



ABSTRACT

Citation practices play a vital role in persuading readers to accept writers' arguments and construct knowledge network in academic writing (Irvin, 2010). However, junior scholars, especially in their master's period, often have difficulty in employing citations as often mentioned in literature. Kachru's World Englishes (1996) has reminded that written English differs across the inner circle, outer circle, and expanding circle. To explore the features of citation practices, this study provides a citation complexity framework for analyzing citation strategy, citation form, and citation function. Altogether 15 theses by students in the masters' level in the Philippines, the United States of America, and China were randomly selected and analyzed textually via NVivo 12. The results showed that the overall citation complexity performed in Filipino master's theses is medium to high, high in the American theses, and medium in the Chinese theses. This study contributes the framework of 'citation complexity' in studying citation practices comprehensively. Also, the detailed findings remind scholars the differences of citation use among countries and offer detailed suggestions in teaching citations.

Keywords: *Citation practices, Kachru's concentric circle, Academic English Writing, Textual Analysis*