



Rhetorical move structure of applied linguistics research abstracts across Sinta journal rankings

Zalinda Salsabilla Firdausyiah ^{(1)*}, Ni Gusti Ayu Roselani ⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

* zalindasalsabillafirdausyiah@mail.ugm.ac.id

Abstract

The scholarly publishing scene is familiar with databases where scholars can look up for journal list and rankings. The said rankings lead to the assumption that research articles from higher-ranking journals have better quality than those from lower-ranking journals. This study aims to see the correlation between journal rankings and publication quality by analyzing the rhetorical moves of abstracts from journals across Science and Technology Index (SINTA) rankings. This study utilized Hyland's five-move model as the framework to analyze 40 research abstracts from two groups, SINTA 1 and SINTA 4 applied linguistics research abstracts. The analysis revealed that the abstracts from both journals exhibited similar usage of moves, where Introduction, Methodology and Product has high number of occurrences across the data. However, the dominant rhetorical structure pattern of the abstracts differs between the two groups. To conclude, while SINTA rankings do not affect the realization of the moves, it seems to impact the rhetorical structure of the abstracts to a degree. This implies that journals across different SINTA indexes may apply different criteria for the research articles they publish.

Keywords

abstract, genre, rhetorical pattern, rhetorical structure, move analysis

Introduction

Academic writing is a genre of a formal writing that follows a specific structure and is written in a formal tone. Examples of academic writing pieces include research articles, conference papers, book reviews, and student academic writings that include papers, research projects, theses, and dissertations. In these types of academic writing, abstract is an element that becomes a vital part of the text. Typically presented at the forefront of a research paper or research reports such as theses and dissertations, an abstract represents a research paper in a more condensed way so that the readers can gain the gist of the content quickly and comprehensively (Cross & Oppenheim, 2006; Koltay, 2010; Kurniawan et al., 2019). Cross and Oppenheim (2006) noted that the characteristics that should be present in an abstract for it to be functional includes brevity, exhaustivity, accuracy, density, clarity, and content. An abstract's requirement to be dense and concise is reflected in requirements made by journals or institutions that limit the length of an abstract of a research paper to 150-250 words.

The scholarly publishing scene is familiar with database where scholars can find a list of credible academic journals relevant to their needs. The most recognizable international portal that provides this information is SCImago Journal & Country Rank, which provides information of journal which can be grouped by subject area, category, or by country (SCImago, 2024). There is also a similar portal that provides the information of journal's performance based in Indonesia, known as Science and Technology Index (SINTA in short), developed by Indonesian Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology. The portal also ranks journals and group them into quartiles based on the rankings, where Sinta 1 is the highest and S6 is the lowest rank, based on the h-index and number of citations of the publications by the journal (Indonesian Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, n.d.). These rankings are usually referred to when looking for journals and journal articles, with the assumption that journals with higher SINTA rankings have better recognition and visibility in comparison from journals with lower SINTA rankings.

Due to the placement and functions, an abstract is most likely to be read almost right away, just after the title of the article, by the reader as an overview of what the research is about. Moreover, it may help its readers determine whether the research paper contains what they needed or not (Pongracz & Camerlink, 2023). Consequently, writing abstracts might become a challenge because it has to be able to fit specific criteria to be functional while taking the length limitation into consideration. In the context of research publication, specifically in research articles or conference papers, an abstract may become one of the determining factors to whether a research article or conference paper is suitable within the scope of the publishing journal or the theme of the conference.

The arrangement of research article abstracts typically follow a rhetorical pattern relevant to its discipline. Given the diversity in disciplines, writing an abstract targeted for publication in a journal may become a challenge, especially for novice researchers (Kurniawan et al., 2019). Bhatia (1993) proposed that an abstract generally contains information obtained from four sections of a research paper including what was conducted in the study, how the research was carried out, what was obtained in the

study, and what conclusions can be drawn from the findings. Based on those inquiries, Bhatia (1993) developed a framework consisting of four moves that comprises an abstract: Introducing purpose, Describing Methodology, Summarizing Results, and Presenting Conclusions. The framework is further developed by different scholars within the field, one of the most prominent one being Hyland's (2004) five-move model. The model divided parts of abstracts into five rhetorical moves: Introduction, Purpose, Methodology, Product, and Conclusion. The notable difference of this model compared to its preceding models is the distinguishment of Introduction and Purpose of the study as entirely different moves. While Bhatia's (1993) model grouped the rhetorical moves comprises of Introduction, Method, Product, and Conclusion, Hyland's model separated Introduction and Purpose as entirely different moves. The separation, as Hyland (2004) argues, is because he believes that Purpose serves a different function to Introduction, which is to convey the background and justification of the research. Over time, the five-move model has become an influential framework which has been used by many studies as it is able to provide a robust insight into the structure and organization of research abstracts from different fields of study (Amnuai, 2019).

