Cultural Variations across Academic Genres: A Generic Analysis of Intertextuality in Master's Theses Introductions

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Abstract

Genre analysis of texts has always been significant. The current study aimed at investigating intertextuality considering cultural variations and differences in students' discourse communities. Social studies, philosophy, and biology were chosen as the representatives of social sciences, humanities and sciences. Tehran University, one of the most prominent and oldest universities in Iran, was chosen as the source of the theses. From each discipline, eight theses were chosen randomly and the organization of the introductions was analyzed according to Samraj's revised model of Swales (2008). Next, a comparativeand contrastive analysis was performed between the results obtained from this study and the ones obtained from Samraj's (2008). The results indicated that social studies and biology introductions were quite similar and followed the traditional format of thesis writing whereas philosophy introductions were different as they had a more topic-based structure.

Keywords: genre analysis, intertextuality

1. Introduction

1.1 Genre and Genre Analysisin Brief

The word Genre means a particular type of art, writing, music etc., which has certain features that all examples of this type share (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 2008). The term has a wide usage in rhetoric, media, theory, and even education (especially linguistics) to refer to a special kind of text. According to Connor (1996), genres are not static, homogenous texts but truly dynamic and vibrant. Based on what Bakhtin (1986) proposed, texts have ordered and unified forms (as we can see that stories have structures); they are also "intertextual", which means texts need other sources to rely on. Therefore, intertextuality, which is shaping the meaning of a text by referring to other texts, plays a key role in completing the meaning of a text and resulting the meaning of the context.

The definitions of the concepts of "genre" in genre analysis (Swales, 1990) and "culture" in intercultural contrastive rhetoric (Connor, 1996) have evolved since they were first presented.

According to Bhatia (1993, cited in Tench, 2003), genre analysis is the study of situated linguistic behavior in institutionalized academic or professional settings which has four main features:

1) Genre analysis shows a genuine interest in the use of language to achieve communicative goals. Therefore, it is not an extension of linguistic formalism.

2) Genre analysis does not represent a static description of language use but gives a dynamic explanation of the way expert users of language manipulate generic conventions to achieve a variety of complex goals. In fact, it combines the advantages of sociolinguistics perspective with those of cognitive perspective.

3) It is primarily motivated by applied linguistics concerns, especially language teaching at different levels.

4) It is narrow in focus but wide in vision, which allows it to focus on specific differentiation in language use at various levels of generality.

According to Bhatia (2002), genre analysis is a means to understanding the realities of the world of the texts and as he states, the world we experience is both complex and dynamic. Its complexity is due to the existence of

various textsof different types and these texts often serve overlapping and conflicting communicative aims. He noted that genre analysis has three prominent frameworks:

1) Corpus Studies – the computational analysis of language

2) Textual Analysis – linguistic descriptions of texts

3) Critical and ethnographic analysis – interviews and case studies

Paltridge (2001) argues that genres need to be considered not as patterns of texts in isolation but in relation to the context of production and interpretation and to the aims and assumptions of particular discourse communities.

According to Berkenkotter and Huckin (1995, cited in Bhatia 2002), genre knowledge is a form of situated cognition and it is inseparable from writer's socialand procedural knowledge. Therefore it is essential for the learners to acquire genre knowledge, procedural knowledge, and social knowledge in order to become better writers. Thus, the significance of genre analysis becomes obvious as it is necessary in analyzing the texts (specially formal and academic ones), and for finding remedies to overcome structural weaknesses in writing.

1.2 Swales CARS Model and Its 2008 Version

CARS means Create a Research Space (Swales, 1990)**.** According to one research conducted by Swales years before putting his model forward, he found that most of the theses he examined contained four rhetorical moves which enable a scientist create a research space in his work.

Swales' (1990) Create a Research Space model has been deeply influencing in analyzing research and academic texts. The model that Swales offered in 1990 is in fact a revised version of his own model which was offered in 1981. In the 1990 version of the CARS Model, Swales accentuated some aspects of the model such as ecological analogy that is a part of community psychology. Community psychology is the study of the individuals' contexts within communities and the wider society and the relationships of the individual to communities and society. Swales (1990) argues that ecological analogy captures a number of characteristics of the research article introductions: the need to re-establish in the eyes of the discourse community the significance of the research field itself: the need to "situate" the actual research in terms of that significance; and the need to show how this niche in the wider ecosystem will be occupied and defended. It follows that the amount of rhetorical work needed to create such a space depends on the existing ecological competition, on the size and importance of the niche established, and on various other factors such as the writer's reputation.

