



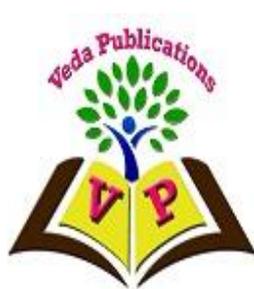
## A CORPUS-BASED ANALYSIS ON STRUCTURE OF MOVES OF THE ABSTRACTS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE SCOPUS INDEXED ARTICLES

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### ABSTRACT



Research abstracts have gained extreme importance due to the huge academic information in the world. Abstracts are important in the sense that they are used as the readers' doorway to view an article, journals' selection for contributions, and for conferences to accept or reject articles (Lores, 2004). Therefore, recent research articles are more likely to be accompanied by more and more informative abstracts that would enable them to get acceptance to internationally-recognized journals. This paper presents the move analysis of Abstract sections of three Scopus-indexed articles in social science from five high impact journals published from 2015-2017. Based on Swales' (1990, 2004) move structure model, this study aims to develop a description of the move structure in this corpus and introduce the available patterns and options. The findings of this study can help students and novice writers, especially those from non-English backgrounds to facilitate their successful acculturation into their disciplinary community. In this article, we will present five useful moves which will assist you in your future article writing adventures. Basically, these five moves were developed based on a move analysis conducted on three Scopus-indexed articles. The findings show that there are certain criteria and strategies required, in order to achieve the writing ability.

The present study employed Pho's (2008) move framework, which was adapted from Dos Santos's (1996) and Hyland's (2000) five-move pattern. According to this framework, five moves are involved: Situating the research (M1), presenting the research (M2), describing the methodology (M3), summarizing the findings (M4), and discussing the research (M5). Each move represents the



realization of a communicative purpose. In contrast to the other models, Hyland's (2000) model distinguished the writer's purpose from the introduction move, where it is often located. The sample articles were examined in terms of the type of Moves, Steps, and Sub-steps. Move can be defined as a communicative unit which carries the specific communicative purpose of a particular part of the text under study. A move may be realized by one or more subsequent elements called Steps. Prior to an attempt to analyse the texts, first, the whole articles were read to obtain a general idea about them. Identification of Moves was made on the basis of linguistic evidence and knowledge about the content of the text (Dudley-Evans, 1994; Nwogu, 1997). The identification of Moves and Steps in the corpus was done recursively. In other words, re-readings or re-analyses of any part of the RAs were carried out until the identification of the communicative units of Moves and Steps were satisfactorily done. The present study aimed at investigating the variations in the rhetorical structure of abstracts written. Four moves (Introduction, Purpose, methods, and results) were present in every abstract by all authors. These imply that all writers are aware of the importance of these moves in the abstract. The striking difference was found in the Discussion move. Some writers tend to include this one moves much more frequently compared to other writers. The findings of the present study could help writers in general in their academic writing. Hyland (2000) pointed out that the improvement of genre knowledge would help novice writers in becoming active members in their disciplinary community. Bhatia (1997) emphasizes the importance of genre analysis in providing useful information to writers by exposing them to a particular genre convention. The findings might also be a guide for writers in realizing the textual variations in terms of moves, moves' sequence, and the role of each move in the research abstract. In addition, the findings obtained from this study help authors to better understand the development occur in the RA abstracts in the Applied Linguistics field both linguistically and structurally. Through this awareness, writers will improve their opportunities to publish their research in high impact journals and discourse communities.

**Keywords:** *Move Analysis, Research Abstracts, Scopus-Indexed Articles.*