

## A COMPARATIVE RHETORICAL MOVE ANALYSIS OF LOW AND HIGH-IMPACT SOCIAL SCIENCE SCOPUS JOURNAL ARTICLES

<sup>1</sup>\*Anggia Lyana Julieta, <sup>1</sup>Eri Kurniawan, <sup>1</sup>Arif Husein Lubis

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Language and Literature Education, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia

\*Corresponding Author Email: [anggialj@upi.edu](mailto:anggialj@upi.edu)

Article Info	Abstract
<b>Article History</b> Received: August 2023 Revised: September 2023 Published: October 2023	<i>Producing research articles requires clearly, logically, rationally, and empirically substantiating complicated ideas. Regarding that, many professors struggle to have their articles published in highly regarded publications and require references; for instance, the rhetorical move pattern. Many studies have analyzed the rhetorical structure of articles, but few have investigated the rhetorical move of the research articles produced by lecturers by specifically comparing their publications in high-impact versus low-impact Scopus-indexed journals. Using a descriptive-comparative qualitative design, this study seeks to investigate the moves of low-impact and high-impact articles of the two social humanities lecturers of a state university in Indonesia. Eight articles were analyzed through the move framework proposed by Maswana (2015). The results revealed that the rhetorical moves from each section were organized with significant conformities and minor non-conformities. Especially, the authors emphasized the goals, procedures, and outcomes of the publications in the abstract section. Furthermore, the writers provided references to the existing literature and the goal of the research to assist the reader in understanding the theory applied in the papers. On the other hand, deviations from the norm are displayed in the methodology section due to variations in how the study was conducted, particularly the data processing phase. The authors' attention to conveying the research's specific findings and their significance was in the findings and discussion section. The results of this study can be used as a reference for Indonesian researchers who are striving to publish papers in international journals toward a more visible and impactful publication.</i>
<b>Keywords</b> High-impact; Low-impact; Research articles; Rhetorical move	
<b>How to cite:</b> Julieta, A. L., Kurniawan, E., & Lubis A. H. (2023). A Comparative Rhetorical Move Analysis of Low and High-Impact Social Science Scopus Journal Articles, <i>JOLLT Journal of Languages and Language Teaching</i> , 11(4), pp. 575-592. DOI: <a href="https://doi.org/10.33394/joltt.v%vi%i.8738">https://doi.org/10.33394/joltt.v%vi%i.8738</a>	

### INTRODUCTION

A fundamental aspect of higher education in Indonesia is *Tri Dharma*, which aims to create excellent and responsible human resources that can be advantageous for society, especially the nation (Chudzaifah, 2021). The three pillars are education, research, and dedication. Both educational institutions and lecturers shall perform jointly to realize the *Tri Dharma* by producing scientific journals that may redound to the development of science and industry (Sutoro, 2021). The performance of the lecturers, including their competence in conducting research, determines an institution's success (Tone et.al, 2015). Many universities in Indonesia have adapted to create regulations that may encourage the lecturers' passion for publishing articles in highly reputable journals. This is due to the

regulation of Permenristekdikti Number 20 of 2017 concerning the appeal for lecturers to increase their journal publications in highly reputable journals (Retnowati et al., 2018).

One of the factors that most affect a researchers' chances of having their work approved and published in highly reputable journals is the standard of good and acceptable articles. Therefore, research published in English has acquired fundamental importance in academia (Kanoksilapatham, 2012), and English continues to be the primary language of scholarship and research around the world (Swales, 2004). Academicians are boosted to actively conduct research and publish it in English (Kanoksilapatham, 2012). To possess the skills of writing research articles in English, scholars must be familiar with the generic structure of research articles in English. The rhetorical organization, more often known as the pattern of discourse, becomes a crucial component and one of the criteria for the quality of the article. Each component in a journal article has its own communicative purpose but is connected with other sections.

The generic structure of research articles covers an abstract, an introduction, a brief of literature review, a concise method section, results, and discussion (Coleman, 2014). Furthermore, the abstract of an internationally accepted research article is aimed at conveying the background, research aims, research methodologies, general research findings, and conclusions (Hyland, 2000). Moreover, Swales (2004) claimed that the introduction gives specifics about the issues and study areas that will be investigated, identifies gaps in earlier research, and closes with the goals for the study and a problem formulation. Furthermore, the research method involves the procedures for carrying out the study and the reason for each decision taken (Bazerman, 1988; Gladon et al., 2011). The findings and discussion section contains information on how research results are presented, how they are interpreted, how to compare study results with prior research or literature, and how to justify discussing further research results (Suherdi et al., 2020; Yang & Allison, 2003). Lastly, the conclusions should contain the overall study's conclusion, an evaluation of the study's significance and limitations, and suggestions for further research (Moreno & Swales, 2018; Yang & Allison, 2003).

To comprehend the generic structure of research articles, genre awareness has a role in it. Devitt (2004) defines genre awareness as "a critical understanding of both rhetorical objectives and ideological repercussions of generic forms" (p. 192). Devitt suggested that genre awareness can help scholars approach new genres effectively and can increase their rhetorical comprehension of specific genres. Genre awareness in discourse patterns in the text of articles can determine the success of publication in international journals (Fazilatfar & Naseri, 2014). Thus, if scholars have understanding of the generic structure of research articles, it indicates that they are skilled at producing academic writing.

