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**A GENRE ANALYSIS OF THE INTRODUCTION SECTION OF  
COMPUTER SCIENCE RESEARCH ARTICLES BY MALAYSIAN  
RESEARCHERS**



**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA  
2016**



Awang Had Salleh  
Graduate School  
of Arts And Sciences

Universiti Utara Malaysia

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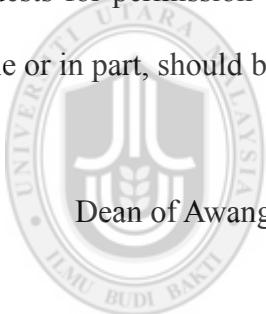
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## Abstrak

Bahagian pengenalan dalam artikel penyelidikan sangat penting dalam menetukan sama ada artikel itu akan diterbitkan ataupun tidak. Penulis bukan asli dilaporkan mengalami masalah menstruktur strategi retorik dalam bahagian pengenalan. Walau pun terdapat model retorik untuk penulisan, artikel penyelidikan dalam bidang berbeza mempunyai struktur dan gaya rhetoric yang berbeza. Maka, strategi retorik dalam bahagian pengenalan artikel penyelidikan untuk penulis bukan asli dalam bidang Sains Komputer perlu diterokai. Kajian kualitatif ini telah meninjau gerakan ‘moves’ dan langkah ‘steps’ di dalam 150 artikel penyelidikan Komputer Sains yang ditulis oleh ahli akademik Malaysia dan diindeks oleh Scopus. Kajian ini juga menganalisis sejauh mana penulis akur kepada model Pengwujudan Ruang Penyelidikan (CARS) dalam penulisan bahagian pengenalan. Analisis gerakan menggunakan model CARS telah digunakan untuk mengenal pasti struktur retorik korpus manakala temu bual berstruktur secara bersemuka dilaksanakan untuk memahami perspektif penulis dalam penggunaan strategi retorik. Dapatkan kajian menunjukkan bahawa pembentangan soalan kajian atau hipotesis tidak digunakan oleh penulis bukan asli. Lima ‘langkah’ kurang digunakan, iaitu Penyataan lompong kajian, Pengumuman kajian secara deskriptif atau bertujuan, Pengumuman dapatan utama kajian, Penyataan kepentingan kajian, dan Menggariskan struktur artikel. Dapatkan kajian juga menunjukkan bahawa 12 gerakan dan langkah perlu dimasukkan ke dalam bahagian pengenalan artikel Sains Komputer. Kajian ini menyumbang kepada literatur dalam penulisan artikel Sains Komputer berindeks Scopus dalam kalangan penulis bukan asli. Kajian juga telah menghasilkan satu garis panduan yang boleh digunakan oleh penulis bukan asli dan pengajar bahasa dalam pengajaran dan pembelajaran penulisan artikel penyelidikan.

**Kata kunci:** Artikel penyelidikan Sains Komputer, Analisis ‘move’, Analisis ‘genre’, penulis bukan asli, model CARS

## **Abstract**

Research article introduction is crucial in determining the chances for publication. Non – native English writers have been reported to face difficulties in structuring rhetorical strategies in the introduction section. Although rhetorical models in writing are available, research articles of different disciplines vary in rhetorical structure and style. Therefore, there is a need to explore the rhetorical strategies in the Introduction sections for non-native writers in Computer Science discipline. This qualitative study explored the moves and steps in 150 Scopus indexed Computer Science research articles written by Malaysian academicians. It also examined the extent to which the writers conformed to Create a Research Space (CARS) model when writing the introduction sections. Move analysis using CARS model was employed to identify the rhetorical structures of the corpus while face-to-face semi- structured interviews were conducted to understand the use of rhetorical strategies through the perspectives of the writers. The findings show that Presenting research questions or hypothesis was not applied by the non-native writers. Five steps were underutilized, namely indicating a gap, Announcing present research descriptively or purposively, Announcing principle outcomes, Stating the value of the present research, and Outlining the structure of the paper. The findings also show that 12 moves and steps need to be included in the introduction section of Computer Science articles. This study contributes to the existing literature on the writing of Scopus indexed Computer Science articles by non-native writers. The study also produced a set of guidelines that can be used by non - native writers and language instructors in the teaching and learning of research article writing.

**Keywords:** Computer Science research article, Move analysis, Genre analysis, Non-native writers, CARS model

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# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

The issue of publish or perish among academicians has long been debated (Jusoff & Samah, 2010; Zakaria & Rowland, 2006). Globally, academicians in the role as researchers are expected to write research articles and the articles must be disseminated through publication especially in scholarly journals of some repute (Borgman, 1993). In the US, Japan and the UK, technical writers help their researchers to write faster and more effectively, thus giving them more time and energy to focus on the research substance and quality (Slattery, 2007).

In Malaysia, academicians who also play the role of researchers, publish research articles for various reasons such as for career advancement (Jusoff & Samah, 2010), sharing knowledge (Davarpanah, 2009), securing research funding, for prestige (Madin, 2010), research funders who require publications (Roosfa & Yahya, 2011; Zakaria & Rowland, 2006;) and for keeping up with the performance measures (Rahayu, Norazan, Az'lina, Adriana, Nornadiah & Naslina, 2013). Publication is also the Key Performance Indicator for Research Universities (Jusoff and Samah, 2010; Maidin, Yusof, Ibrahim, Rohani & Hosaini, 2010). Given that Malaysia aspires to have two of its national universities ranked among the world's best universities with one of them listed among the Top 50 (Department of Higher Education, 2012), the expectations on publications by academicians has escalated to a high index and impacted publications (Roosfa & Yahya, 2011).

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