

## CHAPTER 3

# GLOSSARIES OF FORMAL TERMS

In this chapter, your academic writing style will further progress and it will be enriched with many terms of formal academic language. Encompassing the technical language of all academic fields is obviously impossible. Nonetheless, you will become acquainted with many formal verbs, nouns or phrases which are mostly used in academic writing. By the end of this chapter, you will be able to express yourself in formal academic settings.

### 3.1

## GLOSSARIES OF RECURRENT MODIFIERS AND NOUNS

In the following pages, you will find a comprehensive glossary of formal modifiers and nouns used in academic writing. Modifiers can be adjectives or adverbs.

### 3.1.1 Adjectives

Adjectives provide information on a noun or a pronoun. In this paragraph, frequent academic adjectives and past participles are reported in a table. The table is divided in three columns: “English”, “Italian” (reporting the terms in English and Italian, respectively) and “similar to..” (reporting less formal equivalents).

ENGLISH	ITALIAN	..SIMILAR TO...
abrupt	brusco	sudden, straightforward
aimed at (ING verb) aimed to	finalizzato/a a	targeted at, directed towards
all-encompassing comprehensive (approach)	onnicomprensivo	thorough
biased	parziale, prevenuto, di parte	partial (opposite of: impartial)
challenging	impegnativo, stimolante	committing, demanding, stimulating
clear-cut	nitido, chiaro	clear

compelling	impellente	urging, pressing
comprehensive exhaustive	comprendivo, esaustivo	thorough, accurate
daunting	scoraggiante	discouraging
debatable	discutibile	questionable
deep-rooted	radicato	established, old, ancient
determining decisive	determinante	important
drawn on	basato su	based on
enlightening	illuminante, istruttivo	instructive, helpful, clarifying
entangled in	coinvolto in, legato a	connected with, linked with
entwined with	legato a	connected with, linked with
far-reaching	di lunga portata, ad ampio raggio	ample, wide
focused on focussed on	incentrato su	based on
in-depth	profondo, approfondito	thorough
insightful	perspicace	discerning, helpful
long-debated (question)	annosa (questione)	long
long-lasting	di lunga durata	long
multifaceted	a molte sfaccettature	many-sided, various
nativelike, native-like	a livello di madrelingua, come un madrelingua	as a native speaker
noticeable marked remarkable noteworthy striking	notevole, marcato, considerevole	considerable
outright	franco, diretto, netto	real, absolute
painstaking	coscienzioso, accurato	in-depth, thorough
paramount (e.g.: <i>of paramount importance</i> )	primario, supremo	supreme, vital
pivotal crucial	cruciale	important fundamental
resourceful	ingegnoso	ingenious, intelligent
substantiated corroborated underpinned	convalidato, fondato	made certain, proved
unexpected remarkable surprising	sorprendente	surprising
targeted at aimed to, aimed at (-ing verb)	destinato a, indirizzato a	directed towards
twofold	bivalente, doppio	two-faceted
underlying	soggiacente, sottostante	basic, fundamental
unorthodox	poco ortodosso	unconventional, unusual
unsophisticated	poco sofisticato	plain, simple

### 3.1.2 Adverbs

Also adverbs and adverbial phrases are modifiers, as they modify (or provide information on) a verb, an adjective or another adverb. Some recurrent academic adverbs and adverbial phrases are reported in the following table, which is divided in three columns: English, Italian and “similar to”. It goes without saying that many adverbs ending in *-ly* are derived from adjectives (example: noticeable – noticeably).

ENGLISH	ITALIAN	..SIMILAR TO...
abruptly	bruscamente	suddenly, in a straightforward manner
albeit	purché sia, benché sia	although it be
alike	parimenti, allo stesso modo	similar
by contrast	invece, diversamente	contrarily, instead
by far	di gran lunga	largely
inadvertently	inavvertitamente	unwillingly
insomuch (as / that)	fintantoché	as, as long as
noticeably	ragguardevolmente, sorprendentemente	remarkably
ostensibly	apparentemente, falsamente	pretentiously
outstandingly	eccezionalmente, notevolmente	exceptionally, extraordinarily
overtly	troppo, di gran lunga	far too
undoubtedly	indubbiamente	certainly
unexpectedly	inaspettatamente	surprisingly
yet*	ancora	still

\* In academic writing, *yet* can be used in affirmative statements.

