

Philologica Wratislaviensia: From Grammar to Discourse

Edited by Zdzisław Wąsik



Magdalena Zabielska

**Searching for the Patient's Presence
in Medical Case Reports**

Contents

Introduction	9
---------------------------	---

Chapter One: Theoretical background

1. Discourse and discourse analysis	12
2. Text	13
3. Genre	14
4. Social constructionism and language	18
5. Scientific discourse and its relation to reality	25
6. Medical discourse	30
7. Studies in medical discourse – form vs. content	31
8. Case report as a medical genre	33

Chapter Two: Medical discourse and case reports from a historical perspective

1. From Hippocrates to the seventeenth-century medicine	37
2. Pathological anatomy	39
3. The birth of the clinic	40
4. The nineteenth century	43
5. The advent of technology	44

Chapter Three: Medical discourse in the modern context

1. The reign of technology continued	47
2. The biomedical model	49
3. “Boys in white”	55
4. Alternative models of medicine	59
4.1. Patient-centered medicine	59
4.2. Patient-centeredness in practice	63
5. Incommensurability of discourses	65

6. Contemporary medical discourse and case reports	68
7. Socially constructed biomedical discourse.....	74

Chapter Four: Theoretical aspects of the analysis

of medical case reports	81
1. Hierarchical levels of medical description.....	81
2. Modes of disease presentation.....	83
3. The semiotics of disease and illness.....	85
4. Metaphor.....	87
5. Analytical tools.....	91
5.1. Sentence constituents from three perspectives.....	91
5.2. The figure and ground distinction	96

Chapter Five: The analysis of medical case reports.....

1. Data.....	100
1.1. General information.....	100
1.2. Structure of the articles.....	102
2. Quantitative analysis: methods	105
2.1. Selection, classification and distribution of patient references	105
2.2. Statistical analysis: tests and methods.....	111
2.3. Illustration of the method.....	114
3. Quantitative analysis: results	117
3.1. Whole vs. part and sentential positions within sections in the whole corpus.....	118
3.2. Whole and part and sentential positions between sections in the whole corpus.....	119
3.3. Discussion of the results of the quantitative analysis.....	119
3.4. Further remarks	122
4. Qualitative analysis: Results.....	123
4.1. Introduction section.....	125
4.2. Case Report body section.....	127
4.3. Comment/Discussion section.....	136
4.4. Patient-centered discourse	138
4.5. Objectifying discourse	142
4.6. Other patient-imaging techniques	146
4.7. Discussion.....	151

Chapter Six: Readers' reception of patient imaging in medical case reports	157
1. Subjects and methods	158
2. Questionnaire design.....	161
3. Results and analysis of the questionnaire	162
4. Discussion	168
5. Methodological remarks	168
6. Implications for further studies.....	169
Conclusion: Summarizing the achievements of the work	171
Bibliography	177
Works cited and consulted	177
Primary sources	199
Index: Names and terms from the main text	205