# Analysis of Rhetorical Moves and Linguistic Realization of Research Article Abstract in Islamic Studies

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**Abstrak**

Artikel ini menyelidiki perkembangan retorika yang diamati dalam abstrak artikel penelitian (RAA) jurnal bidang studi Islam dan meneliti unsur-unsur linguistik yang digunakan untuk mencapai manuver retoris tersebut. Dengan menggunakan analisis genre (analisis gerak) dan pendekatan linguistik korpus, penelitian ini mengkaji gerak retorika dalam RAA dan mengeksplorasi ciri-ciri kebahasaan yang digunakan dalam gerak tersebut dalam ranah kajian Islam. Korpus penelitian ini terdiri dari 20 RAA yang bersumber dari lima jurnal studi Islam yang diakui secara internasional, semuanya terindeks Scopus. Beberapa langkah metodologis dilakukan untuk menganalisis data, mengikuti model kerangka yang diusulkan oleh Hyland (2000). Temuan penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa model gerak retorika Hyland terlihat jelas pada RAA di dalam korpus. Beberapa RAA menggabungkan minimal tiga gerakan, sementara yang lain mencakup kelima gerakan tersebut. Khususnya, Gerakan 2 (M2) dan 4 (M4) ada di mana-mana di seluruh RAA dalam korpus, menjadikannya sebagai gerakan wajib. Dalam kaitannya dengan realisasi linguistik, gerak retoris dalam RAA dalam kajian Islam dilakukan melalui penggunaan suara dan tenses yang strategis.

**Kata Kunci**: Analisis Genre, Artikel Penelitian, Corpus Linguistics Gerakan Retoris

*Abstract*
*This article delves into the rhetorical progression observed in the abstracts of research articles (RAA) of Islamic studies journal and scrutinizes the linguistic elements employed to accomplish these rhetorical maneuvers. Employing a genre analysis (move analysis) and a corpus linguistics approach, this study examines the rhetorical moves within RAA and explores the language features utilized for these moves in the realm of Islamic studies. The corpus for this study comprises 20 RAA sourced from five internationally recognized journals in Islamic studies, all indexed by Scopus. Several methodological steps were undertaken to analyze the data, following the framework model proposed by Hyland (2000). The findings of this study reveal that Hyland's model of rhetorical moves is evident in the RAA within the corpus. Some RAA incorporate a minimum of three moves, while others encompass all five moves. Notably, Moves 2 (M2) and 4 (M4) are ubiquitous across all RAA within the corpus, rendering them as obligatory moves. Concerning linguistic realization, the rhetorical moves in RAA within Islamic studies are accomplished through the strategic use of voice and tense.*

*Keywords: Corpus Linguistics, Genre Analysis, Research Article, Rhetorical Movement*

## A. Introduction

In the Indonesian academic context, university lecturers continue to encounter challenges in the preparation and publication of their research articles in reputable international journals. This issue is closely linked to the lecturers' limited proficiency in reading journal research articles and their insufficient command of manuscript writing skills (Afrizon & Arsyad, 2018). This predicament is particularly evident in Islamic higher education (IHE) institutions, specifically among lecturers engaged in manuscript preparation within the field of Islamic studies (Alifah et al., 2022). Addressing this challenge necessitates IHE institutions to actively support and enhance their lecturers' skills in crafting research articles for international publication (Suhardi et al., 2019).

The preparation of a manuscript and its subsequent submission to journals in Islamic studies requires a proficiency in crafting research articles that align with the specific requirements of the journals. Among the integral components of a research article, the abstract holds particular significance. Research Article Abstracts (RAA) play a pivotal role for various stakeholders, including authors, editors, reviewers, and journal readers (Ghasempour & Farnia, 2017). When skillfully composed, a submitted manuscript stands a greater chance of being accepted for review before publication (Aini et al., 2020). The importance of RAA is underscored by its potential to capture the attention of journal editors, influencing their decision to accept or reject a manuscript (Pratiwi & Kurniawan, 2021). This significance is further accentuated in the era of the internet, where readers rely on RAA to make informed choices about whether to engage with the full article or not (Samraj, 2002).