Here are some examples:

- solutions to the problem are yet to be found
- solutions to the problem have yet to be found
- solutions to the problem must yet be found

### 3.1.3 Nouns

In this paragraph, you will find a list of some recurrent nouns used in academic writing. The nouns are reported in a table which shows the English terms and their corresponding translations.

ENGLISH	ITALIAN
account (of)	resoconto (di)
advent of	venuta / arrivo di
advocacy of	il sostenere il/la
aftermath	postumi
array (of)	insieme (di)
spectrum (of)	gamma (di), spettro (di)
bedrock foundation	fondamento

challenge	opportunità, sfida (non necessariamente negativa)
claim argumentation	affermazione, asserzione, argomentazione
contribution to (a field of study)	contributo a (un filone di studio)
demise	crollo
drawback	svantaggio
evidence (U)	i fatti, l'evidenza, prove scientifiche
findings	risultati (di una ricerca, di uno studio)
Freudian slip	lapsus freudiano
gaffe	gaffe
grounds reasons	ragioni, motivi
hallmark	caratteristica
helplessness	inutilità
hindrance	ostacolo
impediment	impedimento
inference	deduzione
innuendo	allusioni, insinuazioni
insight	analisi introspettiva
issue	questione, problema
instance, example	esempio
landmark milestone cornerstone mainstay	punto di riferimento pietra miliare pietra angolare punto di partenza / di appoggio
layperson laymen lay audience lay reader the average person	persona comune, laico, profano, l'uomo medio, persona di media intelligenza
legacy (from)	retaggio di, eredità, patrimonio
literature (U)	letteratura, la teoria, gli studi in materia
mismatch gap divide	divario
outcome	risultato
overview	visione d'insieme, prospettiva
perspective point of view	prospettiva
pitfall	trabocchetto, trappola, insidia
pretence	pretesa, pretenziosità
purpose aim	scopo (di un articolo, una ricerca)
realm field	dominio campo
repercussions (on)	ripercussioni (su)
research (U)	ricerca
school of thought	scuola di pensiero

scope	ambito (di una ricerca, di uno studio)
remit	
shift (in)	cambiamento (in)
shortcoming	mancanza, insufficienza
speculation	interpretazioni, presupposizioni, congettura (senza una base scientifica)
stance	posizione, atteggiamento
state of affairs	situazione attuale, stato delle cose; stato dell'arte
study	studio
survey	indagine (questo termine viene usato quando non si è condotta una vera e propria ricerca estesa, per mancanza di tempo e/o di mezzi)
verbosity	verbosità, prolissità
vicious circle	circolo vizioso

### 3.1.4 Lexical Phrases

Lexical phrases (or lexical bundles) are a combination of words (prepositions, adjectives, adverbs or nouns) which appear frequently together. Here you will find some lexical phrases which are recurrent in academic English.

LEXICAL PHRASES	TRANSLATIONS	SAMPLE SENTENCES
...is anything but..	...è tutto fuorché...	<i>This report is anything but accurate!</i>
with the aim to with the aim at (ING verb)	allo scopo di	<i>With the aim to deepen our knowledge on teenage behaviour, we interviewed hundreds of adolescents.</i>
unless otherwise stated,	a meno che non (sia) diversamente indicato,	<i>Unless otherwise stated, the links on this page are only informational.</i>
depending on the case	a seconda del caso	<i>A committee can be advisory or regulatory, depending on the case.</i>
at the cost of (research) at the expense of	a spese di (della ricerca, della qualità..)	<i>Paying experts too little is always at the cost of quality.</i>
sometimes (it is).. (and) other times (it is)..	a volte (è così).. altre volte (è così)	<i>Sometimes students show interest in English classes; other times they neglect them completely.</i>
in light of the above	alla luce di quanto (visto) sopra	<i>In light of the above, it is now possible to draw conclusions.</i>
surprisingly enough, intriguingly enough,	piuttosto sorprendente(-mente),	<i>Surprisingly enough, this study proved that learning a second language at adult age can be more stimulating than learning it during puberty.</i>
suffice it to say, needless to say,	basta dire... inutile dire (che)	<i>Suffice it to say that in many cases students were involved in social activities. Needless to say, in many cases...</i>

