# CONTRASTIVE MOVE ANALYSIS: PERSIAN AND ENGLISH RESEARCH ARTICLES ABSTARACTS IN LAW

Bahareh Ghasempour[1], Maryam Farnia[2]

[1]Amin Institute of Higher Education, Fooladshahr, Iran, [2]Payame Noor University, Iran
E-Mail: [1]rashmesi@yahoo.com, [2]mfarniair@gmail.com

**Abstract.** *Abstracts are important parts of research articles because researchers are very likely to read the abstract first and then they decide to continue or stop reading the research article. Therefore, it is important to write an effective abstract in order to produce acceptable research articles in the international discourse community of specific disciplines. So, the study of the rhetorical structure of research article genres is of crucial importance in academic writing investigations. The purpose of this study is to investigate research article abstracts written in English and Persian languages in the law discipline. To this end, 90 research article abstracts in ten law journals in English and Persian languages were investigated to examine the move structures and the verb tenses of each move. The move structures were analyzed based on Hyland's (2000) five-move structure model. In addition, Tseng's (2011) model was used to analyze the verb tenses for each move in the abstracts. The results show that all moves (i.e. Introduction, Purpose, Method, Result, and Conclusion) were considered as obligatory structural moves in English research article abstracts, while move one (Introduction) and move two (Purpose) served as obligatory moves in Persian abstracts. Regarding the use of verb tenses in each move, the findings indicate that the present tense was the preferred tense in all moves in English abstracts, but the past tense was the preferred tense only in the method section in Persian abstracts. It is hoped that this study could help native Iranian students and researchers of law, as well as legal professionals to benefit from thorough understanding of specific texts and would guide them in producing academic discourse following the required norms and thus would increase their chances for publication and effective participation in international academic discourse communities.*

**Keywords:** *abstract, move analyses, verb tense analyses, law discipline*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, research article (RA) studies have received a great deal of attention by genre analysts. According to Peacock (2002), a research article is an important element for the circulation of academic knowledge. A number of these studies have examined the overall organization of different parts of research articles, such as abstract sections (e.g., Bonn & Swales, 2007; Talebinezhad, Arbabi, Taki and Akhlaghi, 2012; Suntara & Usaha, 2013; Chalak & Norouzi, 2013; Saboori & Hashemi, 2013; Nasseri & Nematollahi, 2014), introduction sections (e.g., Samraj, 2005; Swales, 1990; Loi & Evans, 2010; Habibi, 2008; Jalilifar, 2010), method and result sections (e.g., Mozaheb, Saeidi and Ahangari, 2014;

Brett,1994; Yang & Allison, 2003; Williams, 1999; Lim, 2006), and discussion sections (e.g., Peacock, 2002; Basturkmen, 2012; Holmes, 1997; Amnuai & Wannaruk, 2013; Khalili Sabet & Kazempouri, 2015; Khoramdel and Farnia, 2015).

According to Hyland (2002), "The last decade has seen an increasing attention given to the notion of genre and its application in language teaching and learning" (p. 113). Swales and Feak (2009) defined genre as "a type of text or discourse designed to achieve a set of communicative purposes" (p. 1). Using genre analysis as a method with which researchers can find out cross-cultural differences in terms of rhetorical purpose, form, audience and textual features. Loi and Evans (2010), pointed out one can use genre analysis to "gain insights into generic practices and disciplinary cultures embodied in the formal properties" (p. 2815).

In general, a genre is described in terms of its constituent moves. Richard and Schmidt (2002) define move as "a unit of discourse which may be smaller than an utterance" (p. 344). According to Swales (2004) move is a "discoursal or rhetorical unit that performs a coherent communicative function in a written or spoken discourse" (p. 228-9). Moreover, Santos (1996) defined move as "As genres are purposed, staged activities, the move was chosen as the unit of analysis. A move is to be considered as a genre stage which has a particular, minor communicative purpose to fulfill, which in turn serves the major communicative purpose of the genre" (p. 485). Numerous move analysis studies have been conducted to describe the types of information used in different genres of various disciplines (e.g., Tessuto, 2015; Behnam & Golpour, 2014; Stoller & Robinson, 2013).

Increasing the number of academic publications and the need for the accessibility of one's research through online academic search engines, researchers have paid more attention to research article (RA) abstracts. Nowadays, most of the articles have abstracts and they are important because through them presentations are chosen by conference organizers, journal editors screen papers for reviewing processes and readers decide to read the published articles. Therefore, researchers must submit an abstract along with the original research article for any scholarly journal (Martin, 2003).

In academic prose, abstracts, as "a part-genre of the RA" (Swales & Feak, 2009) have turned into a crucial and basic part of research articles. Linguists have started to pay attention to RA abstracts from the 1980s. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) defines abstract as follows: "[it] is an abbreviated, accurate representation of the contents of a document, preferably prepared by its author(s) for publication with it" (cited in Lorés, 2004, p.281). Most studies have analyzed the move structures of abstracts on specific disciplines, such as biology (e.g., Samraj, 2005), medicine (e.g., Salager-Meyer, 1992; Busch-Lauer, 1995; Sayfouri, 2010), computer sciences (e.g., Lon, Tan, and Abdullah, 2012) or applied linguistics (e.g., Santos, 1996; Lorés, 2004; Pho, 2008; Tseng, 2011).

