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This chapter discusses the patterns and functions of stance PSs in academic texts and characterizes their most prominent features. Section 7.1 presents the notions of stance PSs in light of Biber's point of view 1999 2006 . Section 7.2 generalizes the lexico-grammatical marking of stance. Section 7.3 describes the broad structural categorization of stance PSs. Sections 7.4 to 7.7 dwell upon the four structural subclasses respectively adverbial stance PSs overt subject PSs it-extraposed PSs and null subject PSs. 7.1 Notions of stance PSs In academic texts authors often need to evaluate or comment on previous studies to take stance and voice their own viewpoints to present arguments and to offer suggestions to peers in the same discourse community. A panoply of PSs are used to realize purposes as such and they are collectively named stance PSs in this thesis. In general stance PSs express authors' internal feelings beliefs thoughts etc. and provide a typical frame of "attitudes value judgments or assessments for interpreting a propositional content or explicitly addressing readers" either to focus their attention or influence them Biber et al. 1999 966 . Specifically stance PSs may convey attitudes that an author has about certain information how certain they are about its authenticity how they gained access to the information and what stand they are taking. 7.2 Lexico-grammatical marking of stance Stance can be expressed to iffering extents through lexico-grammatical devices which are categorized into two types a Value-laden word choice which involves a single evaluative or attitudinal word such as appreciate sure and signi ficance from the use of which the existence of a stance can be in ferred. Such value-laden words are usually assumed by an adjective main verb or noun. b Grammatical stance marking where a distinct grammatical structure is used to express stance with respect to some other proposition.

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