As stated previously, there are characteristics that make up a functional abstract. An abstract should not only be concise and dense; clarity and coherence of an abstract also becomes an important point in order for an abstract to convey its message to the readers. The importance of structural coherence in structuring research abstracts have motivated researchers to conduct studies that focus on the rhetorical moves of abstracts written by researchers, both seasoned and novice, from various fields. These studies are mainly analyzed using the contrastive approach. Several studies focus of the comparisons include the basis of publication (Amnuai, 2019; Kurniawan et al., 2019), disciplines (Al-Najhi & Samaha, 2023; Khany & Malmir, 2020; Khedri, 2022; Nabilla et al., 2021), languages (Al-Zulbi & Fareh, 2023; Firdausyiah et al., 2021; Li, 2020; Tocalo, 2021), academic levels (Kurniawan et al., 2024), and the time the abstracts are written (Putri & Kurniawan, 2021; Ramadhini et al., 2021). Non-comparative rhetorical move analysis has also been done in the past to reveal how abstracts are arranged in certain publications (Liu & Jiang, 2024; Ye, 2021; Yoon & Casal, 2020).

Another look into rhetorical move analysis is conducted by Kurniawan et al.'s (2019), who compared research abstracts from articles across Scopus quartiles. The study revealed that the quartile does not affect the realization of the moves and steps. It also sparked the question of whether the same applies to the realization of rhetorical moves in abstracts published in Indonesian-based journals which are nationally accredited and indexed by SINTA. Thus, this study intends to analyze the realization of rhetorical moves in research article abstracts published under Indonesian-based journals with different SINTA indexes written in English. The following research questions are formulated to guide the analysis:

1. How are the rhetorical moves realized across SINTA-indexed journals?
2. How are the rhetorical move structure arranged across SINTA-indexed journals?

This study is expected to deepen the existing knowledge in rhetorical move arrangement, especially in rhetorical move arrangement of research abstract. Considering that the publication journal's SINTA ranking is rarely taken into consideration in the previous studies, this study is also expected to offer insight into rhetorical move realization and arrangement from a different perspective.

Method

This study is a qualitative descriptive study that employs content analysis to examine the manifestation of the rhetorical move patterns in research abstracts. This study employed a descriptive approach where the findings of the analysis are described and interpreted through words instead of numbers (Dörnyei, 2007). However, figures and percentages are also employed to display the general overview of the findings.

The data for the study are two Applied Linguistics corpora: the first corpus consists of 20 research abstracts obtained from research articles published in a SINTA 1 journal, while the second corpus consists of 20 research abstracts obtained from research articles published in a SINTA 4 journal. The data totals to 40 research article abstracts. The abstracts are obtained from applied linguistics journals that are SINTA-indexed. This is to ensure that the journals have gained national recognition, although the performance score of the journals might differ depending on the SINTA ranks obtained by the related journal. The first corpus consisted of research abstracts from SINTA 1 journal (labeled as Journal A), and the second corpus consisted of research abstracts from SINTA 4 journal (labeled as Journal B). The abstracts were obtained from the articles published between 2022 and 2024 to examine the pattern in recent publications. Since both journals from which the articles are obtained are within the same field, Applied Linguistics, the articles from which the abstracts are obtained are selected randomly within the aforementioned publication year's range. To ensure the anonymity of the research abstracts, the title and author(s) of the related article are not attached in the excerpts presented in this study, although parts of the abstracts are quoted verbatim to show how the moves are implemented in the abstracts.

Table 1. Hyland's (2004) Five-move framework

Move	Function
Introduction (I)	Establishes context of the paper and motivates the research or discussion
Purpose (P)	Indicates purpose, thesis or hypothesis, outlines the intention behind the paper
Methodology (M)	Provides information on design, procedures, assumptions, approach, data, etc.
Product (Pr)	States main findings or results, the arguments, and what was accomplished.
Conclusion (C)	Interprets or extends results beyond scope of paper, draws inferences, points to applications or wider implications.

