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ABSTRACT

The thesis concentrated on the schema for writing conclusions of scientific and non-scientific articles based on Swales FOUR MOVE schema for writing introductions of scientific articles.

The study attempted to answer the following questions:

- 1) Is there a need for students to study the schema of writing conclusions?
- 2) What is the organization of conclusions in scientific articles?
- 3) How is the organization similar or different from the conclusion of non-scientific articles?

The objectives of the study were to: 1) find out how conclusions of scientific and non-scientific articles are commonly organized; 2) determine a schema for conclusions of scientific and non-scientific articles; and 3) compare the organization of conclusions of scientific articles with non-scientific articles.

The study adopted these hypotheses: 1) That there is no specific or distinctive style in writing conclusions of scientific articles; and 2) The conclusion of scientific articles is not organized differently from conclusions of non-scientific articles.



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Content analysis based on the discourse level was used in determining the organization of conclusions. The analysis was confined only to 20 conclusions of science journal articles in the areas of Biology and Chemistry and 20 non-scientific journal articles from the areas of History, Philosophy, Sociology and Linguistics. These articles were written by both local and foreign writers and published from 1986 to 1991.

To analyze the conclusions of scientific and non-scientific articles, the following procedures were observed:

- a) Articles were gathered from the scholarly journals and read in their entirety;
- b) Conclusions were focused on to analyze the organization of information;
- c) Conclusion samples were coded and boxed to distinguish the moves;
- d) A schema or a series of moves were derived for each sample;
- e) The moves were then analyzed, compared and tabulated after which the schema common to most samples was spelled out.

The overall analysis of conclusions revealed that there was a specific and particular way by which scientific conclusions were written. A three-move



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pattern existed in 65% of the scientific article conclusions used. The pattern was spelled out in a series of moves namely:

- MOVE 1 - Stating the Generalization
- MOVE 2 - Restating the Findings
- MOVE 3 - Stating the Deduction

The result also showed that the presentation of information in conclusions of scientific articles was clear, specific and concise.

In non-scientific articles, there were also moves found in conclusions but there was no specific or consistent pattern in the organization of information. However, majority of the samples analyzed manifested SUMMARIZING THE STUDY/PAPER as the first move. The organization of information was different from that of scientific article conclusions due to the inclusion of personal views and opinions of the writers. Moreover, the results revealed that more moves were present in non-scientific article conclusions.

The moves or schema in writing conclusions can be used as bases for teaching students of science and the social sciences how to organize their conclusions for writing scientific and non-scientific articles.

Based on the findings of the study, it is recommended that a similar study be conducted using



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larger samples of conclusions in the various fields of science and technology and the other areas of social sciences.

