

Study questions to guide your reading of Biber & Conrad 2019 with a focus on written language (please refer to pages in the literature when you answer the questions)

1. Reflect on the different kinds of spoken and written text that you encounter in your everyday life.
2. How do Biber & Conrad define the notions of genre, register and style? How do they position their definitions in relation to ideas of other scholars? Compare also to Bawarshi & Reiff's definitions of genre (chapters 3-4, available in additional reading folder)
3. Reflect on how the notions of genre, register and style are relevant in relation to contrastive language studies and translation studies. Which particular importance do these notions have for your future activity as a translator of non-literary texts?
4. Account for the most important situational characteristics of registers and genres. In your view, why is it important for the translator to understand the situational context when faced with a translation task?
5. Describe the situational context of a particular register of your choice. Consult pp 48–50 for sources of inspiration. Which problems do you encounter when trying to describe the situational characteristics?
6. Which methodological features are highlighted by Biber & Conrad as central for register analysis? How are these features motivated? Contrast large-scale and small-scale approaches, and mention advantages and drawbacks of both.
7. According to Biber & Conrad's account, which are the most important distinctions between spoken and written registers, and which characteristics are mentioned as most significant of written registers? In your experience, do the same distinctions and characteristics hold true for the corresponding Swedish registers?
8. Identify the first instance of each of these categories in Activity Text 11 (Biber & Conrad 2019:356–357):
 - a. attributive adjective
 - b. nominalization
 - c. prepositional phrase modifying a noun
 - d. passive voice (as main verb)
 - e. past tense verb
 - f. present tense verb