The purpose of the present study was to examine the move structures of abstract sections in English and Persian research articles written by native English and native Iranian writers in law journals. The present study investigated research articles to identify the move structures in the RA abstracts based on Hyland's (2000) five-move structure model, compare the move structures in the RA abstracts in English and Persian, and examine the preferred verb tense of each move in the RA abstracts.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1. Genre analysis

In recent years, there has been more attention to genre analysis or discourse investigations. Dudley-Evans (1994) believed that genre research is important because it provides information for major and popular courses on academic writing, especially for those who need to join the academic discourse community. Berkenkotter and Huckin (1995) also stated that comprehension of genres is pivotal to taking part in the practices of discourse community. Moreover, Connor (2004) indicated that many studies have conducted on genre analysis and issues such as contrastive rhetoric researches which are focused on textual or structural analysis such as "move", "stages", "schematic" or "generic" structures.

Swales (1990) defined genre as a class of communicative events which have some shared set of communicative purposes which are identified by members of the specific professional or academic community in which the genre occurs. This definition provided by Swales (1990) had especially influenced subsequent ESP related studies conducted using genre as a tool for analysis (Sarjit Singh, Shamsudin, and Hanafi Zaid, 2012). Moreover, Swales and Feak (2009) defined genre as "a type of text or discourse designed to achieve a set of communicative purposes" (p. 1). In addition, Bhatia (2004) defined genre as "Genre essentially refers to language use in a conventionalized communicative setting in order to give expression to a specific set of communicative goals of a disciplinary or social institution, which give rise to stable structural forms by imposing constraints on the use of lexico-grammatical as well as discoursal resources" (p. 23). Therefore, genre approach has an important role in both social and cognitive contexts. By analyzing different genres, learners should understand the rhetorical organizations and linguistic features and relate these features to communicative purposes.

### 2.2. Research article abstracts

There are different models for analyzing the abstract. Bhatia (1993) defined the purpose of abstract as "a well-defined and mutually understood communicative purpose that most abstracts fulfill, irrespective of the subject discipline they serve" (cited in Alhuqbani, 2013, p. 371). According to Bhatia (1993) an abstract has four moves: "introducing the purpose", "describing the method", "summarizing the results", and "presenting the conclusions". Santos (1996) explored the textual organization of RA abstracts at two levels: the macro-level of textual organization, and the micro-level of textual analysis. Ninety-four RA abstracts from the field of applied linguistics were investigated by his model and five main moves were identified in the RA abstracts as: situating the research (M1), presenting the research (M2), describing the methodology (M3), summarizing the results (M4), and discussing the research (M5). Moreover, Hyland (2000) proposed another model consisting of five moves: introduction, purpose, method, product and conclusion. He gained his model through rigorous analysis of 800 RA abstracts taken from eight unrelated disciplines namely, philosophy, applied linguistics, sociology, physics, marketing, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and biology.

Furthermore, Lorés (2004) conducted a research and used the CARS model and the IMRD model for analyzing a corpus of 36 RA abstracts from the field of linguistics. The results showed that about 61% of RA abstracts used the IMRD structure, about 31% of

them followed the CARS structure, and 8% showed the two structures. Therefore, three different functions are concluded as: the informative, the indicative, and the informative-indicative function.

Moreover, many research article introductions and abstracts have been analyzed according to the cross-cultural and disciplinary genre analysis (e.g. Pho, 2008). Candarh (2012) investigated the rhetorical variations between English and Turkish research abstracts by using Swales' framework of move analysis. The results showed that there is a significant difference in Move 2 where writers demonstrate their work in their research field as a way of creating a niche. Alhuqbani (2013) examined the rhetorical structures of abstracts across four unrelated disciplines in Arabic: law, linguistics, medicine and police. He used two models foranalyzing the data: Bhatia's (1993) four-move structure and Hyland's (2000) five-move structure.

Among studies on rhetorical structures of RA abstract sections is Saboori and Hashemi's (2013). They investigated the rhetorical structure, self-mentioning of the author and the voice and tense of the verbs in the research article abstracts in three disciplines namely, applied linguistics, applied economics, and mechanical engineering. They used Hyland's (2000) model for this research. The results showed that in rhetorical analysis, the introduction move displayed the lowest frequency in these disciplines. The major rhetorical difference was that various distributions of move patterns were used in these groups. In addition, in linguistic analysis, the results show the dominance of present tense verbs with active voice in all the three disciplines. Nasseri and Nematollahi (2014) investigated the abstract section of MA theses in applied linguistics and compared the rhetorical features between Iranian and Native students using Swalesian ESP approach. They also analyzed move marker for finding lexico-grammatical patterns using Hyland's (2005) model. The results indicated that the generic structure of the abstract of both groups was very similar. Also, both writers try not to include their identity in their theses. Marefat and Mohammadzadeh (2013) examined 90 English and Persian literature article abstracts written by English and Persian native speakers. They wanted to evaluate Lores's (2004) claim that various types of abstracts (i.e. indicative and informative) conformed to different models. In so doing, they used IMRD and CARS models for investigating this claim and their findings proved the claim. The results showed that literature abstracts generally matched CARS more than IMRD. In addition, they examined the generic structures of literature RA abstracts and the effect of sociocultural factors on academic writing. The results indicated that writers pay more attention to introduction and results, less attention to method and discussion, and do not mention the niche in previous studies.

