English Language Intensive Programme

Text Structure and Language Features: Examples 4 and 5

Text Structure - Request for goods

Text Structure - Request for

information

Opening and Sales Request

Student: Excuse me, can I have a return to the Railway Station?

Sale enquiry

Station Master: Student card?

Sale compliance

Student: Yes (shows card).

3. can negotiate a simple transaction

Sale

Bus Driver That's \$3.80.

Purchase

Student: (Puts down money and waits for ticket and change.)

Purchase closure

Student: (Takes ticket.) Thank you.

Opening

Student: Excuse me Sir/Ms.

Response

Teacher: Yes, what is it?

Initiation

Student: Can you help me?

Response/initiation

Teacher: Yes. What's the matter?

Initiation

Student: I don't understand (points to word).

Response/initiation

Teacher: (assists student) Is that clear now?

Feedback/closure

Student: Yes Ms/Sir. Thank you.

Language Features

Use of polite openings, e.g. Excuse me.

Use of questions, e.g. Can you help me?, Can I have a return to the Railway Station?

Use of ellipsis typical of responses in casual conversations, e.g. Yes. (not Yes I have) — pointing to word, I don't understand. (not I don't understand what this word means.)

Use of polite closures, e.g. Thank you.

Stu