Researchers have previously delved into the examination of rhetorical movement and linguistic realization within Research Article Abstracts (RAA) across various disciplines. In applied linguistics, Alamri (2023) and Zahra et al. (2020) have conducted studies on RAA, while Aini et al. (2020) explored this aspect within the context of tourism. Investigations into RAA within the domains of law were undertaken by Ghasempour and Farnia (2017), encompassing topics related to economy, law, and sociology, as observed in the work of Khany and Malmir (2020). Alyousef (2021) explored RAA within the political arena. In the realm of hard sciences, scholars have scrutinized RAA in applied mathematics and chemistry, as evidenced by Darabad (2016), and in the fields of biology and mechanical engineering, as explored by Hanidar (2016).

Researchers have explored Research Article Abstracts (RAA) in various domains, encompassing language, applied linguistics, and tourism. However, scant attention has been devoted to RAA within the realm of religious studies, specifically Islamic studies RAA. This

study aims to address this gap by undertaking an analysis of the rhetorical movement and linguistic realization of RAA within the field of Islamic studies.

## B. Method

## Data collection

To fulfill the objectives of this study, a linguistics corpus was compiled, comprising Research Article Abstracts (RAA) sourced from five journals in the field of Islamic studies. Specific criteria were established for the inclusion of journals in the corpus, requiring that they fall within the scope of Islamic studies, be published by Indonesian state Islamic higher education institutions (UIN/IAIN), and be indexed by Scopus.

Five Indonesian journals meeting these criteria were selected for the study. These journals include Studia Islamika from UIN Jakarta, Al-Jami'ah from UIN Yogyakarta, IJIMS (Indonesian Journal of Islam and Muslim Societies) from UIN Salatiga, QIJIS (Qudus International Journal of Islamic Studies) from IAIN Kudus, and JIIS (Journal of Indonesian Islam) from UIN Surabaya. Notably, all journals listed in the corpus are currently indexed by Scopus. Regarding the RAA selection process, the study collected a total of 20 Research Article Abstracts, with four articles extracted from each journal. Table 1 provides detailed information on the journals, the number of RAA included, and the coding scheme applied to each RAA.

Table 1. Journal names and number of RAA used in the corpus.

| No. | Journals | RAA | Coding |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Studia Islamika journal | 4 | 1,2,3,4 |
| 2. | Al-Jami'ah journal | 4 | 5,6,7,8 |
| 3. | IJIMS (Indonesian Journal of Islam and Muslim Societies) | 4 | 9,10,11,12 |
| 4. | QIJIS (Qudus International Journal of Islamic Studies) | 4 | 13,14,15,16 |
| 5. | JIIS (Journal of Indonesian Islam) | 4 | 17,18,19,20 |
| 6. | total | 20 | |

The RAA listed in Table 1 serve as the subjects of analysis within the corpus of this study. They were incorporated into the corpus and subjected to examination using the analytical

framework proposed by Hyland (2000), specifically designed for assessing the rhetorical movement of RAA and their linguistic realization.

**Data Analysis**

For the analysis of the rhetorical movement of RAA in the corpus, Hyland's (2000) revised model, consisting of M1 Introduction, M2 Purpose, M3 Method, M4 Product, and M5 Conclusion (I-P-M-Pr-C), was employed. Each of the five moves within this model was utilized to scrutinize the RAA in the corpus. A detailed breakdown of Hyland's model is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Hyland (2000) five-model of rhetorical movement of research article abstract