Nevertheless, despite the fact that there are several guideline books (e.g., Wallwork, 2016) and training books (e.g., Swales & Feak, 2000; Wallwork, 2013) for writing RA, many lecturers still struggle with writing them. Only a select few of them, though, are competent to publish their RA in highly regarded journals because producing research articles requires clearly, logically, rationally, and empirically substantiating complicated ideas. It is an advanced literacy assignment that demands proficiency (Fang, 2021). Both English speakers and non-speakers still struggle to learn applicable language structures and styles of research articles. Thus, their understanding of these two topics is still insufficient (Amnuai, 2017; Ren & Li, 2011; Wannaruk & Amnuai, 2016). As a result, many articles were not accepted by highly reputable journals. It is necessary to make effort to solve this issue.

Discourse pattern analysis may offer a way to identify the acceptable format for articles published in reputable journals. Swales (1981) popularized discourse pattern analysis under the concept of genre analysis in journal article introduction. He then continued this work in the abstract section in 1990. Discourse pattern analysis involves a study of the rhetorical structure and the language elements that form the communicative purpose of the rhetorical structure. The potential for analyzing discourse patterns lies in the focus of studies that explore variations in the rhetorical organization of particular genres so that researchers can portray the quality of acceptable articles in reputable journals. As a result, the findings of the study may be an evaluation of the academicians to help them improve their knowledge of article writing. Therefore, moves and steps are the primary components of the discourse pattern (Swales, 2004). His initiative led to the emergence of several researchers who work in the field of genre analysis using discourse pattern analysis.

There have been numerous previous studies that have analyzed the rhetorical structure of research articles, starting from abstract discourse patterns (Fauzan et al., 2020; Kaya & Yağız, 2020; Kurniawan, et al., 2019); introductions (Kanoksilapatham, 2007; Lu et al., 2021; Luthfianda et al., 2021; Nabilla et al., 2021); literature reviews (Rabie & Boraie, 2021; Soler-Monreal, 2015); methods (Bruce, 2008; Musa, Khamis, & Zanariah, 2015); findings and discussions (Lubis, 2019; Suherdi et al., 2020). There has been numerous research on move analysis conducted, but there has not been much study on motion analysis from the abstract to the conclusion part. The first piece of research that the research team found came from a study by Kanoksilapatham in 2005 that looked at the discourse patterns of 60 research publications in the field of biochemistry. Maswana et al. (2015) conducted the second in-depth investigation. They compared and contrasted the discourse patterns of 67 research publications from 5 engineering subdisciplines. The authors then discovered that none of the text groups had the general discourse pattern. This is because each set of texts is unique and has a particular purpose.

Furthermore, Ye (2019) has examined the rhetorical move used in the most cited engineering research articles. However, much still needs to be investigated on the rhetorical move in social humanities research articles. To fill the gap, this research aims to analyze RA indexed in highly reputable journals produced by two highly reputable professors in the social humanities field. In essence, measuring a journal's metrics— aspects that indicate its contribution—leads to the determination of its reputation in the scientific community. Hence, a scientific journal's indexation status might provide insight into its reputation (Erfanmanesh et al., 2017). Worldwide, Scopus Elsevier B.V. and Web of Science Clarivate Analytics are the two prominent organizations that index journals. In the field of scientific publishing, journals with a solid reputation can be considered to be those that are indexed by one or both of these organizations. This motivates the researcher to conduct the research in highly reputable journals.

Because of the lack of research conducted in rhetorical move analysis from abstract to conclusion, the present research observed the rhetorical move analysis of articles written by highly reputable lecturers from abstract to conclusion. Besides, this article also compared the low and high-impact articles chosen. A number of citations may be used as a measure of the impact of research articles because it is the simplest and most straightforward one (Li & Yin, 2022). The findings will show the evidence and model discourse patterns of RA in the social humanities field written by highly reputable professors. As a result, this research will motivate the lecturers to increase their

productivity in writing RA. Based on the background research, this research would explain the two research questions as follows.

1. How is the manifestation of the rhetorical structure of low-impact and high-impact social humanities research articles indexed in highly reputable journals?
2. How does the rhetorical structure of research articles differ according to their impacts?

This article consisted of the following vital aspects; introduction, method, findings, discussion, and conclusion. The introductory part presented the study's background and problems. Besides, the methodology part showed the research design, subject, corpus, data collection method, instrument, data analysis procedure, and inter-coder reliability. The findings section presented the findings in the form of tables and discussed in the discussion section. Lastly, the conclusion part showed the summary of the study, the research significance, the research limitations, and suggestions for future research.

## RESEARCH METHOD

Using purposive sampling, the researcher chose 8 articles from highly reputable journals written by 2 lecturers from a state university in Indonesia. The researcher used Google Scholar as the source of the articles, by looking at the lecturers' profiles. Articles with low citations are classified as low-impact articles, while articles with higher citations are classified as high-impact articles. Moreover, the criteria of the sample are journals indexed in Scopus. Low-impact journals are those included in Q3 to Q4 in Scopus, while high-impact journals are those included in Q2 to Q1 in Scopus.

