*Would* behaves similarly in both registers. Its occurrence tends to increase along the formal/informal continuum. The less formal the category, the more frequent the occurrence of *would* in that category. There are 30 tokens of *would* in the less formal General Fiction texts as opposed to 11 tokens of *would* in the more formal Popular Lore category. Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of *would* along the formal/informal dimension in the written register. The same is true of conversation. In the more formal category—Public Conversation—*would-* occurs less frequently (4 tokens), while in the less formal category—Informal Conversation—the frequency of *would* significantly increases (17 tokens).
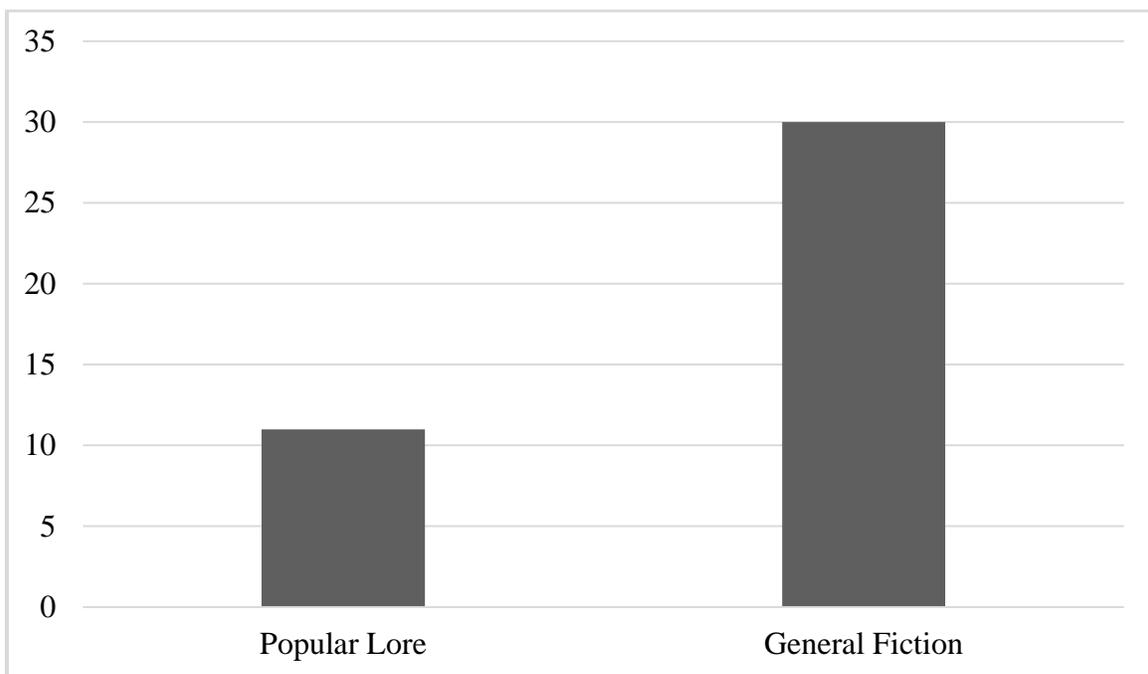


*Figure 2*. Distribution of *would* along the formal/informal dimension in written English.

Looking at the occurrence pattern of these two utterances, we can conclude that *used to* is more frequent in conversation. The frequency of its occurrence increases when the formality of the discourse decreases. *Would*, on the other hand, appears more in the written register. Its frequency increases as the text becomes less formal.

The distinction between *used to* and *would* in the context of spoken and written registers