

Tense and Voice in Describing and Discussing Research Findings

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CoP & UGC projects

- Aim: To enhance Students' English Abilities through English across the Curriculum
- Website: <http://www.polyu.edu.hk/CoP/English/>
- Dual purpose:
 - Professional development for staff
 - (workshops, task design, assessment criteria)
 - Language help for students
 - (supplements related to subject assessments)

Aim of today's workshop

- To examine the use of tense in
 - describing findings
 - discussing findings
- To explore the use of active voice without "I" in research writing

Tense: describing findings

- A1 **was obtained** exclusively in 92% yield. The analogous catalytic *ortho*-amidation reactions of sterically hindered oximes **were found** to be sluggish. For example, when 3,5-dimethoxybenzylaldehyde *O*-methyl oxime **was employed** as substrate, <10% conversion **was registered** based on H NMR analysis of the crude mixture. (Journal of the American Chemical Society)
- The processes for interactions of β -lactam antibiotics with PBP2a **were** sufficiently slow so that the need for stopped-flow rapid kinetics **was obviated**. ... The $t_{1/2}$ for enzyme acylation **was** in the range of 3 to 12 min with these antibiotics. ... The elevated dissociation constants for the pre-acylation complexes **ranged** between 180 and 1618 μm ... (Journal of Biological Chemistry)

Tense: describing findings

- The body weights of the OVX and sham rats **were** not significantly different at the start of the study. One month after surgery, OVX rats **weighed** 11% more than sham rats ($P < 0.01$) despite the fact that these animals **were pair-fed** the same amount of food as the sham group. (Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine)
- For each cycle, the force response **showed** a hysteresis loop, but the size of loop **decreased** as the cycle number **increased**, tending to a steady state after about two cycles. (Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology)
- Under laser irradiation, the preplaced fine WC powder **dissolved** into the melt pool formed by melting a layer of the substrate. The melt pool rapidly **solidified** to form an alloyed layer. (Surface & Coatings Technology)

Tense: describing findings

- To confirm the electromagnetic origin of the spontaneous emission rate acceleration, we **compared** the fluorescence lifetime of golden QDs in different external media (air, water and oil; Table 2)... We indeed **observed** experimentally that the lifetime of the golden QDs **changed** as a function of the different refractive indices of the external media. (Nature Nanotechnology)
- The general failure mode of all specimens **was** inelastic lateral torsional buckling of the beam accompanied with local buckling at the cope region. (Journal of Constructional Steel Research)

Tense: describing findings

- A typical out-of-plane deformation plot of the web at the cope corner versus the applied load of specimen 360-B-0.25 is shown in Fig. 12. It can be seen that significant out-of-plane web deformation at the cope corner was observed once the load deformations curve started to be nonlinear. When the failure load was reached, the lateral deformation was observed to have of a value of 25 mm at the cope corner. (Journal of Constructional Steel Research)

Tense: describing findings

- In examining the hypothesized model in more detail, all of the hypothesized paths **were** positive and significant with the exception of H4, which **stated** coupon proneness **has** a positive impact on satisfaction. ... H1 **was supported** as the path coefficient between identify and involvement **was** positive and significant. ... Although the model fit **was** similar to the hypothesized model, the path coefficients **were** not significant. ... The overall fit indices **were** still good, yet there **was** no significant correlation between relationship and satisfaction. (Marketing Management Journal)

Tense: describing findings

- On average, neuroticism **increased**, whereas extraversion, conscientiousness, and perceived control significantly **decreased** over time. Change in perceived control **was** associated with change in neuroticism and conscientiousness, pointing to particular adaptation mechanisms specific to old age. Whereas individual differences in personality traits **were** fairly stable due to both genetic and environmental sources, individual differences in change **were** primarily due to environmental sources (beyond random error) indicating plasticity in old age. Even though the average level of well-being **did** not significantly change over time, individual well-being **tended** to decrease with strongly increasing levels of neuroticism ... (Journal of Personality and Social Psychology)

Tense: describing findings

- Fifty-seven percent of the sample **reported** that a health care provider **had told** them to disclose to their sex partners. Women who **were** afraid of disclosure-related violence (29%) **were** significantly more likely than those who **were** not to report that a health care provider **helped** them with disclosure (21% vs 10%). Although 4% **reported** physical abuse following a disclosure event, 45% **reported** experiencing emotional, physical, or sexual abuse at some time after their diagnosis. (Maternal and Child Health Journal)