### 2.3. Study of verb tense in moves

Little research has paid attention to the verb tense of the moves in RA abstracts (Tseng, 2011). This may be because of the intricacy of the tense usage in these RA abstracts (Swales &Feak, 2004). For example, Salager-Meyer (1992) examined 84 RA abstracts in medical researches and found that different verb tenses were used to present move structures in theses abstracts. That is, the past tense is used in three moves: purpose, method and results, while the present tense is used in the conclusion move.

Pezzini (2003) analyzed the verb tense used in 18 RA abstracts, written in English, Portuguese and translated from Portuguese into English in linguistics and translation journals. The findings showed that simple present was the most frequently used tense in

the RA abstracts, and also the simple past and present perfect were used in few RA abstracts.

Li (2011) investigated the tense and voice of the RA abstracts in linguistics and Chemistry. Li found that in linguistics RA abstracts, the active voice is more common than the passive voice in the section of purpose movement. However, the present tense in the passive voice was used in chemistry RA abstracts.

Chalak and Norouzi (2013) compared 40 RA abstracts which were written by American and Iranian writers in English language. They examined the rhetorical moves and verb tense in each move using Swales and Feak (2009) and Tseng's (2011) model respectively. Their findings showed that both groups used move two (purpose), three (method) and four (result) more than the other two moves (i.e. introduction and conclusion). Also, they found that the present tense was the preferred tense in move one (introduction) and five (conclusion), while the past tense was used in move three (method) more frequently in the two sets of data.

To summarize, the literature revealed that in the case of analyzing the genre of articles in law journals in English and Persian languages, in Iran, no previous study has investigated the move structures and the verb tenses of each move in this discipline. In so doing, the aim of this study is to examine RA abstracts written in English and Persian languages in law discipline based on Hyland's (2000) model, in an attempt to identify the similarities and differences between them as regarding moves and verb tenses. The findings should make an important contribution to the field of law.

### 2.4. Research Questions

The study addressed the following research questions:

1. What are the move structures of the abstract sections of English law articles published in English journals?

2. What are the move structures of the abstract sections of Persian law articles published in Persian journals?

3. Is there any significant difference between Persian and English Rhetorical moves that constitute the generic structure of abstract sections of law research articles?

4. Is there any pattern in use of moves in abstract sections of English and Persian law research articles?

5. What is the preferred verb tense of each move in the abstract sections?

### 3. METHOD

### 3.1. Data collection

The corpus of this study consisted of 90 law research articles published from 2013 to 2015. Fort-five research articles were randomly selected from five international English and Persian language journals. Persian articles written in Persian language and they were selected from qualifying papers in prestige Iranian journals and English journals were selected from ISI English journals. The total corpus consisted of ten journals, each containing 9 abstracts which were randomly selected from the journals. The list of journals used in the corpus of the study is presented in Table 1.

Table 1 The journals from which the abstracts were taken

| Iranian journals | Journal of criminal justice (9) | The criminal law handbook (9) | Law and jurisprudence (9) | Law quarterly (9) | Comparative law researches (9) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| English journals | Journal of Criminal Justice (9) | International Review of Law and Economics (9) | International Journal of Law and Psychiatry (9) | International Journal of Law, crime and justice (9) | Computer law and security review (9) |

## 3.2. Data analysis procedures

### 3.2.1. The analytical framework of analysis of move structures

Hyland's (2000) five-move structure model was used to analyze the RA abstract sections. In contrast to the traditional IMRD model, he distinguished the writer's purpose from the introduction move, where it is often located. The frequency of occurrence of each move was statistically tallied and summed. Moves which occurred regularly in a genre are considered obligatory and moves with lower frequency are considered as optional (Li, 2011). Following previous studies (e.g. Kanoksilapatham, 2005), a move is viewed as obligatory if its frequency is no less than 60% of the corpus in each discipline and it is regarded optional, if occurs less than 60% of the corpus. Moreover, there are two approaches to identify moves in abstracts namely, "top down" and "bottom-up" approaches. A top-down approach is based on the content of the abstract and bottom-up is based on linguistic signals (Ackland, 2009). The present research takes the top-down approach to analyze the abstract sections. The framework for abstract analysis is presented in Table 2.

