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TEXT TYPOLOGY OF RESOLUTIONS

The present paper investigates the generic structure potential and intrageneric variation within a text type in relation to the socio-cultural context in which the communication takes place, the intended text functions and the linguistic means used for the implementation of the purpose at hand. This inquiry scrutinizes the genre of resolutions, taking the example of UNESCO documents, and is a part of a larger study which analyses stylistic variation within the discourse of diplomacy.

Resolutions are legal instruments used by international organizations, e.g. the United Nations Organization, the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, for stating their decisions concerning the formation of future behaviour with regard to the internal administration of an organization and the ordering of relations between independent states. Therefore, as a specimen of formal written discourse in institutional settings, they are characterised by explicit internal organization, conventionalization and stability of form to the detriment of variation. The analysis of the generic structure potential of resolutions is performed on the material of the *Resolutions* volumes of the Records of the General Conference of UNESCO adopted at the 30th session in 1999, which includes 114 resolutions, and the 32nd session in 2003, which includes 109 resolutions.

Genre and generic structure potential

Within linguistic studies, there are currently two major trends in the study of genre, which though differing to some extent share a common functional point of view. The former considers genres as conventional communicative events associated with particular types of social occasions, which have a specific set of communicative purposes imposing constraints on the choice of content and language means (Swales 1990, Bhatia 1993). This use of the term “genre” broadly overlaps with the term “register” (as understood by Halliday 1978, 1990; Fowler 1986; Biber 1994; Urbanová & Oakland 2002).

The second trend in the analysis of genre is associated with systemic-functional linguistics; it combines text-external and text-internal criteria recognizing

the importance of textual structure as a decisive component in the delimitation of genres, together with the communicative intention of the speaker and the social situation in which language is used. Generic forms are regarded as displaying a generic structure potential, which may be predicted on the basis of the contextual configuration of the text reflecting the type of social situation in which the language is used (Halliday & Hasan 1990). Competence in generic text production is considered to be a matter of social experience and is thus related to intertextuality interpreted as a basis for the evolution of genres and heuristics for text production (Kristeva 1969: 85, Hoey 2001: 43). Specific contextual configurations predict the optional and obligatory elements of text structure, the generic structure being defined by the obligatory structural elements, thus allowing for some variation.

The present study draws on the latter approach and defines “genre” as a variable of text structure dependent on the type of interaction between the participants and the type of social occasion they are involved in, and which is part of the communicative competence of the users of a language.

Contextual configuration of resolutions

The aspects of the situational context which act upon the text structure and the language means used in UNESCO resolutions may be accounted for by a number of regularly co-occurring sets of options, i.e. a contextual configuration (Figure 1).** The values of the situational variables which predetermine the set of linguistic options available in the process of text production and functionally affect the generic structure of resolutions are established on the basis of an analytical framework drawing on the frameworks suggested by Biber (1999), Hymes (1974), Halliday (1978) and Crystal & Davy (1969). The values of the variables which indicate some variation are highlighted in italics.

Figure 1 Contextual configuration of the genre of resolutions

Situation

- public cross-cultural governmental communication via legal instruments
- immediately shared time and place by the participants at the moment of text production, removed when the published text is consulted
- presence or absence of definition of an ideological, institutional, cultural and psychological background
- topics: membership and voting rights, composition of organs, tributes, programme, financial, staff and headquarter questions etc.

* A detailed study of the situational characteristics of the genre of resolutions is provided in Dontcheva-Navratilova (2004).

