

# Does Journal Indexation Matter? A Genre-Approach Move Analysis of Nursing English Research Article Abstracts

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**Background:** A plethora of previous studies have discussed the importance of a genre-approach move analysis because the analysis results can provide a picture of the typical conventions of research article writing across disciplines.

**and Purpose:** Nursing as a professional discipline, however, has received scant attention, particularly in the abstract section in the journals with different indexation. To fill such an empirical void, this qualitative study probes the notion of whether journal indexation matters in manifesting the rhetorical moves in the nursing abstracts.

**Methods:** Fifty abstracts from a Scopus-indexed Q1 journal and another 50 from three Sinta-indexed journals in Indonesia were analyzed manually. This study employed a descriptive comparative approach to analyze and present the data.

**Findings:** The findings demonstrated conformity manifestations of method and results moves along with their linguistic realizations by using simple past tense in active or passive forms. The article abstracts from the Scopus-indexed nursing journal emphasized the novelty of the research more than their counterparts from the identification of gap of previous research and highlighting the significance of the study. **Implications:** This study provides the textual evidence of the affirmation of the contributing role of journal indexation type in projecting a higher standard of abstract writing.

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## INTRODUCTION

Publications in scientific journals are beneficial for scholars and academicians, without exception those in the field of nursing studies as a professional discipline because scientific journals are considered the prime outlet for circulation and development of disciplinary knowledge. It is also inseparable from the field conditions of nursing practice that cause dynamics and differences every day. Hence, updating knowledge, methods, communication styles, and teach-

ing knowledge is essential. Research articles published in scientific journals will have an impact on the distribution and renewal of nursing knowledge and teaching itself which will increase the circulation of nursing practice innovations (Beyea & Nicoll, 1997; Oermann et al., 2008; Urquhart, 1998). On the pragmatic side, publications in scientific journals will help academicians gain promotions and salary increases (Friginal & Mustafa, 2017). In other words, publishing in scientific journals has been an integral part for academicians as the downstream of



their research to keep circulating and updating disciplinary knowledge toward the development of disciplinary practices.

The development of nursing practice today depends on the spread of nursing science. Therefore, it is undeniable that international publications have now become another requirement for nursing scholars or researchers to regularly test the reliability of their findings (Derman & Jaeger, 2018, p. 122). However, publishing research articles in English is not an easy task; especially in the Indonesian context. For example, Ramos (2015) observed that a considerable number of nursing postgraduate students are dealing with difficulties in writing academic papers, and their written assignments do not meet their instructor's expectations, particularly in genre conventions. Therefore, studying the genre conventions of English research articles through move a genre-approach move analysis can be beneficial for students and academicians in the field of nursing so that it helps increase the opportunity to be successful in their publications in scientific journals.

A comparative analysis of the rhetorical structure of abstracts between a reputable international journal and a national-accredited journal is the focus of this research. Despite being the shortest section, as compared to other sections in an academic paper, the abstract, in Hyland's (2000) lens, is the first and foremost element that the readers look at and serve as a gateway for international readers to judge whether they will continue to read the contents or not (see Lorés, 2004). An abstract is also an effective means of over-viewing research findings and implications (Cleveland & Cleveland, 2013) and transferring them for easy retrieval in this digital era (Chan & Foo, 2004; Posteguillo, 1999). Thus, abstracts represent one of the key sections in scholarly research (van Bonn & Swales, 2007; Doró, 2013; Marefat & Muhammadzadeh, 2013; Saboori & Hashemi, 2013). Research article abstracts are well-known for their brevity, explicit purpose, and format requirements (Swales & Feak, 2009). Abstract quality also influences the possibility of a research article being accepted or rejected by the journal's editorial team (Kurniawan, et al., 2019a; Saeew & Tangkiengsirisin, 2014). Therefore, the organization of information conveyed in a journal article abstract should meet international writing standards. However, nursing discipline as a professional discipline has received scant attention in terms of genre-approach move analysis. Previous studies have extensively looked at a variety of research article sections of nursing journals from the standpoint of genre analysis. Buus (2005), for instance, used a genre-approach move analysis in scrutinizing the method section of scholarly nursing journal articles. Quite recently, Amirsheibani (2015) compared the introduction section of English language teaching and nursing papers. The results mainly revealed no significant differences between both fields in manifesting the CARS (Creating A Research Space) model – a model Swales (1990, 2004) proposed as a template for authors to write research article

introductions. Using a similar discipline pairing, Ghazanfari et al. (2016), concentrated on the conclusion section. They also found no significant difference between both fields in manifesting the rhetorical moves. Meanwhile, Uzun (2016) analyzed the method section of nursing research articles and revealed the most frequent moves in the method. However, much remains less explored regarding the typical rhetorical moves manifested in nursing English research article abstracts.