Table 2 Framework for abstract analysis (adopted from Hyland, 2000)

| Moves | Function |
|---|---|
| 1. Introduction | Establishes context of the paper and motivates the research or discussion. |
| 2. Purpose | Indicates purpose, thesis or hypothesis, outlines the intention behind the paper. |
| 3. Method | Provides information on design, procedures, assumptions, approach, data, etc. |
| 4. Product | States main findings or results, the argument, or what was accomplished |
| 5. Conclusion | Interprets or extends results beyond scope of paper, draws inferences, points to applications or wider implications. |

### 3.2.2. Analysis of the verb tense of the moves

In this study, three verb tenses were analyzed: present, past and future tense. The aim was to examine the preferred tense used in each move in the abstracts. Tseng's (2011) model was used to analyze the verb tenses in the moves for each abstract. The model has three parts. First, when a single sentence presents a move, the verb tense of that sentence is the tense of the move. Second, when several sentences present a single move, then all tenses in that move are included in the data analysis. Third, when no verb tense is used to present a move because the tense is realized in a clause or a phrase, then no verb tense is included in data.

However, in Tseng's (2011) model, the present perfect and present tense were counted as one. Nevertheless, in Persian, the simple past tense is equivalent to both present perfect and simple past tenses in English (Swan & Smith, 2001). Therefore, in this study, the

present perfect is considered as present tense in English abstracts while it is considered as past tense in Persian abstracts.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In order to answer the first and second research questions, which were what the move structures of the abstract sections are, the corpus was analyzed to examine the variations of RA abstracts in terms of move structures across the English and Persian RA abstracts in law discipline. Table 3 shows the frequency of moves in each RA abstract section based on Hyland's (2000) move structure model.

Table 3 Distribution of moves across English and Persian RA

| Moves | English | | Persian | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Frequency | Percentage | Frequency | Percentage |
| 1. Introduction | 29 | 64.44% | 43 | 95.55% |
| 2. Purpose | 41 | 91.11% | 31 | 68.88% |
| 3. Method | 36 | 80.00% | 13 | 28.88% |
| 4. Result | 30 | 66.66% | 6 | 13.33% |
| 5. Conclusion | 32 | 71.11% | 25 | 55.55% |

As shown in Table 3, the results display that English writers used move two (Purpose), three (Method), and five (Conclusion) more frequently than two other moves, i.e. introduction and result. However, the Persian writers used move one (Introduction), two (Purpose) and five (Conclusion) more than move three (Method) and four (Result).

As it can be seen, move one (Introduction) is included in 64.44% of the English abstracts, but in 95.55% of Iranian abstracts. The introductory move generally locates the current research by expressing current knowledge and by providing a discussion of previous research. Moreover, the writer may justify his/her research after presenting a problem or a gap (Li, 2011). It seems that Iranian authors may consider situating the research as an important part of the abstract, while English writers do so much less.

As shown above, move two (Purpose) occurred in 91.11% of the abstracts written by English, and 68.88% of the abstracts written by Iranian writers. Moreover, move three (Method) is included in 80% of the English abstracts, but only in 28.88% of Iranian abstracts. In the method move, the writers usually offer some description of how the research was carried out by indicating the subjects, materials, procedures, or instruments (Li, 2011). It seems that Iranian writers tend to ignore this section, maybe because they prefer indicative abstracts to informative ones.

Also, the findings show that there is a significant difference between RA abstracts in result moves in English and Persian journals. While move four (Result) occurred in 66.66% of the abstracts written by English, but only in 13.33% of the abstracts written by Iranian writers. The Product/Result move briefly summarizes the main findings of the study (Li, 2011). So, it seems that Iranian writers do not follow the conventional rhetorical structure, because in the Iranian culture, people may not encouraged to "sell" (Li, 2011) their ideas. Finally, the Conclusion move was used in 55.55% and 71.11% of the abstracts written by Iranian and English writers, respectively.

In general, the findings show that Method and Result moves displayed the lowest frequency in Persian journals. However, the introduction and result moves occurred with low frequency in English abstracts. Moreover, the findings indicate that English writers had fewer introduction moves than their Iranian writers. This finding rejects Tseng's (2011) view in which native authors use move one (Introduction) far more frequently than non-native ones.

Furthermore, as Table 3 displays, introduction move is obligatory in both English (64.44%) and Persian (95.55%) articles. Also, the purpose move is obligatory in both corpora. However, in the Method section, the Persian writers used the Purpose move optionally (28.88%) in contrast to English writers who used it obligatory (80%). Moreover, the findings show that the Result/Product move is obligatory in English articles (66.66%), but is optional in Persian articles (13.33%). Likewise, the Conclusion move is obligatory in English articles (71.11%) but is optional in Persian articles (55.55%). In comparing English and Persian abstracts, the data showed that only Introduction and Purpose sections are obligatory in both of them, but the Method, Result, and Conclusion are obligatory in English articles. However, they are optional in Persian articles.