Participants

- specified addressor
- unspecified addressee, or specified institutional or individual addressee, or unspecified addressee
- unspecified audience
- unequal power of the participants – the addressor has more power than the addressee
- high extent of shared knowledge between the participants, medium to low extent of shared knowledge between the addressee and the audience
- no interactiveness
- institutional group macro-performative speech act declaration of the adoption of resolutions, stating decisions concerning composition of bodies, establishment of procedure, definition of rights, regulation of future behaviour by statement of position, regulative facts and establishment of duties and obligations via declarations, non-performative representatives, occasionally performative expressive and performative directive speech acts

Message

- written published record of decisions taken by the institutional addressor
- the text is planned and edited
- the text ensures the preparatory constitutive conditions for further effective communication

The contextual configuration of the genre suggests that some of the values of the variables offer a set of options, thus predicting the existence of intra-generic variation within the genre of resolutions. The variation in the co-occurrences of the values of situational variables concerns the type of speech act and purpose of communication, the identification of the addressee, the presence or absence of definition of ideological, institutional, cultural and psychological background, and the topic.

Generic structure potential of resolutions

As stated above, the generic structure potential indicates the conditions under which a text may be regarded as reflecting a particular contextual configuration and may be actualized in a number of possible structures. The generic structure potential is realised in a set of obligatory and optional elements whose sequence and reiterative potential are genre specific. Since resolutions are one-sentence texts, their structural elements generally correspond to sentence elements. The generic structure potential for the contextual configuration of resolutions consists of the following elements:

- 1) Title signalling the topic – T_T
- 2) Setting indication – Set
- 3) Identification of the Addressor – Ador
- 4) Preamble including intertextual reference and/or scene description – Pr_(IR/SD)
- 5) Action performed (performative act/ non-performative act)– Act_(p/n-p)
- 6) Identification of the Addressee – Adee
- 7) Description of future behaviour or resultant state – FB/RS

The title signalling the topic is an obligatory element of the textual structure, taking the form of a nonsentence and consisting of a noun phrase, frequently a nominalization with heavy prepositional post-modification.

Example 1

Promotion of free and universal access to public domain information for the purposes of education, science and culture (R 41/1999. 75)

The fact that the only function of the title is to indicate the topic of concern of the resolution, as compared to the eye-catching function of topics in newsreport or of symbolic titles in poetic language, reflects the tendency towards a high level of explicitness in the language of international governmental organizations, which is consonant with the written and formal character of the documents.

Indication of the setting is the only element whose position in the structure of the one-sentence text is not firmly established. It is incorporated in the main body of the text in resolutions which are informative and take the form of non-performative sentences (Example 2), while it is indicated in a footnote outside the main body of the text in resolutions whose executive character is signalled by the performative form of the sentence (Example 3).

Example 2

At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 30th September 2003, on the recommendation of the General Committee, the General Conference approved the plan for the organization of the work of the session submitted by the Executive Board (32 C/2 and Add., Add. 2 and Add. 3). (R05/2003. 7)

Example 3

The General Conference¹

Authorises the Director-General:

(a) to continue to promote gender mainstreaming and capacity-building activities to strengthen the active participation of women at all levels and in all fields of society, in line with the agenda for gender equality adopted by the General Conference at its 28th session and other relevant recommendations; and to that end to strengthen cooperation with Member States, relevant inter-agency mechanisms, IGOs and NGOs;

(b) to allocate for this purpose an amount of \$416,400 for programme costs and \$774,100 for staff costs. (R47/1999. 81)

¹ Resolution adopted on the report of Commission I at the 24th plenary meeting, on 16th November 1999.

The setting indication is an obligatory element since it reflects the value of the variable “time and place”; this is always known by the participants but it is immediately shared at the moment of text production and removed in consulting the published text. The setting element is represented by set expressions taking the form of prepositional phrases in the body of the text and nominal structures in the footnotes to resolutions, and indicates a strong tendency towards explicitness and the use of formulaic structures in the genre.

The identification of the addressor is an obligatory element reflecting the ritualized character of the communication in a conventionalized institutional context. The addressor is a specified institutional addressor who has more power than the addressee (individual or institutional). The fact that the function of identification of the addressor is performed constantly by the subject of one-sentence texts represented invariably by the noun phrase “*the General Conference*” underscores the schematic and formulaic character of the texts.