Move 1: Establishing a territory	Step 1 Claiming centrality and/or Step 2 Making topic generalization(s) and/or Step 3 Reviewing items of previous research
Move 2: Establishing a niche	Step 1A Counter-claiming or Step 1B Indicating a gap or Step 1C Question-raising or Step 1D Continuing a tradition
Move 3: Occupying the niche	Step 1A Outlining purposes or Step 1B Announcing present research Step 2 Announcing principal findings Step 3 Indicating RA structure

Figure 1. CARS model (Swales, 1990)

1.2.1 The 2008 Version of the CARS Model

In her article (2008), Samraj revised Swales' CARS model once more. The first step in the first move is called claim centrality which mentions the significance of the subject and is of two types: importance of the subject in real world and importance in research. As the next step, the author presents a review of literature, which is a reference to other research studies conducted about the same subject or topic generalizations as she had included it in her previous model.

The next move begins with indicating a gap/ question in the research, followed by indicating a problem in real world. These two steps describe the inadequacies of the previous researches, the question that is not answered in previous researches, or a problem that exists in the world and has not been discussed. The last step is positive justification which she had included it in the previous model. It serves as a part which shows the positive aspects

of the current study.

The third move begins with stating the goals/ argument of thesis. The authors statetheir aim in conducting the research. Next step is called "background". Regarding the definition of background, Samraj (2008) states that, in some cases, the hypotheses being tested by the study are only listed after this site/species (background) description. This step then enables a further specification of the goals of the study reported. It should be noted that this background discussion is analyzed as part of the introduction rather than a separate literature review because this discussion ends with a return to a crucial step of the third move, namely, stating the goals of the study in more specific terms.

Samraj (2008) also adds that "Often, after a statement of the purpose or goals of the thesis, there is a long exposition on the species or site that is the focus of the study. In these discussions the student writers appear to be displaying their knowledge of the field through numerous references to the literature. Components of the epistemic world such as the researcher and research procedures (MacDonald, 1994) are not foregrounded as sentence subjects in these descriptions. Rather, the actual phenomenon being studied is the focus of the discussion".

The next step is presenting the hypotheses, as exists in her previous model, followed by the presentation of the results which announces the principle outcomes of the thesis. The last step to be mentioned is previewing the organization of ideas (previously called "outlining the structure of the paper") in which the author explains what other chapters are going to talk about. These steps form the theoretical structure of a thesis; however, writers may not include some parts in their thesis writing. A summary of this model is as follows:

Move 1
Claim centrality
— importance in real world
— importance in research
Review literature or present topic generalizations

Move 2
Indicate a gap/question in research
Indicate problem in the real world
Positive justification

Move 3
State goals/argument of thesis
Background
Present hypotheses
Present results
Preview organization of thesis

Figure 2. The 2008 version of Swales' CARS model

The research questions to be answered regarding this article are:

1) Are there any differences among Iranian students from various fields of study regarding their theses overall organizations?

2) Do Iranian master students and their American counterparts (from the research conducted by Samraj, 2008) differ from one another in applying patterns to their introductions?

2. Methodology

2.1 Materials

The data of this study comprised a corpus of twenty four randomly selected master's theses produced at Tehran University in Iran between the years 2001 and 2011, and every eight theses were selected from a different field of study including philosophy, biology and social studies. The theses were chosen as examples of the science (Biology), social sciences (Social Studies), and humanities (Philosophy) and the aim was to compare the results obtained from this study with the results provided by Samraj (2008) as both of the studies investigated the same discourse communities. The selection of the theses was quite random. The number of theses chosen from each year is summarized in the table below:

Table 1. The frequency of the chose theses from the corpus

	Philosophy	Biology	Social Studies	Total
2001	XX	X		3
2002	X			0
2003	X	XX	X	5
2004	X	X	XX	4
2005	X	XX	XX	5
2006		X		1
2007	X		XXX	4
2008	X			1
2009				0
2010				0
2011		X		1
Total	8	8	8	24

The rationale behind choosing Tehran University among many other options available to the researcher was that it is the oldest and one of the best universities in Iran and compared to other universities in Iran. Regarding the world ranking, this university was a good choice to be compared with one of the largest state universities in America, from which Samraj (2008) had obtained her data.In her study, Samraj (2008) did not mention a special year in choosing her corpus, so the factor of time was not significant in this comparative study; however, the current of study is limited to the years 2001 to 2011in order to have a recent data.