**Table 1.** Hyland's (2000) five-move model

| Move | | Step | |
|------|------|------|------|
| M1 | Introduction | S1 | Arguing for topic significance |
| | | S2 | Making topic generalization |
| | | S3 | Defining key term(s) |
| | | S4 | Identifying gap |
| M2 | Purpose | | Stating the research purpose |
| M3 | Method | S1 | Describing participants/data sources |
| | | S2 | Describing instrument(s) |
| | | S3 | Describing procedure and context |
| M4 | Findings | | Describing the main results |
| M5 | Conclusion | S1 | Deducing Conclusion |
| | | S2 | Evaluating the significance of the research |
| | | S3 | Stating limitation |
| | | S4 | Presenting recommendation or implication |

The analysis of Research Article Abstracts (RAA) was undertaken through a systematic process, which can be delineated as follows:

1. Coding Each RAA:
   - Assigning specific codes to each Research Article Abstract.
2. Copying and Pasting Each RAA into Microsoft Word:
   - Transferring the coded Research Article Abstracts to Microsoft Word for further examination.
3. Providing Labels of Moves Using Hyland's (2000) Model for Sentences in RAA:
   - Applying Hyland's (2000) model to assign labels to moves within the sentences of each Research Article Abstract.
4. Tabulating the Occurrence of Move and Linguistic Realization:
   - Compiling a table detailing the frequency of moves and their linguistic realization in the Research Article Abstracts.
5. Reporting Move Analysis and Linguistic Realization:

- Presenting the results of the move analysis and linguistic realization derived from the tabulated data.

6. Discussing the Findings of the Present Study with Relevant Literature and Previous Studies:
   - Engaging in a comprehensive discussion of the study's findings in relation to pertinent literature and previous research.

7. Drawing Conclusions from the Findings:
   - Formulating conclusive insights based on the analysis and discussion of the Research Article Abstracts.

## C. Results and Discussion

Based on data collection and analysis, there are two results to describe in this section. The first results deal with rhetorical movement of RAA in the corpus and the second results address linguistic realization to achieve rhetorical movement of RAA in the corpus.

### 1. Rhetorical Moves of the RAA

Within the corpus, Research Article Abstracts (RAA) exhibit diverse rhetorical maneuvers. While certain RAA encompass all five prescribed moves, others incorporate a more limited number of moves. Hyland's model (2000) posits five distinct moves for RAA: M1 Introduction, M2 Purpose, M3 Methodology, M4 Findings, and M5 Conclusion. The study's corpus comprises 20 RAA, each subjected to analysis using Hyland's model to unveil the rhetorical movement inherent in each abstract. The outcomes of this analysis are presented in Table 3..

**Table 3. Analysis of Rhetorical Movement of RAA in the corpus**

| No | RAA code | Move 1 | Move 2 | Move 3 | Move 4 | Move 5 | occurrence |
|----|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|
| 1  | 1        |        | V      | V      | V      |        | 3          |
| 2  | 2        | V      | V      | V      | V      |        | 4          |
| 3  | 3        |        | V      | V      | V      |        | 3          |
| 4  | 4        |        | V      |        | V      | V      | 3          |
| 5  | 5        | V      | V      | V      | V      | V      | 5          |
| 6  | 6        | V      | V      | V      | V      | V      | 5          |
| 7  | 7        |        | V      | V      | V      |        | 3          |
| 8  | 8        | V      | V      | V      | V      |        | 4          |
| 9  | 9        | V      | V      | V      | V      |        | 4          |
| 10 | 10       |        | V      | V      | V      |        | 3          |
| 11 | 11       | V      | V      | V      | V      |        | 4          |
| 12 | 12       |        | V      | V      | V      |        | 3          |
| 13 | 13       | V      | V      | V      | V      | V      | 5          |

| 14 | 14 | V | V | V | V | V | 5 | |
|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15 | 15 | V | V | V | V | V | 5 | |
| 16 | 16 | | V | V | V | V | 4 | |
| 17 | 17 | | V | V | V | | 3 | |
| 18 | 18 | V | V | V | V | | 4 | |
| 19 | 19 | V | V | | V | | 3 | |
| 20 | 20 | | V | V | V | | 3 | |
| | Percentage | 11(55%) | 20(100%) | 18(90%) | 20(100%) | 7(35%) | 73 out of 100 | |