Source: Hyland, 2004

This study employed Hyland's (2004) five-move model as the main framework to investigate the realization of rhetorical moves in the research article abstracts. Hyland's (2004) five-move model categorizes components of a research abstract into five components as described in Table 1.

The data that has been collected is put in an Excel file. Each abstract is labelled (JA1-JA20 for abstracts from Journal A and JB1-JB20 for abstracts from Journal B to ease the analysis process. The analysis itself is done by dissecting the abstracts into sentences and clauses. Then, the sentences and clauses are labeled according to the moves of Hyland's (2004) five-move framework. The rhetorical move labels assigned to the sentences and clauses are determined based on the information conveyed in the sentence. To ensure the validity of the analysis result, the analysis is conducted in three stages. The first stage is the initial reading of the abstracts and the labeling. To ensure that the analysis is as accurate as possible, the writers consult Hyland's (2004) five-move framework and carefully dissect the sentence to identify the main point and information it conveys. After the initial labeling stage is complete, the data is analyzed a second and third time to identify any sentences that are mislabeled and/or categorized as an incorrect move.

The units of analysis are sentences and clauses, as the possibility of a move embedded in another move exists when two or more moves are combined in one sentence, as evident in existing studies (Firdausyiah et al., 2021; Ramadhini et al., 2021). Kanoksilapatham's (2005) cut-off criteria were referenced to determine whether a move is obligatory, conventional, or optional based on its salience in the data. According to the criteria, a move is given the obligatory status if it appears in 100% of the corpus, conventional if it appears in 66%-99% of the corpus, and optional if it appears in less than 66% of the corpus.

Results and Discussion

Realization of Rhetorical Moves across Journals

The result of the analysis shows that there are 191 moves in Journal A and 171 moves in Journal B, totaling 362 rhetorical moves as a whole. Considering its high numbers of occurrences across the data, Methodology and Product seem to be highly used in both Journal A and Journal B. On the other hand, the move with lowest number of occurrences is Purpose in Journal A, with the occurrence of 18 times, and Conclusion in Journal B, with the total number of 11 occurrences.

Table 2. Rhetorical move occurrence in abstracts across data groups

Rhetorical Moves	Journal A	Journal B
Introduction	48	39
Purpose	17	18
Methodology	44	52
Product	52	51
Conclusion	30	11
Total	191	171

It is evident in Table 2 that the number of each rhetorical moves occurring in Journal A and Journal B are quite close, with the exception of Conclusion, which is utilized more by the authors of Journal A. The high occurrences of the moves Methodology and Product in both journals implies that the word limit tends to be allocated to disclosing the methodology and what the research had disclosed, regardless of the Sinta rankings. On the other hand, while authors of research abstracts in Journal A seem concerned in stating the conclusion and limitation of their study, stating such information is apparent to be less preferred in Journal B.

Not only the occurrence of the moves, the salience of the moves across journals is also analyzed to see the distribution of the moves across the abstracts. The move salience is presented in the following table.

Table 3. Rhetorical move salience in abstracts across data groups

Rhetorical Moves	Journal A (%)	Journal B (%)
Introduction	90	70
Purpose	90	95
Methodology	100	100
Product	95	100
Conclusion	100	45
Total	191	171

Table 3 depicts the move salience across the data groups. It is apparent that abstracts in Journal A generally utilize all the rhetorical moves, with only a few exceptions. However, not the same can be said regarding Journal B, based on the low salience of Conclusion. This is also visible in the move pattern configuration, which will be further discussed in the later section.

In accordance with Kanoksilapatham (2005) cut-off criteria, Journal A and Journal B share similarities in the status that the moves obtained. Introduction, Purpose, and Product obtained conventional status in Journal A, as it appeared in 90-95% of the abstracts. Similarly, Introduction and Purpose, found in 70% and 95% of the data respectively, also gained conventional status in Journal B. Notably, Product, which gained obligatory status in previous studies (Al-Zubi & Fareh, 2023; Kurniawan et al., 2019), is shown to be conventional in journal A, whereas it gained the obligatory status in Journal B. Methodology also stands out as the only move that shared obligatory status in both corpora, which aligns with the findings of Al-Zubi & Fareh (2023) and Ramadhini et al. (2021). In line with its high occurrence, this affirms the claim that authors of Research abstracts in Journal A and Journal B tend to be concerned in disclosing their methodology of their research in the abstracts.

