

# Rhetorical Move Structures in Research Article Abstracts: A Comparative Genre Analysis of Local and International Publications

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p><b>Keywords:</b> Academic Writing, Moves Analysis, Pedagogical Contributions, Research Abstract</p> <p><b>DOI:</b> <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.21093/ijeltal.v11i1.2667">http://dx.doi.org/10.21093/ijeltal.v11i1.2667</a></p>	<p>Modern scholarship recognizes the research abstract structures in the form of academic texts as disciplinary and communicative genres (Hassan &amp; Siddique, 2026). Recognizing this complexity, and the limited study on how rhetorical patterns vary across different publication settings, this study investigates rhetorical move patterns to address common abstract writing errors identified by Hurley (2025). Employing a mixed-methods approach, the research utilizes Hyland's (2000) Move Structure Framework to analyze 200 abstracts, comparing 100 local and 100 international research abstracts from reputable international journals published. The findings reveal that Hyland's IPMRC (Introduction, Purpose, Methodology, Product/Result, Conclusion) model is the dominant pattern across both groups of local and international research abstracts. Statistical analysis identifies Purpose, Methodology, Result, and Conclusion as obligatory moves, while the Introduction remains optional. Comparative data using Log-likelihood tests shows a significant difference in move frequency. International abstracts recorded a frequency of 416 (<math>pmw=21614.88</math>), while local abstracts recorded 402 (<math>pmw=17407.12</math>). The resulting Log-likelihood value (<math>LL = 9.58, p &lt; 0.01</math>) indicates that international researchers employ rhetorical moves with significantly greater frequency and consistency than their local counterparts. Pedagogically, these results underscore the value of genre analysis in the classroom. Explicitly teaching rhetorical structures enables students to: 1) Compose well-structured, professional abstracts, 2) Benefit from refined, discourse-focused writing instruction and 3) Gain a comprehensive grasp of the broader research body. Ultimately, this study recommends that academic writing curricula explicitly integrate rhetorical move analysis to empower language learners in producing high-impact research abstracts.</p>
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## 1. Introduction

Alyousef (2021) published in his study that abstract is the gateway to a research article. When reviewing research papers, abstract is the primary section that is being examined to determine the relevance of the study. Therefore, authors need to possess a thorough understanding of the rhetorical moves and organizational conventions that underpin the construction of effective research abstracts.

Swales (2007) provided a standard length of abstract with 100 to 250 words containing the major features and findings of the study. American Psychological Association (2001) set the characteristics of the abstract such as accurate, non-evaluative, concise, coherent, and reliable. Then, Hyland (2000) established that abstract reflects the quality and worth of the research which causes bringing the attention of the reader to the research paper.

Contemporary research established that research abstracts are not just a summary of a study but an independent genre of its own in the academe. Research abstracts functioned as a vital role in communicating the essential components of the research article in a straightforward manner, by following the abstract writing conventions and by efficiently presenting the relevance and contribution of the study (Alyousef, 2021 & Tocalo, 2021). It is officially recognized that research abstracts must conform to the rhetorical conventions set in the discourse. Research abstract must effectively communicate the purpose, methodology, findings and implications of research (Pratiwi & Kurniawan, 2021; Sukhapabsuk, 2021).

Swales (1990) conceptualized that formal structure is achieved as the rhetorical moves are observed in abstract writing. Marefat et al. (2025) substantiated that Genre Analysis is very crucial in examining the complexities of research abstracts regardless of discipline. While research abstracts have garnered significant academic interest. Likewise, Hassan & Siddique (2026) emphasizes that research abstracts are structures in the form of academic texts as disciplinary and communicative genres. Tocalo (2021) findings show that the impact of Genre-based studies on moves structure of research article (RA) abstracts have established variations across cultures.

These foundational studies of Biber et al. (2007) asserted that the goal of move analysis is to illustrate the communicative purposes of given texts by classifying the organizational patterns, while Tardy (2011) pointed out that Move analysis examines the discourse level of the text focusing on the rhetorical goals and its function to achieve goals. Recent trends in research shows that move analysis serves as means to comprehensively determine the connection of the textual segments into the overall purpose and effectiveness of the genre. It only shows that the functional organization of the text is revealed through move analysis (Pratiwi & Kurniawan, 2021; Sukhapabsuk, 2021).