Referring to Table 3, key observations can be derived. M2, Purpose, and M4, Results exhibit a 100% occurrence in the corpus, indicating their ubiquitous presence. Conversely, other moves demonstrate lower frequencies. M2 and M4 are consistently present in every RAA within the corpus, suggesting their obligatory status in Islamic studies RAA. In contrast, M5, Conclusion, exhibits the lowest occurrence, appearing in seven RAA (35%). In this context, M5 can be considered an optional move.

Table 3 further reveals insights into the occurrence of rhetorical movements. Among the 20 RAA, 5 (25%) encompass all moves, 6 (30%) employ four moves, and 9 (45%) integrate three moves. This underscores that, within this corpus, a minimum of three moves is utilized by RAA to fulfill their communicative purpose.

In the corpus, each RAA employs various moves to achieve its communicative function within the genre. Authors strategically incorporate moves to actualize the rhetorical progression required for M1 Introduction, M2 Purpose, M3 Method, M4 Findings, and M5 Conclusion, as exemplified in the ensuing section.

## 1.1. Move 1 -Introduction

This particular move manifested in 11 RAA (55%) within the Islamic studies RAA of the corpus, classifying it as an optional move. The primary purpose of this move was to set the context for the paper and elucidate the motives behind the research and ensuing discussion. Within this move, authors communicated the significance of the topic, presented arguments, offered generalizations about the topic, and identified gaps. An illustrative example extracted from the corpus is as follows:

*Tarekat or tarīqah is the Muslim spiritual path toward direct knowledge (maʿrifah) or ultimate truth (ḥaqq) of God* (RAA 13).

## 1.2 Move 2 -Purpose

This move occurred in 20 RAA (100%) in the Islamic studies research article abstracts. This move is considered obligatory move. This move is functioned to indicate and outlines the intention behind the paper. The example taken from the corpus is as follows:

*This study is aimed to look at how Hadrami majlis taklim in the urban area maintains, develops and transmits Islamic tradition to the Muslim community and give theological response to the Salafi group's attack to their practices* (RAA 20)

### 1.3 Move 3 -Method

This move was present in 18 RAA (90%) within the corpus of Islamic studies. Its purpose is to furnish details regarding designs, procedures, assumptions, approaches, and data. Within this move, authors typically provide information about participants or data sources, instruments employed, and elaborate on the procedures and context. An illustrative example from the corpus is as follows:

*A qualitative approach was used with data obtained through interviews with informants, including female priests (imam), religious scholars, village guardians, community leaders, and women figures in Bangka.* (RAA 12)

### 1.4 Move 4 –Findings

This move occurred in 20 RAA (100%) in the Islamic studies in the corpus. This move is considered as obligatory move. This move is used to state the main findings and arguments. The example taken from the corpus is as follows:

*Findings showed that three Islamic virtues of amānah, ikhlās and ukhūwah provided a guiding framework for the Chiang Mai Zakat (Bayt al-Māl) Fund in its effort to meet the social goal of the Islamic prescription of zakat and respond to needs of underprivileged Muslims.* (RAA 7)

### 1.5 Move 5 –Conclusion

This move occurred in 7 RAA (35%) in Islamic studies research article in the corpus. This move is considered as conventional move. This move is intended to interpret results, draws inferences, points to applications or broader implications. The authors deduced conclusion, evaluated the significance of the research, stated limitation, and presented recommendation or implication. The example taken from the corpus is as follows:

*Therefore, this study recommends the important endeavors to preserve inclusive traditions of Islam in tourist destinations for religious and economic purposes.* (RAA 4)

### 2. Linguistic Realizations of the Moves

After elucidating the analysis of rhetorical movement within the Research Article Abstracts (RAA) corpus, this study proceeds to delineate the linguistic realization of rhetorical movement

in Islamic studies RAA. The linguistic realizations encompass considerations of voice, including active and passive constructions, and tense, involving the deployment of past and present tenses by the authors to achieve rhetorical movement in the RAA within the corpus.

