

## **What linguists want: Exploring the language of a discourse community**

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The question that will be addressed in this paper (i.e. What do linguists want?) arose in the context of an ongoing research project on expressions of evaluative meaning in academic writing. This project, which takes as its basis a 3.5 million word corpus of book reviews written by linguists and about publications in the field of linguistics, centrally investigates in what ways (i.e. by means of which language items) members of the linguistic discourse community express praise and criticism, and how such items of evaluative meaning can be best identified and systematically organised.

The aim of the present paper is to examine what aspects about a book under review linguists actually praise or criticise and what they regard as good (or bad) practice. It will thus be demonstrated how a specialised corpus can be used, not only to provide insights into genre or register variation, but also to throw light on the value system of a particular discourse community.