

## Rhetorical Pattern in Research Article Introduction Section Written by Indonesian Authors

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### Abstract

*The purpose of this study is to describe the rhetorical patterns seen in research articles produced by Indonesian authors' introductions. This study used document analysis as a part of qualitative approach. Twenty research articles (RAs) in the introduction section that were uploaded to SINTA served as the study's data sources. Research publications in the fields of literature, linguistics, and pedagogy written by Indonesians served as the data sources. The analysis used Swales's (2004) CARS theory to understand the rhetorical structure of article introductions. The findings reveal differences in the introductions' writing styles across the examined articles. Step 3: Occupying the Niche and Step 1: Outlining the Purpose or Stating the Nature of the Research were the two most important steps in the CARS structure. 48 data points, or 50% of the total data analyzed, are included in Step 3, indicating the significance of the authors' assertions regarding the presence and applicability of their research. In the meantime, Step 1 produced 15 data points (19.2%), suggesting that authors try to clearly state the goal and subject matter of their research. Furthermore, it was found that some phases, such Step 6 Move 3: Stating the Value of the Present Research and Step 7 Move 3: showing the Structure of the Present Research Paper, were completed less frequently, showing differences in rhetorical approach. This study suggests that Indonesian authors try to be open and honest about the goal of their research while also emphasizing the importance and contribution of their work. To summarize, Indonesian writers' use of rhetoric in research paper introductions reflects an effort to promote openness and clarity in articulating the study's purpose, which is crucial for improving scientific communication*

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*and comprehension.*

**Keywords:** Rhetorical Pattern; Research Article; Introduction Section; Author.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Scientific communication, especially in the form of research articles, plays a crucial role in the development of science. Afrizon et al. (2018) Research articles are one of the academic products of higher education. One of the most noteworthy parts in an introduction is the introductory section. This section serves as an entry point for readers to understand the context of the research, the purpose of the research, and the expected research contribution of the research. Research in various disciplines has shown that the structure and writing style of the introductory section have a significant influence on the reader's understanding of the research (Bhatia et al., 2024; Mauranen, 1993). In the context of scientific writing in Indonesia, studies on rhetorical patterns in the introductory section of research articles are still relatively limited.

Writing is a productive activity in conveying information, ideas, or influencing readers. However, this will be a challenge for Indonesian writers who do not use English as their mother tongue. In order to achieve the purpose of article writing, writers must be able to compose a cohesive and coherent article structure. RahmtAllah (2020) revealed in his research that the writing problem that is often found is coherence. In addition, creating interesting and compelling writing can be a challenging task, requiring creativity and attention to the flow of the text to convey the message or idea to the reader appropriately.

A number of studies have investigated rhetorical patterns in the introductory sections of research articles, especially in the English context. Swales (1990) identified move structures in introductory passages, while Hyland (2004) analysed the use of modality in academic texts. Sujito & Muttaqien (2016) stated that EFL writing is still less coherent and comprehensive. Simanjuntak (2022) showed from the research results that articles written by native and non-native speakers have differences. In the research of Afrizon et al. (2018) gave advice to researchers to use different objects. The research conducted was a study using research articles in the introduction section written by international writers. The result of the study is that researchers found the dominant use of step 1 and step 2 in step 1. This is interesting for researchers who want to analyse research articles written by Indonesian writers.