Although most of the moves are similar in terms of saliency and gained similar statuses in both corpora, there is a stark difference in the salience of Conclusion between Journal A and Journal B. This difference is also reflected in the occurrence of the moves as shown in Figure 1. In Journal A, Conclusion is considered as obligatory as it is found in all of the abstracts. However, in Journal B, Conclusion is considered as optional, only identified in

45% of the corpus. This further implies that authors of Journal A tend to be more aware in presenting their conclusions and recommendation of future studies in comparison to authors of Journal B, who tend to leave out such information in their abstracts.

The use of each move as identified in the abstracts is discussed in the following sub-sections.

Introduction

Introduction functions to convey justificatory context behind the research that includes the background and significance of the study, both of which are equally important (Hyland, 2004). This move is considered conventional in Journal A and Journal B, appearing in 90% and 70% of the data, respectively. In the data, this move is more commonly used to disclose the background of their study, although it is also realized by sharing the gap that the study intends to fill in some cases. Journal A and Journal B exhibit the similar way of utilizing this move, which is mainly to state the significance of their research topic and define key terms. There are also instances, although not as common, where this move is used to state the gap that the study intends to fill. Example 1 shows the utilization of the Introduction move as identified in the data.

[Example 1]

"Laughter, often overlooked as a mere emotional outlet, is a complex phenomenon with its unique charm. Online laughter, in particular, seems to differ significantly in terms of its paralinguistic features from face-to-face laughter. Building on our prior understanding of how laughter and youth language is used in face-to-face communication, studying online laughter in youth conversation can provide insights [...]. This is important because laughter often conveys a wealth of essential information [...]."

[Journal A, RA 2]

While the use of this move is not signaled by specific words, the move can be determined by the information that it carries. In Example 1, the first sentence describes laughter as a phenomenon. It is then followed by a more specific type of laughter, which the author explained as online laughter. The sentence that follows further elaborates the background of the study, where the author presents the justification of their study and explains why their study is conducted ('studying online laughter in youth conversation can provide insights....') and emphasizes the importance of conducting the study ('This is important because laughter often conveys a wealth of essential information....'). These sentences fulfill the functions of the Introduction move as stated by Hyland (2004), which is to establish the context of the paper. By providing that information, the readers will be able to get the context research is about upon reading the abstract.

Purpose

Purpose is a move that explains the aim and intention of conducting the study. This move gained Conventional status in both Journal A and Journal B, as it appeared in 90% and 95% of the data groups, respectively. However, in contrast to its high salience in both data groups, Purpose is shown to be within the lower category in terms of occurrences, occurring only 17 times in Journal A and 18 times in Journal B. This suggests that the

move may typically only occur once in the abstract, which is further discussed in a later section. Example 2 shows the use of Purpose identified in the data.

[Example 2]

"This research aims to identify the types of personification and the contextual meaning behind the personification used in Percy Bysshe Shelley's poetry."

[Journal B, RA 2]

Example 2 demonstrates the realization of the Purpose move in the research abstract. The verb 'aims' signaled the author's intention in carrying out the research, which is 'to identify the types of personification and the contextual meaning ...', thus fulfilling the function of the Purpose move. In a research abstract, this move may help the reader gain a clear understanding of what the research will focus on and what information they can expect to find by reading the full article.

Methodology

Methodology, which concerns the methodological aspects of the study, is equally highly occurring in both corpora. This is the only move that obtained the same status within the data groups, obligatory, as it appeared in 100% of the data. Functions-wise, this move is also utilized similarly in Journal A and Journal B. Based on the analysis, this move tends to shed light regarding the approach, theoretical framework, and the data involved in conducting the study in both of the corpora. Due to the functions that this move is tied to, it typically occurred more than once in an abstract. An example of Methodology identified in the data is as follows.

[Example 3]

"The research was primarily qualitative, utilizing the phraseological approach supported by a corpus for collocation identification. The word classes of the collocation patterns were determined using KBBI V (the unabridged Indonesian dictionary). Data were sourced from main reports of Tempo magazine and headlines of Kompas as well as Pikiran Rakyat newspaper, comprising a total of 14,206 words."