2.2 Procedure

The following procedures were used to answer the research questions of this study:

1) The theses introductions were analyzed in terms of structure, using Samraj's revised model of Swales' CARS model (2008).

2) Iranian Graduate Students' Theses Introductions were compared with each other to find out the similarities and differences among them as they belonged to various discourse communities and disciplines.

3) Finally the results obtained from this study were compared with the results provided by Samraj (2008) to find out the similarities and differences between Iran Graduate Students and their English counterparts.

2.2.1 The Analysis of the Introduction Structure

Analyzing the introduction can be shown as what follows:

Move 1

1) The claim centrality was investigated based on the two aspects of importance in the world and importance in research.

2) The literature review from previous researches or topic generalizations were checked to be presented.

Move 2

3) The body of the texts was scrutinized to check the existence of a gap or question in research.

4) Just like the above step, the indication of a problem in the real world was checked out.

5) Positive justification was investigated.

Move 3

6) The introductions were investigated to see if there were any statements of the goals or arguments.

7) The background, which according to Samraj (2008) is a step that enables a further specification of the goals of the study reported, was checked.

8) The availability of the hypotheses in the body of the introductions was checked.

9) The texts were investigated to see if the author presented the results of the research or not.

10) Finally the organization of ideas preview, where the researcher mentions what he is going to do in the following chapters, was checked out.

3. Data Analysis and Results

3.1 Overall Organization

The macro structure of the biology and social studies generally follows the Introduction-Method-Results-Discussion (IMRD) structure of a research article (Swales, 1990, cited in Samraj 2008). Philosophy theses introductions were different from the introductions of biology and social studies as the biology and social studies introductions had the classical format of theses writing but the macro structure of philosophy theses was somewhat different. The theses began with the introduction which gave information on the problem and described the philosophical issue related to the real world, resulting in a structure that is called "topic-based research" by Paltridge (2002, cited in Samraj 2008).All of the philosophy theses had the introduction section before chapter one which was called the general section. The first chapter was dedicated to the definitions and the general points related to the research. There were no sections titled as "literature reviews" in the structure of the philosophy theses but the next three chapters described different parts of the issue and served as "sub-topics". The final chapter was about the conclusion and final comments of the writer.

In biology theses, the macro structure of the theses was traditional which means they had an introduction, the review of the literature (except two of them that had a descriptive section related to the entity being tested), methodology, data analysis and results, and finally discussions, conclusions and implications (one thesis did not contain any implications and recommendations for further researches).

The social studies these were more akin to the biology and biotechnology theses. However, they had some sections and each section had several chapters. The sections were like the chapters in biology and biotechnology theses. One of the theses had the conclusion in the final chapter of the last section. Two of the theses did not have any implications and suggestions for further researches.

3.2 Structure of Introductions

3.2.1 Philosophy Introductions

Two of the introductions contained claim centrality and mentioned the importance of the topic in the real world but not in research:

Persian Statement	English Translation
۱. فلسفه اخلاق کانت در بسیاری از جوامع بر زندگی مردم تاثیر گذاشته است که نکته ای حائز <u>اهمیت</u> می باشد.	1. The philosophy of Kant's morality has affected people's lives in many societieswhich is a <u>significant</u> point.
۲. <u>اهمیت</u> وجود اسطوره ها در زندگی یونانیان مشهود است.	2. The <u>significance</u> of the myths is evident in the lives of Greek people.

Regarding the review of the literature, 3 of the introductions referred to previous researches as a ground for their own researches:

Persian Statement	English Translation
۱. بررسی های قبل در این زمینه نشان داده اند که فلسفه اسپینوزا همواره در جوامع انسانی بحث برانگیز بوده است.	1. Previous investigations have shown that Spinoza's philosophy has always been a topic of discussion in human societies.
۲. بر طبق مطالعات گذشته در این وادی, برخی محققینمبادرت به تعبیر این تعابیر پیچیده ورزیده اند.	2. According to the previous research studies conducted in this realm, some research studies have ventured to interpret these complex concepts.
3. در نتیجه برخی تحقیقات صورت گرفته پیرامون فلسفه های موجود معلوم گشته که کلمه وجود حتی تعابیر فلسفی گوناگونی را در بر گرفته است.	3. As a result of some research studies conducted about the available philosophies, it has turned out that the word "existence" has even had various philosophical interpretations.