such as, but not limited to	come ad esempio,	<i>In your thesis, additional information should be provided, such as, but not limited to, tables, charts, end notes, etc.</i>
such as, but not restricted to	ma non limitatamente a	
including, but no limited to		
as with most things,	come con/in tutte le cose, come nella maggior parte dei casi,	<i>As with most things, mastering a foreign language can take some time.</i>
as in the case of	come nel caso di	<i>As in the case of prolonged unemployment, workers should be trained on how to look for new job opportunities.</i>
at the risk of	con il rischio di	<i>Some financial speculations are made at the risk of raising the inflation rate.</i>
by far	di gran lunga	<i>This is by far the worst example of financial speculation.</i>
in contrast to		
as opposed to		
unlike (the)	differentemente da diversamente da	<i>Unlike many Brits, Americans seem to be more open-minded and prone to learn a new language.</i>
this (research, study, survey..)	il/la presente (ricerca, studio, indagine..)	<i>This research is aimed at verifying second language learning at adult age.</i>
by and large	in linea di massima	<i>This is by and large an analysis of language learning at adult age.</i>
as a rule of thumb	in linea generale	<i>As a rule of thumb, the committee should take full responsibility for its decisions.</i>
to a lesser degree / extent to a minor degree	in misura minore/inferiore	<i>Japan imports Italian wine in large quantities, but ICT products to a lesser degree.</i>
simply put in sum in a few words in (very) crude terms	in poche parole	<i>Simply put, this research proved that learning a second language at adult age can be challenging.</i>
put it like that, viewed in these terms, seen in this way,	in questi termini messo così visto in questo modo	<i>Put it like that, learning a second language at adult age seems to be challenging. However,...</i>
in question	in questione ( <i>il fatto in questione</i> )	<i>The matter in question seems contradictory. However,...</i>
together with in conjunction with	insieme a accanto a	<i>Together with an increase in sales, a rise in interest rates was noticed.</i>
the same cannot be said of the same cannot be stated of	la stessa cosa non può essere detta per/di la stessa cosa non vale per	<i>Political correctness is a new reality which confronts us all. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of peacekeeping.</i>
the underlying reasons why	le ragioni fondamentali / di base per cui	<i>The underlying reasons why this survey was carried out, can be found in the fact that further research was needed in this field.</i>
but, in fact, it is not but, in fact, it does not / it cannot...	ma, in realtà, non lo è ma, di fatto, non lo (fa, ...) / non può	<i>This is often perceived as a minor problem, but, in fact, it is not.</i>
but this is (clearly) not the case	ma questo non è (chiaramente) il caso ma non è così	<i>Informal writing often implies major editorial interventions, but this is clearly not the case.</i>

by no means	niente affatto	<i>This is by no means true.</i>
in order to with the view to (ING verb)	per al fine di	<i>In order to highlight skills mismatch, a new survey was carried out.</i>
for the sake of the form	per soli motivi di forma per pura formalità	<i>However, for the sake of the form, the most striking results will be highlighted henceforth.</i>
first and foremost	prima di tutto per prima cosa	<i>First and foremost, learning a new language at adult age is not easy.</i>
before long sooner or later	prima o poi	<i>If we do not intervene to reduce pollution, we will all be dead before long.</i>
as far as ... is concerned, as regards the regarding in respect of with regard to with respect to as to	riguardo a... a proposito di..	<i>As far as pollution is concerned, new global agreements have recently been signed. In respect of pollution, new...</i>
as to whether	se	<i>A question arises as to whether students with learning difficulties should be given extra homework.</i>
albeit on reduced terms	sebbene in termini ridotti benché in termini ridotti	<i>Albeit on reduced terms, this fact also influenced the project results.</i>
in many regards	sotto molti punti di vista sotto molti aspetti	<i>Learning a new language can increase people's empathy in many regards.</i>
on what grounds	su che basi	<i>This chapter will highlight on what grounds we decided to process sensitive information.</i>
on...(ethical) grounds on the grounds that	sulla base di ragioni (etiche..) per ragioni di	<i>It is not possible to report all interviewees' utterances on ethical and political correctness grounds.</i>
a number of	un (certo) numero di	<i>In a number of cases, students showed a very low interest.</i>
given that given the fact that	visto che dato che	<i>Given the fact that the data at our disposal were only a few, we decided to interrupt our research.</i>