[Journal A, RA 6]

Example 3 shows the Methodology move realized in 3 sentences in a research abstract. All three sentences convey different information, all involving the methodological background of the research. In the first sentence, the author provides the context and approach of the research, or the methodology chosen to approach and analyze the data ('The research was primarily qualitative, utilizing the phraseological approach....'). The sentence that follows provides further elaboration on how the data is analyzed ('The word classes of the collocation patterns were determined using....'). The last sentence describes the data utilized for the research by informing the data source (Kompas and Pikiran Rakyat Newspaper) and the total word count of the news articles that are sourced for the analysis. By providing clear details of the research methodology, the author allows the readers to further determine whether the article will suit their needs or not.

Product

This move functions to present the key findings of the research. While considered conventional in Journal A with 95% salience, this move is present in all of the abstracts in Journal B and is therefore considered obligatory. In terms of occurrence, the number of Products is high compared to other moves, indicating that this move has a high usage in the abstracts, regardless of the publishing journal. An example of the Product move in the abstract is shown in Example 4.

[Example 4]

"The study came up with the findings that the primary function of emojis in WhatsApp text messages is to show and emphasize emotion, expression, and feeling like happiness, sadness, apology, embarrassment, support, anger, mockery, gratitude, criticism, humorous, etc. that cannot be spoken verbally or conveyed/shown directly."

[Journal B, RA 8]

In Example 4, the phrase 'The study came up with the findings...' is a clear indicator that the sentence conveys information related to the key findings of the research. It is also evident by the phrase that follows, where the author(s) explain the key findings of their study within the abstract. Providing key findings can be useful for readers to gain insight into of what the research revealed. Moreover, they may also infer the implications based on the analysis results, although this information may also be provided by the next move, Conclusion.

Conclusion

Conclusion is related to the limitations of the study and recommendation of further studies. This move shows the biggest difference of utilization across the data groups. While Conclusion is considered obligatory, appearing across all abstracts in Journal A, it is less preferred in Journal B, as it only appeared in 45% of the abstracts and obtained the optional status. This move commonly functions to draw conclusion and implication based on the findings and the contribution of the research in its field of study. There are also instances where this move is used to convey the gap of the study and recommendations for future research.

[Example 5]

"This study provides insight into how the multilingualism of K-pop idols is not only a means of entertainment but also indirectly affects the language acquisition of Surakarta fans. The implications of this study can be used as a basis for the development of a more contextualized and engaging language learning approach based on K-pop fans' interests."

[Journal B, RA 6]

Example 5 shows the example of Conclusion as identified in the abstracts. In the excerpt, the author first evaluates the significance of the findings of their study ('This study provides insight into....'). It is then followed by the author's evaluation of the study's contributions into the educational sphere and recommendations of how the findings can be applied in language learning. By providing this move, the author assists readers by

providing what the reader can expect from the paper, which can also add into readers' consideration of whether they would want to continue reading the paper or not.

Embedded Move

The clause-level analysis also found the occurrence of an embedded move, where a move is attached to another. While it is noteworthy in terms of its presentation, this type of move is not significantly found in the data, as it comprises less than 2% of the total moves. The following excerpt shows an example of embedded move, where the embedded move is written in bold.

[Example 6]

*"Hence, **using structural equation modeling method**, this study aims to investigate several constructs contributing to writer's block, [...]."*

[Journal A, RA 12, Methodology embedded in Purpose]

The clause-level analysis of the sentence above leads to the identification of two rhetorical moves: Methodology and Purpose. The sentence itself is a complex sentence composed of two clauses, dependent and independent clauses. In Example 6, the main move, Purpose, is realized in the independent clause. The move is signaled by the clause 'this study aims to investigate [...]', wherein the author presents the intention of conducting study. The dependent clause, '... using structural equation modeling method,' is embedded after the adverb 'hence' in the beginning of the sentence. Based on the information provided in the sentence, which was the methodology applied to analyze the data for the research, it is determined that the embedded clause functions as the Methodology move.

The use of embedded move shows the author's effort into compiling different functions of a rhetorical move into one, more complex sentence. This may be done as a way to condense the abstract and keep it within the word limit imposed by the journal without omitting the information that the author deemed important and intended to communicate forefront to the readers.

