

ARTICLE ARGUMENT IN ABSTRACTS: A COMPARATIVE DISCOURSE STUDY BETWEEN INDONESIAN-BASED AND REFEREED JOURNALS IN ISLAMIC STUDIES

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ABSTRACT

Although there have been studies on the ways writers argue for the importance of their work in their journal article abstracts, such studies on journal article abstracts in the field of Islamic studies have never been conducted. This is important because authors from different fields use different rhetorical styles and linguistic features in their journal articles, such as in their abstracts. The purpose of this study is to analyze the argument strategy used in journal article abstracts that are published in local and refereed journals in the field of Islamic studies. For this study, 60 abstracts (i.e., 20 from Indonesian-based journals, 20 from Indonesian-based refereed journals, and 20 from international refereed journals) in Islamic studies were selected and analyzed. The findings indicate that, in terms of abstract length, the three groups of articles are not significantly different; however, in terms of the appearance of Move 1 (introduction, background, or setting) and article justification argument types, they are different. The articles published in the two groups of reputable journals (Indonesian-based and International Refereed Journals) are similar but different from those in Indonesian-based journals. This implies that local journal authors should modify their rhetorical and argumentative styles in their abstracts to match those found in reputable journals, thereby improving the quality of the abstracts.

Keywords: Abstract, Argument Strategy, Indonesian-Based Journals, Islamic Study Journals, International Reputable Journal, Journal Article

INTRODUCTION

The majority of studies on journal article abstracts (henceforth JAA) have focused on the move structure and linguistic features of the abstracts, rather than the argument supporting the importance of the research reported in the article. One of the studies focusing on article argument (henceforth AA) was conducted by Arianto, et al. (2021) who found that only 40% of international authors in the English Language Teaching field argued for the importance of their article by 'highlighting the complete absence of research bearing a specific characteristic', 'stressing insufficient research on a specific aspect', 'revealing limitation(s) in previous research', 'contrasting conflicting previous research findings', or 'suggesting solution/s' (p. 31). Similarly, Arsyad et al. (2023) discovered that 55% of the abstracts in the Language Related field have an AA. According to Arsyad et al., the most typically used AA was the assertion that not enough research had been done on a given topic; in contrast, the least commonly used AA types were the assertions of absence or that no research had been done on a particular topic, and the assertion of contrasting evidence or that there had been conflicting or contrasting findings from earlier studies. The implication is that, even when they publish in highly regarded international journals, authors in language-related fields generally do not use in their abstracts the arguments that there is no research on a given topic or that the results of prior studies are contradictory or contrasting; instead, they address these tactics in the article introduction.

Although there have been few studies on AA types in JAAs, to the best of our knowledge, no study has been conducted on this topic in the field of Islamic studies, particularly

regarding the ways authors justify their research in the abstracts. This study is important because the study results found that authors in different fields or disciplines use different rhetorical styles and linguistic characteristics in their journal articles, including abstracts (Arsyad et al., 2023; Alyousef & Alzahrani, 2020; Deveci, 2020; Kafes, 2018; Ozturk, 2018; Sirijanchen & Gamper, 2018). If authors from a particular field use different or unusual rhetorical styles, their manuscripts will most possibly be rejected or unreadable for readers. According to Arsyad et al. (2023), a good article should be written in a manner that is suitable, correct, and adheres to grammar rules, following the standards of quality typically found in articles published in prominent international journals within a particular field. Thus, this study aims to scrutinize how authors publishing in Islamic studies journals argue for the importance of their articles in their abstracts. The study addresses the following questions as guidelines. How are JAAs published in Indonesian-based journals, Indonesian-based refereed journals, and international refereed journals in Islamic Studies different in their length in terms of word count? How are JAAs published in Indonesian-based journals, Indonesian-based refereed journals, and international refereed journals in Islamic Studies different in terms of their move structure? How are JAAs published in Indonesian-based journals, Indonesian-based refereed journals, and international refereed journals in Islamic Studies different in terms of the article argument?