Moreover, A recent survey highlights how the strategic use of keywords and structured abstracts in digital databases is crucial for maximizing an article's discoverability and citation impact (Pottier et.al ,2024). Jameel (2023) details how the abstract serves as the core summary that helps jury members and journal reviewers quickly assess a manuscript's potential impact and relevance. Furthermore, abstracts serve as opening pathway for academic scholarly publications through writing a concise yet comprehensive representation of the study, enabling research reviewers to provide decision on acceptable research for publication (Tocalo, 2021; Pratiwi & Kurniawan, 2021). Petrone and Bejarano (2025) supports

that a well-written research abstracts should be given importance because it is the threshold of the study. Abstracts is the decision point for the readers to continue reading the study and for the reviewers to accept the research in the publication. It is highlighted that writing research abstract should be carefully planned, although it is written at the last part of the research writing process. It is important for the research abstract to be prominent in the competitive academic community to increase its readers, visibility and citations.

However, there are mistakes in writing research abstract (Wallwork and Southern, 2020) and the pitfalls Hurley (2025). Even in previous years, Phuong (2018) detailed the gap in the current research that studies on abstracts are under researched yet significant. Although previous research comprehensively analyzed the rhetorical move structures in research article abstracts, there are many areas that remain underexplored. First, the existing studies focused on limited context of discipline with limited analysis on how rhetorical patterns vary across different publications. Second, while previous studies emphasized rhetorical move, there are few attempts in combining the qualitative move identification and lack of statistically significant comparison of rhetorical differences of moves between local and international publications. Furthermore, this study conformed to the international discourse expectations, in which it emphasizes the global publishing in the academe that requires greater attention on how local and international scholars composed their research abstract. Therefore, this study addresses these gaps by conducting a comparative genre analysis of local and international research article abstracts through qualitative move analysis and quantitative log-likelihood analysis.

Thus, this study utilized Mixed Methods which employs Rhetorical Move Analysis as a Genre Analysis using the Move Structure Framework on Research Abstract of Hyland (2000) respond on the current trend in various field to analyze the rhetorical move of the 200 internationally published research abstracts conducted by 100 local and 100 international researchers from the reputable international journals published between 2015 and 2019 was written prior to the widespread adoption of AI-assisted writing tools, thereby allowing the analysis to focus on conventional academic writing practices; to determine the frequency of the occurrence of the moves in the research abstract; to determine the significant difference on the moves using the Log-likelihood tests, and to identify the implications and pedagogical contributions of the Move Analysis in the field of education.

### **Research Questions:**

This research on Rhetorical Move Analysis of the research abstract in international journal seeks to the answer to the following research questions:

1. What are the moves embedded in the research abstracts?
2. How frequently do the moves occur in the research abstracts?
3. Is there a significant difference on the moves of international and local research abstracts?
4. What are the implications and pedagogical contribution of the result of the move analysis?

### **Significance of the Study**

This research will have a contribution for the educators, researchers, and students in the academic community in the varying nature of genre in the different field such as:

First, the researcher would like to give light on the substantial presentation of research abstract. This study conforms on the claim of Tocalo, (2021); Pratiwi & Kurniawan, (2021) and

Petrone and Bejarano (2025) which emphasize that the analysis of conference abstracts helps investigate how academic writers offer a substantially condensed version of their research. Academic scholars are now paying interest in the standardization of different genre by executing move analysis as genre analysis.

Second, this study would like to disseminate knowledge in the local context on the rhetorical structure that abstract should follow in terms of organization. This research would like to support the claim of Hassan & Siddique (2026) which asserted that Abstract is more than just a part of the research but a genre of its own.

Third, this research would like to present the implications and pedagogical contributions of the move analysis in teaching the rhetorical structure of writing research abstract in the classroom. This study is anchored on the principle of foundational study of Biber et al. (2007) and Tardy (2011) that asserted the goal of Move Analysis as effective approach to help in understanding the text structure and with the assumption that in teaching of writing it will result into written success. Through this study, it will serve as guide in helping the writers-readers in understanding the nature of abstract as an academically complex genre.

