



Taking Up Metalanguage in Peer Review: Effectiveness of ComPAIR

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Metalinguage

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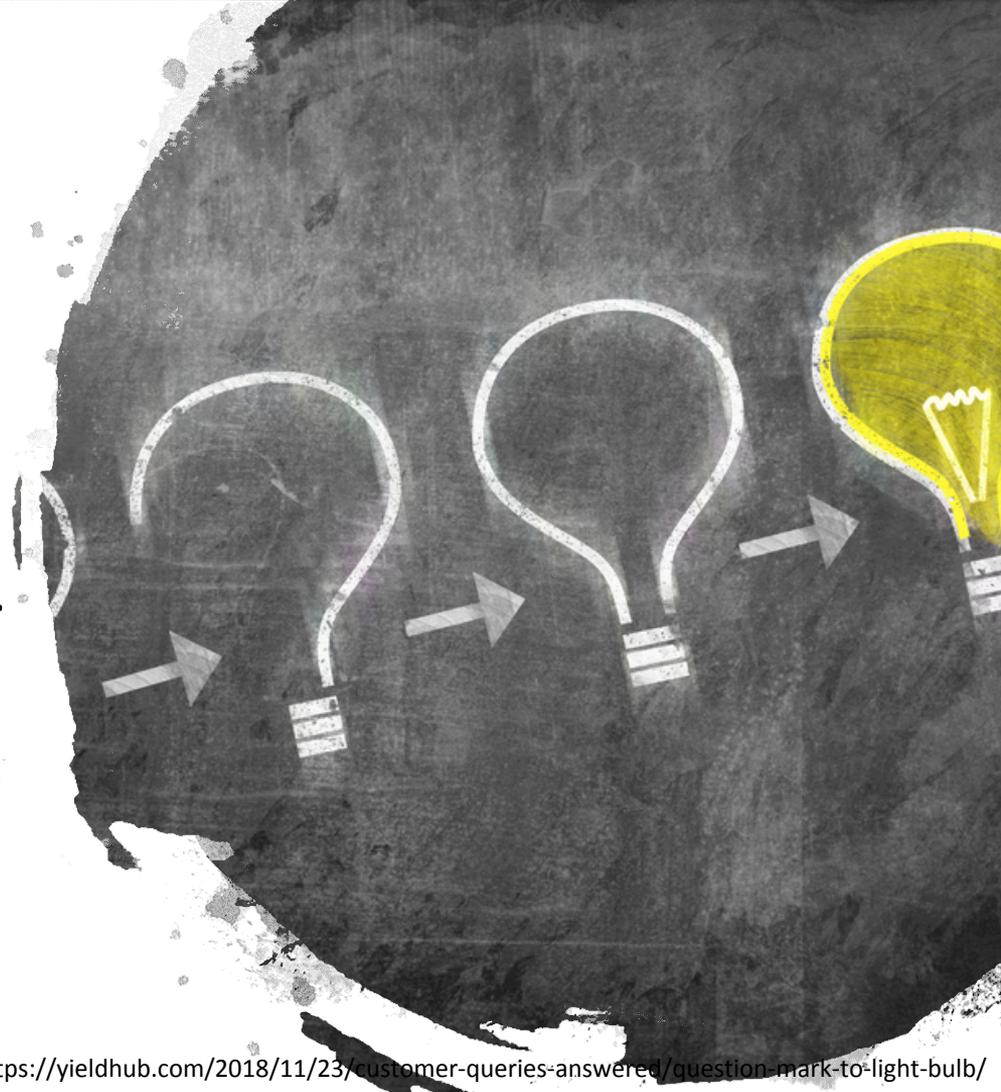
- Theoretically grounded technical language
- Embedded in discipline
- Reflective of the context and reader expectations of writing in the field

Editorial Metalinguage

- Language-focused terms that are used as:
 - shared language between writers and reviewers in the process of peer review
 - terms writers have at hand when talking themselves through writing and revision
- Will vary by type of assignment (genre), discipline, and language training.

Research question(s)

- 1) Are students incorporating **metalinguage** into their peer feedback?
- 2) How does the **method of providing feedback** (ComPAIR vs. Think Aloud) impact use of metalinguage?
- 3) What are **student perceptions** of the methods of providing feedback?