In the context of academic research, the introduction plays a crucial role as it is the gateway that introduces the reader to the topic to be discusses. This study focuses on analysing



the introduction section of research articles written by Indonesian authors, that has also found in several scientific publications in Indonesian. First, by understanding the structure and quality of the introduction, we can evaluate how Indonesian convey the context, problem formulation, and purpose of the research. According to Swales & Feak (2004), a good introduction should be clear and informative, providing a solid foundation for the reader to understand the whole article. This is important because a good introduction can capture the reader's interest and provide a strong bases for further research. Second, this study also contributes to the development of local writers' ability to produce scientific articles that meet international standards. Hyland (2009) notes that analysing the component of academic writing can help writers improve their writing techniques, thereby improving the quality of publications produced. In addition, this analysis allows the identification of patterns and strengths that exist in the scholarly works of Indonesian writers. This serves as feedback for authors as well as educational and research institutions that seek to improve the quality of research in Indonesia (Putri et al., 2023). Finally, this research has the potential to open a wider discussion on academic writing practices in Indonesia, encouraging collaboration between authors, academics, and journal managers in an effort to increase the visibility and credibility of national scientific publications in the international arena (Jasiyah et al., 2023). Thus, the results of this study are expected to make a significant contribution to the Indonesian academic world and encourage the development of higher quality research in the future.

In this study, researchers tries to fulfil the suggestion given by Afrizon et al. (2018). They suggested that future researchers use objects that are different from their research and use their research results as a reference in conducting research. In their research, they used research articles written by international authors, therefore, this research will use the work of Indonesian authors who have published research articles in Sinta 3.

Rhetorical patterns refer to the rhetorical elements of a text to achieve certain communicative goals to influence readers. In the preparation of a scientific paper, this rhetorical pattern is very important because it can help writers in structured and coherent planning and preparation. According to Rochma et al. (2020), the use of rhetoric relates to the process of choosing because a good pattern can help readers and writers. Rahayu et al. (2022) stated that students had difficulty in writing the introduction, and there were even some parts that were not included in their writing.

This study uses a qualitative approach with a document analysis method, which focuses on research articles written by Indonesian authors, especially in the introduction section. By



referring to the CARS (Create A Research Space) theory proposed by Swales (2004), this analysis aims to identify how writers organize and present the research context, formulate the problem, and determine the research objectives. CARS underlines the importance of structure in the introduction, where the writer needs to create a convincing research space for the reader. In this study, data was collected from several articles published in scientific journals and then analysed to reveal the writing patterns and strategies used. Through this method, it is hoped that a deeper understanding of academic writing practices in Indonesia can be found and how this contributes to the quality of research produced.

In this study, a significant gap is identified in the analysis of the introduction sections of research articles written by Indonesian authors, where many of them showed a lack of coherence and comprehensiveness in the presentation of information. Previous research has shown that many authors struggle with crafting effective introductions, hindering the reader's understanding of the context, problem formulation, and purpose of the research. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to determine the rhetorical patterns found in the introduction section of research articles. By understanding the structure and quality of the introduction, we can evaluate how Indonesian writers convey the information. This research is expected to contribute to the development of local writers' ability to produce scientific articles that meet international standards. In addition, the results of this study have the potential to open a wider discussion on academic writing practices in Indonesia, as well as encourage collaboration between writers, academics, and journal managers to increase the visibility and credibility of national scientific publications in the international arena. The qualitative method with document analysis applied in this study provides deep insights and can be the first step in improving the quality of academic writing in Indonesia.

## RESEARCH METHODS

Qualitative research was used to determine the rhetorical patterns used by the author in compiling the research article, especially the introduction. Content analysis, discourse analysis, and narrative and conversational analysis are three types of qualitative research that can be used to analyse texts, according to Jackson et al. (2007), is a method for objectively analysing text that involves interpretation and theory. Content analysis can be used to analyse the content of documents, mass media, or even social media. By using this type of research design, researchers could dig up more information and gain a better understanding of the perspectives revealed in the subject being analysed. The framework the author used to conduct research to answer the research question is known as the research design. The researcher conducted qualitative research



to find out the rhetorical patterns used by Indonesian writers when writing research articles.

In this study, documents were used as data sources. Research articles published in the English Teaching Journal and Metathesis are the necessary data sources for this study. These articles were published SINTA 3, a very prestigious index system in Indonesia. The rhetorical patterns checklist was used by the researcher as a tool to help the researcher achieve the research objectives because it contained the analysis conducted by the researcher. The rhetorical patterns check list was divided into two categories, namely “yes” and “no,” so that researchers could find out the results of the writing patterns used by the authors of the research articles.