In the second move, one of the introductions contained a gap in research:

Persian Statement	English Translation
تحقیقاتی در زمینه جوهر ذاتی و عرض که وجود ذاتی ندارد صورت گرفته اما برای درک مقولات ده گانه نیاز به تحقیق و تفسیر بیشتر است.	Research studies have been conducted regarding the being and the within, the second of which does not exist by itself but for understanding the decuple category, more investigations and interpretations are required.

One of the introductions indicated a problem in the real world:

Persian Statement	English Translation
دیدگاه ارسطویی در برخی جوامع امروزی نظیر یونان میان برخی اقشار وجود داشته اما بدان توجه زیادی نشده است.	Aristotelian viewpoint still existsamong special groups of people in some countries such as Greece but less attention has been paid to it.

However, none of the introductions contained a positive justification. In the third move, all of the theses stated goals/ argument of the thesis:

Persian Statement	English Translation
۱. هدف من از این تحقیق بررسی نقش اسطوره ها در فلسفه یونان بررسی دیدگاههای نوین پیرامون این موضوع می باشد.	1. My aim of this research is to investigate the role of myths in the philosophy of Greece also modern viewpoints related to this issue.
2. بررسی فلسفه اخلاقی کانت و تاثیرش در جوامع امروزی هدف این تحقیق می باشد.	2. Investigating Kant's morality philosophy and its effect on today's societies is the aim of this research.
۳. هدف این تحقیق بررسی جوهر مادی و غیر مادی در اندیشه پدر لیبرالیسم یعنی جان لاک میباشد.	3. The aim of this research is to investigate the material and non-material substance in the ideas of John Locke (the father of liberalism).
4.مطلوب این تحقیقکوششی است برای درک ارتباطات مفاهیم اخلاقی قرآن و حکمت عملی.	4. The aim of this investigation is to understand the relationship between the ethical implications of Quran and practical wisdom.
5. اینپایاننامه به بررسی رابطه‌ی بین ضرورت و واقعیت از دیدگاه ارسطو می‌پردازد.	5. This thesis investigates the relationship between necessity and reality in Aristotle's philosophy.
6. هدف این پایان نامه اثبات نقش این متفکران برجسته در ایجاد زمینه برای رسیدن به کمال بحث می باشد.	6. The aim of this thesis is to prove the role of these prominent philosophers in creating a ground for reaching the perfect topic.
7. هدف این نوشتار, برداشتی صحیح و دقیق از معنای کلمه فلسفه در ابتدای مصیحیت می باشد.	7. The aim of this thesis is having an exact and correct interpretation from the meaning of the word "philosophy" in the beginning of Christianity.
8. مراد از این تحقیق رسیدن به معنایی از خدا و نفس است که اسپینوزا به ما می دهد.	8. The aim of this research is to understand the meaning of God and soul which Spinoza means.

None of the theses included any backgrounds, hypotheses, and results,

Two of the theses contained thesis organization preview:

Persian Statement	English Translation
۱. در فصلهای آتی به بررسی انواع تعاریف حکمت خواهم پرداخت.	1. In the following chapters, I will investigate various definitions of wisdom.
۲. دو جوهر مادی و غیر مادی به تفصیل در فصلهای آتی بحث خواهند شد.	2. The two materials and non-material substance will be discussed thoroughly in the following chapters.

3.2.2 Biology Introductions

Regarding the claim centrality, three of the theses mentioned the importance of the subject in the real world:

Persian Statement	English Translation
۱. روغن کلزا به دلیل ارزش بالای غذایی خود نقش مهمی در جامعه پیدا کرده است.	1. Canola oil has gained a significant role in the society due to its high nutritious characteristics.
۲. کرمهای خاکی استان کهکیلویه نقش مهمی در چرخه اکو سیستم منطقه زندگی خود دارند.	2. The worms of Kohgiluye have a significant role in the ecosystem cycle of their living zone.