Teaching context

WRDS 150:

- Relatively small classes (30 students max)
- Workshop-style classroom
- Hands-on, intensive approach

Methods

Students write proposal/essay

Polina 1

Chris Polina

Parish Brown

Eng 102

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Single Parent Struggle

For many years, children growing up in a single parent family have been viewed as different. Being raised by only one parent seems impossible to many, yet over the decades it has become more prevalent. In today's society, many children have grown up to become emotionally stable and successful whether they had one or two parents, so there isn't the only path that life bestows upon all human beings. The problem lies in the difference of children raised by single parents versus children raised by both a mother and a father. Does a child need both parents? Does a young boy need a father figure around? Does the government provide help for single parents? What role do step-parents and step-siblings play? With much speculation, this topic has become a very intriguing argument. What people must understand is that properly raising a child lies solely on the structure of a family but should be more focused on the process or values that are taught to these children as they learn to mature. Children of single parents can be just as progressive with emotional, social and behavioral skills as those with two parents.

People claim that the only way for children to gain full emotional and behavioral skills is to be raised by both a mother and a father. When a topic such as this one has a broad amount of variables it is impossible to simply look at these problems to only having one parent. In the article, "Single parent families cause juvenile crime", author Robert L. Maginnis states, "Children from single parent families are more likely to have behavior

Methods

Students write proposal/essay

Students complete peer review

ComPAIR // a learning application

Pairing peer answers for deeper learning through comparison

The screenshot displays the ComPAIR application interface. At the top, it reads "ComPAIR // a learning application" and "Pairing peer answers for deeper learning through comparison". Below this, two columns are shown, each containing a student's answer. The first column is labeled "Answer 1" and contains the text: "Shakespeare uses Prospero in The Tempest to examine the selfishness of human ambition through Prospero's manipulation of other island occupants to further his own destiny." The second column is labeled "Answer 2" and contains the text: "In The Tempest, William Shakespeare uses Prospero's journey to throw doubt on the Renaissance idea that power comes from God, suggesting instead that power originates in individual ambition." Below each answer is a section for "Your feedback for Answer 1" and "Your feedback for Answer 2", each with a rich text editor toolbar.

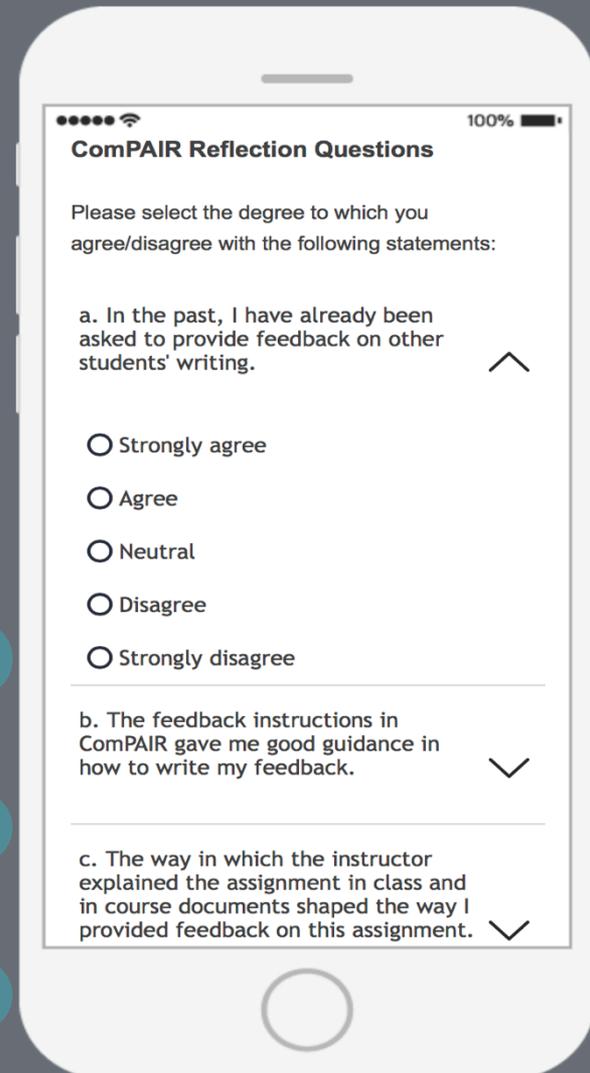
<http://ubc.github.io/compair/site>

Methods

Students write proposal/essay

Students complete peer review

Students complete survey



The image shows a smartphone screen displaying a survey titled "ComPAIR Reflection Questions". The survey asks the user to select a degree of agreement with three statements. The response options are radio buttons for "Strongly agree", "Agree", "Neutral", "Disagree", and "Strongly disagree".