## 2. Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on the Move Analytical Framework as a Genre Analysis. Swales (2004) defined move in genre analysis as a discourse or a rhetorical unit that act as a coherent communication function in a written or spoken discourse. Move Analysis as a category of Genre Analysis aims to examine the texts at the discourse level regarding their rhetorical goals and how they function to achieve those goals (Tardy, 2011).

Specifically, this study follows the top-down approach of Biber et al. (2007) focusing on the content of the text to determine its structure parallel with the perspectives of Schiffrin et al. (2001) categorizing the move analysis on the linguistic structure and ideological assumptions. Biber et al. (2007) make use of the steps of move identification based on the top-down approach presented as follows: First, determine the rhetorical purposes of the genre as well as the rhetorical function of each segment in its local context; the author then identified the possible moves of the genre; Second, conduct the coding with the full set of texts and checked with the intercoder, who is an expert in the field. Then, the process of move analysis was discussed with the intercoder with the set time frame. Eventually, two coders reached an agreement on the coding; and third, identify the language features as the characteristics of the moves by move analysis.

Move analysis was typically conducted as a top-down approach (where the focus is on ideas and meaning) to explore the discourse structure of texts from a genre; the text is portrayed as a sequence of 'moves', where each move displays a stretch of text serving a particular communicative purpose. The analysis frequently starts with the development of an analytical framework, identifying the move types occurring in this genre: these are the functional or communicative distinctions that move types can serve in the target genre. Also, Biber et al. (2003) also refer moves to a specific part of text that has a communicative function where length may vary and contain at least one proposition. To simplify, moves represent functional and semantic sets of texts which serve specific purposes.

Researchers in the field of applied linguistics have analyzed corpus-based moves from diverse perspectives. Schiffrin et al. (2001) established that there are three general categories for the

move analysis such as 1) language use, 2) linguistic structure, 3) the assumptions associated with the communication and language use in social practices and varying ideologies. Amongst the three fundamental approaches to move analysis, the first two put the focus on the linguistic features of texts or discourse studies of linguistic organization beyond the sentence levels of texts. Upton and Cohen (2009) stated that the move analysis as examining the set of number of texts is considered as qualitative in nature.

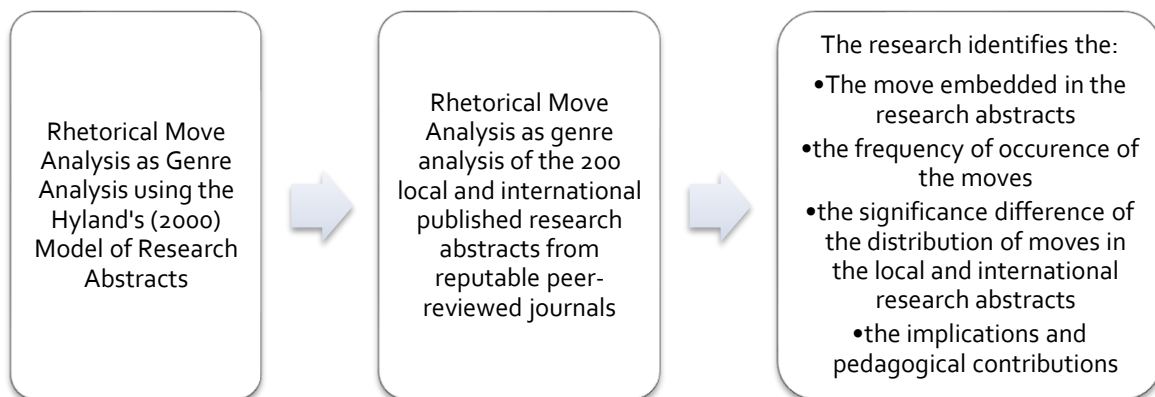
The importance of move analysis in assessing academic discourse has been given attention by the current researchers across various disciplines and publication context. Alyousef (2021) presented that research article abstracts observe identifiable rhetorical patterns for researchers to achieve both writing goals and writing expectations in a specific discipline. Similarly, Tocalo (2021) discovered that well-written abstracts across different English language research publication equally follow systematic move structures, emphasizing on the role of rhetorical organization in the academic and professional communication. Another comparative study of English and Indonesian research abstracts of Pratiwi and Kurniawan (2021) found out that move analysis represents both genre conventions and writer's knowledge of genre, paying attention to the relevance of understanding rhetorical structures in academic writing. In the same way, Sukhapabsuk (2021) reported that rhetorical moves perform as functional units that facilitate effective dissemination of research information and contribute to the overall logical structure of research abstracts. Currently, Marefat et al. (2025) agreed that continued utilization of move analysis in identifying the recurring rhetorical patterns in research abstracts and argued that it is very essential to remain move structures as indicators of effective academic communication. Collectively, these studies demonstrate the continuing relevance of move analysis as a framework for investigating the rhetorical organization of research article abstracts.