The findings of this study are in line with Alhuqbani's (2013) study of RA in law discipline in which Introduction and Purpose moves were found obligatory. However, Result and Conclusion moves were absent in the abstracts of Arabic RA, while these sections were found optional in Iranian journals.

The third question of this study dealt with the differences between Persian and English rhetorical moves. A chi-square test was run to compare the English and Persian articles in terms of the frequencies of moves used in their abstract section. The results of this test were presented in Table 4.

Table 4 Results of Chi-square test

| Moves | df | sig |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Introduction | 1 | .09 |
| 2. Purpose | 1 | .23 |
| 3. Method | 1 | .00[*] |
| 4. Result | 1 | .00[*] |
| 5. Conclusion | 1 | .35 |

As Table 4 displays, the findings showed that there was a significant difference between Method and Result moves in Persian and English RA abstracts. Also, these moves were not obligatory in Persian articles, while the same could not be said for English articles.

The fourth question of this study dealt with the patterns of moves which were used in abstract sections of English and Persian law research articles. On a closer examination, the results showed various distributions of move patterns for each language. As shown in Table 5, the most frequent move structures in Persian law abstracts were I-P (26.66%), I-C (20%), I-P-C (15.55%), and I-P-M (11.11%). However, in English abstracts were P-M-R-C (22.22%), I-P-M-R-C (20%), and I-P-M-C (8.88%).

Table 5 The move patterns identified in each language

|    | English   | Percentage | Persian  | Percentage |
|----|-----------|------------|----------|------------|
| 1  | IP (2)    | 4.44%      | IP (12)  | 26.66%     |
| 2  | IPM (3)   | 6.66%      | IPM (5)  | 11.11%     |
| 3  | PMRC (10) | 22.22%     | PMRC (1) | 2.22%      |
| 4  | IPR (2)   | 4.44%      | IPR (1)  | 2.22%      |
| 5  | IMC (1)   | 2.22%      | IMC (2)  | 4.44%      |
| 6  | IPMRC (9) | 20%        | IPMRC (1)| 2.22%      |
| 7  | IPMC (4)  | 8.88%      | IPMC (2) | 4.44%      |
| 8  | PIRC      | 0%         | IPCM     | 0%         |
| 9  | IMRC      | 0%         | IC (9)   | 20%        |
| 10 | PMC (2)   | 4.44%      | IR       | 0%         |
| 11 | IMR (2)   | 4.44%      | IPC (7)  | 15.55%     |
| 12 | IPRC (3)  | 6.66%      | IRC      | 0%         |
| 13 | PMR       | 0%         | C        | 0%         |
| 14 | PRC       | 0%         | IPMRM    | 0%         |
| 15 | PM        | 0%         |          |            |
| 16 | IMP       | 0%         |          |            |
| 17 | MP        | 0%         |          |            |

Note: I=introduction, P=purpose, M=method, R=results/product, C=conclusion

Swales and Feak (2004) point out, RA abstracts should be informative rather than indicative. The informative types contain the fundamental moves such as Introduction, Purpose, Methodology, Results, and Conclusion. However, the indicative types present an Introduction and a Purpose, but the Methodology or the Results are normally omitted. The law RA abstracts are indicative abstract in Persian journals since most of the RA abstracts in the journals followed the pattern I-P (26.66%). The following example illustrates this tendency:

با ظهور حقوق ماهوی جدیدی نظیر حقوق مالکیت فکری، پیچیدگی فرایند تعیین قانون حاکم برای دادگاه ها مضاعف شده است. کم رنگ شدن مرکز ثقل مادی دعوی در اموال فکری و نیز تاثیر گذاری اندیشه های اقتصادی نفع گرایانه با ملاحظات نفع عمومی در تعیین حدود و قلمرو این حقوق انحصاری، سبب شده است که دادگاه ها در این مقاله، در پی دستیابی Introductionاین دعاوی از روش های سنتی حل تعارض قوانین دور شوند ...... ( ) به یک قاعده حل تعارض، قابلیت اعمال تئوری یاد شده را در حوزه تعارض قوانین مالکیت فکری بررسی و تبیین می کند.(

The law RA abstracts are informative abstracts in English journals since most of the RA abstracts in the journals followed the pattern P-M-R-C (22.22%). So, one may thus be able to claim that in line with Hyland's (2000) model, only English journals tend to follow Hyland's (2000) model. However, Persian journals tend to use indicative abstracts.

Results indicate that English and Persian RA abstracts have different preferences regarding the use of verb tense in each move. Therefore, in order to answer the fifth research question, which is the preferred verb tense of each move in the abstract sections, the frequency of verb tenses in each move was calculated. Table 6 presents the frequency of the verb tenses in each move in the English and Persian RA.

