

# Language Use and Narrative Structure in Blogs

- a comparison of how a teenager and a senior citizen write about an excursion

**THERES BELLANDER**

What tends to be regarded as the prototypical language of digital texts is often associated with a certain linguistic style, for example strong expressions of emotion, an absence of references, use of emoticons and unconventional abbreviations (Hård af Segerstad 2002). This article broadens the image of digital texts by studying blogging as participation in communicative activities (Levinson 1979, Lave & Wenger 1998, Sarangi 2000, Linell 2011). The study explores how language use is shaped by the social contexts it forms part of. Individuals are seen as bearers of linguistic repertoires, from which they can draw and use different resources in different contexts in order to create meaning. The study draws attention to social and contextual factors as significant for how two bloggers, Dan 16 and Erik 85 years old, choose linguistic resources when they produce blog posts about participating in an excursion with friends. It provides a greater understanding of young people's and senior citizens' everyday writing and shows how individuals' digital texts are the result of a complex interplay between contextual, technical and personal factors.