The preamble, including intertextual reference and/or scene description, is one of the two optional elements in the structure of the text. The components of the preamble, intertextual reference and scene description, exhibit a reiterative potential, the reiterative potential of the latter element being considerably higher than the reiterative potential of the former. The components of the preamble take the form of recurrent structures and word combinations, i.e. non-finite participle and verbless adjective adverbial clauses, where the introductory elements display a high level of lexical repetition (Example 4). The presence of the preamble reflects the necessity to activate the relevant elements of the shared cultural knowledge and of the relevant norms of interaction and interpretation in the intercultural context of diplomatic interaction, and it evidences a related tendency towards over-explicitness.

Example 4

The General Conference,
Mindful of the purposes and principles set out in UNESCO’s
Constitution,
Appraising the efforts made by the Haitian Government to further the
building of democracy and national development,
Noting, in spite of the progress that has been made, the persistence of
a great many political, economic and social difficulties standing in the
way of even greater progress,
Welcoming the substantial and effective measures UNESCO has
already taken, and the signing on 19 January 1995 of a Memorandum of

Cooperation between the Haitian Government and UNESCO,
 Considering the efforts already made in accordance with 28 C/Resolution
 17 appealing for support to Haiti,
 Endorsing the report submitted by the Director-General in document 29
 C/INF.1,
 Considering that lasting democracy and sustainable development are
 intimately linked,
 Recognizing, therefore, the need to offer Haiti, the only LDC of the
 American continent, special assistance,
 Aware that a great many objectives still remain to be attained for full and
 total application of the guidelines set forth in 27 C/Resolution 21,
 Considering the conclusions of the Joint Haitian Government-UNESCO
 Commission (April 1999),
 1) Urgently appeals to the Member States of UNESCO, intergovernmental
 organizations and international institutions to reinforce their cooperation
 in Haiti in all UNESCO's fields of competence, in particular education;
 2) Authorizes the Director-General to mobilize the extrabudgetary
 resources needed to implement the projects identified by the Joint
 Commission, and requests him to submit to the Executive Board a report
 on the progress achieved and to submit to the General Conference, at its
 31st session, a report on the implementation of this resolution. (R55/1999.
 89)

The action element is predicted by the “Situation” and “Participants” components of contextual configuration, as public cross-cultural communication at governmental level via legal instruments presupposes the accomplishment of regulative acts, which typically take the form of performative speech acts. The occasional occurrence of non-performative acts of informative character is restricted to resolutions which prepare the conditions for the work of the session of the General Conference and the functioning of the organization in the following period. The most frequent types of speech acts used are declarations and directives, while occasionally expressives may occur. The action element may be reiterated in the frame of one resolution. The restricted range of the speech acts performed is reflected by the closed-set lexical paradigm of speech-act verbs used to signal the action. The choice of speech act type and form is influenced by the topic and by power relations between the participants (Searle 1969, 1975; Leech 1983).

The addressee is an optional element in the structure of resolutions, which occurs typically in directive speech acts. Its occurrence is conditioned by the necessity to name explicitly the addressee of the speech act performed by the resolution; this may be one only or the choice of addressees may vary in the frame of one resolution (see Example 4 above). A change of the addressee requires a separate indication of the speech act performed. The co-occurrence of some speech-act verbs with particular addressees reflects the specific status of the participants and a level of inequality in their power. The non-realisation of the addressee occurs

in cases when the resolutions have a declarative character and the authority of the institutional addressor to perform the act is unquestionable.

The last obligatory element, the description of future behaviour or resultant state, which has high reiterative potential, reflects the necessity to define the resultant state or describe future behaviour intended by the regulative act of the institutional addressor. The definition of the resultant state typically co-occurs with declarative speech acts and takes the form of a noun phrase (Example 5), while the description of future behaviour typically co-occurs with directive speech acts and takes the form of a nominal clause (see Examples 3 and 4 above). The recurrent structures used to describe future behaviour or resultant state illustrate the tendency stated above towards the use of formulaic structures.