An important strategy for promoting an article is to use an argument to support the article's importance in the abstract, demonstrating to readers the originality or freshness of the content (Arianto et al., 2021). This is especially useful at the beginning of the abstract to situate the work and provide an introduction to a problem or issue. As the authors' assertion, the innovative aspect of the work discussed in the abstracts lies in the way the authors showcase their AA to pique readers' curiosity and encourage them to peruse the remaining sections. Writers should employ an appropriate argument to demonstrate the significance of their work and pique the interest of their target readers (Martin & Perez, 2014). Since abstracts serve as a promotional tool for journal articles, they must be concise, informative, and visually appealing to entice readers to access the entire work (Ecarnot et al., 2015). However, according to Miles (2017), most writers found that arguing for their article was troubling, and there were no established frameworks for defining or identifying AA. As a result, what some writers regard as an AA could not be the same for other researchers. Additionally, new authors, such as newly appointed lecturers and postgraduate students, may not be familiar with this rhetorical work. Therefore, when they write a manuscript, their abstract often appears unconvincing and unattractive to journal editors and reviewers, which may lead to the manuscript being rejected.

Studies about JAAs written in English have been conducted by many scholars, such as Al-khasawneh (2017) and Ebadi et al. (2019) in Applied Linguistics, Bhatti et al. (2019) in Linguistics and Literature, Kurt (2020) in Education, Alyousef (2021) in Political Science, Kaya & Yagis (2020) in English Language Teaching, Putra (2023) in multi-disciplines, Viera (2022) in Education and Electronics, Kurniawan (2023) in Linguistics, Literature and Law, and Arsyad et al. (2023) in language-related field to name a few. These studies were primarily conducted on JAAs and thesis or dissertation abstracts. The primary focus of these discourse studies is on the move structure and linguistic features of the abstracts under investigation, but only a few of them examine how authors justify the importance of their papers. The primary findings of these studies indicate that the rhetorical style of abstracts written by native English speakers and those written by non-native English speakers differ, and abstracts authored by writers from various academic fields frequently exhibit rhetorical and linguistic variations (Arsyad et al., 2023). The results of these studies have provided helpful insight into the discourse and linguistic perspectives on how writers in a particular field might compose an abstract for journal publication.

To promote scientific work to the intended readers, writers should discuss earlier studies or describe the status of knowledge on this topic in Move 1 (introduction/background to research). According to Hyland (2000), in Move 1, writers may explain words, objects, or processes; make generalizations about a topic; advocate for the significance of a topic; or point out a knowledge gap. This is a crucial move in addressing the query of what the writer or writers are aware of regarding the issue or problems. However, studies on the macrostructure of abstracts have found that not all abstracts in journal articles follow Move 1. Amunai et al. (2020), for example, revealed that 77% of their abstracts in Applied Linguistics have a Move 1, Kanafani et al. (2022) reported 66% abstracts published in Scopus-indexed Applied Linguistics journals of different quartile values have a Move 1, while Agbaglo & Fiadzomor (2021) reported 63% of the abstracts in the TESOL Quarterly journal have the introduction move. Similarly, Alyousef (2021) found that 69% of the abstracts in political science have the initial move, while Relawati & Basthomi (2021) declared that 56% of the JAAs in multidisciplinary fields in their data have a Move 1. If an abstract does not address a Move 1, authors will miss an opportunity to capture readers' interest and willingness to read the entire manuscript.

The initial move in an abstract or Move one ideally contains the information necessary to situate the paper by stating current knowledge and/or the gap of knowledge (Kanoksilapatham, 2013) but a Move 1 may also contain other information, such as an assertion of centrality and topic generality and no information about examining data from earlier studies to fill in any knowledge gaps or add to the existing knowledge. Bhatti et al. (2019), for example, found that 80% of the abstracts in Linguistics and Literature in their study contain a Move 1, which includes statements about centrality assertion and/or topic generalization, but none of them address a research gap or a knowledge gap. According to Bhatti et al., the statement of establishing a niche was missing in the abstracts of the corpus in their study. Similarly, Relawati & Basthomi (2021) reported that only 22.9 % of abstracts with Move 1 in their corpus contain information about identifying a gap in current knowledge. According to Relawati & Basthomi, other information includes advocating for the prominence of an issue, generalizing about the issue, or defining words, things, or procedures that do not refer to the results of previous studies on the topic.