### 3.1.5 Latinisms and Foreign Words

In this paragraph, you will review some foreign words and Latinisms. First and foremost, remember that foreign words must be *italicised*.

FOREIGN WORD	SYNONYM	TRANSLATION	SAMPLE SENTENCES
<i>ad hoc</i>	proper, special	apposito (dal latino: "per questo scopo")	An <i>ad hoc</i> committee examined the problem.
<i>a priori</i>	in the first place	<i>a priori</i>	<i>a priori</i> , it is relevant to assert that..
<i>coup-de-grâce</i>	the final blow	il colpo di grazia; la ciliegina sulla torta	the <i>coup-de-grâce</i> was the...
<i>e.g.</i>	for example	esempio ( <i>exempli gratia</i> )	connectors, e.g., therefore, moreover...

<i>en passant</i>	amongst others	tra l'altro	this is, <i>en passant</i> , the best example of..
<i>et al.</i>	and others; and other authors	ed altri	Thompson <i>et al.</i> , 2012
<i>etc.</i>	and the like	eccetera	...religion, personal beliefs, etc.
<i>i.e.</i>	such as; namely	ovvero ( <i>id est</i> )	ELF, i.e. English as a <i>lingua franca</i> ,
<i>ibid.</i>	same author and same work	stesso autore e stessa opera (se non si indica un numero di pagina diverso, anche stessa pagina)	Thompson <i>et al.</i> (2012:123) reported that "ELF will be the language of the future" with "far-reaching consequences" ( <i>ibid.</i> :125)
<i>op. cit.</i>	same (only) author and same (only) work	opera citata. Si può riportare negli scritti in cui si cita un solo autore (per non ripeterlo tutte le volte). È poco probabile in un'opera accademica.	Nelson (2015:18) reported that "ELF will be the language of the future". ( <i>pages later</i> ) Therefore, ELF can have "far-reaching consequences" ( <i>op.cit.</i> )
<i>par excellence</i>	by far	per eccellenza	this is, <i>par excellence</i> , the best example of..
<i>per se</i>	in itself	in sé, già da sé	this is <i>per se</i> revealing
<i>sic.</i>	that's the way it is	così, è proprio così (si scrive quando ci sono citazioni che potrebbero non essere condivise dal lettore, oppure quando è presente un refuso nel testo originale e si evidenza che non è il proprio)	As Lyan stated (2005:123):"The sensible researcher will allow as much free time to write his [ <i>sic.</i> ] report." Thompson (1999:56) argues that "the data we gathered is [ <i>sic.</i> ] surprising."
<i>vis-à-vis</i>	compared to	riguardo a, nei confronti di	the Italian legislation system <i>vis-à-vis</i> the English appears to be..

### 3.1.6 Acronyms

This paragraph does not have the intent to list all possible acronyms in academic writing, because this would be impossible. It is instead conceived to inform about some common practices.

In English, acronyms are very common and it is possible to use them in academic writing, although on certain conditions, which are the following:

- 1) The acronym is always written in CAPITAL LETTERS
- 2) before using an acronym, the words composing the acronym must be written in full:  
Example:

This study will focus on non-native students (NNS for short). *OR*

This study will focus on non-native students (NNS hereafter).

3) if you need to make an acronym plural, you can add a small “s” at the end of the acronym:

Example:

CD → CDs

### 3.2

## **GLOSSARIES OF VERBS, PHRASAL VERBS AND RECURRENT SENTENCES**

In the following pages, you will learn verbs and recurrent *ad hoc* sentences which can be used in formal academic writing.

