

The effect of national/international audience on the rhetorical structure of research article Discussion sections

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Previous research has shown that researchers who use English as an additional language perceive writing research articles (RAs) for publication in English (as L2) as more difficult than writing RAs for publication in their L1. The Discussion section has also been identified as the most difficult section to write, especially for publication in English-medium international journals. A large sample of Spanish researchers have also suggested that being more aware of the differences and similarities in the rhetorical structure of RAs across international English-medium journals and national journals might help them to write this genre in English more confidently. Thus, the aim of the present study has been to compare the rhetorical structure of the Discussion sections of RAs across English and Spanish to gain insights into cross-cultural variation as a function of the target audience. To this aim, I have analyzed the rhetorical structure of a pilot sample of 12 pairs of RAs from the EXEMPRAES (Exemplary Empirical Research Articles in English and Spanish) corpora representing a wide range of disciplinary areas. Drawing on the methodological principles used in the qualitative analysis literature, I have refined existing models of the rhetorical structure of RA Discussion sections, yielding a model, or coding scheme, that contains clearer definitions of moves and steps than those often found in the literature. Using the revised model, I have trained a coder to replicate my analysis independently. My paper discusses the usefulness of performing inter-coder reliability tests that offer the Cohen's Kappa coefficient and the average agreement percentage in the process of revising the coding scheme itself. Finally, it offers preliminary results about similarities and differences across RA Discussion sections published in international and national contexts in a way that may be useful to multilingual researchers, especially those who publish in English and in Spanish-medium scientific journals.

Biodata

Ana I. Moreno is a Senior Lecturer in English at the University of León (Spain), where she teaches English, as well as pragmatics and discourse analysis. She is also the Director of the ENEIDA (Spanish National Team for Intercultural Studies on Academic Discourse) Research Group, and the Principal Investigator a research project on the "rhetorical strategies to get published in international scientific journals from a Spanish-English intercultural perspective". Her research interests concern EAP, needs analysis, intercultural rhetoric and genre analysis. She has published in *English for Specific Purposes*, *The Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, *TEXTandTALK* and *IBERICA*, among others.