Tense: describing findings

- We **find** evidence of abnormal stock returns over different time horizons, but the initial effect on prices **happens** about two weeks before the SEC announcement date (but after the SEC board approval date)... Two weeks prior to the announcement, the cumulative abnormal return **is** -1.52% for all the firms in the pilot group and -2.35% for small firms. Moreover, small pilot firms **underperform** by nearly 900 basis points over the next two years. Short-selling activity also **increases** more for firms in the pilot group. (Review of Financial Studies)

Tense: describing findings

- From Fig. 2 it can be seen that category “respiratory inorganics” **has** the highest impact (7.1 Pts/m² for “No Recycling” ...). “Fossil fuels” **is** the category with the second highest score (4.2 Pts/m² for “No Recycling”). Category “minerals” **shows** the third highest impact (3.6 Pts/m² for “No Recycling”). By adopting recycling and by focusing on EI99 damage categories, the impact **is reduced** 60% for “human health”, 48% for “ecosystem quality” and 32% for “resources”... The results **are illustrated** in Fig. 4. It **can be observed** that by utilizing System 2 instead of System 1 an impact reduction of 10e13% **is achieved** (depending on the damage category). By using System 3 instead of System 1 this reduction **ranges** from 12% to 17%. (Building and Environment)

Tense: describing findings

- Findings on the sources of change in well-being largely paralleled the results for continuity in well-being. Nonshared environmental influences **represented** the primary source, whereas genetic and shared environmental components **were** small and not significant. ... Change correlations between personality traits and wellbeing also **mirrored** the initial correlations to some degree. (Journal of Personality and Social Psychology)

Description of findings

Tense:

- **Past tense (referring to findings)**
- **Present tense (referring to graphics & findings)**
 - Table 2 **shows** that catalytic amidation of unactivated sp^3 C-H bonds **was achieved**.
 - It **is** shown in Fig. 3 that OVX **altered** the trabecular architecture in rat tibia.
 - Fig. 4 **shows** that “human health” **is** the damage category with the highest footprint for all the systems (maximum impact for System 1: around 123 Pts for “No Recycling”).

Tone:

- **Factual**

Tense: discussing findings

- The differences between the first cycle and subsequent cycles in Fig. 11 **indicate** that the viscous response fo soft tissues *in vivo* **is reduced** after repeating loading and unloading. This behaviour **illustrates** the need for preconditioning when assessing visoelastic properties of soft tissues. (Ultrasound in medicine and Biology)
- The results from TM **are** interesting because even though TM **is** a rural site, the influence of anthropogenic compounds **appears to** have been significant. ... Local emissions from Hong Kong as well as emissions from Guangdong Province **appear to** act in concert ... The O₃ increase observed in Hong Kong... **can be explained** by photochemical generation within the Hong Kong area. (Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics)

Tense: discussing findings

- The initial small loss of photoluminescence intensity can be explained by the presence of a small number of particles with non-perfectly continuous gold layers. The increased photostability of the golden QDs is most probably due to the gold nanoshell, which acts as a barrier against photo-oxidation. (Nature Nanotechnology)
- The minor difference between finite element analysis and experimental results might be due to the effect of residual stresses, which are not considered in the finite element model. (Journal of Constructional Steel Research)

Tense: discussing findings

- Our univariate evidence **is** mixed with respect to the financing variables. The difference-in-differences **are** consistently negative for both Equity Issues and Debt Issues, but the statistical evidence **is** weak. In the full sample, the decline in Debt Issues **is** marginally significant, while the decline in Equity Issues **is** marginally significant only in the small sample. Nevertheless, it **is** interesting to note the consistent negative point estimates, which **suggest** that firms in the treatment **may have reduced** security issuance relative to the control group.
(Review of Financial Studies)

Tense: discussing findings

- (The buckling capacity **increased** when using both vertical and horizontal stiffeners by 7% to 125% compared with unstiffened beams as given in Table 4.) It **is noticed** that using horizontal stiffeners extending after coping **is** effective for small cope values when extended after coping with lengths equal to the maximum cope length or cope depth. For high values of cope depths, it **is** preferable to use both vertical stiffeners with full depth and extended horizontal stiffeners. (Journal of Constructional Steel Research)