ComPAIR Reflection Questions

Please select the degree to which you agree/disagree with the following statements:

a. In the past, I have already been asked to provide feedback on other students' writing. ^

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly disagree

b. The feedback instructions in ComPAIR gave me good guidance in how to write my feedback. v

c. The way in which the instructor explained the assignment in class and in course documents shaped the way I provided feedback on this assignment. v

Grading rubric:

	Category 1 (Substantive use)	Category 2 (Some use)	Category 3 (Minimal use)
General description	Metalinguage is being used in a substantial way.	Metalinguage is meaningfully being used, though vaguely.	Metalinguage may or may not be present; metalinguage is not used or applied meaningfully.
Comments fall into this category if:	Element 1 (anchoring) is present PLUS 2/4 other elements are present	Any 2/4 elements are present PLUS More than 50 words are used.	They do not fall into category 1 or 2. Also, if 2/4 elements are present but no metalinguage is used.

Sample comments from each category:

Category 1: You effectively describe the **state of knowledge** through the orchestration of voices of scholars in this particular discourse using reporting expressions, verbs, and citations. Your **knowledge deficit** is clearly defined and I am assuming your question **at the end of the second paragraph** is a form of your **research question**. You have a solid research site and I understand you will analyze the data, however, **I was wondering if you will** be categorizing the data into themes or concepts to analyze them? Maybe you mention this later in your paper, but **I think it would be nice to** identify how you will be analyzing it (for example, in Stamou et al.'s paper, they do a critical discourse analysis drawing from Fairclough's framework and using Hallidayan linguistics. Obviously, you don't need to go as complex as this, but it provides a good structure for your analysis.) Forecasting is evident and you have good use of your methodological "I."

Category 2: I really like the fact that you're focusing on in work-related injuries as disabilities! However, **I didn't get a** clear statement as to what the **state of knowledge** is in your research. **I also think that** it is unnecessary to have an abstraction as the rubric does have a limit on word count and pages and that the space you used for that could be utilized for something else. **I also wish that I was able to read** how you would pursue this research of yours, in terms of research site and **methods**.

Category 3: Author did a good job expressing the **knowledge gap** and stating the research topic of art towards individuals with disability. Does a good job stating the **knowledge gap** and forecasting to lay the foundation of the essay.

Analyses

Best comment per student (of up to 6) was analyzed.

Criteria:

- 1) Comments **anchor** to particular parts of the writing or provide specific examples
- 2) Comments incorporate metalanguage with **modifiers**
- 3) Comments incorporate multiple metalanguage terms
- 4) Comments **address the writer** or discuss the **reader experience**

“The proposed research topic is quite interesting and fits well into the disability studies discourse we have been focusing on throughout the term. You successfully introduce the issue of the experiences of pregnant women with disabilities **in the introduction** and establish the current **state of knowledge**. Nevertheless, **I think you could work on** the **research gap which you are going to fill** and on the **research hypothesis**. As far as the former is concerned, **I think that it is a little bit vague** as of now...”

1) Are students incorporating metalanguage in their peer feedback?

- Overall, 89% of students overall used at least one metalanguage term
- Criteria seem to appropriately capture/sort student feedback

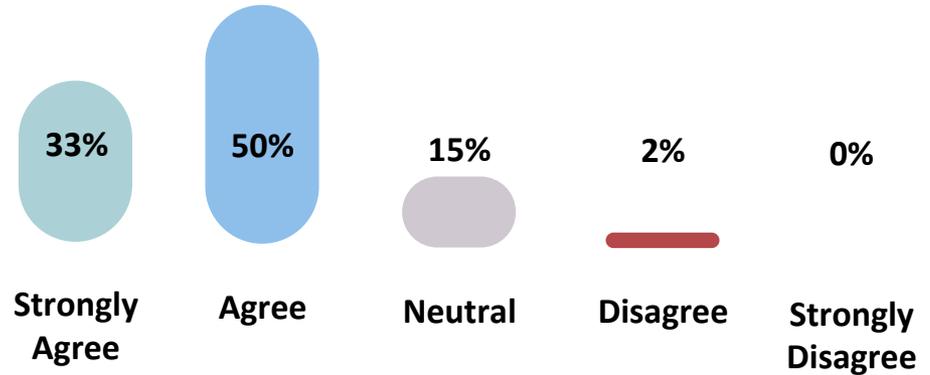
2) How does the method of providing feedback impact use of metalanguage?

Think Aloud vs. ComPAIR

- Difficult to determine: challenges with data + analysis
- ComPAIR group: 35% of students improved from first to last assignment

3) Student perceptions of ComPAIR

“The way in which ComPAIR asked me to look at two samples and compare them helped in writing my feedback comments.”