Example 5

The General Conference,
 Having examined document 32C/39,
 Recalling 165EX/Decision 6.4 in which the Executive Board recommended
 that the General Conference approve at its 32nd session the Amendments
 to the Statutes of the International Fund for the promotion of Culture, as
 set out in the Annex to that decision,
 Approves the said amendments. (R37/2003. 66)

The sequence of the structural elements of resolutions is presented diagrammatically in Figure 2, where the obligatory elements are highlighted in bold, the optional elements are in normal print, the element whose linear position is not fixed is marked in italics and the elements with reiterative potential are signalled by an asterisk.

Figure 2 Sequence of the structural elements of resolutions

$$T_T - [\text{Ador} - \text{Pr}_{(IR^*/SD^*)} - \text{Act}_{(p/n-p)} - \text{Adee} - \text{FB}^*/\text{RS}^*] - \text{Set}$$

As Figure 2 suggests the only structural element which can change its position in the linear arrangement of the text is the setting indication, which may appear as the initial element of the body of the text following the title, or may be marginalized outside the body of the text.

Intrageneric variation: preparatory and executive resolutions

Since language is functional in a particular context and realised in particular text structures, it is evident that a more detailed specification of the context will be reflected in particularisation of the textual structure, revealing intrageneric variation. An analysis of the resolutions taking into consideration the text structure and the established variation in the co-occurrences of the values of situational

variables in the contextual configuration of the genre has delimited two sub-types of resolutions, namely preparatory and executive resolutions, according to the purpose of the communication and type of speech act performed, the presence or absence of explicit indication of the addressee and definition of ideological, institutional, cultural and psychological background, and the topic. In addition, preparatory resolutions were found to exhibit two sub-varieties, i.e. preparatory resolutions dealing with administrative issues and preparatory resolutions dealing with elections, delimited according to the type of speech act performed and presence or absence of scene definition.

The sub-genres within the genre of resolutions as established, based on the material under investigation, are summarized in Figure 3.

Figure 3 Sub-genres within the genre of resolutions



Preparatory resolutions are characterized by an unspecified addressee; they state decisions concerning the composition of bodies, the establishment of the procedure and the definition of rights using declarations (Example 6), non-performative representatives (see Example 2 above) and occasionally performative expressive speech acts. Their function is to prepare the necessary conditions for the work of the session of the General Conference and the bodies of the organization over a certain period (usually specified in accordance with the constitution of UNESCO or the statutes of the respective organ). The administrative character of preparatory resolutions is reflected in the absence of explicit scene definition, the reference to the institutional background, when necessary, being restricted to intertextual reference.

Example 6

The General Conference

Elects, in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, the following Member States to be members of the Headquarters Committee until the end of the 34th session of the General Conference: [a list of countries follows]. (R023/2003. 16)

Executive resolutions regulate the future behaviour of the organization, its members and executives by the statement of regulative facts and the establishment

of duties and obligations using direct explicit declarations, directive speech acts and occasionally expressive speech acts. While the addressee of declarations is unspecified, the addressee of directive and expressive speech acts is a specified institutional group or individual. A considerable amount of executive resolutions, especially those focused on statement of position and regulation of future behaviour concerning the programme and general issues, require extensive scene definition (see Example 4 above). As compared to preparatory resolutions which cover a restricted range of topics, executive resolutions deal with a wide spectrum of topics reflecting the field of activities of UNESCO as well as the internal management of the organization.

The structures of the sub-genres of preparatory and of executive resolutions are summarised in Figure 4.