Tense: discussing findings

- The central role of involvement **is** a key finding of our study. It **has** a major impact on both satisfaction and word-of-mouth behavior. Additionally our findings **suggest** that companies on Facebook **need** to continually engage consumers with relevant communications in order to keep them involved. ... The findings in this research **suggest** that continued satisfaction with the firm's product or service offerings and involvement through the use of relevant updates **contribute to** the influence of customer initiated word-of-mouth behavior.
(Marketing Management Journal)

Tense: discussing findings

- Our data **do not allow** us to draw conclusions about the quality of the health care provider's discussion of disclosure... the data **do**, however, **suggest** issues for both practitioners and researchers. That a large proportion of women **did** not report having been told that they should disclose to their sex partners **is** potentially troubling . (Maternal and Child Health Journal)
- HIV-positive women **report** high rates of experiencing intimate partner violence as an adult. When abuse by other perpetrators **is included**, the women in our study **reported** total prevalence rates of 68% for physical abuse and 32% for sexual abuse. **These rates are comparable to those found by Vlahov et al. (10)** among a sample of socio-demographically similar HIV-positive women ... (Maternal and Child Health Journal)

Tense: discussing findings & making comparisons

- This **indicates** that an appropriate compromise between hardness and fracture toughness or ductility **would lead to** high cavitation erosion resistance, **as has been pointed out by Gahr [19] and Wan et al. [20]**. The higher brittleness of WC-316-1 **could be** attributed to a relatively higher W_2C content as shown in the XRD spectra in Fig. 3. (Surface and Coatings Technology)
- Figure 8 **shows ...** The intensity of 28amu peak **did** not change much above the fluence of 30 mJ/cm^2 , but the satellite peaks **changed** with the fluence. **This threshold value fits well with that reported by Oldershaw [11]**. (Journal of Applied Polymer Science)

Tense: discussing findings & making comparisons

- Consistent with our expectation (i.e., Hypothesis 1a) and in line with recent findings (Möttus, Johnson, & Deary, 2012; Wortman et al., 2012), our results suggest that mean-level change in personality traits in old age drifts in the opposite direction as for younger adults (Roberts et al., 2006). ... In line with Hypothesis 1b, the results indicate that affect intensity and well-being tend to remain constant in later adulthood. ... The aforementioned adaptive mechanisms also suggest that increasing neuroticism and decreasing extraversion ... may act to compensate perceived losses in social and cognitive functionality (Hypothesis 2). ... the results of our study provide strong support for ... that are probably due to ... These findings are in line with the SOC model of successful aging (Baltes, 1997; Freund & Baltes, 1998). (Journal of Personality and Social Psychology)

Tense: discussing findings & making comparisons

- The findings that the O₃ photochemistry in the Hong Kong area **is** strongly VOC-limited and dominated by anthropogenic VOCs, especially reactive aromatics, **are** robustly supported by data that **were gathered** during one autumn. **A comparison with the results from a similar analysis of** summer episodes observed at Tai O and at an inland PRD site **suggests** that these conclusions **generally hold** for inland PRD sited during a majority of summer episodes, although natural HCs **could play** an important role during summer at Tai O. (Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics)
- From Fig. 12a (impact only for material manufacture) it can be observed that **the results of the present study show good agreement with those of Otanicar and Golden [7], Kalogirou [10] and Carlsson et al. [8].** (Building and Environment)

Tense: discussing findings & making comparisons

- Table I **summarizes** our chip's main performance characteristics, and Table II **compares** our chip with other state of the art TOF image sensors in the literature [21]. **This comparison highlights many strengths of our TOF chip.** As far as we know our TOF sensor **has** the highest pixel resolution with the smallest pixel pitch among all published TOF sensors. (IEEE Journal of Solid-State Circuits)
- **Our results are consistent with recent papers that identify** an effect of short selling on stock prices (Jones and Lamont 2002; Ofek and Richardson 2003; Ofek, Richardson, and Whitelaw 2004; Cohen, Diether, and Malloy 2007). However, **our results contrast with those in Kaplan, Moskowitz, and Sensoy (2013),** who **investigate** the effect of ... We **believe** our results **are** different because ... (Review of Financial Studies)

Discussion of findings

Tense:

- Present tense
 - When discussing findings
 - When making “external comparisons”

Tone:

- Factual when absolutely sure
- Cautious if not 100% certain

Technique:

- Hedging