

Rhetorical functions of citations: Cross-cultural variation in research articles published in international, Czech English-medium and Czech-medium soft sciences journals

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The establishment of English as the lingua franca of globalized academia has forced non-Anglophone researchers to accommodate to a different epistemological and literacy convention in order to publish their research internationally. The resulting centre-periphery tension (cf. Swales 1997, Tardy 2004, Canagarajah 2002, Salager-Meyer 2008, Bennett 2014) has called for cross-cultural research into variation in academic writing conventions and the changes experienced by non-Anglophone academic discourse communities under the influence of the dominant Anglo-American academic norms.

The recent interest in the study of cross-cultural variation in citation practices (Flowerdew 2000, Petersen & Shaw 2002, Lillis & Curry 2010, Lillis, Hewings & Vladimirova 2010) reflects their key role in the interpersonal dimension of academic discourse since by creating intertextual connections citations allow authors to evaluate previous research, indicate gaps, support their argumentation and make claims aiming at extending existing knowledge, thus enabling them to construct their identities as members of the academic discourse community (cf. Swales 1990, Hyland 1999, 2000, Charles 2006, Petrić 2007, Lillis, Hewings, Vladimirova & Curry 2010, Kwan & Chan 2014). This study investigates cross-cultural variation in the rhetorical functions of citations and their distribution across the generic moves of research articles in a specialized corpus of research articles in the field of social sciences and humanities published in established international journals, Czech English-medium journals and Czech-medium journals. While exploring how the authors use citations to enhance the persuasiveness of their discourse, the study endeavours to highlight variation in citation practices reflecting the intended readership and differences existing between central and peripheral epistemologies and literacies. It also discusses the effect of the globalization of academia on citation practices of Czech researchers who strive to get access to disciplinary networks and become an integral part of globalized academia.

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