The majority of studies on abstracts have focused on the structural features and linguistic aspects of the abstracts, rather than the argument justifying the paper in the abstract. One of the studies focusing on AA in abstracts was conducted by Arianto, et al. (2021) who found that only 40% of international authors in the English Language Teaching field argued for the importance of their article by 'highlighting the complete absence of research bearing a specific characteristic', 'stressing insufficient research on a specific aspect', 'revealing limitation(s) in previous research', 'contrasting conflicting previous research findings', or 'suggesting solution/s' (p. 31). Similarly, Arsyad et al. (2023) discovered that 55% of the abstracts in the Language Related field have an AA. According to Arsyad et al., the most typically used AA strategy was the assertion that not enough research had been done on a given topic; in contrast, the least commonly used AA were the assertions of absence, or that no research had been done on a particular characteristic, and the assertion of contrasting evidence, or that there had been conflicting or contrasting findings from earlier studies. The implication is that, even when they publish in highly regarded international journals, authors in language-related fields generally do not use in their abstracts the arguments that there is no research on a given subject or facet or that the results of prior studies are contradictory or contrasting; instead, they address these tactics in the piece's introduction.

METHOD

This study employed a mixed-method approach combining qualitative and quantitative methods, as suggested by Abdi and Sadeghi (2018). This approach can help researchers understand complex phenomena, build a comprehensive understanding, and validate findings. According to Creswell (2013), Mixed-methods research does more than just blend together quantitative and qualitative data in one study; it employs both deductive and inductive reasoning to understand why people act the way they do. This study is also a comparative or contrastive analysis of academic discourse, following Connor et al. (2008), who state that despite harsh criticism, rhetorical comparative studies remain a crucial research approach because English is increasingly being used as a foreign language in academic settings worldwide. Comparative or contrastive studies can help us understand how social and cultural factors influence language use (Kostova, 2022). According to Kostova (2022), contrastive analysis remains a dynamic field of study that offers opportunities for advancement, particularly at the level of discourse, and has significant implications for intercultural comprehension and acceptance.

The Corpus of the Study

For this study, 60 JAAs were chosen from three groups of journals in Islamic Studies: 1) two national Indonesian-based journals, 2) two national reputable journals, and 3) two International Refereed Journals. Ten abstracts were taken from each journal from the most recently published articles in the journals. Indonesian-based journals (IBJ) are journals published in Indonesia and indexed by Sinta (Science and Technology Index) or the journal accreditation and ranking system in Indonesia with a Sinta score of 1 the highest to 6 the lowest (Ahmadi, 2019), Indonesian-based refereed journals (IBRJ) are journals published in Indonesia indexed by Scopus with a Quartile score of 1 the highest and four the lowest while International refereed journals (IRJ) are journals indexed by Scopus and published outside Indonesia. The corpus of the study is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: The Corpus of the Study

Indonesian-based Journals (IBRJ)	Refereed	Code	Quartile/ Sinta Score	No of articles	Country of Publisher
1 Qudus International Islamic Studies		A	Quartile 1	10	Indonesia
2 Al-Jami'ah: Journal of Islamic Studies		B	Quartile 1	10	Indonesia
Indonesian-Based Journals (IBJ)					
3 Hikmatuna: Journal for Integrative Islamic Studies		C	Sinta 2	10	Indonesia
4 Hayula: Indonesian Journal of Multidisciplinary Islamic Studies		D	Sinta 3	10	Indonesia
International Refereed Journals (IRJ)					
5 Journal of Islamic Studies		E	Quartile 1	10	Oxford United Kingdom
6 Journal of Al-Tamaddun		F	Quartile 1	10	Malaysia