Table 6 Frequency of the verb tense in each move in the English and Persian law discipline

| | English articles | | | | Persian articles | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Present | Percentage | past | Percentage | present | Percentage | past | Percentage |
| Move | F | % | F | % | F | % | F | % |
| Introduction | 31 | 68.88 % | 6 | 13.33% | 29 | 64.44% | 28 | 62.22% |
| Purpose | 35 | 77.77 % | 5 | 11.11% | 25 | 55.55% | 5 | 11.11% |
| Method | 23 | 51.11% | 13 | 28.88% | 6 | 13.33% | 7 | 15.55% |
| Results | 21 | 46.66% | 15 | 33.33% | 5 | 11.11% | 1 | 2.22% |
| Conclusion | 31 | 68.88% | 3 | 6.66% | 18 | 40% | 7 | 15.55% |

The results showed that the present tense was used more than the past tense in the introduction move in both English and Persian abstracts. In contrast, the past tense was used more in Persian than English abstracts. The Persian writers used the past tense in Introduction move 28 times, while the English writers used it 6 times. In Purpose move, the present tense has been frequently used in both English and Persian corpora compared with the past tense. Moreover, in both languages the past tense was used 5 times in the Purpose section. With regard to the method move, in English abstracts the present tense was used more than past tense while in Persian abstracts, the past tense was used more than the present tense. In sum, both corpora used the present tense more than the past tense. In addition, the past tense was used one time in Persian abstracts, while it was used 15 times in English abstracts. In the Conclusion move, the authors in both languages used present tense more than past tense in their articles. Moreover, the results indicate the use of future tense in RA abstract. Table 7 presents the frequency of future tense in abstract sections of the two corpora.

Table 7 Frequency of future tense in each move in RA abstracts

| | English articles | | Persian articles | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Future | Percentage | Future | Percentage |
| Move | F | % | F | % |
| Introduction | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| Purpose | 3 | 6.66% | 1 | 2.22% |
| Method | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| Results | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| Conclusion | 0 | 0% | 2 | 4.44% |

As shown in Table 7, both languages used future tense in the Purpose section. The findings also demonstrate that only Iranian writers used the future tense in the conclusion section. Results show that English articles used the present tense more frequently than the past tense in each move. However, in Persian articles the present tense was used more frequently in all moves except the Method section. Tseng's (2011) findings showed that the present tense was used in introduction, purpose and conclusion sections, while the past tense was used in method and result sections. However, in this study, the results showed that the present tense was used in all moves in English abstracts. However, the findings in Method move in Persian abstracts were consistent with the findings of Tseng's study. Similar to Tseng (2011), the method move was realized in the past tense. However, this study differ from the previous study in that the Method and Result moves

in English abstracts were more realized in the present tense not in the past tense. Moreover, both English and Iranian writers used present tense in Result section which was in agreement with Tseng's (2011) findings which claimed that most native writers tend to use the present tense in move four to show the continuing applicability of their findings.

The findings showed that English and Persian RA abstracts had various distributions of move patterns. In other words, English research articles abide by the moves recognized by the experts, owing to the fact that their studies have concentrated on genres in English language. However, other languages, like Persian, may use different generic structures due to some cultural differences. These genre differences may be attributed to the size of the Persian academic discourse society and certain features of Persian culture. Moreover, Persian writers generally favored writing in an indirect way to in a direct way, so this may be caused to hamper the promotion function of abstracts. Besides, the language use may affect the frequency of the occurrence of the moves. Therefore, the results showed that Iranian writers did not follow the common conventional scheme given by Hyland's (2000) model. Also, the findings revealed that less promotion was utilized in the Persian abstracts. This may be ascribed to the small discourse community in the Persian academic world. It might also indicate a cultural distinction because in the Persian culture, writers are not encouraged to promote their studies.

## 5. PEDAGOGICAL IMPLICATION

The findings of this study have pedagogical implications for the practitioners in ESP fields. "Genre analysis, with its focus on both the social context in which the text is created and the linguistic realizations of discourse, will thus provide learners with a thorough and complete understanding of specific texts" (Loi& Evans, 2010, p. 2815). Investigating the contrasts and similarities in two languages articles, may help Iranian students to be familiar with the structure of the same filed research articles in English as an international language. Therefore, academic writing should be better explicitly taught to those who want to participate in the academic circle. Moreover, familiarity with genre practices would make students and researchers of law, as well as legal professionals benefit from thorough understanding of specific texts and would guide them in producing academic discourse following the required norms and thus would increase their chances for publication and effectively participate in international academic discourse communities.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The present study aimed to investigate English and Persian journals in law discipline to examine the move structure used in RA abstract sections and identify the preferred verb tense in each move. The findings showed that purpose, method, and conclusion moves were used more than introduction and result moves in English abstracts while introduction, purpose and conclusion moves more than method and result moves in Persian abstracts. Moreover, in English RA abstracts, the lowest frequency were Introduction and Result moves, but in Persian RA abstracts Method and Result moves occurred with low frequency. In addition, the findings revealed that all moves were found obligatory in RA English abstracts, while only Introduction and Purpose moves were found obligatory and Method, Results, and Conclusion moves were optional in Persian abstracts.