Three of the theses mentioned the importance of the subject in research:

Persian Statement	English Translation
۱. مطالعه خرچنگهای خلیج فارس به دلیل تنوعشان و اهمیت زیست محیطی آنها از لحاظ تحقیقی حائز اهمیت است.	1. The study of the Persian Gulf crabs is scientifically of great importance due to their variety and environmental significance.
۲. مطالعه و تحقیق پیرامون این روش می تواند سبب روند افزایش کیفی جنس برنج شود که از حیث پژوهشی بسیار پر اهمیت است.	2. Studying and researching this method can result in an increase in the quality of the rice and is of great importance in terms of research.
۳. اهمیت این موضوع به دلیل بررسی پاسخ های مولکولی گیاه هنگام تنشهای محیطی می باشد که در کیفیت محصول تاثیر گذار است.	3. The significance of this topic is due to the investigation of the molecular responses of the plant at the time of natural tensions which affects the quality of product.

Four of the introductions contained literature reviews / topic generalizations:

Persian Statement	English Translation
۱. ممکن است بتوان با این مخزن پی به صفات درونی بذر و ژنهای آن برد.	1. It might be possible to understand the inner characteristics of the seed and its genes.
۲. یک مطالعه جدیدتر در سال 2006 نیز صحت اهمیت این جانداران دریایی را در این چرخه تایید کرد.	2. A more recent study in 2006 proved the significance of theses sea creatures in this cycle.
۳. مدل دیگری برای بررسی دقیق دانه ها مطرح شد اما بدلیل محدودیت شرایط موفقیت پیدا نکرد.	3. Another model was offered for scrutinizing the seeds but it was not successful due to the limitations.
۴. درسال هایاخیر مهندسی ژنتیک روشهای جدیدی را در دستورزی گیاهان به منظور مقاومت آنها در برابراسترس های زنده و غیر زنده پیشنهاد کرده است.	In recent years, Genetic Engineering has proposed new methods in manipulating the plants for their resistance to the living and non-living stress.

Five of the introductions indicated a gap/question in research:

Persian Statement	English Translation
۱. مقاومت مولکولی هلیوباکتری در زمینه حساسیت بیماران گوارشی تاکنون چندان بررسی نشده است.	1. Helicobacter molecular resistance in digesting sick allergy has not been investigated much so far.
۲. این سوال مطرح است که آیا کیناز می تواند پاسخ به خشکی را در گندم از بین ببرد یا خیر؟	2. The question is that whether the Kinas can stop the response to drought in wheat or no?
۳. آیا صفات تارچه ای می توانند باعث ایجاد تنوعات درون گونه ای شوند یا بی ارتباطند؟	3. Can fibril characteristics cause within- species variety or they are not relevant?
۴. نمونه برداری و بررسی جامعی از زیست محیط تمام خرچنگها صوررت نیافته است.	4. No thorough sampling and investigation about the environment of all thecrabs has been done.

Two of the introductions indicated a problem in real world:

Persian Statement	English Translation
1. پوشش گیاهی گندم که در این منطقه وجود دارد در حال از بین رفتن است و توجهی به آن نمیشود.	1. The crop vegetation which <u>exists in this zoneis losing</u>and no attention is paid to it.
2. شکی نیست که این خرچنگها بدلیل نبودن امکانات کافی حفاظتی در حال انقراض هستند که مسئله زیست محیطیست.	2. There is no doubt that these crabs <u>are becoming extinct</u> as there are not enough facilities to protect them <u>which is an environmental issue</u>.

Three of the introductions indicated the positive justification:

Persian Statement	English Translation
1. اهمیت وجود این ژن در تقویت محصول لزوم این تحقیق را به دست میدهد.	1. The significance of the existence of this gene and its capability to improve the product obliges <u>the necessity of this research</u>.
2. حتما لازم است مقاومت مولکولی این باکتری بررسی شود تا در درمان بیماران گوارشی تسریع صورت گیرد.	2. It is indubitably <u>necessary to investigate</u> the molecular resistance of this bacterium to accelerate the cure of digestion sickness.
3. ضرورت این تحقیق به دلیل بررسی تاثیری است که کیناها در متوقف کردن پاسخ گیاه به خشکی میتوانند داشته باشند.	3. <u>The necessity of this research</u> comes from the possible effect of the Kinas to stop the response of the plant to drought.