The following factors were taken into account when selecting these journals, 1) they publish articles in the field of Islamic Studies with the abstracts written in English, 2) the articles can be research articles (i.e., articles written based on empirical research) or articles reviewing or reinterpreting of previous studies; 3) the journals are mainstream journals and frequently read and cited by scholars in related fields; and 4) they are nationally Indonesian-based journals indexed by Sinta or reputable national or international journals indexed by Scopus. The inclusion of 60 article abstracts from six journals into the corpus of this study was considered sufficient. For comparison, a study by Amnuai et al. (2020) utilized only 30 abstracts, Kanafani et al. (2022) used only 40 abstracts, and Hasan and Alsout (2023) used only 50 abstracts from 5 different journals. It was also thought that ten articles selected from the most recent issues of the journals may demonstrate the language and rhetorical elements of their abstracts, as well as the journals' contemporary qualities.

Data Collection Technique

To answer the first research question, we analyzed and calculated the average length of abstracts in word count in the three groups of journal articles. The results of the first analysis were displayed in a table. The second research question is to examine the potential moves in the abstracts in the three groups of journal articles. An abstract, according to Hyland (2000), can have up to five Moves (introduction, purpose, method, product, and conclusion). Amnuai et al. (2020) claim that this model is widely used and has been tested on 800 abstracts in a multidisciplinary field. In a similar vein, Swales and Feak (2009) propose that an abstract may consist of up to five communicative units or moves: Move 1 (background/introduction/situation); Move 2 (aims/purposes); Move 3 (methods/materials/subjects/procedures); Move 4 (results/findings); and Move 5 (discussion/conclusion/implications/recommendations). The examples of each move commonly found in a JA abstract are given in Appendix 1. The moves in the abstracts can often be identified by the position (Moves 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) and the specific words used in the abstracts (i.e., aim, mixed methods, the results, and thus). The move structure for non-research article abstracts, according to Soy et al. (2023), is similar to that in research article abstracts; the only difference is in Move 4 (synthesis of discussion), containing a succinct overview in response to the review's objective/s.

To answer the third research question, a further analysis was conducted on Move 1, as found in all abstracts, to examine how authors argue and support the importance of the article or paper. This is because, according to Hyland (2000), Move 1 (introduction or background) in an abstract creates the article's context and inspires the investigation or debate. For this purpose, we followed the framework suggested by Arianto et al. (2021), especially for research article abstracts. According to Arianto et al., there are five possible reasons for authors to conduct a piece of research; these are 'claiming no study on a particular topic', 'claiming very few studies on a particular topic', 'showing limitation/s in previous studies', 'contrasting or conflicting results found in previous studies', and 'following up the findings of previous studies' (p. 28). Arianto et al. (2021) refer to these rhetorical works as a research gap strategy (RGS), whereas in this research, it is termed an article argument (AA). The examples of each AA strategy commonly found in the abstracts are presented in Appendix 2. All justifications for a piece of research refer to problem/s in previous studies or research world problems; however, an article writing can also be initiated by a problem or issue happening in the real world or real-world problems. According to Wang and Yang (2015), problems in the real world, such as specific phenomena or the people affected by these phenomena, can serve as an initial trigger for authors to write a piece of research. Thus, an argument strategy for article writing is added to this research (i.e., AA 6 or experiencing or observing practical problems in the real world).

AA 6: referring to real-world problems, as in the following example,

Cash Waqf-Linked Sukuk (CWLS) is Indonesia's new social and financial engineering product integrating cash *waqf* with Sukuk investment. Considering the low performance of the CWLS fundraising, this study aims to ... (A-1)

In addition, another type of AA is added following Hyland (2000), who suggests that one of the important types of argument at the beginning of an article's abstract is when the authors address the significance of their article, as in the following example.

AA 7: Referring to the authors' claim of the importance of their article, as in the following example: Tuanku is a charismatic figure in the Tarekat community, who plays a significant socio-political role. He is still placed as a source of "*fatwa*" to the political choice of the community (Aljamiah 2).