The author used the expert verification method in this study. This was a process in which the data observed by the researcher were confirmed and validated by a rhetorical pattern expert. In this process, the validator tested whether the data observed by the researcher were correct or not. the researcher designed, conducted and analysed the research by identifying the problem, creating a research model, using data collection methods, and analysing the data to produce significant conclusion and to present and interpret the results of the research process. In addition to ensuring its validity, this process provided a systematic and methodical framework in facilitating the contribution of new knowledge in the field under study.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

There are three movements in the CARS theory by Swales (2004): M1 (Movement 1: Defining the Territory), M2 (Movement 2: Defining the Niche), M2S1 (Movement 2 Step 1A: Indicating Gaps), M2S1A (Movement 2 Step 1B: Adding to what is known), M2S2 (Movement 2 Step 2: Presenting Positive Justification), M3 (Movement 3: Occupying the Niche), M3S1 (Movement 3 Step 1: Outlining the purpose or stating the nature of the study), M3S3 (Movement 3 Step 3: Clarifying Definitions), M3S4 (Movement 3 Step 4: Summarizing Methods), M3S5 (Movement 3 Step 5: Announcing Major Findings), M3S6 (Movement 3 Step 6: Stating the Value of This Research), and M3S7 (Movement 3 Step 7: Indicating the Structure of This Research Paper). The existence of movements and steps in the introduction of RAS shows the rhetorical pattern of RAS.



| Move   | Total | Moves frequency (%) |
|--------|-------|---------------------|
| Move 1 | 18    | 18,8                |
| Move 2 | 30    | 31,2                |
| Move 3 | 48    | 50                  |
| TOTAL  | 96    | 100                 |

The table shows the frequency of Move presence in the introduction section of 20RAs. However, the 96 data is the total number of Moves from 20 RAs. This does not mean that in Move there are 18 sentences showing Move 1, but rather the data shown as Move 1. Likewise, with Move 2 and 3, it does not mean that there are 30 RAs that use Move 2 and 48 RAs that use Move 3.

| Move  | Step | Total | Frequency (%) |
|-------|------|-------|---------------|
| M2    | S1A  | 10    | 12,9          |
|       | S1B  | 12    | 15,4          |
|       | S2   | 8     | 10,3          |
| M3    | S1   | 15    | 19,2          |
|       | S2   | 11    | 14,1          |
|       | S3   | 8     | 10,3          |
|       | S4   | 5     | 6,4           |
|       | S5   | 5     | 6,4           |
|       | S6   | 2     | 2,6           |
|       | S7   | 2     | 2,6           |
| TOTAL |      | 78    | 100           |

The frequency of the Step in the introduction section of the 20 RAs is shown in the table. The researcher's findings showed that there were 86 data related to the presence of Step in the 20 RAs; although 10 RAs used the Step, there were 10 data indicated as Step 1A Move 2, indicating a gap, and 12 data indicated as Step 1B Move 2 adding to what is known. There were 10.3% in Step 2 Move 2, which showed 8 data for Step 2 Move 2: Presenting Positive Justification; 19.2% in Step 1 Move 3, which showed 15 data for Step 1 Move 3: Outline the purpose the nature of the present research; and 14.1% in Step Move 3, which shoed 11 data for Step 2 Move 3: Listing

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Research Questions/Hypothesis. Moving to Step 3 shows 10.3%, which indicates that there are 8 data indicated as Step 3 Move 3: Definitional Clarifications. Moving to Step 4 shows a percentage of 6.4%, which indicates that there are 5 data found and indicated as Step 4 Move 3: Summarizing Method. Moving to Step 5 shows a frequency of 6.4 %, which indicates that there are 5 data found and is shown as Step 5 Move 3: Announcing Principal Findings.