In the third move, six of the introductions stated the goals of the research:

Persian Statement	English Translation
1. هدف این تحقیق بررسی مقاومت مولکولی هلیکوباکترپیلوری به آنتی بیوتیك هاي مترونیدازول وكـلاريتـرومـايسين می باشد.	1. <u>The aim of this research</u> is investigating the molecular resistance of the Heliobacter pylori to metronidazole and clarythromycin antibiotics.
2. هدف از این تحقیق بررسی اطلاعات مولکولی کمپلکسpeucedanumمیباشد.	2. <u>The objective of this research</u> is to investigate the molecular information of the peucedanum complex.
3. در این تحقیق سعی بر مطالعه تاکسونومی خرچنگهای ناحیه جزر و مدی خلیج فارس و شرایط زندگی آنها شده است.	3. <u>This investigation attempts to</u> study the taxonomy of the crabs in the tidal zone of Persian Gulf and their living conditions.
4. مطالعهتاگزونومي- آناتومي برخي گونههاي جنس PoaceaeBromus Lدرايران هدف اصلی این تحقیق می باشد.	4. The taxonomy – Anatomy study of speciesofPoaceaeBromus L is themain objective of thisresearch.
5. بررسی تنوعات ژنتیکی این کرمهای خاکی و تاکسونومی آنها هدف اصلی این تحقیق می باشد.	5. Investigating the genetic diversity and the taxonomy of these worms <u>is the main objective of this research</u>.
6. هدف از این تحقیق است که بفهمیم آیا می توان مخزن cDNA را در شناسایی ژنهای کلزا به کار برد یا خیر.	6. <u>The aim of this research</u> is to know whether we can use the reservoir of cDNA in identifying Canola's genes or not.

Two of the introductions provided a background:

Persian Statement	English Translation
1. میتوژن ماده شیمیاییست که سلول را وادار به تقسیم سلولی می نماید.	1. <u>A mitogen isa chemical substance</u> thatforces a cell to start cell division
2. نوار زنگی بیماریست که میتواند باعث از بین رفتن محصول و کیفیت گندم شود.	2. <u>Stripe rust isa disease</u> can cause significant loss to wheat yield and grain quality

Two introductions presented a hypothesis:

Persian Statement	English Translation
1. فرض اولیه تحقیق اینست که انتقال ژن کیتیناز میتواند سبب باروری بیشتر خوشه شود.	1. <u>The primary hypothesis</u> of the research is that transferring the chitinase gene can result in the panicle fertility.
2. فرض بر این است که مخزن ژن cDNA سبب شناسایی مستقیم ژنها میشود.	2. <u>It is hypothesized that</u> the cDNA gene reservoir can result in the direct identification of the genes.

However, surprisingly, none of them presented the results, but three of them previewed the organization of ideas:

Persian Statement	English Translation
1.فصلهای آتی به بررسی Peucedanum و شرایط زیستی آن خواهد پرداخت.	1. The following chapters will investigate Peucedanum and its environmental conditions.
2.شرحی از آزمایشات انجام گرفته روی این هلیکو باکتر در فصول آتی خواهد آمد و سپس روش انجام کار شرح داده خواهد شد.	2. A description of the experiments conducted on this Helicobacter and the methodology of this research will be presented in the following chapters.
3.فصل دوم اختصاص به بررسی جزیی الگوی کیناز داشته فصل سوم نحوه انجام آزمایشات را شرح داده و فصل چهارم نتایج را بررسی و تحلیل می کند.	3. Chapter two is dedicated to the detailed investigation of Kinas map, the third chapter will describe the methodology, and the fourth chapter investigates and analyzes the results.

3.2.3 Social Studies Introductions

Having analyzed the first move of social studies theses, it became apparent that two of the introductions contained a sentence regarding the significance of the topic in the real world:

Persian Statement	English Translation
1.بزهکاری نوجوانان مشکل اساسی است که در جوامع امروزی رو به افزایش است.	1. Teens Crime is a major problem which is increasing in today's societies.
2.خودکشی جوانان یکی از مشکلات موجود در دنیاست که رقم آماری بالایی دارد.	2. Youth Suicide is one of the existing problems in the world which has high statistic figures.
3.مسئله جراحی زیبایی از مسایل مهم و پرطرفدار روز عصر ماست.	3. The cosmetic surgery issue is a significant and popular issue in our current age.