### Research Design

This research employed descriptive-comparative qualitative design by analyzing and comparing the chosen articles. This is consistent with the goal of the research, which is to examine the discourse patterns of English articles produced by lecturers with different impact factors as well as to define the structure of the discourse patterns of those articles. Specifically, the manifestation of the rhetorical structure of the articles, from abstract to conclusion, was analyzed. Moreover, the articles from low and high impact are also compared. This study has three primary steps to provide the best outcomes. Using Google Scholar, the researcher gathered articles data based on the number of citations. The researcher utilized Scopus to evaluate a journal's reputation. The second stage was the textual analysis of research articles produced by professors with a high-impact factor. The final step was collecting the authors' data through in-depth interviews.

### Subject

The current study entangled two professors of a state university in Indonesia that have high reputations from reputable indexing institutions. The researcher employed a number of criteria to choose the participants in order to get the best and most representative results that could be used as a model of acceptable English-language article discourse patterns: 1) possess the highest H-index Scopus in the field of social humanities, 2) remain employed by the university as lecturers. Eventually, the researcher chose two highly reputable social humanities lecturers from a state university in Indonesia with H-Index 7 and 9 in Scopus.

## Corpus

Table 1  
Low and High-Impact Research Articles from Highly Reputable Journals

Research article no.	Publication Year	Subdisciplines	Number of Citation (Google Scholar)
1	2017	Social Study Education	77
2	2018	Social Study Education	63
3	2017	Social Study Education	15
4	2018	Social Study Education	7
5	2019	Social Science	19
6	2021	Social Science	11
7	2019	Social Science	6
8	2022	Social Science	3

The researcher chose eight articles from reputable journals that are indexed in Scopus. The chosen articles were articles of whom participants as the first author of the articles. This was done to ensure that the participants wrote the paper themselves. The following six international journals were chosen: International Journal of Instruction (Q2), Journal of Southwest Jiaotong University (Q2), Tourism (Q1), New Educational Review (Q3), Research in World Economy, and Sustainability (Q1). One journal article was discontinued, but because the researcher could not discover any article from the reputable journal, thus it was nevertheless utilized.

## Instruments and Data Analysis

In analyzing the rhetorical structure of the research articles, Maswana's (2015) model of move analysis of research articles was adopted (see Appendix). Each of the communicative purposes from each research article was analyzed. Researchers follow the steps proposed by Kanoksilapatham (2007, p. 34). The first stage was to read and conduct a preliminary analysis on one of the articles so that the researcher could have a general idea of the discourse pattern that was present in each section of the text. This study chose to analyze communicative purpose as the unit of analysis and gave color to the selected ones to indicate the move. The second stage was to analyze the articles using the trial findings as a guide by highlighting first the communicative purpose in the article then moving it to the table in the excel (see Table 2). After that, the researcher labeled each communicative purpose according to its step, and classified it according to its move. The third phase involves the researcher summarizing the findings from the entire study to identify trends in the similarities and distinctions that emerge among the articles in the group.

Table 2  
Example of Table Analysis

RA No. 5	Label (Step-based)	Classification (Move-based)
This study was <b>aimed to investigate</b> dominant factors of participants' outdoor recreation motivation and its influence on outdoor activity preferences.	Purpose	Move a (Step 2)
<b>Most studies on tourist motivations</b> are focusing on its influence on destination choice but lesson activity preferences.	Reference to limitations of previous research	Move 2 (Step 2)
<b>This study is important from a practical point of view</b> since it will allow management to provide a variety of activities for their visitors. Moreover, <b>they can also improve</b> the facilities that support those activities. [...]	Reference to main research procedure and outcome	Move 3 (Step 2)
<b>Direct questionnaires</b> were distributed to all hikers in both mountains on the weekends (Saturday and Sunday), for the total of <b>200 sets</b> . [...]	Indicating data collection procedure	Move 4 (Step 4)
<b>Table 3 also shows that</b> the estimation results for all research variables has coefficient values (CR) above the minimum limit of 0.70.	Stating specific findings	Move 7 (Step 4)
<b>This means that</b> the indicators of all variables were reliable in measuring each variable in this study. <b>Therefore it can be concluded that</b> the measurement model meets the criteria for the congeneric measurement model. [...]	Interpreting results	Move 8 (Step 1)
<b>Research showed</b> that outdoor recreation motivation influenced activity preferences. It demonstrated that motivation will determine what kind of activity to be done. The more frequent the hikers hike, the more specific the activity that they do. [...]	Stating a specific outcome	Move b (Step 1)

### Inter Coder Reliability

Inter-coder was used to validate the outcome of the study. Two lecturers with expertise in languages and move analysis served as the coder. The process of inter-coder was conducted while the process of re-examining moves. The same coder who was involved in defining the rhetorical movements and steps independently coded the rhetorical strategies of specific research papers. The purpose of choosing the same coder throughout the main analytic procedure was to assess the consistency of agreement between the rater and the researchers. To decide which move and/or step labels should be utilized and provided, a discussion with the coder was performed.

### RESEACH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section demonstrates the salience of moves and steps in every section of the research articles starting from the abstract to the discussion section; the data are represented in the tables. Salience refers to the number of moves and steps that are featured in the research articles.

