An Analysis of Move Structure of ELT Research Article Abstracts written by Iranian in Three Applied Linguistics Journals

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A genre important for presentation and dissemination of scientific achievements is the research article abstract. After the title, it is the abstract which influences the reader’s decisions about whether the article is worth reading. Therefore, this study aimed to analyze move structure features of abstracts written by Iranian in three applied linguistics journals. The corpus in the present study consisted of ninety abstracts written in English by non–native authors. The abstracts of this study were randomly selected from three journals (30 from ELT, 30 from TpLS, 30 from JLTR). The model used for analyzing move structure features of abstracts was based on Santos’ (1996) five - move pattern. Concerning the extent of difference in move structure features of abstracts among three journals, a Multivariate Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) was run to assess the significance of such difference. The results of the MANOVA showed that the extent of difference among three journals was insignificant (p>0/05). The findings may serve as a complement to the guidelines for novice writers to construct a proper research article abstracts.