Two of the introductions issued the importance of the topic in research:

Persian Statement	English Translation
1.این تحقیق اهمیت درک ما در ریشه یابی از بزهکاری نوجوانان را نشان می دهد.	1. The study shows the significance of our understanding of the origin of the teens' crime.
2.مبحث رفاه خانواده و آسایش فرزندان همواره از مباحث مهم تحقیقی بوده اند.	2. Family Welfare and comfort of children have always been significant research topics.

Regarding the review literature, three theses had a reference to other researches:

Persian Statement	English Translation
1.برخی محققین اعلام کرده اند که بازتابی شدن هویت بدنی افراد نظیر جراحی پلاستیک بینی از پیامدهای جامعه مصرفی است.	1. Some researchers have announced that the reflection of individual's physical identity such as cosmetic nose surgery is the result of a consuming society.
2.بررسی های قبلی نشان داده اند که تمایلات شهرنشینی در روستاییان در چند سال اخیر شدت پیدا کرده است.	2. Previous investigations indicated that the villagers' tendencies for urbanization have been intensified during the recent years.
3.بسیاری از محققین دلایل خودکشی را حتی داشتن ثروت انبوه نیز ذکر کرده اند.	3. Many researchers noted that having a high amount of wealth results in committing suicide.

Considering the second move, three of the introductions indicated a gap in research:

Persian Statement	English Translation
1.متاسفانه تحقیقات انجام شده پیرامون مبحث شهرنشینی اطلاعات کافی به دست نداده اند و لزوم این تحقیق را برانگیخته اند.	1. Unfortunately, the research studies conducted about the issue of urbanization have not given us enough informationand have obliged us to conduct this research.
2.بر طبق نظریات پیشین ارتباط تنگاتنگی میان میزان رفاه با اقتدار تحصیلی دختران وجود دارد اما هیچ امار دقیقی در این زمینه موجود نیست.	2. According to the previous theories, there is a close relationship between the wealth of families and the success of the girls at school but there are no exact statistics related.
3.حتی اعا شده است که استفاده از اینترنت نقش مهمی در بالا بردن اراده بانوان دارد اما هنوز تحقیقی بر آن صحه نگذاشته است.	3. It is even claimed that using the Internet plays a key role in increasing women's confidence but no researches have confirmed its truth yet.

Three of the introductions indicated a real problem in the world:

Persian Statement	English Translation
۱. این گونه مهاجرتها به شهر باعث بروز مشکلات عدیدهای برای شهرنشینان شده است.	1. Such immigrations to the cities <u>have caused a lot of problems for the burghers</u>.
۲. حس بیگانگی اجتماعی در جوانان بر کیفیت زندگی و همزیستی آنها در جامعه تاثیر بالایی گذاشته است.	2. Sense of social alienation in young people has <u>had a deep impact on their life and coexistence quality</u>.
۳. در بسیاری خانواده ها استفاده بانوان از اینترنت سبب سوظن همسرانشان شده است.	3. <u>In many families</u>, the use of the Internet by women has resulted in their husbands' suspicion.

Regarding the positive justification, two of the introductions elaborated on the reason(s) why their research must be conducted:

Persian Statement	English Translation
۱. موضوع افسردگی دانشجویان به خاطر تاثیری که بر زندگیشان میگذارد حایز اهمیت است و لزوم این تحقیق را پیرامون دلایل آن اضطراری میسازد.	1. The issue of university students' depression is significant due to its effect on their lives and therefore, <u>it is necessary to hold this research</u> to investigate the reasons of this problem.
۲. اهمیت اجرای این تحقیق به خاطر شدت گرفتن روز افزون جراحی های زیبایی و استفاده از لوازم آرایشی می باشد.	2. <u>The significance of this research</u> is due to the increase in cosmetic surgery and use of makeup products.

In the third move, six of the introductions stated their goals / arguments.

