

In the name of God

1.0248

۸۷/۱۱۰۵۸۸۷
۸۷/۱۲/۲



Shiraz University
Faculty of Literature and Humanities

M.A. Thesis in Teaching English

**EVOLUTIONARY NATURE OF GENRE:
ABSTRACTS IN TEFL AND ASTROPHYSICS**

By

HAJAR GHAFFARPOUR

Supervised by

N. RASHIDI, Ph.D

October 2008

۱۰۸۲۵۵



دانشکده ادبیات و علوم انسانی

پایان‌نامه کارشناسی ارشد در رشته آموزش زبان
انگلیسی

سیر تکاملی ژانر:

چکیده در آموزش زبان انگلیسی به عنوان زبان خارجی
و اختریفیك

توسط:

هاجر غفارپور

استاد راهنما:

دکتر ناصر رشیدی

آبان ماه ۱۳۸۷

کتابخانه اطلاعات زبان علمی زبان
شهرود

۱۱۷ / ۱۱۷ / ۱۳۸۷

۱۹۵۴۷۵

IN THE NAME OF GOD

**EVOLUTIONARY NATURE OF GENRE:
ABSTRACTS IN TEFL AND ASTROPHYSICS**

BY

HAJAR GHAFFARPOUR

M.A. THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.)

IN

TEACHING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE (TEFL)

SHIRAZ UNIVERSITY

SHIRAZ

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

EVALUATED AND APPROVED BY THE THESIS COMMITTEE AS: EXCELLENT

N. Rashidi..... N. RASHIDI, Ph.D., ASSISTANT PROF. OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE
TEACHING (CHAIRMAN)

M. Yamini..... M. YAMINI, Ph.D., ASSISTANT PROF. OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE
TEACHING (READER)

M. Rahimi..... M. RAHIMI, Ph.D., ASSISTANT PROF. OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE
TEACHING (READER)

OCTOBER 2008

DEDICATED TO

My parents

&

My two brothers

Acknowledgements

I hereby appreciate and highly value the genuine assistance of all of my professors at Shiraz University, particularly, my thesis advisor, Dr. Rashidi whose insightful advises were of great help to me and to whom I really acknowledge my great indebtedness. My particular gratitude is also owed to my two readers, Dr. Yamini and Dr. Rahimi for their meticulous revision of my thesis.

It is high time that I can thank my family and dedicate my words of thanks to my parents for all of their support and to my two brothers for their encouragements and companionship.

ABSTRACT

EVOLUTIONARY NATURE OF GENRE: ABSTRACTS IN TEFL AND ASTROPHYSICS

BY

HAJAR GHAFFARPOUR

Seldom being seen to maintain static values, genres trigger the present study to investigate and compare their evolutions in two fields of TEFL and Astrophysics. As a corpus-based study, it consists of 120 research article abstracts, dated from 1975 to 2007. The study integrates syntactic and pragmatic analysis with rhetorical move analysis. Abstracts are analyzed rhetorically, using IMRC model and/or Swales' (1990) CARS model; then the move and abstract length is estimated. To probe the syntactic and pragmatic aspects of the abstracts, the amount of pronoun application, aspects of tense, voice and conjunction usage are taken into consideration. Additionally, Wordsmith tools has been applied for more detailed analysis. Results indicate that both fields increase in conformance to the IMRC model while this increase is more persistent in TEFL. Abstract length observes roughly a decrease, with the length of move C increasing in both fields, in line with Ayers (2008). Authors in both fields, particularly in Astrophysics, feel freer to apply first person pronouns to indicate their authorial presence. Concerning tense, more Present tense is being applied in abstracts with the IMRC model while Past tense domineers abstracts with the CARS model.

Conjunction application, in the two fields, observes slight decrease with some fluctuations, more noticeably, in Astrophysics. On the whole, the evolutionary patterns are similar in many cases in the two disciplines, though differing in intensities.

