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Conference Abstract

Investigating the Genre of MA Theses Introductions in Literature and Civilization: The Case of Larbi Ben M'hidi University

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Abstract

Genre analysis has recently received noticeable attention in the EFL community. Based on the pioneering contribution of John Swales (1990), many researchers attempted to explore the communicative moves that shape the structure of creating a research space. More importantly, the introduction section in scientific articles, dissertations and theses have received myriad forms of scrutiny and evaluation. In this context, the present study investigates the second rhetorical move in the introduction section of master theses in Literature and Civilization. Although many pedagogical implications have signified the importance of establishing a niche in a research topic to target original contributions, many students tend to overlook this prominent step as they refine their research focus. The study relies on the examination of a representative sample that consists of ten general introductions of master theses produced in the academic year 2020-2021. It detects the structure and steps of the different rhetorical moves used to represent communicative purposes in an attempt to construct a pattern of each field. It also unveils the reasons and the motives that characterize each pattern, and more precisely, it seeks to find connections between students' choices and the second rhetorical move of CARLS model. In order to achieve the research objectives, two research tools are adopted: Bitchener's (2010) revised version of CARS model is used to investigate the rhetorical moves in the sample at a macro level. An interview with four supervisors is conducted to interpret the results and trace the reasons behind students' choices.

Keywords: Research Writing, Genre Analysis, CARS Model, General Introduction, Establishing a niche