

Wasan Aryubken 2011: Research Article Abstracts in Natural Science: A Study of Linguistic Realizations of Rhetorical Structure. Master of Arts (English for Specific Purposes), Major Field: English for Specific Purposes, Department of Foreign Languages. Thesis Advisor: Ms. Navaporn Sanprasert, Ph.D. 176 pages.

The abstract found at the beginning of most journal articles has increasing become an essential part of the article. It tends to be the first part of the article to be read. The purposes of this study were to 1) investigate 2) compare and 3) analyze the organization of abstracts, linguistic realization, and authorial stance in the scientific field. Thirty abstracts investigated in scientific abstracts of Kasetsart Journal, the year of 2008, were objectively selected for analysis.

In order to analyze the organization of scientific abstracts, Santos' abstract move patterns theory (1996) was used as the paradigm for this study. The results of this study were compared with Santos' study in order to find the differences in the nature of abstract writing. Three specialists from the English and linguistic fields analyzed the corpus for this study, and the rhetorical moves were reliably identified.

The results of this study showed that there are four obligatory moves in abstracts – the Presenting the research move (83.33%), the Describing the methodology move (93.33%), the Summarizing the finding move (100%), and the Discussing the research move (83.33%). The least frequency of occurrence of move was the Situating the research move (23.33%). The results also indicate that a combination of certain linguistic features such as grammatical subjects, verb tense and voice help distinguishing moves in the abstract. Also, the use of authorial stance did exist in almost every abstract move except for the Describing the methodology move.

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Thesis Advisor's signature