Table of contents

Title	Page number
Chapter 1: Introduction to the study	
1.0. Introduction	1
1.1. Genre analysis.....	1
1.2. Defining genre	5
1.3. Genre and background knowledge	7
1.4. Genre evolution	8
1.5. Analyzing genre	11
1.5.1. Linguistics and genre analysis	11
1.5.2. sociology and gene analysis	12
1.5.3. psychology and genre analysis	13
1.6. Steps in analyzing genres	13
a. Analysis of lexico-grammatical features	14
b. analysis of text patterning or textualization	14
c. structural interpretation of the text-genre	14
1.7. Move analysis	15
1.8. Distinguishing moves	17
1.9. Objectives of the study	19
1. 10. Research questions	19

1.11. Significance of the study	19
---------------------------------------	----

Chapter two: Review of related literature

2.0. Introduction	21
2.1. Preliminaries	21
2.2. Text analysis	23
2.3. Genre evolution	24
2.4. Scientific evolution	25
2.5. Evolution in experimental reports	26
2.6. Reasons for change	28
2.7. Change in article length	29
2.8. Different fields	30
2.9. Different sections	32
2.10. Abstracts	33

Chapter three: Methods and procedures

3.0. Introduction	38
3.1. Corpus-based genre analysis	38
3.2. The corpus	39
3.3. Data analysis procedures	40
3.3.1. Rhetorical analysis	40
All-WordSmith-5	41
3.3.1.1. Move analysis	41
3.3.1.2. Article length	46

3.3.2. Linguistic and pragmatic analysis	47
3.3.2.1. Use of pronouns	47
3.3.2.2. Voice	48
3.3.2.3. Tense	49
3.3.2.4. Use of conjunctions	49

Chapter four: Results and discussion

4.0. Introduction	51
4.1. The rhetorical features of abstracts	51
4.1.1. Move structures	54
4.1.1.1. IMRC model	55
4.1.1.1.1. Astrophysics	55
4.1.1.1.2. TEFL	62
4.1.1.2. CARS model	66
4.1.1.2.1. Astrophysics	66
4.1.1.2.2. TEFL	67
4.1.2. Detailed rhetorical structure	68
4.1.2.1. IMRC model	68
4.1.2.1.1. Astrophysics	68
4.1.2.1.2. TEFL	74
4.1.1.2. CARS Model	78
4.1.1.2.1. Astrophysics	78
4.1.1.2.2. TEFL	80
4.1.3. Length	82
4.1.3.1 Length with the IMRC model	82
4.1.3.1.1. Move length	82

4.1.3.1.2. Abstract length	83
4.1.3.2. Length with the CARS model	84
4.1.3.2.1. Move length	84
4.1.3.2.2. Abstract length	86
4.2. Linguistic and pragmatic analysis	87
4.2.1. Use of pronouns	87
4.2.2. Voice	91
4.2.2.1. Abstracts with the IMRC structure	92
4.2.2.2. Abstracts with the CARS structure	95
4.2.3. Tense	98
4.2.3.1. Abstracts with the IMRC structure	99
4.2.3.2. Abstracts with the CARS structure	107
4.2.4. Conjunctions	112

Chapter five: Summary, conclusion and implications

5.0. Introductions to the chapter	118
5.1. Summary of the study	118
5.1.1. Rhetorical analysis	118
5.1.1.1. Move structure	119
5.1.1.2. A model proposed	120
5.1.1.3. Length	122
5.1.2. Pragmatic analyses	122
5.1.2.1. Use of pronoun	122
5.1.2.2. Voice	123
5.1.2.3. Tense	124
5.2. Overview	125

5.3. Conclusion	126
5.4. Implications	127
5.5. Further research	129
References	130
Appendix	140

List of tables

Title	Page number
Table 1.1 Various methods for measuring moves	18
Table 2.1 Overview of the textual studies of the English RA	23
Table 4.1 Percentage of adherence to the IMRC and CARS models.....	54
Table 4.2 Astrophysics abstracts with IMRC model.....	61
Table 4.3 Move characteristics of TEFL abstracts with IMRC model.....	65
Table 4.4 Available CARS patterns in Astrophysics	67
Table 4.5 Available patterns of CARS model in TEFL	68
Table 4.6 Detailed step characteristics of Astrophysics abstracts with the IMRC model	73
Table 4.7 Detailed step characteristics of TEFL abstracts with the IMRC model.....	77
Table 4.8 Steps of Astrophysics abstracts with the CARS model	79
Table 4.9 Steps of TEFL abstracts with the CARS model.....	81
Table 4.10 Average length of moves per word in abstracts of the two fields with CARS model	86
Table 4.11 Use of pronouns in Astrophysics abstracts	89
Table 4.12 use of pronouns in TEFL abstracts	91
Table 4.13 Percentage of passive application in Astrophysics abstracts with IMRC model	93