Figure 4 Generic structure of preparatory and executive resolutions

Preparatory resolutions

$T_T - [\text{Set}_1 - \text{Pr}_{(IR)} - \text{Ador} - \text{Act}_{(p/n-p)} - \text{RS}^*] - \text{Set}_2$

Executive resolutions

$T_T - [\text{Ador} - \text{Pr}_{(IR*/SD*)} - \text{Act}_p - \text{Adee} - \text{FB}^*/\text{RS}^*] - \text{Set}$

Figure 4 indicates that the major structural difference between preparatory and executive resolutions resides in the fact that while executive resolutions may actualise all the structural elements of the generic potential of resolutions, preparatory resolutions actualise a restricted set of elements, i.e. all obligatory elements and a reduced version of one of the optional ones. It is worth mentioning that the delimitation of preparatory and executive resolutions is underscored by their arrangement in two numerical series.

The frequency of occurrence of preparatory and executive resolutions in the material under investigation is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Frequency of occurrence of preparatory and executive resolutions

Type of resolution	Performative		Non-performative		Total
	1999	2003	1999	2003	
Preparatory dealing with administrative issues	2	3	6	4	15
Preparatory dealing with elections	17	14	1	2	34
Executive resolutions	87	85	1	1	184

The frequency of occurrence of preparatory and executive resolutions shows that the overwhelming majority of the resolutions are executive resolutions realizing

performative speech acts. This is in conformity with the finding that resolutions perform regulative and constitutive institutional speech acts, presupposing the existence of extra-linguistic conventions, rules and institutions in order for the act to be performed successfully.

Comparison of preparatory and executive resolutions

The comparison of preparatory and executive resolutions endeavours to reveal the structural differences between the two subtypes of the genre of resolutions and to point to distinctions between their most characteristic language features.

As stated above, the structure of preparatory resolutions includes all the obligatory elements offered by the generic structure potential of resolutions. The reiterative potential of the structural elements is low, while the frequency of use of recurrent structures and formulaic expression in preparatory resolutions is considerable. The structure of executive resolutions uses all the elements offered by the generic structure potential of the genre. The elements which allow reiteration have high reiterative potential and take the form of recurrent structures and word combinations.

The position of the setting element in the preparatory resolutions dealing with the organisation of the session differs from its position in the preparatory resolutions dealing with elections. In the former case, the indication of the setting is included in the main body of the text, as it is important to stress that temporally the adoption of the resolutions dealing with the organisation of the session precedes executive decisions, and takes the form of a prepositional phrase typically in initial position (see Example 2 above). In the latter case, similarly to executive resolutions, the indication of the setting is positioned outside the body of the text and takes the form of a footnote realised by a nonsentence. The indication of the setting in executive resolutions is invariably performed by a footnote, which marks it as subsidiary information, as the resolutions are not listed according to the order of their adoption (see Example 3 above).

The realization of the preamble including intertextual reference and/or scene description in the preparatory and executive resolutions reflects differences in the values of variables of the components “Situation” and “Participants” of the contextual configuration. As the preparatory resolutions deal with organisational and administrative topics related to ensuring the constitutive conditions for the work of the session of the General Conference and the functioning of the organisation in the period at hand, the asymmetrical relationship between the participants is clearly defined and the authority of the institutional addressor to perform the act is unquestionable. Therefore, there is no need to activate any layers of shared cultural knowledge in order to guarantee the use of the appropriate norms of interaction and interpretation of the text and the preamble element is typically non-realised in the preparatory resolutions. The intertextual reference element of the preamble is actualised occasionally in the elections sub-type of preparatory resolutions and has no reiterative potential (Example 7).

Example 7

The General Conference,
 Recalling paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article II of the Statutes of the Intergovernmental Council for the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, approved by 27 C/Resolution 5.2 and amended by 28 C/Resolution 22,
 Elects the following Member States to be members of the Council until the end of the 32nd session of the General Conference: [a list of Member States follows]. (R017/1999. 14)

The reduced actualisation of the preamble structure component affects the linguistic features of preparatory resolutions, as typically they do not include adverbial clauses.

The preamble element is actualised in the majority of executive resolutions, i.e. 82.6% of resolutions (Table 2), the frequency of occurrence of resolutions including intertextual reference prevailing over those indicating scene.