Leveraging on these theoretical and empirical foundations, the present study adopts Hyland's (2000) Five-Move Model for the analysis of research article abstracts. With the current abundance of various genre analysis frameworks, Hyland's model significantly prevails as applied and empirical approach to systematically evaluate research abstracts. Another reason is Hyland's model meet the communicative functions as criteria set by the academic writers. Today's researchers in various disciplines sustain the use of this framework on published research to analyze the rhetorical move patterns regardless of the language of the written texts (Alyousef, 2021; Pratiwi & Kurniawan, 2021; Marefat et al., 2025). Therefore, the model provides an appropriate analytical lens for comparing the rhetorical organization of local and international research article abstracts. This model is more suitable in the field of academic writers to create a well-written abstract with the 5 moves:

**Table 1:** Hyland's model of research article abstracts (adapted from Behnam & Golpour, 2014)

Moves	Functions
Introduction	Establishes context of the paper and motivates the research
Purpose	Indicates purpose, outlines the aim behind the paper
Method	Provides information on the design, procedures, data analysis, etc.
Product	Indicates results and the argument
Conclusion	Points to applications or wider implications and interpretation scope of paper

Graphically, the framework of this study using the Rhetorical Move Analysis on the Research Abstract is present below:



**Figure 1:** Research Paradigm of the Study

The Research Paradigm shows the relationship of the theory on the Rhetorical Move Analysis and the intended output of the study. The study utilized the Rhetorical Move Analysis as a Genre Analysis using the Move Structure Framework on Research Abstract of Hyland (2000). Then, two hundred (200) internationally published research abstracts conducted by one hundred (100) local and one hundred (100) international researchers from the reputable international journals between 2015 and 2019 as it was written before the widespread adoption of AI-assisted writing tools, to arrive with the embedded moves in the research abstracts, the frequency of the occurrence of the move, the significant difference of distribution of the move in local and international research abstracts and the implications and pedagogical contributions of the move analysis in teaching and learning in the classroom.

### 3. Research Methodology

#### 3.1 Research Design

This study utilized Mixed Methods which employs Rhetorical Move Analysis as a Genre Analysis using the Move Structure Framework on Research Abstract of Hyland (2000) Five-Move Model, which combines the qualitative and quantitative approaches to examine rhetorical move structures in research article abstracts. This study aims to respond on the current trend in various field to analyze the rhetorical move using the purposive sampling technique in the selection of the 200 internationally published research abstracts conducted by 100 local and 100 international researchers from the reputable international journals. The results of the move identification were then quantified through frequency counts and log-likelihood analysis to determine whether statistically significant differences existed between local and international abstracts. Thus, the qualitative analysis provided an interpretation of rhetorical functions, while the quantitative analysis established patterns of distribution and comparative significance. Finally, this study identifies the implications and pedagogical contributions of Move Analysis in the field of education.

### **3.2 Corpus of the Study**

The corpus of the study is composed of two hundred (200) internationally published research abstracts conducted by one hundred (100) local and one hundred (100) international researchers. The abstracts were selected using purposive sampling technique based on the following criteria: (1) published research articles in peer-reviewed international journals, (2) written in English, (3) belonging to the field of applied linguistics/language education, and (4) published within the 2015–2019 period.