## Research Findings

### The Abstract Section

Table 3  
The Salience of Moves and Steps in the Abstract Section

Move/Step	Low-Impact Articles (N=4)		High-Impact Articles (N=4)	
	Featuring	Percentage	Featuring	Percentage
a1	-	-	1	25%
a2	4	100%	4	100%
a3	4	100%	4	100%
a4	4	100%	4	100%
a5	2	50%	1	25%

### The Introduction Section

Table 4  
The Salience of Moves and Steps in the Introduction Section

Move/Step	Low-Impact Articles (N=4)		High-Impact Articles (N=4)	
	Featuring	Percentage	Featuring	Percentage
11	4	100%	4	100%
12	2	50%	3	75%
21	2	50%	4	100%
22	-	-	2	50%
31	4	100%	4	100%
32	2	50%	2	50%

### The Method Section

Table 5  
The Salience of Moves and Steps in the Method Section

Move/Step	Low-Impact Articles (N=4)		High-Impact Articles (N=4)	
	Featuring	Percentage	Featuring	Percentage
41	3	75%	4	100%
42	2	50%	4	100%

43	2	50%	1	25%
44	4	100%	4	100%
45	3	75%	2	50%
51	-	-	-	-
52	-	-	1	25%
53	-	-	1	25%
61	-	-	-	-
62	-	-	-	-
63	3	75%	4	100%
64	-	-	1	25%

## The Findings Section

Table 6  
The Salience of Moves and Steps in the Findings Section

Move/Step	Low-Impact Articles (N=4)		High-Impact Articles (N=4)	
	Featuring	Percentage	Featuring	Percentage
71	1	25%	1	25%
72	-	-	-	-
73	3	75%	2	50%
74	3	75%	4	100%
81	1	25%	1	25%
82	-	-	2	50%
83	-	-	-	-

## The Discussion (Conclusion) Section

Table 7  
Salience of Moves and Steps in the Discussion (Conclusion) Section

Move/Step	Low-Impact Articles (N=4)		High-Impact Articles (N=4)	
	Featuring	Percentage	Featuring	Percentage
91	4	100%	4	100%



b1	4	100%	4	100%
b2	4	100%	3	75%
b3	3	75%	2	50%
b4	1	25%	2	50%
b5	2	50%	2	50%
c1	3	75%	3	75%
c2	2	50%	1	25%

## Discussion

This section aims to address two research questions: (1) how is the rhetorical structure of low-impact and high-impact social humanities research articles indexed in highly reputable journals? (2) how does the rhetorical structure of research articles differ according to their impacts? The analysis result shows the manifestation of rhetorical moves in low and high-impact articles.

### The Abstract Section

Conformities appeared in how the authors carried out the abstract section. They had a similar way to construct it. Interestingly there was little distinction between abstracts in low and high-impact articles as shown in Table 3. Move a, Step 1 (background research) was not manifested in low-impact articles but least performed in high-impact articles.

#### Example 1:

**Move a, Step 1:** *Hiking is one of sport tourism activities popular in Indonesia, especially in West Java Province. It's not only favored by professionals but also amateurs who are eagerly to spend their leisure time outdoors.*

This is in contrast to Hyland's (2000) assumption that authors in the soft disciplines must work harder to communicate to readers the context of their study and to rhetorically establish its relevance due to the lack of community members' involvement in the field. The same case occurred in Move a, Step 5 (conclusion).

#### Example 2:

**Move a, Step 5:** *Understanding the dynamic impacts of the pandemic will offer insights for the culinary tourism industry and the government in the development of relevant policies to alleviate those impacts and protect the culinary tourism industry in the 'new normal' post-pandemic era.*

It was last performed in high-impact articles but more emphasized in low-impact articles. This is in line with the findings of prior research by Hyland (2000), which indicated that conclusions seemed to be optional in all fields. In addition, some results are similar to the previous study conducted by Ahmed (2015). Move a, Step 2 (purpose); Move a, Step 3 (method); and Move a, Step 4 (results) became the most manifested moves and steps in the abstract section from each impact article.

**Example 3:**

**Move a, Step 2:** *This study aims to develop and examine a civic education textbook model based on living values education in order to foster the development of junior high school students' characters.* **Move a, Step 3:** *The data were collected through semi-structured interviews of 20 street food vendors and later analyzed using qualitative data analysis, focusing on the thematic analysis of coded interview transcripts, as a basis for generalization of our findings.* **Move a, Step 4:** *Results showed that achievement, learning and sociality, independent and personal development, and relaxation formed outdoor activity motivation [...].*

According to him, the researchers may have thought that other moves (Move a, Step 2; Move a, Step 3; Move a, Step 4) were more significant than Move a, Step 1 and Move a, Step 5 for this reason. This could also happen because the least manifested two moves and steps are sought in the research.

**The Introduction Section**

We can see from Table 4 that the manifestation of move and steps in the introduction section shows more distinction rather than in the abstract section. If we see the similarity first, two moves and steps became the most performed in the introduction section in both low and high-impact articles: Move 1, Step 1 (reference to established knowledge in the field) and Move 3, Step 1 (reference to research purpose).

**Example 4:**

**Move 1, Step 1:** *Bandung is the capital city of West Java Province, Indonesia. It has plenty of tourist attractions ranging from cultural, heritage to shopping attractions.* **Move 3, Step 1:** *This study is to describe a model of living values education-based Civic Education Textbook and its impact on the character development of student.*

The results are aligned with the objectives of the introduction, which include establishing the relevance of a research study provided in the literature, claiming its uniqueness, and presenting the study's key features (Swales, 1990). Another one is Move 2, Step 1 (reference to previous research).