## Research Article Abstracts

Some scholars have proposed several definitions of research article (RA) abstracts. The RA abstract can be seen as a mini paper or summary of the paper to understand the research variables before reading the entire paper (Hartley & Benjamin, 1998). It becomes the readers' first exposure to comprehend the general points of the article (Huckin, 2001; Pratiwi & Kurniawan, 2021). In the world of international publication, the abstract remains the prime sub-genre to evaluate the content quality of the journal by the journal indexing agency staff such as Elsevier (*Scopus Content Coverage Guide*, 2020). It is no surprise then that academic investigations on the eligible rhetorical structure of RA abstracts for international publications ensue.

Rhetorical structure is associated with the way an author organizes the information to convey the message to the audience effectively. It contains a set of communicative (move) and sub-communicative (step) functions that tie together coherently (Swales, 1990). A 'move' is an element that has a specified target within the text, and it is divided into some types based on the function of the text. It may contain a combination of multiple smaller elements that will realize the move itself called steps (Connor, Upton, & Kanoksilapatham, 2007). Typically, the rhetorical structure of the RA abstracts consists of four moves, as in the concept of the IMRD model: Introduction, Method, Results, and Discussion (Martín-Martín, 2002). Hyland's (2000) five move configuration—INTRODUCTION, PURPOSE, METHOD, PRODUCT, CONCLUSION—has also been widely accepted and used among scholars, conducting a genre-approach move analysis on research article abstracts. He also delineated the possible steps that typify the moves. Hyland's (2000) move configuration was adopted as a guideline to analyze the data due to its more precise definition of Move 5, CONCLUSION, covering both the discussion and recommendation or implication compared to Santos' (1996) model which only emphasizes the discussion of the results and Swales' (1990) that collapsed the INTRODUCTION and PURPOSE moves.

To understand the boundary of each move, linguistic realizations also become the focus of the present study. They may include the way authors preferably use certain types of tenses and the choice of active/passive voice in manifesting the moves and steps. The present study only focuses on the

use of verb tense and voice in relation to rhetorical moves and steps.

## Previous Research on Genre-approach Move Analysis of Research Article Abstracts

Several previous studies have conducted genre-approach move analyses of research article abstracts. Three essential aspects have been explored. Regarding the occurrences of rhetorical moves, previous findings indicated that PURPOSE, METHOD, and PRODUCT were the most frequently identified moves; hence conventional moves regardless of the type of the journals: local and international reputable journals (e.g., Kurniawan, et al., 2019a; Kurniawan & Sabila, 2021; Amnuai, 2019; Behnam & Golpour, 2014; Can, Karabacak, & Qin, 2016; Saboori & Hashemi, 2013; Vathanalaotha & Tangkiengsirisin, 2018). Meanwhile, INTRODUCTION and CONCLUSION exhibited variations across different journals and scientific disciplines. Behnam and Golpour (2014), for instance, in their comparative study of Iranian and English abstracts, unveiled that CONCLUSION was relatively more frequent in the English abstracts. Meanwhile, Amnuai (2019) found that Thai authors differed from the international counterparts in manifesting INTRODUCTION and CONCLUSION in their abstracts. In a similar vein, Vathanalaotha and Tangkiengsirisin (2018) reported that Thai and international authors behaved differently in the manifestation of INTRODUCTION in their abstracts. In the Indonesian context, Kurniawan and Sabila (2021) and Kosasih (2018) revealed that CONCLUSION was the least incorporated move in the Indonesian abstracts. However, the general structure of the abstracts with four or five moves was more often manifested in reputable international journals (Kurniawan, et al., 2019a; Saeew & Tangkiengsirisin, 2014). The above studies appear to suggest that the rhetorical structure of the abstracts varies especially in INTRODUCTION and CONCLUSION depending on the status of the authors (local or international).

From an interdisciplinary perspective, research has shown that consensus has not yet been reached as to which moves in scientific article abstracts are considered the norms. Soft-science disciplines, for instance, such as linguistics (Can, Karabacak, & Qin, 2016), education (Kafes, 2012), and tourism (Kurniawan & Sabila, 2021) tended not to incorporate CONCLUSION in their abstracts. On the contrary, hard-science disciplines such as economics (Saboori & Hashemi, 2013), environmental science (Saeew & Tangkiengsirisin, 2014), and medicine (Vathanalaotha & Tangkiengsirisin, 2018) provided CONCLUSION after RESULT/PRODUCT. Research conducted by Çandarlı (2012) revealed that most Turkish writers did not frequently include CONCLUSION in their abstracts.) In their analysis of the abstracts of Biology studies, Xiao and Cao (2013) indicated that the background of the study, INTRODUCTION, was more dominantly manifested by native English authors. The variations in the rhe-

torical structure of abstracts from the previous studies are presented in Table 1.