Therefore, move 3 and Step 1 Move 3 are the most common manoeuvres, according to the data that the researchers have collected. The results of (Ramadhanty, 2022), who also discovered that movements, corroborate the researcher's conclusions. In the introduction part, they declared that Moves 1 and 3 are required. Rahayu et al. (2022) state that Moves 1 and 3 in the introduction section must be included. According to Afrizon et al. (2018), Rochma et al. (2020) and Sari et al. (2022), move 1 in the introduction section must be made. This is also consistent with their findings.

Move 3 is overwhelmingly present in the 20 RAs, indicating a great emphasis on the writing's goal. It is implied that the author is quite explicit about the goal of the study. This suggests that in appreciating the importance and urgency of the subject. This suggests that to support the research aims, the author will go into additional detail regarding the theoretical framework and methods.

The overwhelming presence of Step 1 Move 3 makes it easier for the reader to comprehend the direction and goal of the study right away. It demonstrates how the writers have effectively connected their theoretical framework to the research techniques they employed, giving their findings a solid basis. The practical aspect is to effectively convey to the reader the significance and urgency of the research, it is critical to establish a solid basis and stay focused.

According to Swales (2004), Indonesian writers are so proficient in composing RAs, particularly in writing patterns. The writer's decision to vary their writing is reflected in the forms of rhetorical pattern and frequency. Moves and steps can be employed by writers in accordance with their desires and requirements because they are not restricted to their strict use. Ramadhanty (2022) asserts that rhetorical patterns are independent of RA authors' skill levels. The authors, therefore, should operate the skill while writing the opening. In sum, the writer's identity is shaped by these diverse rhetorical patterns, which are one of their traits.

## CONCLUSION

First, to accommodate the discipline and research goals, the researchers of the 20 RAs employed a range of adaptable introductory structures. In general, the research topic, gap indication, objectives, literature review, and methodologies are still stated by the researchers.



Researchers are free to alter the sequence and focus of each component notwithstanding the broad framework of RAs. Because of this versatility, the RA authors can develop more compelling arguments that are more pertinent to their studies. To grab the reader's attention and present a stronger case, the author chooses to employ different language styles and phrase constructions. Strong arguments and a more engaging introduction to RAs can result from creative language processing. The complexity and dynamic nature of academic writing, where authors are attempting to construct compelling and pertinent arguments in addition to conveying information, are reflected in the diversity and originality of rhetorical patterns found in RAs' opening sections. By knowing the range of rhetorical patterns, authors can increase the effectiveness of academic communication and produce more relevant contributions.

Second, move 3: Occupying the Niche is the move that occurs most frequently. Of the 20 RAs examined, 15 had this move. This result indicates that several researchers were successful in filling the void in the RAs' introduction part. Move 3's prominence suggests that the writers were intent on highlighting the significance and originality of their work. Persuasive techniques including outlining the problem statement, the research's goal, logical arguments backed up by important findings, and highlighting the study's benefits are all part of this move. This aids the writers in gaining the reader's trust and capturing their interest.

Third, Step 1 Move 3: Outlining purposes or stating the nature of the existing investigation is the step that occurs the most frequently. This step's dominance demonstrates that authors frequently concentrate on stating research objectives that will aid readers in understanding the emphasis and direction of the study. This indicates that most authors try to present their findings in an open and understandable manner. As a result, the reader might identify with the author's study.

Fourth, the information gathered is limited because this study is solely focused on document analysis. This may lessen the breadth and depth of viewpoints that researchers are able to gather. Conducting interviews reveals nuanced information, profound insights, and context that would not otherwise be apparent. Therefore, this study does not look at rhetorical patterns to determine whether the introductions of RAs that have been posted to SINTA are good or terrible. The goal of this study is to identify the rhetorical devices used in RAs' introduction that are posted on SINTA.



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