Table 2 Frequency of occurrence of executive resolutions including the preamble component

Text	Resolutions without a preamble component	Resolutions including a preamble component
'Resolutions' volume 1999	16	71
'Resolutions' volume 2003	14	71
Total %	17.4	82.6

The presence of the preamble element in executive resolutions is motivated by the necessity to activate the respective elements of the background cultural knowledge necessary for the application of the adequate norms of interaction and interpretation in the texts dealing with more general issues treated primarily in the programme and general resolutions. The preamble element is realised by recurrent structures taking the form of non-finite participle and verbless adjective clauses in medial position with the function of subjectless supplementive adverbial clauses, which drawing on Chamonikolasová (1987) may be regarded as elements partly integrated in the clause structure, i.e. loose sentence constituents. Since Biber et al. (1999: 830) report that supplementive clauses are associated primarily with written formal contexts and that in their corpus the "occurrences of medial adverbial clauses are too rare for meaningful quantitative analysis", it is reasonable to claim that the high frequency of occurrence of supplementive clauses in medial position is one of the main characteristic features of executive resolutions. It is to be noted that the reiterative potential of the scene indication element in the frame of a resolution is strikingly higher than the reiterative potential of the intertextual reference element (see Examples 3 and 5 above).

The realisation of the structural element addressor is identical in preparatory and executive resolutions, i.e. it is performed constantly by the subject of the one-sentence texts represented invariably by the noun phrase *the General Conference*.

Differences in the realisation of the optional-element addressee are predicted by the variation in the topic and speech act performed. The non-realisation of the addressee in the preparatory resolutions is due to the informative or declarative character of the texts aiming at signalling the resultant state. The specification of a particular addressee is not required, the implied addressee being all the members and executives of the organization and the audience. Indication of the addressee is an optional element in executive resolutions. Its realisation depends on the type of speech act used in the text. When the resolution performs a declarative speech act, the element addressee is not actualised. As a considerable proportion of the executive resolutions perform directive speech acts, indication of the addressee specifying who is to carry out an action is felt to be indispensable. The addressee is indicated by the indirect object of a one-sentence text and the choice of addressee has an impact on the force of imposition of the speech-act verb (Examples 8 and 9).

Example 8

[The General Conference,...] Invites Member States and donor agencies to make voluntary contributions to the programme and to the operation of the Bonn Centre in order to meet the needs of all Member States; (R9/1999. 33)

Example 9

[The General Conference,...] Requests the Director-General to implement the following activities as part of the follow-up to the Second International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education: (R9/1999. 33)

The values of the variables “Situation” and “Participants” of the contextual configuration motivate the differences in the actualisation of the action element, as the choice of speech-act type and form is influenced by the topic of the resolution and by the power relation between the participants. The directive, declarative and expressive speech acts used in executive resolutions have invariably a performative character (see Examples 8 and 9 above), the respective speech-act verbs being selected from a closed-set lexical paradigm, thus resulting in a high degree of lexical repetition. The preparatory resolutions typically use declarative and representative speech acts, though only the declarations have a performative character. It should be noted that the closed-set lexical paradigm of the predicative verbs of preparatory resolutions is considerably more restricted. The reiterative potential of the action element is high in executive resolutions, while in the frame of preparatory resolutions it has no reiterative potential.

The structural element “description of future behaviour and/or resultant state” in the sub-type of preparatory resolutions is realised exclusively by the descrip-

tion of a resultant state, which may be either a decision concerning organisational issues or a declaration concerning the outcome of elections. The description of a resultant state typically takes the form in the preparatory resolutions dealing with elections of an infinitive clause or noun phrase functioning as object complement, or in the preparatory resolutions dealing with the organisation of the session of the General Conference the form of a noun phrase or nominal *to*-infinitive clause functioning as an affected object (see Examples 3 and 5 above). It should be mentioned that the reiterative potential of the description of the resultant-state element in preparatory resolutions is very low as compared to the high reiterative potential of the description of future behaviour and/or resultant state element in executive resolutions. As executive resolutions are oriented towards the formation of future behaviour, they actualise both variants of the structural element description of future behaviour and resultant state, the description of future behaviour typically co-occurring with directive speech acts, while the resultant states co-occur with declarations.