With regard to the choice of verb tenses in each move, the findings showed that the present tense was the preferred tense in all moves in English abstracts. On the other hand, past tense was the preferred tense only in Method section in Persian abstracts. Moreover, the use of future tense was also found in the abstracts of in both corpora.

It should be mentioned that this study was conducted only in one discipline. The same study can be conducted in different disciplines and across different journals to investigate other linguistic features, such as voice, discourse markers, and hedges in abstracts. Accordingly, further research is expected to compare abstracts written by native and nonnative authors from different perspectives. Eventually, it is hoped that the present study could provide a way for further research within the area of genre analysis and provide adequate information for novice academic writers to write efficient and effective abstracts for publication.

REFERENCES

Ackland, G. M. A discourse analysis of English and French research article abstracts in linguistics and economics. San Diego, CA: Montezuma Publishing.2009.

Alhuqbani, M.N. 'Genre-Based Analysis of Arabic Research Article Abstracts across Four Disciplines'. *Journal of Educational and Social Research,* 3(3). 2013.

Amnuai, W., and Wannaruk, A. 'Investigating Move Structure of English Applied Linguistics Research Article Discussions Published in International and Thai Journals'. *English Language Teaching*, 6 (2). 2013.

ANSI. The American standard for writing abstracts. New York: ANSI Publication. 1979.

Bhatia, V. K. Analyzing Genre: Language Use in Professional Settings. Harlow, Essex: Longman. 1993.

Basturkmen, H. 'A genre-based investigation of discussion sections of research articles in Dentistry and disciplinary variation'. *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, 11: 134-144. 2012.

Behnam, B., and Golpour, F. 'A Genre Analysis of English and Iranian Research Articles Abstracts in Applied Linguistics and Mathematics'. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics & English Literature,* 3 (5). 2014.

Berkenkotter, C., Huckin, T.N. *Genre Knowledge in Disciplinary Communication: Cognition/ Culture/Power*. Lawrence Erlbaum, Hillsdale, NJ. 1995.

Bhatia, V.K. *Worlds of written discourse: A genre-based view*. London: Continuum. 2004.

Bonn, S.V., and Swales, J. M. 'English and French journal abstracts in the language sciences: Three exploratory studies'. *Journal of English for academic purpose,* 6 (2): 93-108. 2007.

Brett, P. A. 'Genre analysis of the result sections of sociology articles'. *English for Specific Purposes*, 13(1): 47-56. 1994.

Busch-Laure, I.A. 'Abstracts in German Medical Journals: A Linguistic Analysis'. *Information Processing and Management,* 31 (5): 769-776. 1995.

Çandarlh, D. A. 'Cross-cultural Investigation of English and Turkish Research Article Abstracts in Educational Sciences'. *Studies about languages*, 20. 2012.

Chalak, A., and Norouzi, Z. 'Rhetorical moves and verb tense in abstracts: A comparative analysis of American and Iranian academic writing'. I*nternational Journal of Language Studies*, 7: 101-110. 2013.

Connor, U. 'Intercultural rhetoric research: beyond texts'. *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, 3: 291–304. 2004.

Dudley-Evans, T. Genre analysis: an approach to text analysis for ESP. In: Coulthard, M. (Ed.), Advances in Written Text Analysis. Routledge, London, 219–228. 1994.

Habibi, P. 'Genre Analysis of Research Article Introductions across ESP, Psycholinguistics, and Sociolinguistics'. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics (IJAL),* 11(2).2008.

Holmes, R. 'Genre analysis and the social sciences: An investigation of the structure of research article discussion sections in three disciplines'. *English for Specific Purposes,* 16(4): 321-337. 1997.

Hyland, K. *Disciplinary discourse: Social interactions in academic writing*. London: Longman. 2000.

Hyland, K. 'Genre: Language, context and literacy'. *Annual Review of Applied Linguistics, 22*: 113-135. 2002.

Jalilifar, A. 'Research Article Introductions: Sub-disciplinary Variations in Applied Linguistics'. *The Journal of Teaching Language Skills (JTLS),* 2 (2).2010.

Kanoksilapatham, B. 'Rhetorical structure of Biochemistry research articles. *English for Specific Purposes'*, 5: 19- 36.2005.

Khalili Sabet, M., and Kazempouri, M. 'Generic Structure of Discussion Sections in ESP Research Articles across International and Iranian Journals'. *Advances in Language and Literary Studies*, 6 (2). 2015.

Khoramdel, M. and Farnia, M. '*A genre-based investigation of discussion sections of English and Persian dentistry research articles'*. Paper presented at the National Interdisciplinary Conference on Current Issues of English Language Teaching and Learning (NICCIELTL). 4th -6th March, Ahwaz, Iran.2015.

Li, Y. *A genre analysis of English and Chinese research article abstracts in linguistics and chemistry*. San Diego State University, San Diego. USA. 2011.

Lim, J.M.H. 'Method sections of management research articles: A pedagogically motivated qualitative study'. *English for Specific Purposes,* 25: 282–309. 2006.

