

Genre Variations and the Interpersonal Features: An SFL Study of the Indian and the British Editorials and News-Reports

CHARANJIT SINGH

Lyalpur Khalsa College, Jalandhar

SUKHDEV SINGH

Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar

The concept of genre, its theories, and their application have emerged as a promising field of research during the last three decades. There have been a number of studies devoted to genre in this period. Some of these are – Dudley-Evans (1986), Hopkins and Dudley-Evans (1988), Swales (1990), Bhatia, (1993, 1999), Dubois (1997), Holmes (1997), Eggins and Slade (1997), Coffin (1997), Fuller (1998), Williams (1999), Henry and Roseberry (2001), Hyland and Hyland (2001), Shaw (2003), Amirian and Tahririan (2003), and Martin & Rose (2003).

1. GENRE THEORIES

The studies mentioned above are aligned to different theoretical perspectives. Mainly, there are three perspectives on genre – that of New Rhetoric Group, that of ESP and that of SFL.

The New Rhetoric group with its centre at North America regards genre as “a socially standard strategy, embodied in a typical form of discourse, that has evolved for responding to a recurring type of rhetorical situation” (Coe & Freedman 1998: 137). The underlying assumption is that texts are not stable and fixed, but evolve like a living organism with the function to respond to a particular recurring rhetorical situation. Therefore, a genre has to be studied “as the motivated functional relationship between text type and