The Data Analysis Procedure

The following steps were taken during the data-gathering procedures in this investigation. I began by compiling a corpus of abstracts from the chosen journals, as shown in Table 1. Second, to obtain a general idea of the topic of the paper, at least two readings of the abstracts were completed. Third, using Hyland's (2007) approach, every potential move in the abstract was identified and coded. Following that, each abstract was read through once again to recognize and categorize every phrase and clause that might be considered the rhetorical effort for an AA (i.e., AA 1 to 7). Then, the Moves and AAs were identified using linguistic realizations such as discourse markers, terminology that was unique to the text, and textual inference. Finally, a calculation was made to determine the frequency and proportion of each Move and AA in the abstracts.

The frequency of moves in the journal article abstracts was used to categorize them as obligatory, regular, or optional. A move is classed as mandatory if it appears in 100% of the abstracts; regular if it appears in 60% to 99% of the abstracts; and optional if it appears in less than 60% of the abstracts, following Kanoksilapatham (2005). According to Kanoksilapatham (2005), the primary goal of grouping moves and strategies into three categories is to identify which moves and methods are more regular than the others.

Inter-coder Reliability Analysis

The inter-coder reliability of the Moves and AA types discovered in the abstracts was assessed by an independent coder using Cohen's Kappa coefficient analysis. A faculty member who coded independently held a master's degree in Applied Linguistics. She received instruction on how to identify and categorize Moves and AA types in the abstracts first, using an already prepared checklist (see Appendix 3). After that, she received 20% or 12 randomly selected abstracts from the research corpus to examine with the same research instrument. Ultimately, a comparison was made between the co-coder's and the researcher's analytical results. The findings are displayed in a table once the researcher's and the independent coder's analysis results are compared. The Kappa coefficient score was then calculated. According to Kanoksilapatham (2005), Cohen's Kappa score falls into one of four categories: 'poor' if it is less than 0.40, 'fair' between 0.40 and 0.59, 'good' between 0.60 and 0.74, and 'excellent' if it is 0.75 or higher. Following a comparison of the researcher's and the independent coder's analysis results, the Kappa coefficient score was calculated; the move analysis Kappa score was 10 out of 12 or 0.83, while the AA type Kappa score was 9 out of 12 or 0.75. A discussion was held

between the researcher and the independent coder to resolve the differences until a complete agreement was reached.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Average Length of Abstracts in Word Count

The first analysis was on the average length of abstracts in terms of word count, and the results are presented in Figure 1.

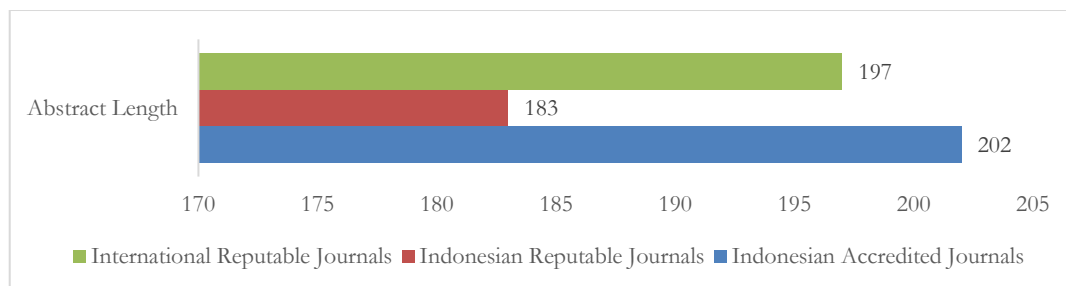


Figure 1: The Average Length of Abstracts in Word Count

As shown in Figure 1, the average length of abstracts in terms of word count in the three groups of articles is slightly different in that the abstracts in IBJ are the longest, while those in IBRJ are the shortest. While some journals still accept abstracts written as free-flowing paragraphs, most publications now require abstracts to follow a conventional format and typically have a word count of 200–250 words.