Variations are also attested in the linguistic realizations of the abstracts depending on the characteristics of the journals, as can be seen in Table 2. Comparing the linguistic realizations of abstracts from Scopus-indexed journals across different quartiles in applied linguistics, Kurniawan et al. (2019a) disclosed that simple present tense time was more dominantly used to realize the INTRODUCTION and PURPOSE moves in the abstracts from more prestigious journals. Contrastingly, the abstracts from less prestigious journals tended to use present perfect tense for INTRODUCTION move and simple past tense for PURPOSE move. Passive forms were used more by the abstract writers from reputable journals to realize METHOD and CONCLUSION.

In the context of the nursing field, genre analysis of scientific articles, more specifically abstracts, **remains scares**. To mention a few, Ramos (2015) investigated undergraduate nursing students' case studies and thesis proposals in medical universities in Southeast Asia. Among numerous aspects of students' writing, Ramos examined the entire moves of students' writing and found that some necessary moves were absent. A research study that is closely relevant to the scope of our paper comes from Piqué-Noguera and Camacho-Puig (2015) that specifically examined abstracts from twelve nursing journals. The results revealed that although the move structure varied in the corpus data, the indicative abstract—a very general, brief type of abstract commonly found in review papers—occurred more frequently than the informative abstract—a more detailed type of abstract with specified information from the background to conclusions and typically found in research papers. However, the abstracts were retrieved from local journals only. A comparative analysis between journals with different types of journal indexation is worth doing as journal indexation represents certain demands and standards, which may vary across indexing agencies. An empirical void from the current genre analyses is an examination of nursing abstracts published in two distinct journal indexing agencies.

Of interest in this paper is this underpinning assumption that journal indexation can be a distinguishing factor in publication quality. Literature has demonstrated that the indexation of journals serves as a prototypical matrix that a journal meets the established standard (Nagoba et al., 2016) as well as a pathway to stellar research publication (Kurniawan et al., 2019b). In addition to that, indexation is often parallel to visibility, with internationally indexed journals reaching a much broader readership, which may allow for international collaboration among researchers, resulting in more contribution to the academic community (Holland, Duncombe, Dyas, & Meester, 2018). With such promising benefits, reputable journals impose strict requirements for manuscripts to be considered for publication to ascertain the highest quality. To meet that end, international databas-

**Table 1**

Several previous studies on moves and steps

Author(s)	Focus/Field	Findings
Amnuai (2019)	Thai vs international authors	INTRODUCTION was more dominant in Thai; CONCLUSION was more dominant in international abstracts
Kurniawan, Lubis, Suherdi, & Danuwijaya (2019)	Applied linguistics international journals	INTRODUCTION and CONCLUSION were conventional
Kurniawan & Sabila (2021)	Indonesian vs international journals on tourism	INTRODUCTION was more dominant in Indonesian; CONCLUSION was more dominant in international abstracts
Behnam & Golpour (2014)	Iranian vs English abstracts in applied linguistics and mathematics	Despite some variations in moves across the two disciplines, CONCLUSION was more frequent in English abstract
Can, Karabacak, & Qin (2016)	International abstracts in applied linguistics	INTRODUCTION was not as dominant as CONCLUSION
Çandarlı (2012)	Turkish vs international authors in education journals	CONCLUSION was used less by Turkish authors
Kosasih (2018)	Indonesian master students' theses in fisheries management, public administration, management, and mathematics education	CONCLUSION was the least manifested move
Saboori & Hashemi (2013)	Top tier international journals in applied linguistics, applied economics and applied engineering	INTRODUCTION was not as dominant as CONCLUSION
Saeew & Tangkiengsirisin (2014)	Top tier journals on environmental science	CONCLUSION was more frequent than INTRODUCTION
Vathanalaoha & Tangkiengsirisin (2018)	Thai vs international dental journals	INTRODUCTION was much more dominant in international abstracts
Xiao & Cao (2013)	Chinese vs English native authors in journals on biology	INTRODUCTION was employed more by native English authors

**Table 2.**

Linguistic realizations in the applied linguistics abstracts

	More prestigious journals	Less prestigious journals
Tenses	Simple present tense was used dominantly in INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE	Present perfect tense was used dominantly in INTRODUCTION & simple past in PURPOSE
Voices	Passive was used more in METHOD & RESULT in more prestigious journals	

es, such as Scopus, professionally hire independent, international boards of editors, librarians, and bibliometricians (Rew, 2015). With such rigid requisites and professional board, mainstream international journals may be deemed more credible than locally-indexed counterparts; thus, perpetuating a presumption that the former is superior to the latter (Kurniawan, et al., 2019b).

