

DESCRIPTION

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THE BACKGROUND

Descriptive text aims at **giving vivid details** of how something or someone looks. A descriptive text tells the readers what the thing is, or what the thing does. A description should be so **unique** that a description of one thing should be different from a description from another thing. In other words, **descriptive text is not used to generalize.**

Social Function

To describe a particular person,
place, or thing

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Generic Structure

Identification

: identifies the person, place, or thing to be described

Description

: describes parts, qualities, characteristic

Generic Structure

- Statement to inform the reader of the topic being described
- Opening sentence should engage reader's interest
- A series of paragraphs each giving details of different aspects
- Does not contain opinion or evaluation

Linguistic Features

- focus on specific rather than generic participants
- simple present tense
- Verbs of being and having
- Use of descriptive adjectives to build up long nominal group

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Elements of Descriptive writing

- What, Where, When?
- Looks Like?
- Sounds Like?
- Smells Like?
- Feels Like?
- What does it do?
- It is unique because?

- The clause system is dominated with relational and material process
- Relational process is much employed to show identifications of the thing being described
- material process is used to show what the thing does
- Because descriptive texts show the attributes of the thing, most clauses use adjectives.
- The adjectives are mostly descriptive rather than attitudinal.

EXAMPLE:

When describing a guava tree in front of your house, for example, the description should cover the description of the whole tree and its parts like the trunk, the branches, leaves, and many other parts.

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