Stance-Taking

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Hedges1: a softening of a statement

Scientists and industrialists disagree about the health hazards of dioxins, the latter
stating that the risks may be exaggerated.

Boosters: a strengthening of a comment

Scientists and industrialists disagree about the health hazards of dioxins, the latter
stating that the risks are clearly exaggerated.

Attitude markers: indications of the author’s attitude toward a proposition or idea by
indicating surprise, disbelief, understanding, or “interestingness”

- It is surprising that a relatively small amount of doping (say 10% F doping for O)
does not preserve the magnetic ordering.
- With such vague and circular notions, it is hard to accept the author's later
   conclusions.

Engagement markers: attempts to establish a connection with the reader and bring them
into the text, by using personal pronouns (e.g. we and you), questions, commands, or
directly addressing the reader

- If you are an experienced dc motor engineer, you may enjoy reading Chapter 6.
- Readers may be pleasantly surprised to note that the case examples, provided
  throughout the text, begin within the very first chapter.

Self-mentions: places where authors insert themselves into the text

I think that/in my opinion the discussion about institutions, cluster policies and
relations that bridge and connect clusters with external agents deserves more
attention.

Evaluative adjectives:

Positive: useful, important, interesting, detailed, up-to-date, insightful, significant
Negative: inconsistent, restricted, misleading

1 The material on this page is taken from Swales & Feak, 2012, pp. 240-241.
Moderating or qualifying a claim:

**Stronger**
- Word-of-mouth advertising *influences* a consumer’s purchasing decisions.
- Word-of-mouth advertising *can influence* a consumer’s purchasing decisions.
- Word-of-mouth advertising *could influence* a consumer’s purchasing decisions.
- Word-of-mouth advertising *may influence* a consumer’s purchasing decisions.
- Word-of-mouth advertising *might influence* a consumer’s purchasing decisions.

**Weaker**

**Stronger**
- It is clear that ...
- It is rather clear that ...
- It is very probably/highly likely that ...
- It is probable/likely that ...
- It is possible that ...
- It is unlikely that ...

**Weaker**

Distancing to indicate stance

Health education *seems to* have a positive impact on a patient’s quality of life.
- *It would appear that* health education has a positive impact on ...
- *Based on the limited data available* ...
- *According to this preliminary study* ...
- *Based on previous studies* ...

Softening Generalizations

- Children living in poverty *appear to/seem to/tend to* do poorly in school.
- *A majority of* children living in poverty do poorly in school.
- *In many parts of the world,* children living in poverty do poorly in school.
- *With the exception of/apart from/except for* those enrolled in specialized programs, children living in poverty do poorly in school.

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2 The material on this page is taken from Swales & Feak, 2012, pp. 159-162.