The Average Frequency of Moves in the Abstracts

The analysis results on the moves of abstracts in the corpus of this study reveal that the majority of article abstracts have three moves (i.e., Move 2, 3, and 4) and more than half of them have a Move 1, but less than half of them have a Move 5, as presented in the following table.

Table 2. The Average Move Frequency in the Abstracts

Moves	Journals			Total N-60	%
	Indonesian- based Journals n-20	Indonesian-based Refereed Journals n=20	International- refereed Journals n=20		
Move 1	8	18	18	44	73%
Move 2	19	19	18	56	93%
Move 3	19	16	18	53	88%
Move 4	18	18	12	48	80%
Move 5	6	15	7	28	47%

Table 2 indicates that in terms of the appearance of Moves 3, 4, and 5, the three groups of abstracts are similar, but in terms of the appearance of Moves 1 and 5, they are different. In the appearance of Move 1, abstracts in IBRJ and those in IRJ are the same, but in terms of the appearance of Move 5, abstracts in IBJ are similar to those in IRJ. Table 3 shows the examples of abstracts with a complete move and those with an incomplete move.

Table 3. Extract 1: a complete move abstract (from A-1)

No	The Abstract	Moves
1.	Cash Waqf-Linked Sukuk (CWLS) is Indonesia's new social and financial engineering product integrating cash <i>waqf</i> with Sukuk investment. Considering the low performance of the CWLS fundraising ...	Move 1
2.	... this study aims to identify and evaluate the most critical factors contributing to the slowdown of the fundraising process...	Move 2
3.	Mixed method analysis was used and based on SWOT analysis, compounding an expert-based interview and questionnaire survey as data collecting method in this research...	Move 3
4.	The results show that the IFAS and EFAS values suggested a progressive Strength and Opportunity (S-O) strategy as the priority strategy that needs to be implemented...	Move 4
5.	Thus, the stakeholders should utilize retail collection to reach more investors.	Move 5

Table 4. Extract 2: an incomplete move abstract (from D-2)

No.	The Abstract	Moves
1	This paper intends to look at the arrangements related to the provisions in the distribution of inheritance in several Muslim countries and group mandatory wills into clusters...	Move 2
2	This research uses a literature study (Library Research) that explores data based on pre-existing data with a comparative juridical approach that will be a comparison of laws from one country to another...	Move 3
3	The findings in this study that there are similarities and differences in the provisions of mandatory wills in various Muslim countries...	Move 4

As indicated in Table 4, the moves are identified based on a specific lexicon found in the abstracts. Another way to identify the moves is by examining the position of the sentences; Move 1 is mainly located at the beginning of the abstract, followed by Move 2, Move 3, Move 4, and Move 5. It is rarely found, although not impossible, that the order of the moves is reversed or random.

The Average Frequency of Article Justification Arguments in the Abstracts

The final analysis is forthcoming; authors argue for their paper in the abstracts, and the results are presented in Table 5.

Table 5. The Average Frequency of AA Types in the Abstracts

Article Justification Argument	Indonesian-based journals n=20	Journals Indonesian-based refereed journals n=20	International Refereed Journals n=20	Total N=60	%
AA 1	-	2	1	3	6.8%
AA 2	-	2	3	5	11.4%
AA 3	-	-	-	-	-
AA 4	-	-	-	-	-
AA 5	-	-	-	-	-
AA 6	5	6	5	16	36.4%
AA 7	3	8	9	20	45.4%
Total	8	18	18	44	100%

As can be seen in Table 5, the majority of authors in the three groups of abstracts, or 81.8% use AA 6 (referring to the real-world problem/s) or AA 7 (claiming the importance of the article).