Specifically, the "local" abstracts are research papers written strictly by Filipino researchers, who identified their professional and institutional affiliations in the Philippines, while the "international" abstracts are papers written by scholars affiliated from other countries around the world. These abstracts are published from the reputable international journals such as Asian EFL, Journal of Second Language Writing, International Journal of Languages Literature and Linguistics and Philippine ESL Journal which apply rigorous peer-review standards that ensures the academic quality and reliability of the published abstracts. The journal selection includes both internationally indexed journals and regionally grounded publications, which allows a purposeful comparison between international and local academic writing practices. This distinction is relevant in examining how rhetorical conventions vary across publication contexts and settings. Then, all the selected abstracts are written in English language for a universal understanding of its content. Also, the availability and accessibility of full abstracts across these journals enabled the balanced corpus design, which allowed suitable comparison of rhetorical move realization across two publication contexts. Moreover, the published research abstracts were categorized on the topics of Education, Language, Literature, and other similar trends from the coverage date. The data is composed of 23,094 total words for local abstracts and 19,246 total words in international abstracts.

The corpus was limited to research abstracts published between 2015 and 2019 to provide a stable and representative dataset for examining rhetorical move patterns across local and international scholars. This period was purposively selected because it was in prior to the widespread adoption of AI-assisted writing tools, thereby allowing the analysis to focus on conventional academic writing practices with authentic data.

### **3.3 Data Gathering Procedure**

The researcher collected the corpus categorized by local and international researchers, while following the set selection criteria. The corpus is coded based on the Hylands (2000) five moves of research abstract. Then, the frequency and occurrence of the move were counted and analyzed. Furthermore, the result is run through the Log-Likelihood tests. Finally, the researcher determined the implications and pedagogical contributions of move analysis observed in both local and international abstract in the Writing Instruction.

### **3.4 Data Analysis**

The researcher and the intercoder coded each abstract to identify the moves. The labeled moves are according to the model proposed by Hyland (2000) Five Move Model. Then, the researcher tallied the occurrence of the move observed in the 200 internationally published research abstracts conducted by 100 local and 100 international researchers from the reputable international journals. Then, the research validator verified the result and

interpretation of the study. The statistician analyzed the significant difference on the moves using the Log-likelihood tests. The implications and pedagogical contributions are determined on the deductions of research pertaining to making suggestions, giving recommendations, and drawing pedagogic implications.

#### 4. Result and Discussion

##### 4.1 Moves pattern embedded in the research abstracts

Despite the locality of the 200 research abstracts, it is relevant to note that local and international abstracts showed a certain degree of shared features in the rhetorical move pattern of research abstracts. As the study observed the micro analysis, it shows the comparison and contrast of the moves as observed in the local and international abstracts based on the Hyland’s (2000) model which is IPMRC (Introduction, Purpose, Methodology, Result and Conclusion). Then, presented the relevant occurrence of the moves by highlighting the most frequent to the least frequent move. Finally, the pedagogical implications are drawn from the overall result.

**Table 2:** *Moves in the local and international abstracts*

	International		Local		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
IPMRC	37	37%	29	29%	66	33 %
PMRC	31	31%	33	33%	64	32 %
IPMR	9	9%	9	9%	18	9 %
PMR	11	11%	25	25%	36	18 %
IPRC	7	7%	3	3%	10	5 %
IR	5	5%	1	1%	6	3 %
	100	100%	100	100%	200	100

In analyzing the move pattern as shown in Table 2, it turned out that the most frequent pattern in international abstracts is IPMRC pattern in the international abstracts which is equivalent to thirty-seven percent (37%). This is closely followed by PMRC pattern which is equivalent to thirty-one percent (31%). Third, the PMR pattern which is equivalent to eleven percent (11%). Fourth, the IPMR pattern which is equivalent to nine percent (9%). Fifth, the IPRC pattern which is equivalent to seven percent (7%). The least frequent is IR which is equivalent to five percent (5%).

In the local abstract the most frequent is PMRC which is equivalent to thirty-three percent (33%). This is followed by IPMRC pattern which is equivalent to twenty-nine percent (29 %). Third, the PMR which is equivalent to twenty-five (25%). Fourth, the IPMR pattern which is equivalent to nine percent (9%). Fifth, the IPRC pattern which is equivalent to three percent (3%) and least frequent is IR which is equivalent to one percent (1%).