3) Student perceptions of ComPAIR

“Comparing two peoples’ work is a good strategy to evaluate.”

“It allows people to comprehensively analyze two articles...their similarities and contrasts.”

“Looking through others’ drafts, I can know what I should change in my essay.”

“Seeing others’ essays gives me more ideas about how to improve mine.”

“Anonymity makes the suggestions more fair.”

“...some people may give feedback irresponsibly.”

Advantages of ComPAIR:

What are the advantages of providing feedback on ComPAIR (compared to other ways of giving feedback)?

“Fast”

“More efficient and convenient”

“Easier than on UBC Canvas”

“Easy to operate”



N=10

“Anonymity makes the suggestions more fair.”

“You cannot see who you are writing for...That makes me provide more objective feedback.”



N=10

Disadvantages of ComPAIR:

What are the disadvantages of providing feedback on ComPAIR (compared to other ways of giving feedback)?

None=28

“Too much work.”
“Need a long time to read.”

N=7



“The format of text is not very good, and can be better.”

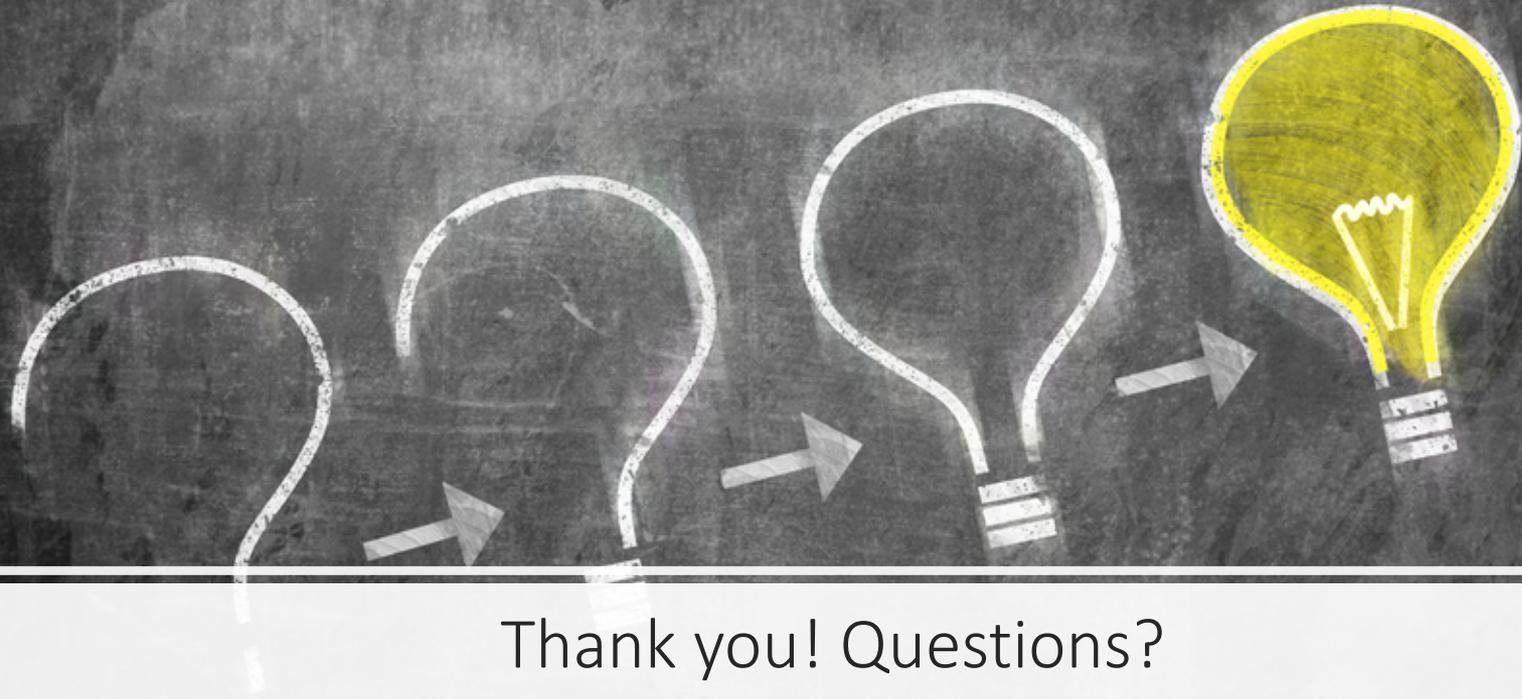
N=5



“Because it is anonymous, some people may give feedback irresponsibly.”

N=6





Thank you! Questions?