Extract 3: AA 6 or referring to the real-world problem/s

Despite their long existence in Nusantara, the Chinese ethnic groups remain **less represented or even misrepresented in the history of Indonesia, resulting in negative stereotypes and attitudes towards the community**. Sejarah Nasional Indonesia (SNI) and history textbooks for schools and universities, for instance, do not provide adequate narratives about Chinese contributions to Indonesian politics and economy during the pre- and post-independence era. (B-1)

Extract 4: AA 7 or claiming the importance of the article

From the innovation among *pesantrens*, **students need not only Islamic religious learning but also entrepreneurial skills**. ... (A-5)

Table 4 also shows that the frequency of appearance of AA in the abstracts of journal articles published in IBRJ and IRJ is similar (18 or 90%) and significantly different from article abstracts published in IBJ (8 or 40%). Extract 5 portrays an example of an article abstract taken from an Indonesian-based journal in the corpus of this study.

Extract 5: an abstract without an AA

This study **aims to** analyze the model of child adoption practices and the legal consequences of adopted child status in Islamic Law. This research is a field study with a juridical-empirical approach, which is descriptive and analytical ... (C-1)

As can be seen in Extract 5, the authors do not address Move 1 in their article abstract, and therefore, there is no AA in the abstract.

The first analysis in this study examines the average length of abstracts in the three groups of articles, and the results indicate that they differ slightly, with the abstracts in IBJ articles being the longest and those in IBRJ articles being the shortest. This is most likely because different journals, although in the same field, have varying article formats, including the length of the abstract. Abstracts in Hayula Journal, for example, should be 100 to 150 words long, abstracts in Qudus International Journal of Islamic Studies should be 75 to 150 words, and abstracts in Aljamiah Journal of Islamic Studies should be 150 to 200 words long. This finding aligns with that of Wei and Duan (2019), who found that the average length of journal article abstracts in hard science fields varies (i.e., 211 words in Biology, 183 words in Chemistry, and 156 words in Physics). Short abstracts often start with a Move 2 (objective/s of the article or study) while extended abstracts start with a Move 1 (introduction or background). Thus, since authors in short abstracts often do not address Move 1, they may miss the opportunity to attract readers to read the entire article. Belcher (2019) claims that since abstracts serve as an advertisement for the entire article, authors should write a comprehensive abstract that includes five key points. However, according to Pique-Noguera (2012), a short abstract of 150 words should have enough room, if structured correctly, to cover the five moves that make up a perfect abstract.

The second analysis in this research focuses on the moves identified in the three groups of abstracts included in this study. The results show that the appearance of Move 1 (introduction or background) in IBRJ abstracts is similar to that in IRJ abstracts, but the appearance of Move 5 (conclusion, suggestion, or implication) in IBJ abstracts is similar to that in IRJ articles. This may imply that, unlike authors in Islamic studies publishing in IBJ, the authors of articles published in refereed journals (Indonesian-based and international refereed journals) have been well aware of the importance of Move 1 in their abstracts; that is to answer the question of what the writer/s know about the study issue or the article (Relawati & Basthomi, 2021) and must fill a research gap (Arianto et al., 2021) and respond to a centrality claim (Wang and Yang, 2015) to advance their abstracts and publications.

The results of this study differ from those of Arsyad et al. (2023), who discovered that only 66% of writers in language-related fields who publish in high-impact journals address a Move 1 (introduction/ background/situation) in their journal article abstracts. According to Arsyad et al., this could be the result of the abstract's word count restriction by the journals or because the writers may have considered that a Move 1 can be addressed later in the introduction section of their articles. Similarly, Pho (2008), Samraj (2002), Suntara & Usaha (2013), and Saeaw & Tangkiengsirisin (2014) also discovered that Move-1 was less frequently detected in their study's corpus. However, an abstract with a Move 1 is much better because authors can captivate readers to read their abstracts and the entire articles from the very beginning. If readers are attracted and convinced about the importance of the abstract, they will most likely read the entire article.