Table 4.14 Percentage of passive application in TEFL abstracts with IMRC model	93
Table 4.15 Percentage of passive application in Astrophysics abstracts with CARS model	96
Table 4.16 Percentage of passive application in TEFL abstracts with CARS model	96
Table 4.17 Tense in Astrophysics abstracts with the IMRC model	100
Table 4.18 Tense in TEFL abstracts with the IMRC model	101
Table 4.19 Comparing tenses in three fields	104
Table 4.20 Tense in abstracts with the CARS model	111
Table 4.21 conjunction application in Astrophysics	114
Table 4.22 Conjunction application in TEFL abstract	116

List of figures and graphs

Title	Page number
Figure 1.1 Language's stratified content form in relation to a stratified model of social context	3
Figure 1.2 Genre and prior knowledge.....	7
Figure 1.3 Time frames and semogenesis	8
Figure 1.4 Language metareddounding with register, metareddounding with genre	9
Figure 1.5 Constituents of a move	16
Figure 2.1 The research article and other research-process genre	22
Figure 2.2 Average article length	29
Figure 3.1 Selected disciplines and journals	40
Figure 3.2 IMRC model	42
Figure 3.3 CARS model	43
Graph 4.1 Move evolutions in Astrophysics	55
Graph 4.2 Move evolutions in TEFL	62
Graph 4.3 Move length of Astrophysics abstracts with the IMRC model	82
Graph 4.4 Move length of TEFL abstracts with the IMRC model	83
Graph 4.5 Lengths of abstracts in TEFL and Astrophysics with IMRC model...	84
Graph 4.6 Move length in Astrophysics abstracts with CARS model	84
Graph 4.7 Move length in TEFL abstracts with CARS model	85
Graph 4.8 Article lengths with abstracts of the two fields with the CARS model	87

Graph 4.9 Evolutions of passive applications in abstracts with IMRC model of the two fields	94
Graph 4.10 Passive applications in different moves of abstracts with the IMRC model of the two fields	95
Graph 4.11 Passive applications in different moves of abstracts with the CARS model of the two fields	97
Graph 4.12 Evolutions of passive applications in abstracts with CARS model of the two fields	98
Graph 4.13 Evolutions of applications of Present tense in abstracts with the IMRC model in both fields	102
Graph 4.14 Evolutions of applications of Past tense in abstracts with the IMRC model in both fields	103
Graph 4.15 Evolutions of applications of Present perfect tense in abstracts with the IMRC model in both fields	105
Graph 4.16 Evolutions of applications of Future tense in abstracts with the IMRC model in both fields	106
Graph 4.17 Evolutions of applications of modal in abstracts with the IMRC model in both fields	106
Graph 4.18 Evolutions of applications of Present tense in abstracts with the CARS model in both fields	108
Graph 4.19 Evolutions of applications of Past tense in abstracts with the CARS model in both fields	108
Graph 4.20 Present perfect tense in abstracts with the CARS model in both fields	109
Graph 4.21 Future tense in abstracts with the CARS model in both fields ..	110

Graph 4.22 Modal applications in abstracts with the CARS model in both fields110

Graph 4.23 Evolutionary pattern of conjunction application in the two fields.112

Figure 5.1 The proposed model121

Table of abbreviations

IMRC= Introduction, Method, Result, Conclusion

CARS= Create-A-Research-Space

Subj= subjective

Poss= possessive

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

1.0. Introduction

In this chapter an introduction to genre analysis is given by stating the significance of analyzing the genre. After having defined the genre, its relationship with background knowledge will be elaborated on. Then, considering the importance of genre, some methods for its analysis will be presented, the most prominent of which is Move analysis. Finally, the objective of the present study, the research questions and the significance of the study will be made mention of.

1.1. Genre analysis

Genre analysis has been considered one of the most prominent levels of text analysis.

As is stated by Bhatia (1993), applied discourse analysis consists of four levels:

1. functional language description which deals with register analysis;
2. surface-level linguistic description which deals with grammatical-rhetorical analysis;