In combining both international and local abstract, it is evident that the most frequent move pattern is IPMRC which is equivalent to thirty three percent (33%) which is closely followed by PMRC which is equivalent to thirty-two percent (32%). Third, the PMR which is equivalent to eighteen percent (18%). Fourth the IPMR pattern which is equivalent to nine percent (9%).

Fifth, the IPRC pattern which is equivalent to five percent (5%). The least frequent move pattern is IR which is equivalent to three (3%).

Findings show that IPMRC by Hyland's (2000) model is the dominant move pattern observed in both local and international abstract showing that Introduction, Purpose, Methodology, Result and Conclusion as conventional pattern of research abstract. With 1% as a minimal difference on the next move pattern (PMRC) Purpose, Methodology, Result and Conclusion. Similarly, it suggests that dropping the Introduction and retaining the Purpose, Methodology, Result and Conclusion carries the same acceptance of research abstract move pattern. However, dropping the obligatory content such as Purpose, Methodology, Result and Conclusion signifies unconventional rhetorical move pattern in the research abstract.

#### 4.2 Frequency of the moves in the research abstracts

The corpus of the study as shown in Table 3 presents the frequency of occurrence of the rhetorical moves in both international and local research abstract.

**Table 3:** *Frequency of Moves in the local and international abstracts*

	International		Local		TOTAL	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Move 1</b>	58	58%	42	42%	100	50%
<b>Move 2</b>	95	95%	99	99%	194	97%
<b>Move 3</b>	88	88%	96	96%	184	92%
<b>Move 4</b>	100	100%	100	100%	200	100%
<b>Move 5</b>	75	75%	65	65%	140	70%

The data reveals that the most frequent move is Move 4 (Result), referring to the result and summary of the study which is one hundred percent (100%). The second frequent move is Move 2 (Purpose) referring to the presentation of the goals of research which is ninety-seven percent (97%). The third frequent move is Move 3 (Methodology) referring to the presentation of information on design, procedure, data analysis etc. which is ninety-two percent (92%). The fourth frequent move is Move 5 (Conclusion) referring to the conclusion of the findings, contribution of research and recommendation which is seventy percent (70%). The fifth frequent move is Move 1 (Introduction) referring to the establishment of the research context which is fifty percent (50%).

The frequency of the occurrence of the move pattern presents in both local and international research abstract sheds light to the concept of the obligatory and optionality of the moves. The higher the frequency of occurrence appeared to be the obligatory move pattern, whereas the less the frequency of occurrence appeared to be the optional move pattern. The data shows that the Purpose, Methodology, Result and Conclusion are the obligatory move pattern of a research abstract, however, the Introduction is the optional move.

**Table 4:** Distribution of Frequency of Occurrence

Moves	International (pmw)	Local (pmw)	LL
Move 1	58 (3013.61)	42 (1818.65)	6.32*
Move 2	95 (4936.09)	99 (4286.83)	0.96
Move 3	88 (4572.38)	96 (4156.92)	0.42
Move 4	100 (5195.88)	100 (4330.13)	1.66
Move 5	75 (3896.91)	65 (2814.58)	3.70
TOTAL	416 (21614.88)	402 (17407.12)	9.58**

Note: pmw = per million words; LL= log-likelihood value; \* = significant at  $p < 0.05$  level; \*\* = significant at  $p < 0.01$  level; \*\*\* = significant at  $p < 0.001$  level

Table 4 presents the comparison of the distribution of frequency of occurrence of rhetorical moves between local and international research abstracts. The result shows that the international research abstracts used rhetorical Move 1 significantly more frequently than local research abstracts. On the other hand, the result shows that international research abstracts used rhetorical Move 2, 3, 4, and 5 more frequently than local research abstract but NOT at a significant level. International researchers explicitly established the research context, localized the problem, or stated the gap (Move 1) significantly more often (pmw = 3,013.61) than local researchers (pmw = 1,818.65). It reveals that the core divergence between local and global abstract writing lies primarily in the inclusion of Move 1 (Introduction). While both cohorts universally recognize the obligatory nature of stating the Purpose, Methodology, and Results (Moves 2, 3, and 4), local researchers significantly omit the structural baseline of the research context. This omission may stem from an assumption that the local audience is already familiar with the academic background, whereas international researchers systematically include Move 1 to cater to a broader, global readership that requires immediate orientation to the study's significance.