Thus, this study seeks to fill the void by examining the manifestations of rhetorical moves in nursing research articles abstracts from selected nursing journals indexed in Scopus and Sinta – an Indonesian journal index. In particular, the present study attempts to address the following research questions:

1. What rhetorical moves are manifested in the nursing research article abstracts across two different indexing agencies?
2. To what extent is journal indexation associated with the manifestation of rhetorical structure of the abstracts?

## METHOD

### Data Set

This study was designed as a genre-approach move analysis (Baker, 2010; Hyland, 2009; Swales, 1990) to firstly explore the rhetorical moves of nursing abstracts and whether journal indexation results in different manifestations of rhetorical moves of nursing abstracts. The data were 100 research article abstracts about nursing studies taken from four journals. The criteria for selecting the abstracts were: accessible to download and written in English. International Journal of Nursing Studies (n=50 abstracts) is published in the United Kingdom and managed by Elsevier with Scopus-indexed Q1 (a quartile in Scopus is a category attached to the scientific journal based on its credibility where Q1 is the highest category and Q4 is the lowest one). The journal requires all submissions to include an abstract of 400 words or less. On the other side, three nursing journals from Indonesia (n=50 abstracts from all journals) were Jurnal Keperawatan Indonesia (UI) (n=16 abstracts), Jurnal Pendidikan Keperawatan Indonesia (UPI) (n=18 abstracts), Jurnal Keperawatan Soedirman (UNSOED) (n=16 abstracts). They were nationally accredited, indexed by Sinta (the Indonesian science and technology index administered under the Minister of Education). The range of words for the abstract in the journals is

100-300 words. The criteria for selecting the abstracts were: accessible to download and written in English.

### Data Collection Procedure

Initial analysis was done to recognize the rhetorical structure of the abstracts. Hyland's (2000) framework was adopted to analyze the moves because the framework closely conformed to the initial analysis results (see Table 2 as a sample of the initial analysis results). However, during the analysis, the researchers were taking notes of any existing moves or steps, not covered in Hyland's analysis. Table 1 depicts the coding scheme.

Table 2 below exhibits the coding results of a sample text.

Some sentences in the abstracts of International Journal of Nursing Studies did not contain a verb because the abstracts used specific tags such as Aim, Method, and Results. That is why some authors directly start the sentences using to-infinitive form, particularly in the Aim part. Meanwhile, the abstracts from the Sinta-indexed journals did not use any special tags to indicate the content. However, the number of tags in the abstracts is not similar to each other, meaning that the manifestation of rhetorical moves in the abstracts also depends on the authors' preferences, particularly in the Introduction and Conclusion moves.

### Data Analysis Procedure

This study employed Kurniawan et al.'s (2019a) and Lubis' (2020) analysis procedure. First, all titles and abstracts were

**Table 1**

Coding scheme in the present study

	Move	Step
M1	INTRODUCTION	S1 Arguing for topic significance S2 Making topic generalization S3 Defining the key term(s) S4 Identifying gap
M2	PURPOSE	Stating the research purpose
M3	METHOD	S1 Describing participants/data sources S2 Describing instrument(s) S3 Describing procedure and context
M4	RESULT	Describing the main results
M5	CONCLUSION	S1 Deducing conclusion S2 Evaluating the significance of the research S3 Stating limitation S4 Presenting recommendation or implication



**Table 2**

The sample of the coding results

Abstract No. 45 (International Journal of Nursing Studies)	Label (Step-based)	Classification (Move-based)
Title: Work Environment Characteristics Associated with Quality of Care in Dutch Nursing Homes: A Cross-Sectional Study		
A lack of relationship between direct care staffing levels and quality of care, as found in prior studies, underscores the importance of considering the quality of the work environment instead of only considering staff ratios.	Significance of the topic	Move 1 (Step 1)
Only a few studies, however, have combined direct care staffing with work environment characteristics when assessing the relationship with quality of care in nursing homes.	Identifying gap	Move 1 (Step 4)
To examine the relationship between direct care staffing levels, work environment characteristics and perceived quality of care in Dutch nursing homes.	Stating the research purpose	Move 2
Cross-sectional, observational study in cooperation with the Dutch Prevalence Measurement of Care Problems.	Describing design	Move 3 (Step 1)
Twenty-four somatic and 31 psychogeriatric wards from 21 nursing homes in the Netherlands. Forty-one ward managers and 274 staff members (registered nurses or certified nurse assistants) from the 55 participating wards.	Describing participants	Move 3 (Step 2)
Ward rosters were discussed with managers to obtain an insight into direct care staffing levels (i.e., total direct care staff hours per resident per day).	Describing analysis procedure	Move 3 (Step 4)
Participating staff members completed a questionnaire on work environment characteristics (i.e., ward culture, team climate, communication and coordination, role model availability, and multidisciplinary collaboration) and they rated the quality of care in their ward.	Describing analysis procedure	Move 3 (Step 4)
Data were analyzed using multilevel linear regression analyses (random intercept).	Describing analysis procedure	Move 3 (Step 4)
Separate analyses were conducted for somatic and psychogeriatric wards.	Describing analysis procedure	Move 3 (Step 4)
In general, staff members were satisfied with the quality of care in their wards. Staff members from psychogeriatric wards scored higher on the statement 'In the event that a family member had to be admitted to a nursing home now, I would recommend this ward'.	Describing main results	Move 4
A better team climate was related to better perceived quality of care in both ward types ( $p = 0.020$ ).	Describing main results	Move 4
In somatic wards, there was a positive association between multidisciplinary collaboration and agreement by staff of ward recommendation for a family member ( $p = 0.028$ ).	Describing main results	Move 4
In psychogeriatric wards, a lower score on market culture ( $p = 0.019$ ), better communication/coordination ( $p = 0.018$ ) and a higher rating for multidisciplinary collaboration ( $p = 0.003$ ) were significantly associated with a higher grade for overall quality of care.	Describing main results	Move 4
Total direct care staffing, adhocracy culture, hierarchy culture, as well as role model availability were not significantly related to quality of care.	Describing main results	Move 4