**Example 5:**

**Move 2, Step 1:** *Many studies have investigated the concept of dynamic capabilities. Specific within the food and beverage industry, Duarte Alonso et al. [...]*

However, it was only the most manifested in high-impact articles and less manifested in low-impact articles. This finding is identical to the findings of the previous study conducted by Kanoksilapatham (2012). The differences revealed in some other evidence: Move 1, Step 2; Move 2, Step 2; and Move 3, Step 2.

**Example 6:**

**Move 1, Step 2:** *This is because the integration process of character development in civic learning has not been optimal, including the components of learning media as one of the instrumental inputs.* **Move 2, Step 2:** *Most studies on tourist motivations are focusing on its influence on destination choice but less on activity preferences.* **Move 3, Step 2:** *This study is important from a practical point of view since it will allow management to provide a variety of activities for their visitors.*

First, Move 1, Step 2 (reference to main research problems) was less manifested in low-impact articles. However, it was more emphasized in high-impact articles. In contrast, the authors did not pay considerable attention to Move 2, Step 2 (reference to limitations of previous research). It was not manifested at all in low-impact articles. It did, however, appear in high-impact articles. This is in line with the findings of previous research conducted by Lu et al. (2021). The last is Move 3, Step 2 (reference to main research procedure and outcome), which was less performed in both low and high-impact articles. This result is in accordance with that of prior research by Sheldon (2011), and as stated by Swales (2004), the outcome is a step that seems to be optional in the introduction section.

### The Methodology Section

Based on Table 5, the moves and steps manifested varied in low and high-impact articles. This may have occurred due to the author's adoption of a variety of research methods. Some of the articles were qualitative and some of them were quantitative. Move 4 (identifying source of data and method adopted in collecting them) was the most manifested move in the method section because these two fundamental concepts will both be covered in the method section.

#### Example 7:

**Move 4, Step 1:** *The research took place in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia. Participants in the study were students of Junior High School (SMP) and Senior High School (SMA), teachers of Citizenship Education as practitioners, and lecturers who are experts in materials and multimedia civic education.* **Move 4, Step 2:** *There are 125 corporates as our respondents.* **Move 4, Step 4:** *We adopted purposive sampling, i.e., a small number of people “nested in their context and studied in-depth” and “not wholly pre-specified but can evolve” [33]. The interviews were conducted from April 2020 to July 2021. [...]*

Furthermore, Move 4, Step 4 (indicating data collection procedure) became the most manifested move and step in both low and high-impact articles. It happened because most of the articles employed qualitative methods. Move 4, Step 1 (indicating source of data) and Move 4, Step 2 (indicating data size) were also most manifested in high-impact articles but less manifested in low-impact articles. However, the writers did not pay much attention to Move 4, Step 3 (indicating criteria for data collection) and Move 4, Step 5 (providing background details about the study is going to analyze) because they were less manifested in low and high-impact articles.

#### Example 8:

**Move 5, Step 2:** *Experimental class was treated by living values education-based Civic Education textbook that developed by the researcher and control class was treated by conventional civic education textbook commonly used in schools (the book is published by government or private publishers that are material-oriented).* **Move 5, Step 3:** *Based on the test, instruments of attitude scale were valid with coefficient of correlation bigger than 0.404 ( $r$  table) and have coefficient of alpha reliability  $0.794 > 0.600$  indicates the instrument is reliable.*

In contrast, Move 5 (describing experimental procedures) was not manifested at all in low-impact articles. However, it is manifested in high-impact articles. As shown in table 5, Move 5, Step 2 (recounting experimental process) and Move 5, Step 3 (indicating criteria for success) were least manifested in high-impact articles. This arose because the

majority of the articles employed qualitative research methods, which made experimental processes not manifested. Besides, the field is also social humanities.

**Example 9:**

**Move 6, Step 3:** *Based on the results of the significance test, the estimated coefficient of loading factor from all of the items had a significance level below 0.05, meaning that each item had adequate validity in measuring each research variable (see Figure 3).*

**Move 6, Step 4:** *However, there was one item whose value was below the standardised value, namely SM2 where the value was -0.132. This indicates that the item was not reliable in measuring the variable being studied, so it had to be removed from the model.*

In addition, Move 6, Step 1 (defining terminologies) and Move 6, Step 2 (indicating process of data classification) were not performed at all in both low and high-impact articles. Move 6, Step 4 (indicating modification to instrument and procedure) also did not manifest at all in low-impact articles but found in high-impact articles. In contrast, Move 6, Step 3 (identifying analytical instrument and procedure) was the most performed in high-impact articles, but less in low-impact articles.

### The Findings Section

Some research articles included the findings and discussion sections, while others had them separately. This was a result of the journal institute's regulations. Nevertheless, the low and high-impact articles had similar rhetorical organization of the findings section.

**Example 10:**

**Move 7, Step 1:** *Descriptive statistics is used to analyze who the respondents are. It includes type of company, origin, career position, as well as source of information other than website. The first characteristic of respondent is based on the type of company. [...]*

**Move 8, Step 1:** *The data shown above is inline with providers' target market for those who are from outside of Bandung. Moreover, companies coming from outside of Bandung not only do the off road adventure, but also do other activities in Bandung such as shopping, culinary, etc. [...]*

First, Move 7, Step 2 (restating research questions) was not manifested in both low and high-impact articles because the authors did not address research questions in their articles. The same case also occurred in Move 8, Step 3 (evaluating results or research), which was not performed in both articles. This arises because most authors separate the results and discussion sections, leaving them to solely present their findings in the findings section and explain it in the discussion section. The same case was found in Move 7, Step 1 (restating data analysis procedures) and Move 8, Step 1 (interpreting results). Both moves and steps were least manifested in low and high-impact articles.

