



Lesson 4: Academic Terminology Across Human Sciences

Introduction

Human sciences include several disciplines such as sociology, psychology, anthropology, political science, communication studies, and economics. Each field uses specific academic terminology that helps researchers describe social behavior, analyze human interactions, and interpret scientific findings.

The goal of this lesson is to introduce students to key academic terms used across these disciplines. Understanding these terms helps students read specialized texts, summarize academic articles, and communicate ideas clearly in both written and oral tasks.

2. Importance of Academic Terminology in Human Sciences

Academic terms are essential because they:

- *Provide precision when describing social and human phenomena.*
- *Allow students to understand scientific articles, reports, and studies.*
- *Make academic writing clear, formal, and professional.*
- *Help students connect different disciplines inside the human sciences.*
- *Support higher skills such as summarizing, paraphrasing, and critical analysis.*

3. Key Academic Terms in Human Sciences

The following vocabulary list covers words commonly found across sociology, psychology, political science, media studies, and anthropology.

A. General Academic Terms

- **Concept:** an abstract idea used to describe a phenomenon.

Example: “Culture” is an important concept in anthropology.

- **Theory:** an organized set of ideas that explains a phenomenon.



Module: English

Example: Social learning theory explains how people learn from others.*

- **Hypothesis:** a testable prediction in a study.

Example: The hypothesis suggests that media affects young people's behavior.

- **Methodology:** the system of methods used in research.

Example: The study uses a qualitative methodology.

- **Data:** information collected for analysis.

Example: Researchers analyzed data from 200 participants.

B. Terms from Sociology & Anthropology

- **Society:** a group of people living together with shared rules.
- **Social norms:** expected behaviors in a community.
- **Culture:** beliefs, values, and traditions of a group.
- **Identity:** how individuals see themselves in relation to society.
- **Ethnography:** a method that studies people in their natural environment.

Example sentence:

The ethnography described the daily practices of a rural community.

C. Terms from Psychology

Behavior: the way a person acts.

Motivation: the reason behind actions.

Perception: how individuals interpret information.

Cognition: mental processes such as thinking and memory.

Emotion: feelings that influence behavior.

Example:

Motivation affects students' academic performance.



D. Terms from Political Science

Power: the ability to influence others.

Authority: legitimate power accepted by society.

Institution: an organized system such as parliament or government.

Policy: a plan of action designed by authorities.

Conflict: a disagreement between groups or individuals.

Example:

The policy aims to reduce unemployment.

E. Terms Used in Communication & Media Studies

Message: the information sent by a speaker or writer.

Audience: the group that receives the message.

Representation: how people or ideas are shown in media.

Context: the situation in which communication happens.

Discourse: written or spoken communication on a specific topic.

Example:

Media representation can shape public opinion.

6. Conclusion

Academic terminology is the foundation of reading and writing in human sciences. By mastering these key terms, students gain the ability to understand specialized texts, express ideas clearly, and participate effectively in academic discussions. These words will also help students in future lessons such as summaries, abstracts, and analytical reading.

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