Our findings suggest that team climate may be an important factor to consider when trying to improve quality of care.	Stating conclusion	Move 5 (Step 1)
Generating more evidence on which work environment characteristics actually lead to better quality of care is needed.	Highlighting recommendation	Move 5 (Step 4)

read to understand the topic and general points of the paper. The texts were broken down into sentences. Then, the sentences as the units of analysis were coded manually by the researchers as exemplified in Table 2. The coding results were classified into moves. The classification results were used to count the occurrences of each move and step to determine its salience. Kanoksilapatham's (2005) benchmark was employed comprising three categories: obligatory (100% of occurrence), conventional (66% or higher, but below 100%), and optional (below 66%). The rhetorical structure of the abstracts of the journals was obtained by calculating the number of moves manifested. This benchmark was employed to help the readers get the general conclusion of the move-step occurrences so that other writers can prepare their manuscript abstracts more carefully, based on the results of previous studies.

The analysis of linguistic realizations focused on the use of tense and sentence voice (active and passive form) in each move. Indeed, during the initial analysis, we identified several abstracts which did not use any verbs. In the main analysis stage, we carefully selected other abstracts from the same journal, which used verbs in all moves; in other words, the moves were realized in a complete sentence form. We underlined the verb phrase (e.g., this study aimed to identify) used in each sentence, featuring a move. Then, the type of tense and sentence voice of each sentence was presented in a table along with the explanation of the move. Afterward, we reviewed the analysis results to ensure data reliability.

## RESULTS

### Rhetorical Moves Manifested in the Nursing Research Article Abstracts

This sub-section explains the rhetorical moves manifested in the nursing abstracts from Scopus-indexed and Sinta-indexed journals. In total, there were 1259 sentences categorized as moves in the entire data set. Generally, the METHOD move obtained the highest number of occurrences with 427 sentences (34%), followed by RESULT move with 297 sentences (24%), INTRODUCTION move with 259 sentences (20%), CONCLUSION move with 176 sentences (14%), and PURPOSE move with 100 sentences (8%). This indicates that more sentences are spent to inform how the research was conducted and what results emerged from the research in the nursing abstracts. The number of occurrences of the moves did not necessarily reflect its salience in the data set. Table 2 displays the results. The findings showed that method and results moves were obligatory in all journals (100%). Introduction move was conventional in all journals. On the

other side, purpose and conclusion moves were obligatory in International Journal of Nursing Studies, but conventional in the local journals (96% and 94%, respectively). The findings demonstrate that journal indexation can result in differing standards of manifesting the rhetorical moves in the abstracts.

### Introduction

Table 2 displays the comparative results of rhetorical moves between Scopus-indexed and Sinta-indexed research article abstracts. The findings showed that in conveying the introduction move, both groups of abstracts were mostly concerned with highlighting the significance of the research topic and describing previous findings. They less focused on defining the key terms. However, a discrepancy emerged in the tendency of abstracts from the Scopus-indexed journal to identify the research gap as the motive of the research as compared to the Sinta-indexed journals (64% and 12%, respectively). Introduction move was typically realized by using simple present tense (1) and/or simple future tense in active forms (2).

1. *However, **there is limited evidence** informing flushing practice and **little is known** about the current flushing practices. [International Journal of Nursing Studies, Abstract No. 13]*
2. *The increase of the age **will cause changes** in the structure and physiological properties [...]. [Jurnal Pendidikan Keperawatan UPI, Abstract No. 1]*

### Purpose

The journal indexation type did not result in a significant number of gaps regarding the manifestation of purpose move in both types of journals. This move was mostly realized by using simple past tense in active forms. Excerpt (3-4) represent the linguistic realizations.

