Recent years have noticed a considerable growth in critically oriented semiotic theories dealing with the notions of language and power and the dialectical relationship between them. Given the decisive role of language in the realization of social factors, this study is designed to show the roles language plays in the practice of power. It further intends to explore the roles of language and power in the construal of knowledge structure. Explorations concerning such a link revolve around the issues of investigating the ways different types of knowledge are shaped in English and Persian, the characteristic features of knowledge realized in the discourses of science and history in both languages, the configuration of knowledge in genres, and the way knowledge can be mastered. In other words, this study intends to identify the semiotic choices and structures that language takes up in building knowledge. These are in particular investigated in terms of genre, field and mode within the framework of systemic functional linguistics theory and social realist theory of sociology. This study aims to show that different configurations of genres instantiate various sorts of specialized knowledge. Explorations of knowledge construction in genres are further pursued by recontextualising knowledge formation from the perspectives of field and mode. This helps to factor out certain semiotic resources and structures that language develops in shaping hierarchical and horizontal knowledge structures in uncommon sense ways.

This study argues that mastery of specialized forms of knowledge is a matter of power in that it develops the identity of the expert as the one with authoritative control in institutional fields. It also points out that it is because of the mechanisms of positive power that different types of knowledge and various forms of discourse are created.