**Example 11:**

**Move 7, Step 3:** *Table 3 shows that from the total of 125 companies, decision making is vary between one company to another, in choosing off road adventure service provider. This could be made directly by the top management, pass over to the head of division, or even to their staff. [...]* **Move 7, Step 4:** *Table 2 showed that respondents are coming from many regions. 49 companies or 36,2% are originally from Bandung while the rest, 76 companies or 60,8%, are from outside of Bandung, such as Jakarta, Bekasi, Bogor, or even from other islands.* **Move 8, Step 2:** *[...] Camping was also mentioned as one of the activities they liked doing while hiking although not many hikers did that and hiking alone was the activity, they preferred the least. This finding was different from previous studies*

[29], [30], [24], [13] which focused not only on outdoor activities but also on cultural and entertainment activities.

In the findings sections, the authors paid more attention to Move 7, Step 3 (stating general findings) and Move 7, Step 4 (stating specific findings). In addition, Move 8, Step 2 (comparing results with previous studies) was not manifested in low-impact articles but was more emphasized in high-impact articles. As Farley (2018) examined, this may occur. He said that while explaining the contradictory findings between their research and earlier research, the majority of Indonesian writers do not offer any justification. He continues by saying that they seldom back them up with references to earlier studies.

### The Conclusion Section

As shown in Table 7, there was little distinction between the discussion (conclusion) section in low and high-impact articles. Move 9, Step 1 (stating the main results and significance) and Move b, Step 1 (stating a specific outcome) became the most manifested moves and steps in both low and high-impact articles.

#### Example 13:

**Move 9, Step 1:** *The use of living values education-based Civic Education textbook significantly impacts the development of junior high school students' character. Move b, Step 1:* *First, interactive multimedia as a computer-based multimedia becomes increasingly important in the digital era, because multimedia systems consisting of components of the media (text, images, graphics, animation, audio and video) are designed to complement each other so that it becomes a useful and efficient system, in which the whole is greater than the sum of its part) (Hackbarth, S, 1996).*

This is compatible with research by Sabet and Kazempouri (2015), which discovered that the reporting of results move was obligatory in the 60 discussion sections of articles published in Iranian local and international ESP journals. This, however, contradicts earlier findings (Amnuai & Wannaruk, 2013; Suherdi et al., 2020). Amnuai and Wannaruk (2013) analyzed the use of rhetorical strategies in 30 discussion sections from Thai journals and international journals. They discovered that both sets of journals had conventional reporting findings.

#### Example 14:

**Move b, Step 2:** *It can be concluded that search options is considered to be the most useful "tools" in web site navigational design. Majority of respondents use web site to find information on service provided. Therefore, they will concentrate on how to get the information, mostly by using the search options. Move b, Step 4:* *Our findings are consistent with research of Boateng & Dzisi [65] who emphasized that communication and coordination between business owners and customers, resellers, and suppliers can help fix errors that occur so that repairs can be made as soon as possible. [...]*

Move b, Step 2 (interpreting the outcome) also became most manifested in low-impact articles, but less performed in high-impact articles. This is compatible with Jin's (2017) findings concerning his study of a rhetorical move in a research article discussion. He observed that the explanation/interpretation of findings is the most frequent. The frequency of this step supports Basturkmen's (2012) claim that "explanation/interpretation" was the rhetorical stage that researchers commonly used to comment on their findings. Differences found in Move b, Step 4 (contrasting present and previous outcomes). It was less manifested in high-impact journals, and even least

manifested in low-impact journals. This tendency results from the fact that high-quality researchers are knowledgeable about the theories and applicable studies in their area and are able to compare their findings with earlier studies as a consequence of years of rigorous and comprehensive participation in the study issue (Jin, 2017).

**Example 15:**

**Move b, Step 3:** *The book is an innovation in providing quality learning resources, especially in developing the character of the students.* **Move b, Step 5:** *[...] Despite the new insights, our study is limited in terms of the number of street vendor samples that we interviewed. This is mainly to do with the fact that the pandemic itself constrained our accessibility to those vendors. As our work has had to adhere to the local government's COVID-19 protocols, we have had no choice but to focus on collecting data post-pandemic.*

If we compare Move b, Step 3 (indicating significance of the outcome) and Move b, Step 5 (indicating limitations of outcomes). Both of them were less manifested in low and high-impact articles, except Move b, Step 3 in low-impact articles, which was more manifested. Despite the fact that both of the moves and steps were not as obvious, the authors of articles with low and high-impact both acknowledged the limits and significance of their findings. They are portrayed as rigorous researchers with deep subject knowledge in their studies since they are aware of the strengths and weaknesses of their own research (Jin, 2017).

**Examples:**

**Move c, Step 1:** *The book is expected to be used as a learning resource in civic education in fostering students' character. This LVE-based civic textbook is an innovation in the provision of quality learning resources, particularly in developing students' character. The book is expected to be used by students and teachers as a learning resource in civic education at junior high school in Indonesia.* **Move c, Step 2:** *Further study needs to include other promotional tools or make a comparison between online and offline promotional tools that influence decision to choose. This study is a B2B study where the sample is business market, in this case companies. Further study could focus on B2C, where the sample is individual consumer. It might bring a different result.*

Move c, Step 1 (indicating research implications) manifested frequently in both low and high-impact articles. In contrast, Move c, Step 2 (promoting further research). It was last manifested in high-impact articles, but more emphasized in low-impact articles. It shows the authors' concern in making recommendations for more research in an increasingly competitive world of research.