3. ***This study aimed to evaluate** the efficacy of a specialist training programme for acute hospital staff regarding improving attitudes, satisfaction and feelings of caring efficacy, in provision of care to people with dementia. [International Journal of Nursing Studies, Abstract No. 36]*
4. ***The purpose of this research was to know** the correlation between Body Mass Index with elderly blood pressure in puskesmas Melong Asih Cimahi. [Jurnal Pendidikan Keperawatan Indonesia, UPI, Abstract No. 1]*

Table 2

The comparative results of the move-step salience

Moves	Featuring abstracts		Steps	Featuring abstracts	
	Scopus-indexed journal	Sinta-indexed journals		Scopus-indexed journal	Sinta-indexed journals
Introduction	48 (96%)	49 (98%)	Highlighting topic significance	30 (60%)	29 (58%)
			Describing previous findings	31 (62%)	36 (72%)
			Defining key terms	5 (10%)	12 (24%)
			Identifying gap	32 (64%)	6 (12%)
Purpose	50 (100%)	48 (96%)	N/A		
Method	50 (100%)	50 (100%)	Stating research design	41 (82%)	40 (80%)
			Describing participants	46 (92%)	34 (68%)
			Describing instruments	38 (76%)	21 (42%)
			Describing procedures	47 (94%)	27 (54%)
Result	50 (100%)	50 (100%)	N/A		
Conclusion	50 (100%)	47 (97%)	Interpreting results	42 (84%)	25 (50%)
			Highlighting significance of the study	15 (30%)	2 (4%)
			Stating limitations	1 (2%)	0 (0%)
			Highlighting recommendations	19 (38%)	28 (56%)

## Method

This move was generally manifested by stating the research design, describing the participants, research instruments, and procedures. A discrepancy was identified in which the Sinta-indexed abstracts considerably did not incorporate the description of the instruments used and the research procedures. The findings imply that the local journals had a tendency not to require the author(s) to provide more information regarding both elements. This move was realized by simple past tense in active or passive forms. Excerpt (5-6) present some of the examples.

5. **Instruments used included** *Blau's Career Commitment Scale and Orlinsky and Rønnestad's Interpersonal Adjective Scale. [International Journal of Nursing Studies, Abstract No. 33]*
6. **This research used a quasi-experimental design, pre-post with control group that involved 44 samples of female adult suffered from overweight and obesity. [Jurnal Keperawatan Indonesia, UI, Abstract No. 19]**

## Results

Not surprisingly, the result move was manifested in all abstracts regardless of journal indexation. The nature of scientific or research-based writing fundamentally requires the authors to present the main results of the research so that the readers can understand the representative portrait of the whole content of the papers. Typically, the realization of the result move involved the use of simple past tense in active forms mostly as depicted in excerpt (7-8).

7. **Nursing students did not differ from students in teaching and social work programs in terms of the degree of affirming personality trait. [International Journal of Nursing Studies, Abstract No. 33]**
8. **The result showed that 74 elderly who undertook physical exercise 65% did not experience depression, while 58,8% who did not perform exercise experienced mild depression. [Jurnal Keperawatan Indonesia, UI, Abstract No. 21]**



Conclusion

The salience of the conclusion move in both types of journals necessarily influences the manifestation of its constituent steps. More Sinta-indexed abstracts manifested recommendations step than Scopus-indexed abstracts (56% and 38%, respectively). On the other hand, interpretations of the results and significance of the study were more emphasized in the Scopus-indexed abstracts than in their counterparts (see Table 3). Apart from that, 2% (one abstract) from the Scopus-indexed journal preferred to state the limitations of the study, which was also found by Kurniawan et al. (2019a) in the field of applied linguistics. This move was realized mostly by simple present tense in active forms as exemplified in (9-10).

9. **Thus it can be concluded that** *there is significant influence steam bath therapy in increasing the physiological response to stress. [Jurnal Keperawatan Soedirman, UNSOED, Abstract No. 37]*
10. **These findings present a unique insight** *into the quality and quantity of staff-patient interactions in acute care. [International Journal of Nursing Studies, Abstract No. 22]*

Journal Indexation Influence on the

Figure 2  
The comparative typical rhetorical structure of nursing abstracts across journals

Rhetorical structure of Scopus-indexed abstracts		Rhetorical structure of Sinta-indexed abstracts	
Move	Step	Move	Step
Introduction ↓	Highlighting topic significance	Introduction ↓	Highlighting topic significance
	Describing previous findings		Describing previous findings
	Identifying gap	Purpose ↓	No constituting steps
Purpose ↓	No constituting steps		No constituting steps
Method ↓	Stating research design		Stating research design
	Describing participants	Method ↓	Describing participants
	Describing instruments		Describing instruments
	Describing procedures		Describing procedures
Result ↓	No constituting steps	Result ↓	No constituting steps
Conclusion	Interpreting results	Conclusion	Interpreting results
	Highlighting significance of the study		Highlighting recommendations
	Highlighting recommendations		

Manifestation of Rhetorical Structure of the Abstracts

This sub-section unveils the role of journal indexation in manifesting the rhetorical structure of the nursing abstracts.