### 3.2.1 **Verbs and Phrasal Verbs**

In this paragraph, you will learn some recurrent formal verbs and phrasal verbs in academic writing. In order to help you understand the use and meaning of each verb, an Italian translation is provided, together with a list of informal synonyms.

ENGLISH To...	ITALIAN	...SIMILAR TO... (SYNONYMS)
abridge	accorciare	reduce
account for	rendere conto, giustificare, dare una spiegazione, spiegare	explain
adopt a stance take a stance	assumere un atteggiamento prendere posizione	express one's ideas express one's point of view
advocate endorse	sostenere	support
argue for call for	richiedere, domandare, evidenziare l'esigenza di	request
arise arise from	presentarsi nascere da, sorgere da	be made manifest
be comprised of encompass	comprende abbracciare (figurativo), riguardare	comprehend
be concerned with	avere a che fare con	deal with have to do with
bring forth bring to the fore	portare in primo piano	highlight
bring to the surface shed light on unpack	far emergere svelare	highlight reveal
call for	richiedere	request
call on	fare appello a	request
comprise (several sub-genres)	comprendere, includere (es: diversi sottoinsiemi)	include
confront confront (us)	trovarsi di fronte a riguardar(ci)	meet concern (us)
confute	confutare	challenge, prove wrong
convey	trasmettere	transfer, transmit

corroborate underpin	corroborare (una teoria)	support, endorse
counter-argue	controbattere	argue against
counter-argue refute	confutare (una teoria)	deny
cover encompass	trattare esaurientemente, "coprire"	deal with
discard	scartare	reject
disregard	non considerare, trascurare	not consider neglect
downplay	minimizzare	minimize
draw on	fare riferimento a, basarsi su, attingere a	refer to be based on
embark upon	imbattersi in, intraprendere (con possibili effetti negativi)	undertake (with possible negative effects)
emerge come to the fore be brought to the surface	emergere (intransitivo)	can be seen
encompass	abbracciare (figurativo)	embrace, deal with
encounter	trovare, incontrare, riscontrare	find, see
endorse advocate	sostenere	support
enhance	migliorare	improve
entail	comportare	imply
eschew	evitare	avoid
experience	fare l'esperienza di, provare, vivere	go through, face
fabricate	inventare (con possibili effetti negativi), architettare	plot, be up to (something)
foster	sostenere, incoraggiare	support, encourage
gauge	stimare, misurare	measure
give rise to yield	dare origine a	generate, originate
ground on be grounded on	basarsi su	be based on
ground oneself on	basarsi su	focus on
hallmark	caratterizzare	feature, characterize
hamper	ostacolare	make (something) difficult
hinder impede	impedire	make difficult
hinge on	dipendere da	depend on
impinge on	influire negativamente, alterare	affect
linger on	perdurare, indugiare, intrattener-si	remain, stay
jeopardise put in jeopardy	mettere a repentaglio	be at risk put at risk
lament	lamentarsi di (senza agire, lamentarsi e basta)	slightly complain about
lessen	ammorbidire, diminuire, smussare	soften

make (something) manifest be manifest be evident be self-evident	rendere manifesto essere manifesto, essere evidente	show be clear
meet (challenges)	fronteggiare, far fronte a (difficoltà)	face (challenges)
narrow down	concentrare su, focalizzare su, ridurre a	reduce, focus
outline	delineare descrivere a grandi linee	define
parallel	andare di pari passo con	be similar to
pin down	definire con precisione, identificare	identify clearly
pinpoint	individuare con precisione, localizzare	identify
point out	evidenziare	highlight
prompt	spingere a (fig.), suggerire caldamente	urge, strongly request
rely on	rimettersi a, fare affidamento su	depend on, be based on, be grounded on
remark	far notare	stress, highlight
report on	riferire, relazionare su (qualcosa)	deal with, tell
resonate with	entrare in risonanza con	be similar to
resort to	ricorrere a (significato negativo)	use
reveal	rivelare, svelare	disclose, make known
revolve around	ruotare intorno a (un concetto)	be focused on be concerned with
skew	deviare, distorcere	distort, misinterpret
speculate	fare delle congetture presupporre (senza basi scientifiche)	suppose
stigmatize <i>different from:</i> hallmark	bollare, marchiare (senso negativo) <i>diverso da caratterizzare</i>	consider negatively
tackle address	trattare, affrontare, gestire	deal with
underpin corroborate endorse	corroborare, confermare	confirm
unpack reveal make manifest bring to the surface	rivelare, dispiegarsi	show
urge call on prompt	stimolare, incalzare, sollecitare	strongly request, exhort, appeal to
witness	assistere a	experience, see

