally not many attend. In this set-up, we are not looking at an examiner and an examinee, but at a public session chaired by a moderator, an examinee and various people who take part in the discussion. The presentation part lasts between ten and thirty minutes.

Students decide whether they want to use power point or handouts. The presentation is followed by a question and answer session.

Further oral examinations were recorded within the framework of the preessional English programme. This programme is designed especially for students who need to improve their written and oral English skills with special emphasis on academic language. Here, we recorded short (10 to 15 minute long) individual or group examinations.

Students are informed about the details of the assessment by a module description which is part of the student handbook.