Rhetorical Move Structure across Journals

This section shows and discusses the rhetorical move structures that emerge based on the realization of rhetorical moves within the abstracts from Journal A and Journal B.

Table 4 shows the pattern of rhetorical moves that emerged from the Research abstracts in Journal A and Journal B. The abstracts are divided into three groups: abstracts that consist of 5 rhetorical moves (5M), 4 rhetorical moves (4M), and 3 rhetorical moves (3M). From the table 4, it can be seen that most abstracts from Journal A are arranged using five moves. Moreover, there is also no abstract consisting of three moves, implying that authors of abstracts in Journal A provide more information regarding their study to its readers. On the other hand, the abstracts from journal B have more variety in their structure and configuration, and the highest number of abstracts is arranged using the 4M configuration. These findings contradict Amnuai's (2019) findings which revealed that

the most common organizational pattern in Thai and English abstracts consisted of only three moves, P-M-Pr.

Table 4. Rhetorical move structure across data groups

Configuration	Pattern	Abstracts	
		Journal A	Journal B
5M	I(n)-P-M(n)-Pr(n)-C	7	2
	I(n)-P-M(n)-Pr(n)-C(n)	2	1
	I(n)-P-M(n)-Pr-C(n)	-	1
	I(n)-P-M(n)-Pr-C	1	1
	I(n)-P-M-Pr(n)-C(n)	2	-
	I(n)-P-M-Pr(n)-C	1	-
	I-P-M-Pr(n)-C	1	-
	I(n)-(M)P-Pr-C	-	1
	I(n)-(M)P-M-Pr-C	1	-
	I(n)-(M)P-M-C-Pr-C	1	-
	I-P-I-M-Pr-C	-	1
Total		16	7
4M	I(n)-P-M(n)-Pr	-	1
	I(n)-P-M(n)-Pr(n)	-	4
	I-P-M(n)-Pr	-	1
	I-P-M(n)-Pr(n)	-	1
	I(n)-M(n)-Pr(n)-C	2	1
	I(n)-P-M(n)-C(n)	1	-
	P-M(n)-Pr-C	1	1
Total		4	9
3M	P-M(n)-Pr(n)	-	3
	P-M-P-M-Pr(n)	-	1
Total		0	4

Note. M = move, n = number of move repetition

It is also evident in Table 4 that the abstracts consisting of five moves tend to be arranged in linear order from Introduction to Conclusion. The variety of patterns in each configuration group mainly emerged from the varying number of repetitions of the moves. Notably, there are cases where the moves are not realized in a conventional pattern which follows the order starting from Introduction to Conclusion, exhibited in abstracts from Journal A and Journal B. Example 7 and Example 8 show the examples of abstracts with the said unconventional pattern. In the following examples, the move boundaries are marked by slashes (/).

[Example 7]

"The findings indicate a statistically significant interplay correlation between the constructs. In conclusion, this study provides robust statistical evidence [...]. // Most notably, the study reveals that [...]. // Educational practitioners may utilize this study's findings to address the issue of [...]."

[Journal A, RA 12, C-C-Pr-C]

[Example 8]

"Speech acts which belongs to the field of pragmatics [...]. // The study aims at investigating speech acts [...]. // There have been various research on speech acts in movies, but [...]. // A qualitative research method is employed [...]. // The finding suggests that representative category dominates the utterances in the film taking 74% occurrence. // Hopefully, this study will fill the research gap and enrich [...]."

[Journal B, RA 17, I-PI-M-Pr-C]

Similar to the abstracts with five-move configuration, abstracts constructed of five moves typically follow the orderly pattern starting from Introduction but ending in Product rather than Conclusion, which tends to be left out of the abstracts. Although less common, Purpose is another move that was left out in this group of abstracts. In the notable case where Product is excluded, the author compensated for the lack of mention of the research's findings by presenting the conclusion inferred from the findings.

Despite the linearity between the low occurrence and salience of the Conclusion move in Journal A and Journal B, the number of move occurrences alone does not reflect how the authors structure their abstracts. Unlike in Conclusion, where the disparity of its occurrences and saliences are similar between Journal A and Journal B, Purpose appeared in the majority of the abstracts and is considered to be conventional in both of the corpora, despite also having a low number of occurrences. This is also shown in Table 2, where Purpose does not have a repeating occurrence in any of the abstracts, regardless of the configuration. The low occurrence of this move is likely due to the function of the related move. Since Purpose is a move that only concerns in stating the purpose of the research, the authors tend only to share the move in one sentence in order to make room for other parts of the abstract, considering the word limits for abstracts that are usually imposed by journals. The contrast between the Purpose move's occurrence is in line with the findings of Kurniawan et al.'s (2019).

