of the intermediate link between the two, namely the power-point presentations of the lectures.

The analysis firstly unfolds on the quantitative level where the statistical data concerning the use of the unit considered in the genres are shown. Secondly, the semantic roles assumed by participial clauses are investigated. And lastly, an attempt is made to provide cognitive-functional explanation for the results obtained.

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Argumentation Structure across Cultures: Research Articles Written by Russian and British Scholars Compared

A research article is an argumentative construct following a certain pattern, or structure, consisting of a claim, validity/acceptability of which is being proved, and arguments supporting the claim. Different cultures are characterized by different structures of argumentative discourses (Kaplan 1972). As these differences create potential hazards of intercultural misunderstanding in the academic communication, the aim of the present corpus-assisted study is to find out if the argumentative structure of research articles written in English by Russian physicists is different from the one of their British peers. The research is carried out within the framework of Pragma-Dialectical approach to argumentation (Van Eemeren and Grootendorst 2004). Argumentative structures of the analysed research articles are compared along the following parameters: the number of argumentative units in one article, the number of arguments in one argumentative unit, the degree of implicitness of elements of argumentation and the type of relations between them. Analysis of our corpus of research articles revealed no dramatic differences between argumentative structures of discourses produced by Russian and British writers. Against the common stereotype, Russian argumentative structures show evident tendency for maximal simplicity and clarity.

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Certainty Markers in Lithuanian and English Research Articles in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Studies of author stance expression remain one of the major trends in academic discourse investigations frequently addressing the issues of language variation from cross-disciplinary (e.g., Hyland 2008) and cross-linguistic (e.g., Fløttum et al. 2006) perspectives. While much of the research concentrates on differences between the so-called soft and hard fields, fewer studies investigate ways of author stance variation in disciplines within one of the two fields. This paper looks at the frequency information and usage patterns of linguistic items acting as author certainty markers in English and Lithuanian research articles in linguistics, literary studies, sociology and economics. It attempts to contribute to the existing research on boosters/emphatics within the humanities and social sciences (Vassileva 2001, Abdi 2002, Bondi 2008, Afros & Schryer 2009, Abdollahzadeh 2011, Hu & Cao 2011). The second issue the paper addresses is intercultural variation in the expression of author certainty. Mapping out argumentation patterns of different discourse communities not only helps to define their national academic identity features, but also highlights those that are discipline specific (see Fløttum et al. 2006, Lorés-Sanz 2011).