Figure 2 showed that in terms of the moves, all authors manifested the same rhetorical structure, starting from the introduction, research objectives, research method, result, and conclusion. In other words, all journals have determined the shared move structure of the abstracts, which is eligible to be employed by the authors. Due to the highly rigid rhetorical structure, the opening and closing moves of the abstracts were also similar. The abstracts started with an introduction. Then, the abstracts were closed by the statement of conclusion. However, journal indexation is associated with the rhetorical structure of the steps. While the identification of gap in the previous studies typically occurred after describing previous findings in the Scopus-indexed abstracts, such step occurred otherwise in their counterparts. Another discrepancy, associated with the journal indexation was noticed in structuring the steps in conveying Move 5 Conclusion. The Scopus-indexed abstracts tended to highlight the significance of the study after interpreting the research results, which was not considerably evident in the Sinta-indexed abstracts. In Move 3 Method, both groups of abstracts did not exhibit a discrepancy regarding the posi-

tion of the steps. This may be caused by the logic of the information where the description of the research procedure appears after the statement of research design and the description of the participants and instruments. The results indicate that while journal indexation is not associated with the move-level rhetorical structure, it does play a role in the manifestation of the step-level rhetorical structure.

Furthermore, the salience status of the moves and steps can influence its configuration. Table 3 exhibits the results. The indexation status of the journal may not influence the move-step configuration. The two-step configuration of the Introduction move was more preferred by almost half of the abstracts in both groups. However, no abstract manifested all steps in Introduction and Conclusion moves. This may be due to the need for much space if the authors want to manifest all steps in each move. The indexation status of the journal can influence the move-step configuration. While one-step configuration in the Introduction move occurred more in the abstracts from Sinta-indexed journals, three-step configuration appeared slightly more in the Scopus-indexed counterparts. Additionally, four-step configuration in the Method move and two-step configuration in the Conclusion move were considerably more evident in the Scopus-indexed journal than in its counterparts. Even, three abstracts from the latter group did not offer any conclusions. This in-

**Table 3**

The configurations of the rhetorical structure of the moves in the abstracts

Move	Configuration	Number of featuring abstracts	
		Scopus-indexed journal	Sinta-indexed journals
Introduction	One-step	8	21
	Two-step	23	22
	Three-step	14	6
	Four-step	-	-
Method	One-step	1	6
	Two-step	6	22
	Three-step	13	16
	Four-step	30	6
Conclusion	One-step	24	39
	Two-step	25	8
	Three-step	1	-
	Four-step	-	-

dicates that the indexation status of the journal may reflect its expectations on the authors to convey the information regarding the research method and conclusion drawn from the main results. Discussion

This study has delineated the manifestation of the rhetorical moves of nursing research article abstracts from Scopus-indexed and Sinta-indexed journals. The findings demonstrate that commonalities and discrepancies are evident across the two types of journal indexation. Regarding the commonalities, noteworthy is the fact that all authors in the nursing journals under examination manifested the same rhetorical structure, starting from the introduction, research objectives, research method, results, and conclusion. This concurs with Khansari, Heng, Yuit, and Tan's (2016) finding that the majority of RA abstracts follow the underlying rhetorical structure of RAs, which further underscores Swales' (1990) premise that abstracts serve as a mirror of RAs. Another key finding that both journal groups have in common is that all abstracts from both groups of journals manifest the method and result moves. This finding corroborates the same pattern exemplified in the abstracts of applied linguistics and educational technology (Pho, 2008), linguistics (El-Dakhs, 2018), tourism (Ahmed, 2015), biology, engineering, linguistics, medicine, and physics (Hardjanto, 2017). This appears to suggest that in terms of the rhetorical structure of RA