In conclusion, the Log-likelihood tests reveal that international research abstracts used rhetorical moves significantly more frequently than local research abstracts as the findings on the total frequency of 416 (pmw=21614.88) for international research abstracts and a frequency of 402 (pmw=17407.12) for local research abstracts with a log-likelihood value (LL) of 9.58 that is significant at  $p < 0.01$  level despite having a lower overall total word count in their corpus of 19,246 words in the local abstracts and 23,094 words in the international abstracts.

The statistical deviation shows that the international abstracts observe higher percentage of conforming on Hyland's IPMRC Model. It is interpreted that international research abstracts compress the relevant information in the abstracts because it has fewer total words compared to local research abstracts. The international research abstracts turned out to be more concise and structurally dense writing that local research abstracts, which meet the expectations of the high-impact abstract set by the discourse communities worldwide. On the other hand, the local research abstracts have lower move density which appeared to be using more words and less rhetorical shifts.

### 4.3 Implications of the Pre-AI Corpus

The time frame of the corpus is significantly considered in interpreting the findings of the study. The data consisting of research abstracts that were published in 2015 to 2019 preceded the period of the widespread adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) as writing tools in the

academe. The rhetorical move patterns revealed in this study relevantly represent the conventional, human writing practices as the product of the writing conventions, academic training and discourse community expectations rather than a result of AI assisted text.

The significant difference observed in Move 1 is significantly important. It can be viewed that international research abstracts possess greater trajectory in establishing the research context and significance of their study through the Introduction as Move 1. This pattern suggests an awareness of the need to orient a broad and potentially diverse readers by explicitly presenting the research territory, problem, or information gap. The data shows that international research abstracts use concise writing structures to provide dense information as rhetorical strategy and inclusion of dominant move.

In contrast, local research abstracts appeared more likely to assume shared contextual knowledge among readers and therefore devoted less textual space to establishing the research context. The result of lower frequency of Move 1 in the local abstracts indicates differences in the writing preferences in the rhetoric.

#### **4.4 Implications of Rhetorical Move Differences in terms of Previous Studies, Cultural Conventions, Publication Practices, and Disciplinary Expectations**

The differences observed between local and international abstracts may be interpreted through the link of the findings on the existing studies, interaction of cultural writing conventions, publication practices, and disciplinary expectations.

First, in terms of linking the findings on previous studies, it shows that this study is aligned with the earlier studies on genre-based analysis like the study of Hyland (2000) and Hassan, M. U., & Siddique, A. (2026), which examine the distribution of rhetorical moves in research abstracts. In addition, this study extends the exploration on how the rhetorical patterns vary across different disciplinary and publications in local and international settings. Moreover, this study attempted to combine qualitative and quantitative using the move analysis and the log-likelihood analysis that determined that statistically significant comparison of the rhetorical differences that appear in local and international abstracts. As this study relevantly addresses the research gaps, it provides important insights on cultural writings conventions, publication practices and disciplinary expectations across the different contexts of local and international academic community.

Second, in terms of cultural writing conventions, the findings imply that the significant occurrence of Move 1 in the international abstracts clearly establishing the research context and the gap, which is adhering to the rhetorical expectations set by the global academic publishing community. It can be interpreted that international abstracts are expected to position their research in a broader context and demonstrate the consideration of the readers in international academic community. On the other hand, local abstracts appear to assume that the readers are more context-dependent rhetorical orientation. It means that local abstracts have presumptions that readers have greater familiarity in the research setting, therefore providing less explicit contextualization. The identified difference is interpreted as a significant breakthrough that the variation is shaped by the academic orientation and discourse community practices of the researchers.