### 3.2.2 Recurrent Sentences

Here you will find some *ad hoc* sentences and phrases you can use in academic writing:

ENGLISH To...	ITALIAN
be at odds with	essere in contrasto con
be at stake	essere in ballo; esistere, sussistere
come into play	entrare in gioco
be at play	essere in gioco
be bound to	essere legati / vincolati a
become apparent	diventare manifesto, sopraggiungere
become manifest	
bridge a divide	colmare le lacune/il divario
bridge the gap	
cast doubts upon	lanciare dubbi su
raise questions on	sollevare domande su
cater for the needs of	provvedere alle necessità di
address the needs of	andare incontro alle necessità di
come to the fore	venire in primo piano
compensate for (the) shortcomings	compensare i limiti
tackle (the) shortcomings	ridurre i limiti
confront challenges	affrontare le difficoltà
do justice to	rendere giustizia a
draw a parallel between.. and..	fare un paragone tra.. e..
give a brief introduction to	introdurre brevemente
give an in-depth account of	fornire un resoconto dettagliato di
give an insight of	delucidare
provide insights into	dare un'idea di
have a minor role in	avere un ruolo minore in
have good grounds for	avere buone ragioni per
have sufficient reasons for	avere buoni motivi per
overcome challenges	superare le difficoltà
meet challenges	
play a key role in	
be pivotal in	
be of paramount importance in	avere un ruolo fondamentale in
tackle issues	affrontare le difficoltà / questioni
address issues	gestire le difficoltà

This is...

of fundamental importance	ciò è fondamentale
of utmost importance	
of paramount importance	ciò è di estrema importanza

This...

lies* at the heart of	ciò è / sta al centro di
is be the bedrock of	ciò è il fondamento di

\*to lie, lay, lain

has been stigmatized as a reductive procedure	questa procedura è stata marchiata/bollata come riduttiva
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The/A reason...

can be found in the fact that lies in the fact that	la ragione sta nel fatto che
---	------------------------------

There is...

strong evidence that	i fatti provano che
consistent evidence which shows / proves that	dati comprovati mostrano/evidenziano che
extensive empirical research on	una ricerca empirica è stata condotta su

It...

cannot go unnoticed that	non può restare inosservato (il fatto) che
is self-evident that	è evidente che
still holds true that	è pur sempre vero che
goes without saying that	va da sé che

One...

may or may not (argue that...)	si potrebbe (sostenere che...) oppure no
may counter-argue that..	si potrebbe controbattere che...

As seen above, sometimes the author must make the reader acknowledge some limiting conditions. Here are some sample sentences you can use. Translations are also provided:

ENGLISH	ITALIAN
while this claim is perhaps unsurprising, it is nevertheless worth making	benché questa affermazione non sia sorprendente, vale comunque la pena farla
this is beyond the focus of this study, but it should be an area of further research	cioè va al di là degli obiettivi del presente studio, ma potrebbe essere un'area di ulteriore ricerca
it is not within the scope of this paper to..	non rientra nell'ambito di questo documento di..
this goes beyond the remit of this (paper)	cioè va oltre l'ambito del presente (articolo)
I will confine myself to..	mi limiterò a..
for reasons of space it is impossible to cover...	per motivi di spazio è impossibile trattare / coprire..

### 3.3

## EXERCISES ON FORMAL TERMS

**Exercise 1** Match the sentences on the left with their translations on the right:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. it would not be worthwhile to jump to premature conclusions             | A. ciò ha esercitato una (certa) influenza su studiosi e ricercatori |
| 2. before introducing such concepts, it is necessary to prepare the ground | B. erano reticenti ad accettare una nuova teoria                     |