The final finding in this study is that, unlike the authors of IBJ articles, the majority of authors published in reputable Islamic studies journals justify their articles by addressing an AA 6 (referring to a real-world problem) or an AA 7 (claiming the importance of the article). This may imply that reputable journal authors consider it crucial to convince readers of the importance of an article from the very beginning of the abstract, particularly in the publishing process. According to Alspach (2017), as hardworking professionals, journal editors and reviewers evaluate hundreds of abstracts a year to choose publications for initial review. Since Move 1 is typically addressed in the first few sentences of an abstract, it plays a significant role in establishing an image and interest for readers in the abstract. Thus, the initial review of a manuscript is often conducted on abstracts to determine whether the manuscript will be sent to reviewers. Alspach suggests that Move 1 in an abstract should include a concise summary of the

knowledge that has already been acquired regarding the study's subject matter, with the latter serving as the current focus of the investigation or the article.

This finding is in line with that of Arsyad et al. (2023) who found that, although not all abstracts published in reputable journals in language-related fields in their study have a Move 1, all abstracts with a Move 1 contain justification of the research or article by one of the five possible strategies (i.e., claiming no study on a particular topic, claiming very few studies on a particular topic, showing limitation/s in previous studies, contrasting or conflicting results found in previous studies, or following up the findings of previous studies (p.710). However, unlike the findings of Arsyad et al., the majority of authors in Islamic studies included in this study do not refer to a research gap strategy to justify their articles in the abstracts; they tend to justify their articles by referring to the real-world problem/s (AA 6) or claiming the importance of their articles (AA 7). This is because the majority of the articles included in the corpus of this study are non-research articles or review articles. According to Villia et al. (2024), a review article aims to provide an overview and evaluation of earlier studies or existing literature on a specific issue. This is often addressed in the abstract, whereas research article abstracts typically start with a statement about the research gap (Arianto, 2021). Soy et al. (2023) suggest that the move structure of abstracts in review articles is similar to that in research articles, with the only differences being in Move 1, which is the introduction/background/setting of the article, and Move 4, which is the synthesis of the discussion.

CONCLUSION

The length of abstracts in the three groups of articles in Islamic studies, measured by word count, is not significantly different, and this is primarily due to the journal guidelines. For example, particular journals may allow authors to write a short abstract of 100 to 150 words, while other journals may allow authors to write more extended abstracts of 200 to 300 words or longer. This may affect the structure of the abstract and the existence of AA in the abstracts. The abstracts in IBRJ and IRJ are similar but different from those in IBJ in terms of the appearance of Move 1 (introduction, background, or setting), but abstracts in IBJ are more similar to those of IRJ in terms of the appearance of Move 5 (conclusion, suggestion, or implication). Finally, although not all abstracts in IBRJ and IRJ include a Move 1, all of them address an AA 6 (referring to a real-world problem) or AA 7 (claiming the importance of the article).

This study is not without limitations. The journals from which the articles were selected for this study are limited to six Islamic studies journals (i.e., two Indonesian-based journals, two Indonesian-based refereed journals, and two international refereed journals). There are many more Indonesian-based journals in Islamic studies available in Indonesia; therefore, the corpus of this study is considered not yet representative. Therefore, future studies should include article abstracts from a broader range of Islamic studies journals to be more representative. Additionally, this study analyzes only the abstract from several sections of journal articles, including introduction, methods, results, discussion, and conclusion. Future studies should also analyze the other sections, as they are important and challenging to write. Finally, in this study, only the rhetorical structure and argument style are investigated; other aspects of journal articles, such as linguistic features of the abstracts, should also be analyzed.

The findings of this study have some implications for new authors and Indonesian-based journal editors and reviewers, particularly in Islamic studies. To improve the quality of journals (i.e., from non-refereed to refereed journals), the quality of the articles published in the journals must be improved, including the abstracts. The abstracts should include a Move 1 (introduction, background, or setting) that contains an AA or article justification argument to trigger readers' motivation and interest in reading the entire article. Similarly, to improve the

opportunity for a manuscript to be accepted by a reputable journal, the abstract should have a Move 1 and a strong AA. This is because, if editors and reviewers from reputable journals are interested in the abstract, they will continue reading the manuscript; however, if they are not convinced, they will abandon the manuscript and instantly reject it for publication.

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