Third, in terms of publication practices, the findings can be interpreted that publication practices may influence on how the research construct abstracts. Both local and international

researchers, who are targeting international journals commonly encounter explicit guidelines that are emphasizing research novelty, research problems, clear establishment of gap and significant contribution. Therefore, researchers may utilize strategically the rhetorical moves to meet the expectations of reviewers, editors and the readers. Since research abstracts function as gateways to scholarly dissemination of information, researchers must negotiate on the linguistic choices and disciplinary conventions to present their research context clearly and effectively.

Lastly, in terms of expectations in disciplines specifically in the field of applied linguistics, language and education. Research abstracts are expected to present the complete research background by sufficiently discussing the context, purpose, method, findings and implications of the study. The significant variation in international and local abstracts is a revelation that research abstracts are produced based on the exposure to the international academic writing conventions. It is realized that the researchers draw upon context specific conventions, while adapting their abstracts to the demands of the academic community. Therefore, the observed variations in rhetorical move may be seen positively as manifestations of different discourse community practices and genre socialization processes in terms of disciplinary interaction and academic community integration.

#### **4.5 Pedagogical Contributions**

The analysis of the move pattern and frequency of the moves in the local and international abstracts reveal the rhetorical structure of research abstract which will have significant implications for language teachers and learners as researchers. The pedagogical implications of using move analysis and understanding the nature of written discourse -research abstract can be implemented in the classroom: First, the rhetorical structure of a specific written genre may explicitly be taught to language learners in academic writing in composing a well-written abstract. This will lead to the acceptance of research papers on conferences and leading publications. Second, genre analysis resulted to a more refined way of teaching written discourse. Teachers may incorporate the move analysis in teaching to effectively teach the rhetorical structure. Academic writing curricula must therefore move beyond teaching simple text components and explicitly train language learners to utilize Move 1 to increase the competitive edge of their research in international digital databases. This will lead the students to gain explicit knowledge of abstract writing and could be linked to other disciplines. If the students have essential understanding of text structure, they would be able to compose writing of a more complex genre. Third, the student's knowledge of rhetorical structure of research abstract would lead to comprehensive understanding of research. It will be easier to grasp the body of knowledge in research by identifying the research context – Introduction; goals of research – Purpose; design, procedure, and analysis – Methodology; findings and summary – Result; and contribution and recommendation – Conclusion.

#### **5. Conclusion**

Therefore, this study reveals that the 200 internationally published research abstracts conducted by 100 local and 100 international researchers observed the IPMRC by Hyland's (2000) model as the dominant move pattern observed in both local and international abstract showing that Introduction, Purpose, Methodology, Result and Conclusion as conventional pattern of a well-written research abstract. The frequency of the moves shows that the

Purpose, Methodology, Result and Conclusion are the obligatory move pattern of a research abstract, however, the Introduction is the optional move. Moreover, the Log-likelihood tests show that international research abstracts used rhetorical moves significantly more frequently than local research abstracts as shown on the total frequency of 416 (pmw=21614.88) for international research abstracts and a frequency of 402 (pmw=17407.12) for local research abstracts with a log-likelihood value (LL) of 9.58 that is significant at  $p < 0.01$  level. Significantly, the corpus time frame from 2015-2019 reflects exemplary data of traditional writing conventions occurred before the widespread adoption of AI generative writing tools. In addition, the implications of rhetorical differences in existing studies, cultural conventions, publication practices, and disciplinary expectations is interpreted as a significant breakthrough that the variation is shaped by the academic orientation and discourse community practices of the researchers; research abstracts must present the research context clearly and effectively; and a positive manifestations of different discourse community practices and genre socialization processes in terms of disciplinary interaction and academic community integration. Furthermore, the pedagogical contributions of using move analysis and understanding the nature of written discourse is that teaching research abstract can be implemented in the classroom by: First, the rhetorical structure of a specific written genre may explicitly be taught to language learners in academic writing in composing a well-written abstract; Second, genre analysis resulted to a more refined way of teaching written discourse; and Third, the student's knowledge of rhetorical structure of research abstract would lead to comprehensive grasp of the body of knowledge in research. It is recommended that the rhetorical move of research abstract be explicitly taught to the language learners in academic writing. Significantly, the variation provides valuable insights into pre-AI academic writing practices and establishes a useful baseline for future studies examining whether AI-assisted writing influences rhetorical move realization in contemporary research abstracts.

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