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Name of Presenter: Dr. Jane LUNG  
Affiliation: Department of English, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong.  
Address: Department of English, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong.  
Email: [egjane@polyu.edu.hk](mailto:egjane@polyu.edu.hk)

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**Abstract**

Every genre has its own individual integrity and the genre of case being no exception, for instance, what cases are, why and how they are used. Thus, cases identified as a genre give the impression that cases across disciplines may be similar, yet they are different in a number of ways. This paper discusses the ways in which legal cases differ from business cases based on an analysis of the genre of cases taken from these two disciplines. It highlights some of the differences by discussing textual evidence from a corpus of cases associated with two academic and professional contexts. The study takes into account the growing complexity of discursive demands in the workplace has made universities change their academic programmes to become more interdisciplinary. Yet, many of the traditional business English courses appear to be insufficient to help learners cope with the complexity of the communication demands inherent in academic tasks. The paper specifically examines how cases are employed and structured differently across the disciplines and the reasons for such variations. Therefore, by showing how business and legal cases differ in their functional and pedagogical value, this paper proposes that while perceiving the ‘academic core’ of similarities it is also essential to perceive significant conceptual dissimilarities leading to a better understanding of the subtleties of interdisciplinary variation. This kind of knowledge would hopefully help students develop multiple literacies specific to their disciplines rather than a general literacy in the use of language in pursuing their academic and professional goals.

**Biographical note**

Dr Jane Lung has a PhD in legal and business discourse and has been an assistant editor for the *Journal of English for Academic Purposes* and her research interests include discourse and genre analysis, English for academic and professional purposes, business communication, ESP and ELT curriculum and material design, teacher education, and English language teaching.