## 2.1 Voice to realize rhetorical moves

The findings showed that the voice that the authors like to use in the abstracts is active voice. To provide an example, RAA 1has deployed active voice for all movement.

*This article examines the current traditional Islamic education…(M2) We focus on aspects of the Pesantren Legislation…(M3). People who engage in the pesantren system…(M4). The authors argue… (M4)*

The excerpt illustrates that active voice is deployed by the author to realize rhetorical movement in RAA. The verb *examines, focus, engage and argues* used in the RAA show that they are in active voice.

Passive voice was also used in some RAA to realize rhetorical movement. RAA 7 has deployed passive voice for some moves.

*Data were collected through in-depth interviews… (M3). Non-participatory observation was also conducted on its activities between 2017 and 2018 (M3). The data were analyzed to find out about religious motivation and understandings behind the organizational reform and practice (M3).*

The above excerpt shows how passive voice is used to realize M3 Method in RAA. In RAA 7, while M3 applied passive voice, other moves were realized by using active voice.

## 2.2 Tense to realize rhetorical moves

When it comes to tense, some RAA have applied present tense. The choice of present is realized mostly in present tense and some are in present perfect. RAA 8 in the corpus provides the examples for the choice of present tense.

*International law has developed since its pre-20th century…(M1). This development, however, still reproduces its pre-20th century colonialist features… (M1). Stronger voices have demanded international law to generally include … (M1). Contemporary literature of fiqh al-siyar (Islamic international law) suffers from lethargy (M1)*

The above excerpt shows that present tense is applied by the author. Present tense is realized in several aspects: present perfect and present simple. The verb used include: *has developed, reproduces, have demanded* and *suffers* represent the tense of present simple and present perfect.

Past tense is also applied in some RAA in the corpus. The use of past tense to realize rhetorical movement can be seen in RAA 12.

*This study aimed to determine the relationship between the fiqh understanding (M2). A qualitative approach was used… (M3). Furthermore, documentation and observation were also used to collect data (M3). The results showed a relationship between the dynamics of fiqh…(M4)*

The above excerpt shows that past tense is used to realize rhetorical movement. The verb used include *aimed to, was used, were also used, showed.* In RAA 12, while past tense is used to realize M2, M3, and M4, present tense is applied to realize M1 and M5.

## Discussion

Based on the findings of the current study, several noteworthy points emerge. Within the field of Islamic studies, Research Article Abstracts (RAA) play a pivotal role in the endeavor to publish manuscripts in reputable international journals. RAAs serve to captivate readers' interest in delving into the full article (Ghasempour & Farnia, 2017) and provide a basis for editors to decide on manuscript acceptance or rejection (Pratiwi & Kurniawan, 2021). For readers, RAAs are indispensable, offering a concise overview of an article from start to finish (Samraj, 2002). The increasing influence of the internet and international indexing has elevated the importance of the abstract component in reporting research to the public (Tocalo, 2021).

The study's findings reveal that, to some extent, RAAs in Islamic studies align with the rhetorical moves proposed by Hyland's model. This scholarly information can aid authors in enhancing their writing skills when preparing articles for international journals. Each journal in the study's corpus adheres to a specific template that authors must follow when crafting RAAs in Islamic studies (Kanafani et al., 2021). Consequently, research article authors need a profound understanding of rhetorical movement to proficiently compose abstracts. Proficiency in rhetorical movement and the correct language features for abstract writing empowers authors to effectively convey accurate information, achieving communication goals in presenting their research findings (Chalak & Norouzi, 2013).