abstracts, nursing authors fall into the same category as authors of other disciplines in obligatorily showcasing methods and results. This also indicates that the nursing scholars in both journal groups employed the informative style of an abstract since the authors do not only inform the main findings but also describe the research procedures. Meanwhile, discrepancies are identified. Involving Dentistry research article abstracts, Vathanalaoha and Tangkiengsirisin (2018) demonstrated that the salience of the results move in the abstracts from the reputable journals was lower than that in the abstracts from the local journals (97.5% and 100%, respectively). Similarly, Amnuai (2019) found that while 90% of the Accounting abstracts from the international journals manifested the results move, 100% of the abstracts from the local journals did so. The differing nature of the disciplines, albeit in the same category of science, might be the possible cause of such discrepancy. Hence, journal indexation might not necessarily influence the manifestation of the method and result moves in this study. The awareness of the importance of both moves among the local authors might also be another contributing factor. Moreover, the journal indexation type does not influence the manifestation of the introduction and conclusion moves in which both moves are regarded as conventional. The findings of the present study corroborate Vathanalaoha and Tangkiengsirisin (2018) and Amnuai (2019), particularly on the conclusion move. Although it was shown that there was a gap in the relative occurrence of purpose and conclusion moves where the two moves were obligatory in the international journals, but conventional in the local journals, the margin appears marginal—a 2 % difference. Clearly, this still indicates that the two moves are pertinent in RA abstracts irrespective of indexing categories. Again, this finding fortifies the argument that journal indexation plays little role, if any, in the realization of the rhetorical moves of RA abstracts.

Furthermore, the linguistic realizations seem not considerably different. Regarding the tense, the authors employ present simple tense to convey the introduction and conclusion moves. The purpose move can be realized by using present simple or past simple tense. The past simple tense is conventional to convey the method and findings moves. Regarding the voice and subject-verb agreement, the findings imply that if the authors employ active voice, the subjects are move-dependent and usually related to the macro elements of the study (e.g., this paper, this study, the findings) or self-reference (e.g., the researchers) with the verb + that-clause combination for explaining the findings or concluding the research (e.g., reported that, conclude that) or to-infinitives to tell the research purpose (e.g., aim to investigate). Meanwhile, if the authors employ passive voice, the subjects may vary, but still be move-specific (e.g., *the research topic has been investigated* for the introduction move or *a questionnaire was administered* for the method move).

On the other hand, several non-typical linguistic realizations are identified in the data set of the present study. Some ab-

stracts from the local journals use future simple tense to convey the significance of the topic in question as well as the findings of the previous research. Moreover, an abstract from the top-tier nursing journal employs present continuous tense to convey the significance of the topic. This indicates that the use of the non-typical linguistic features depends on the contextual functions of the sentences, not the types of the journal indexation.

Last but not least, the rhetorical structure of the abstracts from the international and local journals has been examined. The findings reveal that the discrepancies in organizing the information conveyed in the introduction, method, and conclusion moves between the two groups of abstracts are evident. First, the gap identification is significantly not featured in the local journals (64%:12%). Second, the detailed description of the instruments and research procedures received more focus in the abstracts of the top-tier journals. Third, although the percentage of occurrence of the recommendations in the conclusion move of the local abstracts is higher than that of the international abstracts (56%:38%, respectively), the statement of the significance of the study as a way of expressing the research novelty is more obvious in the international abstracts than in the local ones (30%:4%, respectively). The discrepancies show that there is a role in the type of the journal indexation. The top-tier journal demands a higher standard of the abstract writing in which the availability of the research novelty, gap identification, and detailed description of the research method in the abstracts are the requisites to be able to cope with the journal's standards. The findings justify the previous research that the journal indexation type results in the differing demands of some elements in the abstracts (Kurniawan, et al., 2019a).

## CONCLUSION

This study has investigated the rhetorical moves manifested in the nursing research article abstracts across two different indexing agencies and the extent to which journal indexation is associated with the manifestation of the rhetorical structure of the abstracts. The findings revealed the role of genre-approach move analysis in examining the role of journal indexation in the rhetorical structure of the nursing research article abstracts. As far as moves are concerned, indexation does not play an important part in the configuration of moves in the nursing abstracts; all the moves were identifiable in the abstracts, mirroring the RA structures. However, journal indexation matters in the step level. While the recommendation for future research is more apparent in the abstracts of the local journals, the manifestations of the research novelty through gap identification and statement of topic significance and the description of the research procedure are more evident in the abstracts from the international top-tier journals. This reinforces the differing standards of abstract genre conventions in the step level, which might be influenced by the orientation of the top-tier

journal to maintain the abstract's quality as a contributing factor to increasing its impact factor internationally. Apart from that, a fairly solid trend is evident regarding the linguistic realizations of the verb tense and sentence voice of each move. This study, therefore, suggests more explorations on the complexity of nursing abstract writing from a contrastive approach. The results of the research can be employed as a reference for teaching English for research publication purposes. As implied from the previous literature, a genre-based pedagogy can arm nursing students with a paramount skill to express themselves in ways widely acceptable in their discourse community. Acceptable rhetorical patterns of quality, internationally published research articles, in this respect those of abstract, should be taught/trained explicitly and ample amount of relevant exercises on such patterns should be facilitated to heighten the students' awareness of the genre conventions. The establishment of a support group comprising English teachers, clinical instructors, and curriculum developers that comprehensively assesses students' needs throughout the academic writing class is another point of worthy consideration.

## DECLARATION OF COMPETING INTEREST

None declared

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