In summary, it may be stated that executive and the preparative resolutions differ in the number of elements of the generic structure potential of resolutions which they may actualise, in the position and role they attribute to the setting, in the type of speech acts performed, as well as in the reiterative potential of the intertextual reference, action and resultant-state elements. The differences are motivated by variation in the values of the variables of the “Situation” and “Participants” components of the contextual configurations. Structural differences are reflected by the language features of the two sub-types of resolutions, as the executive sub-type displays a wider inventory of recurrent structures and word combinations.

Preparatory and executive resolutions further differ in the degree to which it is possible to claim that there is internal variation in the frame of the sub-genres. While the generic structure of executive resolutions exhibits no variation, there is internal variation in the sub-genre of preparatory resolutions. Preparatory resolutions dealing with administrative issues realize a non-performative representative speech act, using a predicative verb in the simple past tense of the indicative mood typically complemented by an affected object, taking the form of a noun phrase or nominal *to*-infinitive clause (see Example 2 above). The second group of preparatory resolutions dealing with elections are one-sentence texts of formulaic character and with minimal variation in the wording. The resolutions dealing with elections realize performative declarative speech acts using a causative verb in the third person of the simple present tense of the indicative mood complemented by complex transitive complementation in which the direct object is followed by a *to*-infinitive clause with the function of object complement, which identifies the resultant state (see Examples 6 and 7 above). The position of the setting element in the two sub-variants of the preparatory resolutions is also different. The setting, taking the form of a prepositional phrase, is the initial element of the body of the text in preparatory resolutions dealing with administrative issues. In the texts of preparatory resolutions dealing with elections, the setting is

positioned outside the body of the text, taking the form of a footnote realized by a nonsentence. They may optionally include a preamble component signalling intertextual reference. The structure of the two sub-types of preparatory resolutions is shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5 Sub-types of preparatory resolutions

Preparatory resolutions dealing with organisational and administrative issues

$T_T - [\text{Set} - \text{Ador} - \text{Act}_{(n-p)} - \text{RS}^*]$

Preparatory resolutions dealing with appointments and elections

$T_T - [\text{Ador} - \text{Pr}_{(IR)} - \text{Act}_{(p)} - \text{RS}^*] - \text{Set}_2$

Conclusions

The present study has demonstrated that the generic structure potential for the contextual configuration of UNESCO resolutions consists of a set of five obligatory elements and two optional elements, the sequence of which is fixed as the only structural element that can change its position in the linear arrangement of the text is the setting. There are only two elements showing reiterative potential but their reiterative potential is very high.

The formulae reflecting the structures of the sub-genres of preparatory and executive resolutions have been determined. They indicate that the major structural difference between preparatory and executive resolutions resides in their potential to actualize the generic structure, i.e. while executive resolutions may actualise all structural elements of the generic potential of resolutions, preparatory resolutions actualise a restricted set of elements, i.e. the obligatory elements and a reduced version of the optional ones.

The differences between executive and preparatory resolutions are motivated by variation in the values of the variables of the contextual configuration. They affect the position and role of the setting, the type of speech acts performed, the reiterative potential of the intertextual reference, action and resultant-state elements and the presence of variation within the sub-genre of preparatory resolutions. These structural differences are reflected in the choice of language means in the two sub-types of resolutions and motivate the wider inventory of recurrent structures and word combinations displayed by the executive sub-type. Nevertheless, it is necessary to stress that the impact of contextual constraints on text production and interpretation in the uses of English as an international administrative code motivates a strong tendency towards explicit internal organization, conventionalization and stability of form to the detriment of variation.

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