XVIth European Symposium on Language for Special Purposes (LSP) "Specialised Language in Global Communication"

Merja Koskela University of Vaasa Department of Communication Studies

Tax authorities on the web – a genre system view

A genre system is formed by interrelated genres that interact with each other in specific contexts (Bazerman 1994). However, when texts belonging to such a system, or a part of them, enter into a new communication medium, the situation can change (Yates & Orlikowski 1992). A genre's performance in a new medium has been found to depend among other things on its position in and the viability of the genre system in question (Killoran 2006: 427).

Texts produced by tax authorities form an established genre system (cf. Bazerman 1994). The present paper examines what happens when that system enters into a new medium, the world wide web, and how the new environment affects the texts and the genre system as a whole. The paper is a part of a project studying the effects of the world wide web as a medium on the ways in which tax authorities communicate with tax payers (see e.g. Koskela 2006).

Literature

Bazerman, Charles (1994). Systems of genres and the enactment of social intentions. In: A. Freedman & P. Medway (eds.), *Genre and the new rhetoric*, 79–101. London: Taylor & Francis.

Killoran, John B. (2006). Self-Published Web Résumés. Their Purposes and Their Genre Systems. *Journal of Business and Technical Communication*, Vol. 20, No 4, 425–459.

Koskela, Merja (2006). Writer-oriented Authorities on the Web: Features of Reader-orientation on Tax Authorities' Websites. In: V. K. Bhatia & M. Gotti (eds.). *Explorations in Specialized Genres*. Bern, Berlin etc.: Peter Lang, 177–199.

Yates, J. & W. J. Orlikowski (1992). Genres of Organizational Communication: A structurational Approach to Studying Communication and Media, *Academy of Management Review* (17.2.) 1992, 299–326.