Persian Statement	English Translation
۱. هدف از این تحقیق پاسخ به این سوال است که چه عواملی بر انزوای اجتماعی جوانان تاثیر می گذارند.	1. <u>The aim of this research</u> is to find the factors affecting the youth social isolation.
۲. هدف این پژوهش تعیین میزان تاثیر رفاه خانواده در پیشرفت تحصیلی دختران است.	2. <u>The objective of this investigation</u> is to specify the effect of Family Welfare on the educational improvement of girls.
۳. شناخت عواملی که در افسردگی دانشجویان نقش اساسی دارند هدف این مطالعه می باشد.	3. Recognizing the factors influencing the university students' depression is <u>the aim of this study</u>.
۴. دلیل اصلی این مطالعه بررسی علل و نتایج مهاجرتهای انجام شده به خراسان می باشد.	4- <u>The main reason for this study</u> is to investigate the reasons and results of the immigrants' movement to Khorasan.
۵. بررسی رابطه میزان خشنودی بانوان در استفاده از شبکه جهانی اینترنت ونیز بررسی مشکلات موجود مطلوب این تحقیق می باشد.	5. Investigating the relationship between the gratification of women and their use of the World Wide Web and also investigating the problems are <u>the aims of this research</u>.
۶. دلایل انجام عملهای زیبایی و استفاده از لوازم آرایشی اهداف این تحقیق جامعه شناختی را شامل میشوند.	6. The reasons why people wear make ups or do cosmetic surgeries are <u>the aims of this sociological research</u>.

None of the introductions contained a background; however, three of them presented their hypotheses (one hypothesis is mentioned in its own section without containing the word itself:

Persian Statement	English Translation
۱. فرض تحقیق بر این است که انزوای اجتماعی جوانان به دلیل ترس آنها از اینده می باشد.	1. <u>The research hypothesis</u> is that the social isolation of the youth is due to their fear from their future.
۲. فرض ممکن این است که علت اصلی انجام عملهای جراحی زیبایی کمبود اعتماد به نفس جوانان است.	2. <u>It is hypothesized</u> that the main reason for undergoing cosmetic surgery is youth's weak self-confidence.
۳. ناامنی شغلی با افسردگی دانشجویان رابطه مستقیم دارد.	3. Job Insecurity has a <u>direct relationship</u> with the depression of the students.

Only one thesis introduction presented the result:

Persian Statement	English Translation
١. نتایج حاصله نشان می دهند که امکانات و شغل والدین بیشترین تاثیر روانی بر موفقیت دانش اموزان را داشته اند.	1. The obtained results show that parents' occupations and facilities have had the most significant psychological effect on children's success.

Two of the theses previewed the organization of their ideas:

Persian Statement	English Translation
١. در فصلهای آتی پیرامون علل خودکشی به تفصیل بحث خواهد شد.	1. The reasons of suicide commitment will be discussed in details in the following chapters.
٢. در فصلهای بعد ابتدا به شرایط کنونی خواهیم پرداخت و سپس علل جراحی زیبایی و صحت فرضیه را بررسی خواهیم کرد.	2. In the following chapters, We will present the current situation, and then we will investigate the reasons of cosmetic surgery and the truth of the hypothesis.

4. Discussion and Conclusion

The results are summarized in the table below. Three moves were analyzed in the research:

Table 2. Summary of the data obtained from Introduction Analysis

	Philosophy	Biology	Social Studies
Move 1			
Claim centrality	2	5	5
Importance in the real world	2	2	3
Importance in research	0	3	2
Review of Literature or present topic generalizations	3	4	3
Move 2			
Indicate a gap/question in research	1	4	3
Indicate a real problem in the world	1	2	3
Positive justification	0	3	2
Move 3			
State goals/ arguments of thesis	8	6	6
Background	0	2	0
Present hypothesis	0	2	3
Present results	0	0	1
Preview organization of ideas	2	3	2

According to the analysis of the introductions and also based on the results, it became evident that the humanities students (at least the participants in this research) preferred to dedicate their introduction to introduce the issue and discuss the problems related to the main topic and investigate its different aspects. They applied fewer citations but discussed their own points of view. However, science students were the ones who based their introduction writings on a more traditional basis which is called the traditional format (Dudley-Evans, 1999, cited in Samraj, 2008). Whenever they needed to give reference to previous studies, researches, and theories, they had a citation to show that their own research is based on a logical framework.According to Hyland (2000, cited in Samraj (2008), published texts are the most concrete realization of the social practices of academic writing. Samraj (2008) stated that the master's theses are not homogenous as the students belong to various academic disciplines. The representatives of social sciences and science (social studies and biology) were more

similar to each other as they both followed a more IMRD or traditional structure and the representative of humanities (philosophy) was different as it followed a more topic-based organization.

Also the Iranian students and their American counterparts had the same patterns applied to their theses introductions as in both cases, the representatives of humanities applied a topic- based organization whereas the other two groups tended to follow a more traditional pattern.

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