

Abstract:

This Master's thesis deals with the gerund and *-ing* participial clauses in written and spoken academic texts.

The theoretical part defines the academic discourse and non-finite verb forms. Gerund and *-ing* participial constructions are further described regarding their forms and syntactic functions.

The sources used for the research part are two corpora of contemporary academic British English: BASE and BAWE. BASE corpus contains transcripts of academic lectures. BAWE corpus is a collection of university-level students' writings. Both corpora contain texts from four different genres and moreover students' assignments are divided into four levels of study.

For the purpose of the research part of our thesis, only the genre "Arts and Humanities" and the highest level of study will be taken into account. The practical part analyses the frequency of gerund and *-ing* participial clauses, frequency of verbs occurring in these constructions and collocations of these verbs. A detailed analysis aims at studying 100 sentences from written texts and 100 sentences from academic lectures. This sample is examined regarding the internal structure of each non-finite clause and its syntactic function. The final section summarizes the results of our research.