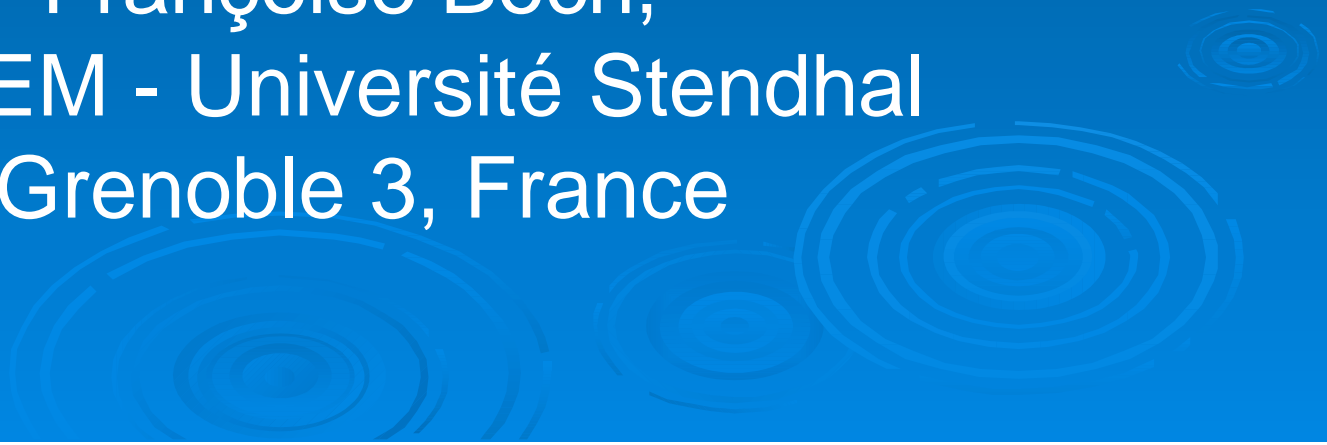


How to present the subject of a study in the genre of the scientific article ?

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The introduction in scientific articles

**The introduction is the place to state
your own research object :**

- An obligation in any scientific field :
examine the theoretical background of
the field to create a *niche* (Swales,
1990)

The introduction in scientific articles

The introduction is the place to highlight what is unique about your own work :

- Support a new and different approach
- Make an addition to existing work
- Point out the limits and weaknesses of earlier approaches

The introduction in the scientific article

The introduction must comply with a set of implicit rules

- mention relevant literature that discusses previous research on your subject
- mention how your research fits into the scientific landscape
- state how your study addresses this question or controversy

The introduction in the scientific article

Hypothesis: these implicit rules have some effects on the writing process, analysable from two different levels

- Recurrent linguistic marks
(lexical and syntactical structures)
- Rhetorical « routines »

Methodology

Analysis of **40 introductions**

- from recent **articles**
- published in the field of **linguistics**

Recurrent linguistic traces

Broad span temporal markers

Depuis quelques années, dès le début des années 70, les cinquante dernières années, traditionnellement, très tôt...

(for several years ; since the early 70's ; for the last fifty years ; traditionally ; a long time ago, etc.)

Recurrent linguistic marks

Vagueness of references or lack of references

Des linguistes et des historiens, la plupart des auteurs, la poétique contemporaine, la rhétorique ancienne, il a été montré, on s'est longtemps intéressé...


(linguists and historians, most authors, contemporary poetics, old rhetoric, it has been shown, etc.)

Recurrent linguistic marks

Evaluation and assertion markers

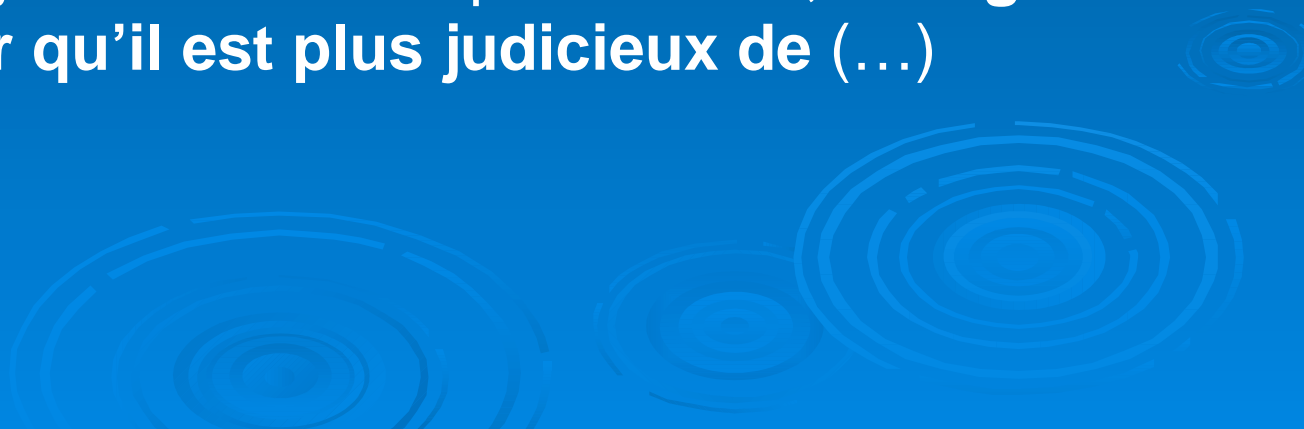
*De manière surprenante, timidement, une
conception naïvement réaliste, discutable...*

*(surprisingly ; carefully ; a naive conception ;
a doubtful conception...)*



An illustration

Depuis une vingtaine d'années, en linguistique, la politesse des actes de discours **est souvent associée** implicitement à leur caractère plus ou moins indirect. **Le but du présent article est de faire le point de la situation et de remettre en question quelques conceptions discutables qui ont toujours cours.** En premier lieu, il s'agira de **montrer qu'il est plus judicieux de (...)**



Conclusion

Because of its restrictive place, the introduction would seem to be

- **An assertive discourse**
- **with subjective markers**
- **and vague references**

Anti-scientific characteristics ?

References

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