This case study on three text categories (literary prose, journalistic prose and poetry) of more than one hundred texts is a first attempt to study the usefulness of discriminant analysis for the classification of texts. By way of an example, 153 Slovenian texts are analyzed; they are characterized by five measures based on word length (given as number of syllables) and two measures connected with text length. For all three pairs of text linear discriminant functions has been established and carefully tested against the redundancy of variables. The two pairs (literary prose | poetry) and (journalistic prose | poetry) can be discriminated by three variables, whereas for the pair (literary prose | journalistic prose) four variables are relevant for discrimination. The discrimination functions contain at least one variable for word length and one variable for text length. An interesting result is obtained by canonical discrimination of all three text categories. Two variables for word length and the logarithm of the text length discriminate the texts such that 98% of the texts are classified correctly.

Prospectives for further research, including both further languages and additional texts types, are suggested.