Conclusion

This study aims to reveal the rhetorical move realization of English abstracts written by non-English speakers, specifically from applied linguistics research articles published in SINTA 1 and SINTA 4 accredited journals. The analysis reveals that the abstracts from both journals generally employ similar rhetorical moves with only slight differences in the number of occurrences. For instance, Introduction, Methodology, and Product have high numbers of occurrences in the corpora, while terms of saliency, Introduction and Purpose are both considered conventional moves in both corpora. Structure-wise, from SINTA 1 journals, the abstracts are predominantly composed of all five moves, although there are several cases where the abstracts consist of four moves. Moreover, the majority of the abstracts are structured following the order of Introduction, Purpose, Methodology, Product, and finally Conclusion. On the other hand, there are fewer SINTA 4 abstracts that utilize all the five moves. Many of the abstracts consisted of four moves.

Taking into consideration the rhetorical move occurrence, salience, and structure pattern identified from the analysis, it can be said that the journal's ranking does not entirely

affect the realization of rhetorical moves. However, it might have a considerable impact on the manifestation of the abstract's structural pattern itself. While Journal A (SINTA 1) and Journal B (SINTA 4) seem to emphasize presenting their Introduction, Methodology, and Product in their abstracts, authors of abstracts from SINTA 1 journal tend to present more complete information about their study in the abstracts based on Hyland's (2004) five-move framework, compared to authors of abstracts from SINTA 4 journal. The factors at play in this might be the different requirements imposed by the journals, such as word limitations for the abstracts. Another factor at play could be the journal's reference and requirements themselves: they may impose different requirements and expectations for content to be included in the abstract, thus resulting in the abstracts of Journal A and Journal B being arranged in different structures and consisting of different numbers of moves.

While many existing studies have focused on analyzing rhetorical moves in academic writing based on the fields, language, and other determining factors, this study offers an insight into rhetorical move arrangement, specifically in research abstracts, from a new perspective: the publishing journal's SINTA rankings. By doing so, this study provides more insight into how researchers, especially within the Indonesian publishing scene, prefer to arrange their research abstracts to represent their research articles. However, since this study involved a small pool of data obtained from only one field, the findings only reflect a fraction of the rhetorical move realization, specifically within the Indonesian Applied Linguistics academic publication scene. Further studies involving larger amount of data from a more diverse study program may provide more profound insights into how the journal SINTA ranking correlates to the quality of research article abstracts.

References

- Al-Najhi, A., & Samaha, H. (2023). Capture to Communicate: Rhetorical Move 1 in the Abstracts of Hard and Soft Science Post-Graduate Dissertations (SSRN Scholarly Paper No. 4593920). *Social Science Research Network*.
<https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4593920>
- Al-Zubi, D., & Fareh, S. (2023). English and Arabic abstracts in medical research articles: A contrastive study. *Cogent Arts & Humanities*, 10(2), 2273602.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2023.2273602>
- Amnuai, W. (2019). Analyses of Rhetorical Moves and Linguistic Realizations in Accounting Research Article Abstracts Published in International and Thai-Based Journals. *Sage Open*, 9(1), 2158244018822384.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/2158244018822384>
- Bhatia, V. K. (1993). *Analysing Genre*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315844992>
- Cross, C., & Oppenheim, C. (2006). A genre analysis of scientific abstracts. *Journal of Documentation*, 62(4), 428–446. <https://doi.org/10.1108/00220410610700953>
- Dörnyei, Z. (2007). *Research methods in applied linguistics: Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methodologies*. Oxford University Press.
- Firdausyiah, Z. S., Hermawan, B., & Muniroh, D. D. (2021). An Analysis of Rhetorical Move and Translation Techniques in Undergraduate Thesis Abstracts Written in Two Languages. *JOALL (Journal of Applied Linguistics and Literature)*, 6(2), 290–306.

