Stylistic Prescriptivism vs. Expert Practice

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Prescriptivism is defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as “The practice or advocacy of prescriptive grammar; the belief that the grammar of a language should lay down rules to which usage must conform.” (s. n. prescriptivism). Some experts, however, see the differences among grammars not as a binary opposition, but rather a continuum, as the differentiation between normative and prescriptive grammars is usually blurred; nonetheless, they are usually put together under the prescriptive category. Historically, and in general terms, the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries correlate with descriptivism, while the eighteenth century is the era of prescriptivism (Yáñez-Bouza 2014).