The results of the article strengthen Maswana's (2015) genre analysis approach of demonstrating rhetorical organization in the social humanities field. Besides, this article also completes some previous studies of rhetorical move analysis in the abstracts (Fauzan et al., 2020; Kaya & Yağız, 2020; Kurniawan, et al., 2019); introductions (Kanoksilapatham, 2007; Lu, Yoon, & Kisselev, 2021; Luthfianda et al., 2021; Nabilla et al., 2021); literature reviews (Rabie & Boraie, 2021; Soler-Monreal, 2015); methods (Bruce, 2008; Musa et al., 2015); findings and discussions (Lubis, 2019; Suherdi et al., 2020). Moreover, this study might serve as a guide for researchers in Indonesia who are striving to produce more visible and impactful research articles. The number of journal publications in Indonesia might be increased in this way.

## CONCLUSION

This study demystifies two research questions regarding the manifestation of rhetorical moves in low and high-impact articles from Scopus-indexed journals, and how they differ according to the impacts. The results revealed significant conformities and slight non-conformities in how the rhetorical moves from each section were organized (e.g., random patterns or missing steps). Conformities are shown in each section. In the abstract section, the authors put their focus on attracting the readers to read the articles by showing them how the articles would be. Additionally, to help the reader grasp the theory employed in the articles, research publications frequently included existing knowledge on the topic in the introductory part. In contrast, non-conformities are shown in the method section because of the differences in carrying out the method of the research, especially the data analysis part. As for the findings and discussion, the authors focused on reporting the results of the research.

These findings can assist researchers who are involved in academic reading or writing for international publications in social humanities fields. However, only writers from one university were investigated in this study; other universities should be included in further studies. Regardless of the fact that only one university was involved in this study, the conclusions drawn from the research articles written by the lecturers were comprehensive enough already to help readers comprehend how the rhetorical framework might affect an article's visibility, impact, or number of citations. Due to the limited corpus available, this study has only offered a case study of how Scopus-indexed authors rhetorically structure their papers in terms of moves and steps. To overcome the limits of this study's conclusions, the researcher suggests that future studies use a larger corpus. Besides just incorporating larger amounts of data in the corpus, this might also be accomplished by increasing the number of authors or the number of fields for the hard and soft sciences.

## REFERENCES

- Ahmed, S. (2015). Rhetorical organization of tourism research article abstracts. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 208, 269-281. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2015.11.203>
- Amnuai, W. (2017). The textual organization of the discussion sections of accounting research articles. *Kasetsart Journal of Social Sciences*. Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2452315117302199>.
- Amnuai, W., & Wannaruk, A. (2013). Investigating move structure of English applied linguistics research article discussions published in international and Thai journals. *English Language Teaching*, 6(2), 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.5539/elt.v6n2p1>.
- Basturkmen, H. (2012). A genre-based investigation of discussion sections of research articles in dentistry and disciplinary variation. *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, 11(2), 134-144.
- Bazerman, C. (1988). *Shaping written knowledge: The genre and activity of the experimental article in science*. The University of Wisconsin Press.
- Bruce, I. (2008). Cognitive genre structures in Methods sections of research articles: A corpus study. *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, 7(1), 38-54.
- Chudzaifah, I. (2021). Tridharma perguruan tinggi: Sinergitas akademisi dan masyarakat dalam membangun peradaban [Higher education Tridharma: Academic and

- community synergy in building civilization]. *Al-Khidmah: Jurnal Pengabdian dan Pendampingan Masyarakat*, 1(1), 79-93.
- Coleman, J. A. (2014). How to get published in English: Advice from the outgoing Editor-in-Chief. *System*, 42, 404-411. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.system.2014.01.004>.
- Devitt, A. J. (2004). *Writing genres*. Southern Illinois University Press.
- Erfanmanesh, M., Tahira, M., & Abrizah, A. (2017). The publication success of 102 nations in Scopus and the performance of their Scopus-indexed journals. *Pub Res Q*, 33, 421-432. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12109-017-9540-5>
- Fang, Z. (2021). *Demystifying academic writing: Genres, moves, skills, and strategies*. Routledge.
- Fauzan, U., Lubis, A., & Kurniawan, E. (2020). Rhetorical moves and linguistic complexity of research article abstracts in international applied linguistics journals. *The Asian ESP Journal*, 16(5.2), 219-247.
- Fazilatfar, A. M., & Naseri, Z. S. (2014). Rhetorical moves in applied linguistics articles and their corresponding Iranian writer identity. *Procedia*, 98, 489-498.
- Gladon, R., Graves, W., & Kelly, M. (2011). *Getting published in the life sciences*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Hyland, K. (2000). *Disciplinary discourses: Social interactions in academic writing*. London, UK: Longman.
- Jin, B. (2017). Rhetorical differences in research article discussion sections of high-and low-impact articles in the field of chemical engineering. *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication*, 61(1), 65-76.
- Kanoksilapatham, B. (2005). Rhetorical structure of biochemistry research articles. *English for Specific Purposes*, 24, 269-292.
- Kanoksilapatham, B. (2007). Introduction to move analysis. In D. Biber, U. Connor & T. A. Upton (Eds.), *Discourse on the move: Using corpus analysis to describe discourse structure* (pp. 23-41). Philadelphia, USA: John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Kanoksilapatham, B. (2012). Research article structure of research article introductions in three engineering subdisciplines. *IEEE Transactions on professional communication*, 55(4), 294-309.
- Kaya, F., & Yağiz, O. (2020). Move analysis of research article abstracts in the field of ELT: A comparative study. *Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies*, 16(1), 390-404.
- 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).
- Li, H., & Yin, Z. (2022). Influence of publication on university ranking: Citation, collaboration, and level of interdisciplinary research. *Journal of Librarianship and Information Science*, 1-8.
- Lu, X., Yoon, J., & Kisselev, O. (2021). Matching phrase-frames to rhetorical moves in social science research article introductions. *English for Specific Purposes*, 61, 63-83.
- Lubis, A. H. (2019). The argumentation structure of research article 'findings and discussion' sections written by Non-native English speaker novice writers: a case of Indonesian undergraduate students. *Asian Englishes*, 22(2), 143-162. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13488678.2019.1669300>.