- Hyland, K. (2004). *Disciplinary discourses: Social interactions in academic writing* (Michigan classics ed). University of Michigan Press.
- Indonesian Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology. (n.d.). *SINTA - Science and Technology Index* [Portal]. Retrieved January 14, 2025, from <https://sinta.kemdikbud.go.id/>
- Kanoksilapatham, B. (2005). Rhetorical structure of biochemistry research articles. *English for Specific Purposes*, 24(3), 269–292. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esp.2004.08.003>
- Khany, R., & Malmir, B. (2020). A Move-marker List: A Study of Rhetorical Move-lexis Linguistic Realizations of Research Article Abstracts in Social and Behavioural Sciences. *RELC Journal*, 51(3), 381–396. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0033688219833131>
- Khedri, M. (2022). 'This study aims to ...': Connecting metadiscoursal features and rhetorical moves in research article introductions across two disciplines. *International Review of Pragmatics*, 14(1), 45–76. <https://doi.org/10.1163/18773109-01401002>
- Koltay, T. (2010). *Abstracts and abstracting: A genre and set of skills for the twenty-first century*. Chandos.
- Kurniawan, E., Lubis, A. H., Suherdi, D., & Danuwijaya, A. A. (2019). Rhetorical Organization of Applied Linguistics Abstracts: Does Scopus Journal Quartile Matter? *GEMA Online® Journal of Language Studies*, 19(4), 184–202. <https://doi.org/10.17576/gema-2019-1904-10>
- Kurniawan, E., Nabilla, S. N., & Mauludini, Y. R. (2024). Introduction in Social Science Research Articles by Indonesian Authors: A Comparative Move Analysis. *LLT Journal: A Journal on Language and Language Teaching*, 27(1), Article 1. <https://doi.org/10.24071/llt.v27i1.8191>
- Li, X. (2020). Mediating cross-cultural differences in research article rhetorical moves in academic translation: A pilot corpus-based study of abstracts. *Lingua*, 238, 102795. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lingua.2020.102795>
- Liu, L., & Jiang, F. (Kevin). (2024). Podcasting science: Rhetorical moves and interactional metadiscourse in the *Nature* Podcast. *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, 71, 101419. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeap.2024.101419>
- Nabilla, S., Kurniawan, E., & Gunawan, W. (2021). Rhetorical move structure of soft and hard science research article introductions by novice Indonesian authors. *Bahasa Dan Seni: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, Seni, Dan Pengajarannya*, 49(2). <https://doi.org/10.17977/um015v49i22021p135>
- Pongracz, P., & Camerlink, I. (2023). Your message in pictures–Adding a graphical abstract to your paper. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, 263, 105946.
- Putri, T. D., & Kurniawan, E. (2021). Rhetorical Move and Genre Knowledge Development in Local and International Graduates' Thesis and Dissertation Abstracts. *LLT Journal: A Journal on Language and Language Teaching*, 24(2), Article 2. <https://doi.org/10.24071/llt.v24i2.3433>
- Ramadhini, T. M., Gunawan, W., & Muniroh, D. D. (2021). Rhetorical moves and genre development analysis of hard science field abstracts. *Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra*, 21(2), Article 2. https://doi.org/10.17509/bs_jpbbsp.v21i2.44631

- SCImago. (2024). *Media Rankings*. SCImago Media Rankings.
https://www.scimagomedia.com/rankings.php?country=Indonesia&edition=2024_03
- Tocalo, A. W. I. (2021). Move Structures and Their Rhetorical Verbs of Research Article Abstracts Across Englishes. *Indonesian Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 11(1), Article 1.
<https://doi.org/10.17509/ijal.v11i1.34593>
- Ye, Y. (2021). From abstracts to “60-second science” podcasts: Reformulation of scientific discourse. *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, 53, 101025.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeap.2021.101025>
- Yoon, J., & Casal, J. E. (2020). Rhetorical structure, sequence, and variation: A step-driven move analysis of applied linguistics conference abstracts. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 30(3), 462–478. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijal.12300>

Author's Biography

Zalinda Salsabilla Firdausyiah, S.S. is a Masters of Linguistics student at Universitas Gadjah Mada, whose research interests include Sociolinguistics and English for Academic Purposes.

Dr. Ni Gusti Ayu Roselani, M.A. is a lecturer of English Literature Undergraduate study program and Masters of Linguistics study program in Universitas Gadjah Mada. Her areas of expertise include language, communication and culture, applied linguistics, and educational linguistics., while her research interest is in applied linguistics.