VERBS FOR REFERRING TO SOURCES IN HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES: GRAMMATICAL AND LEXICAL ANALYSIS OF THEIR DISTRIBUTION

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Abstract
Verbs for referring to sources in academic style, i.e verbs which introduce explicitly mentioned sources in signal clauses of authorial text, rather than in bare parenthetic references in the form of brackets or notes, are by far not limited to say, ask and write. They display a variety including verbs of speaking and writing, reporting verbs, verbs of thinking, and verbs expressing different kinds of attitude and agreement. Similarly, referring verbs manifest a variety of grammatical forms, namely tenses, aspects, number, person and verbal voice. This paper is based on an analysis of academic papers in several disciplines of humanities and social sciences. The corpus consists of an equal share of native and expert non-native English papers to reflect the international status of English in academic discourse. However, possible differences between native and non-native distribution are of marginal interest; the main focus of the research is on establishing some rough ratios between individual types and forms of verbs for referring to sources, which would be beneficial in the instruction of future as well as novice authors, whether researchers or students.

Keywords
grammatical forms, humanities, distribution of referring verbs, native, non-native, expert writers, reporting verbs, social sciences, verbs for referring to sources, verbs of speaking

1 Verbs for referring to sources – attempts at categorisation
References to sources, which are invariably and carefully acknowledged in academic texts, can be realised in several ways. Apart from reference made with help of parenthetic notes, whether in the form of brackets, footnotes or endnotes including the source, reference can also be included in the author’s own text. Such reference precedes either a direct quote from the source text or a paraphrase, for which it usually functions as an introduction to a that-clause. Unlike the latter type of reference, parenthetic reference does not normally contain a verb referring to a source. Such verbs for referring to sources (hereafter VRS) in the academic style are not only say, write and ask, but they consist of a variety of types depending on their grammatical behaviour and semantic roles.

In addition to the permanent semantic and syntactic properties of the verbs for referring to sources attention should be paid to the grammatical forms in which