Loi, C. K., & Evans, M. S. (2010). Cultural differences in the organization of research article introductions from the field of educational psychology: English and Chinese. *Journal of Pragmatics,* 42(10), 2814-2825.

Lon, C.E., Tan, H., and Abdullah, A.N. 'Conveying Communicative Intent: Moves and Metadiscourse in Abstract Writing'. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics and English Literature,* 1(7): 56-65. 2012.

Lorés, R. 'On RA abstracts: From rhetorical structure to thematic organization'. *English for Specific Purposes,* 23(3): 280-302.2004.

Marefat, H., and Mohammadzadeh, Sh. 'Genre analysis of literature research article abstracts: A cross-linguistic, cross-cultural study'. *Applied Research on English Language,* 2(2). 2013.

Martin, P. M. 'A genre analysis of English and Spanish research paper abstracts in experimental social sciences'. *English for Specific Purposes,* 22(1): 25-43. 2003.

Mozaheb, M.A., Saeidi, M., and Ahangari, S. 'A Comparative Genre-Based Study of Research Articles Method and Results Sections Authored by Iranian and English Native Speakers'. *MAGNT Research Report*, 2 (4): 172-184. 2014.

Nasseri, D., and Nematollahi, B. 'A contrastive genre analysis of abstract of master arts (MA) theses in applied linguistics written by native and non-native speakers of English with respects to moves and move markers'. *Indian J.Sci.Res,* 7 (1): 1353-1366. 2014.

Peacock, M. 'Communicative moves in the discussion section of research articles'. *System*, 30: 479–497. 2002.

Pezzine, O. I. 'Genre analysis and translation - An investigation of abstracts of research articles in two languages'. *Capa*, 2, (12): 75-108. 2003.

Pho, P. D. 'Research article abstracts in applied linguistics and educational technology: A study of linguistic realizations of rhetorical structure and authorial stance'. *Discourse Studies*, 10(2): 231-250. 2008.

Richard, J. C., and Schmidt, R. *Dictionary of language teaching & applied linguistics*. Longman Publications. 2002.

Ruiying, Y., and Allison, D. 'Research articles in applied linguistics: moving from results to conclusions'. *English for Specific Purposes,* 22: 365–385. 2003.

Saboori, F., and Hashemi, M.R. 'A cross-disciplinary move analysis of research article abstracts'. *International Journal of Language learning and Applied Linguistics World*, 4 (4): 483-496. 2013.

Salager-Meyer, F. 'A text-type and move analysis study of verb tense and modality distribution in medical English abstracts'. *English for Specific Purposes*, 11(2): 93-113. 1992.

Samraj, B. 'An exploration of a genre set: Research article abstracts and introductions in two disciplines'. *English for Specific Purposes,* 24(2): 141–156. 2005.

Santos, M. B. D. 'The textual organization of research paper abstracts in applied linguistics'. *Text*, 16(4): 481-499. 1996.

Sarjit Singh, M.K., Shamsudin, S., and Hanafi Zaid, Y. 'Revisiting Genre Analysis: Applying Vijay Bhatia's Approach'. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 66: 370-379. 2012.

Sayfouri, N. SFL and ESP genre analysis of English research articles in Iranian and English-American medical journals: A contrastive study. Unpublished thesis. Tehran: Tehran University, Department of Foreign Languages. 2010.

Stoller, F.L., and Robinson, M.S. 'Chemistry journal articles: An interdisciplinary approach to move analysis with pedagogical aims'. *English for Specific Purposes,* 32: 45-57. 2013.

Suntara, W., and Usaha, S. 'Research Article Abstracts in Two Related Disciplines: Rhetorical Variation between Linguistics and Applied Linguistics'. *English Language Teaching,* 6 (2). 2013.

Swales, J. M. *Genre analysis: English in academic and research settings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1990.

Swales, J. M. *Research genres: Explorations and applications*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. 2004.

Swales, J. M., and Feak, C. B. *Academic writing for graduate students*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. 2004.

Swales, J. M., and Feak, C. B. *Abstracts and the writing of abstracts*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.2009.

Swan, M., and Smith, B. *Learner English: A teacher's guide to interference and other problems*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2001.

Talebinezhad, M., Taki, S., Arbabi, Z., and Akhlaghi, M. 'Rhetorical Variation in Medical Article Abstracts Written in English and Persian'. *The Journal of Teaching Language Skills (JTLS),* 3(4).2012.

Tessuto, G. 'Generic structure and rhetorical moves in English-language empirical law research articles: Sites of interdisciplinary and interdiscursive cross-over'. *English for Specific Purposes,* 37: 13-26. 2015.

Tseng, F. 'Analysis of move structure and verb tense of research article abstracts in applied linguistics'. *International Journal of English Linguistics*, 1 (2): 27-35.2011.

Williams, A.I. 'Results Sections of Medical Research Articles: Analysis of Rhetorical Categories for Pedagogical Purposes'. *English for Specific Purposes,* 18 (4): 347-366. 1999.