- Luthfianda, S. N., Kurniawan, E., & Gunawan, W. (2021). Rhetorical structures of introductions in soft and hard science international journals written by Indonesian scholars. *Journal of English Language Teaching and Linguistics*, 6(2), 343-358.
- Maswana, S., Kanamaru, T., & Tajino, A. (2015). Move analysis of research articles across five engineering fields: What they share and what they do not. *Ampersand*, 2, 1-11.
- Moreno, A. I., & Swales, J. M. (2018). Strengthening move analysis methodology towards bridging the function-form gap. *English for Specific Purposes*, 50, 40-63.
- Musa, N. F., Khamis, N., & Zanariah, J. (2015). The structure of method section in Engineering research articles. *Asian Social Science*, 11(17), 74.
- Nabilla, S., Luthfianda, S. N., Suherdi, D., Kurniawan, E., Gunawan, W., & Lubis, A. H. (2021, April). How Do Novice and Experienced Indonesian Authors Rhetorically Organize Research Article Introduction?. In *Thirteenth Conference on Applied Linguistics (CONAPLIN 2020)* (pp. 502-507). Atlantis Press.
- Rabie, H., & Boraie, D. (2021). The Rhetorical Structure of Literature Reviews in Egyptian-Authored English Research Articles in Linguistics. *Asian Social Science and Humanities Research Journal (ASHREJ)*, 3(1), 55-72.
- Ren, H., & Li, Y. (2011). A comparison study on the rhetorical moves of abstracts in published research articles and master's Foreign- language theses. *English Language Teaching*, 4, 162-166.
- Retnowati, T. H., Mardapi, D., & Kartowagiran, B. (2018). Kinerja dosen di bidang penelitian dan publikasi ilmiah [Lecturer performance in research and scientific publications]. *Jurnal Akuntabilitas Manajemen Pendidikan*, 6(2), 215-225.
- Sabet, M. K., & Kazempouri, M. (2015). Generic structure of discussion sections in ESP research articles across international and Iranian journals. *Advances in Language and Literary Studies*, 6(2), 87-95.
- Sheldon, E. (2011). Rhetorical differences in RA introductions written by English L1 and L2 and Castilian Spanish L1 writers. *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, 10(4), 238-251.
- Soler-Monreal, C. (2015). Announcing one's work in PhD theses in computer science: A comparison of Move 3 in literature reviews written in English L1, English L2 and Spanish L1. *English for Specific Purposes*, 40, 27-41.
- Suherdi, D., & Kurniawan, E., & Lubis, A. H. (2020). A genre analysis of research article 'findings and discussion' sections written by Indonesian undergraduate EFL students. *Indonesian Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 10(1), 59-72.
- Sutoro, M. (2021, November). Reality of Lecturers' Performance, What's Next?. In *The 1st International Conference on Research in Social Sciences and Humanities (ICoRSH 2020)* (pp. 320-324). Atlantis Press.
- Swales, J. M. (1981). *Aspects of article introductions*. Birmingham: Aston ESP Monographs I.
- Swales, J. M. (2004) *Research genres: Explorations and applications*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Swales, J. M., & Feak, C. B. (2000). *English in today's research world: A writing guide*. The University of Michigan Press.
- Tone, K. (2015). The impact of antecedent variable on lecturer' performance as mediated by work motivation. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention*, 4(10), 54-62.
- Wallwork, A. (2013). *English for academic research: Writing exercises*. Springer.

- Wallwork, A. (2016). *English for writing research papers (2nd Ed.)*. Springer.
- Wannaruk, A., & Amnuai, W. (2016). A comparison of rhetorical move structure of applied linguistics research articles published in international and national Thai journals. *RELC Journal*, 47, 193-211.
- Yang, R., & Allison, D. (2003). Research articles in applied linguistics: Moving from results to conclusions. *English for Specific Purposes*, 22(4), 365–385. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0889-4906\(02\)00026-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0889-4906(02)00026-1)
- Ye, Y. (2019). Macrostructures and rhetorical moves in energy engineering research articles written by Chinese expert writers. *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, 38, 48-61.