Within this study, RAAs are regarded as a genre, aligning with the work of prominent figures like John Swales (1990), Vijay Bhatia (1993), and James Martin (1984) in the realm of applied linguistics (Zainuddin, 2012). Genre, as defined by John Swales (1990), denotes "a class of communicative events, the members of which share some set of communicative purposes" (Zainuddin, 2012). The study delves into the rhetorical movement of RAAs in Islamic studies, utilizing Genre Analysis to explore their discourse structure within the corpus. Genre Analysis, evolving in the early 1970s and 1980s as part of discourse analysis development, aims to scrutinize the communicative purposes of discourse and the language usage strategies employed in producing a genre (Cross & Oppenheim, 2006).

Swales introduced move analysis or move structure analysis as a method of analyzing genre, signifying a shift from purely linguistic origins to a focus on discourse units (Marefat & Mohammadzadeh, 2013). In essence, Swales (1990) posits that text structure comprises several

parts with specific rhetorical functions, where each move is realized in steps or stages (Lu et al., 2021).

The study's findings indicate that some RAAs in the corpus encompass all five moves, while others feature three to four moves. Moves and steps in research articles were developed in English for Specific Purposes (ESP) to facilitate English language learners in writing research articles (Vathanalaoha & Tangkiengsirisin, 2018). A move refers to aspects written within a text framework, serving a communicative purpose or intention that the writer aims to convey (Amnuai, 2019). Moves are occasionally realized in several obligatory steps, acting as additional facets to achieve the goal of a move. The combination of moves and steps aids article writers in realizing their goals when crafting research article abstracts (Aini et al., 2020).

In this study, all moves are observed in the RAAs within the corpus. According to Swales (1990), Research Articles (RAs) generally follow the Introduction, Method, Results, and Discussion (IMRD) structure. Genre analysis is employed to explore the discourse structure of various sections within the RA and the patterns of linguistic features used to realize moves (Kafes, 2012a).

Regarding linguistic realization, the study investigates the use of voice and tense to realize rhetorical movement in RAAs in Islamic studies. In realizing moves and steps in the abstract of a research article, language features such as tense and voice are pivotal. Tense features assist writers in achieving moves in the abstract of a research article (Tseng, 2011). Both tense and voice features facilitate writers in realizing moves in abstract writing (Hanidar, 2016). The present tense feature is commonly used to state conclusions and frequently employed in writing the introduction, objectives, and conclusions. Conversely, the past tense is predominantly used to describe the methods and results or findings of the research (Tseng, 2011).

Active voice is more dominant in writing abstracts of research articles (Hanidar, 2016). The amalgamation of rhetorical structure and linguistic realization is essential knowledge in writing abstracts of research articles. Writers are expected to possess sufficient knowledge of rhetorical movement and the language features used in writing research article abstracts (Wannaruk & Amnuai, 2016).

## D. Conclusion

This research delves into the rhetorical movement of Research Article Abstracts (RAA) in the context of Islamic studies, examining both its occurrence and linguistic realization. The findings underscore the prevalence of Hyland's model in the RAAs of Islamic studies within the study's corpus. Notably, some RAAs exhibit a minimum of three moves—specifically, M2, M3, and M4—while others incorporate all moves as outlined in Hyland's model. Among these moves, M2 (Purpose) and M4 (Findings) emerge as consistent elements, appearing in every RAA in

the corpus and thus potentially deemed obligatory. Linguistically, authors utilize voice and tense to actualize rhetorical movement within Islamic studies RAA. Active voice predominates in M1, M2, M4, and M5, while passive voice finds frequent application in M3. In terms of tense, the present tense is prevalent in M1, M2, and M5, while the past tense is employed in M3 and M4.This study contributes to scholarly discussions on rhetorical movement in the publication of research articles in Islamic studies. Pedagogically, it offers insights into English for Specific Purposes (ESP) and English for Academic Purposes (EAP) within the context of Islamic studies education in higher institutions.

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