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Alonso-Almeida, Francisco, Francisco Álvarez-Gil, and Elena Quintana-Toledo

“Trust, Caution and Expertise in Women’s Instructional Writing, 1700–1899”

This paper examines how women writers in late modern English construct themselves as trustworthy yet cautious experts when instructing readers in domestic, culinary and health-related matters. Drawing on the eighteenth and nineteenth-century section of the *Corpus of Women’s Instructive Texts in English* (CoWITE, Alonso-Almeida et al., 2025), we carry out a corpus-assisted discourse analysis informed by Systemic Functional Linguistics (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014) and Appraisal theory, along with insights from metadiscourse studies (Hyland, 2005). The focus is on linguistic resources that calibrate epistemic commitment and social alignment, namely modalising and modulating modals, lexical and adverbial boosters, hedging devices, and explicit markers of expertise and experience (e.g. “long tried”, “approved”, “I have found”).

Quantitatively, we compare the distribution of these items across women’s recipes, household manuals and health guides, with normalised frequencies and collocational profiles.

Qualitatively, we zoom in on short stretches of text from cookery books and sickroom manuals by authors such as Priscilla Haslehurst, Maude Earle, Helen Edden, Mary A. Everard, Isabella Beeton and Mrs Charles Clarke. These passages show women negotiating authority in constrained social spaces. They often temper firm directives with conditional framing and experiential evidentials, invite readers to “try and see” rather than simply obey, and balance appeals to shared domestic practice with careful warnings about risk and responsibility.

With a look over these patterned choices, we argue that women’s instructional prose develops a recognisable interpersonal style where trust is built not only through confident expertise but also through explicit caution and relational work. The study contributes to historical pragmatics and corpus pragmatics by linking fine-grained linguistic choices in analogue instructional genres to broader questions of credibility, affect and lay expertise that remain very much alive in contemporary (including digital) advice discourse.

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Alonso-Belmonte, Isabel and Dolores Porto

“From Security to Solidarity: Competing Discursive Constructions of the Gaza War (2023–2025) in the European press”

This article examines how European newspapers have constructed and transformed the dominant narratives surrounding the Gaza war in the period 2023–2025. While initial coverage