

INTRODUCTORY PASSAGES IN PAKISTANI JOURNALS: A RHETORICAL ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH ARTICLES USING *CREATING A RESEARCH SPACE* MODEL

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Abstract

This paper aims at studying the rhetorical patterns followed by researchers, while writing introductions of research articles in different Pakistani journals. Genre analysis of introductory passages has gained considerable importance. Much data is available to explore the rhetorical structures of introductions of various research articles and MPhil/Ph.D. dissertations (Swales 1990; Bunton 2002; Bhatia 2006; Shehzad 2007; Samraj 2008), however, the research articles published in Pakistani Journals remained unexplored. This study aims to fill this gap in order to help novice researchers to understand the general patterns followed in introduction passages of some of the local Pakistani journals. Swales (1990, 2004) CARS have been used as framework to study the general moves in the introductory passages of 20 different articles published in Kashmir Journal of Language Research (KJLR) which is published by University of Azad & Jammu Kashmir in Muzaffarabad, NUML Journal of Critical Inquiry (NUMLJCI), Baluchistan Journal of Linguistics (BJL), Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities published by Allama Iqbal Open University in Islamabad, and International Research Journal of Arts and Humanities (IRJAH) published by University of Sindh in Jamshoro. CARS (1990 and 2004) have been used widely in research communities to study move structures in introductory passages of research articles, academic genres (Alives 2007) and reviews of books (Babli 2003). This model is flexible and welcomes the modifications according to new practices in genre (Bunton 2002) and application of this model is also noticed in introduction sections of papers presented in conferences across the world (Simpson and Swales 2001). The results showed that Move 1 is the most frequent which implies that 'Establishing a Niche' is necessary while writing introductions to be published in these journals. Move 2 was frequent in Kashmir Journal of Research Language, NUML Journal of Critical Inquiry and Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities (AIU), however, it was found to be optional in Baluchistan Journal of Linguistics and IRJAH. Moreover, Move 3 was present in 85% of the corpus.

Keywords: Introductions, Pakistani Journals, CARS, Moves, Rhetorical Analysis

Introduction

Research articles are gaining huge popularity in the present age. In Pakistan, the trend to write research articles is increasing especially in different universities but since English is not the native language, so many people find difficulty in writing research articles in English. Many studies are conducted to analyze rhetorical structures of different genres by Zappen (1983), Najjar (1987), Bunton (1998,2002), Shehzad (2008) and others using Swales (1990) CARS- Creating a Research Space model. According to Futasz (2006) these studies may help reader and writer to develop sense out of the text.

The galvanized trend towards genre studies has also touched the academic sphere. Various educational institutions are making the practice of writing research articles and theses common and in order to promote it, they are providing students with guidelines. However, novice English speakers find it an arduous task to accomplish. Bunton (1998), Samraj (2008) & Mahmood (2015) devoted efforts to study different sections such as introductions, literature reviews, frameworks, methodologies, findings, discussions and conclusions of dissertations.

An introduction is most significant part of any research article. It gives insight and background of the study. It can be called the soul of any article and hence, should be written with great care. Non-native speakers find difficulties in writing research articles in English. Swales (1990) presented CARS model to study the moves that are followed by researchers while writing introductions. It has been applied widely on introductory passages of MPhil and PhD dissertations, research journals, and essays with slight modifications to study move

sequence and frequency. Duszak (1994) examined research articles related to language by Polish and English authors under the umbrella of CARS model. A similar study was conducted by Golebiowski (1999) on articles published in Polish and English by Polish writers. A comparative study of introductions of research articles published in Hungarian and English was done by Arvay-Tanko (2004). In field of Soft Sciences, Cheung (2012) analyzed introductions of 43 theses using CARS move analysis.

Pakistani researchers also worked in the field of genre analysis but unfortunately, their work remained confined to CARS analysis of introductions of international research articles. No deliberate efforts have been made to study rhetorical structures of introductory passages of published articles in local Pakistani journals. Different universities are running research journals and ask for papers for publication. The present study aims to explore the rhetorical structures of articles in journals published in different universities of Pakistan using Swales (1990, 2004) CARS model. This will help researchers to follow move patterns that are followed in articles of those journals while writing introductions to get their work published in them. This study involves introductory passages of articles under domain of Linguistic, however, the selection is random. These journals include *Kashmir Journal of Language Research (KJLR)* which is published by University of Azad & Jammu Kashmir in Muzaffarabad, *NUML Journal of Critical Inquiry (NUMLJCI)*, *Baluchistan Journal of Linguistics (BJL)*, *Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities* published by Allama Iqbal Open University in Islamabad, and *International Research Journal of Arts and Humanities (IRJAH)* published by University of Sindh in Jamshoroo. The corpus contains passages published in articles in these journals from 2018 to 2020.

Genre has left literary confines soon after Bakhtin (1979) highlighted speech genres involving social communication spheres. It is defined in various ways by various researchers. It is a “social action” in terms of Miller (1984). Eggins (2004) talked about genre and sub-genres putting narration, argumentation, and description, etc. in category of genre and personal speech experiences in category of sub-genre. On the other hand, Martin & Rose (2003) brought light to stages, goal orientation and social connection in genres. Swales (1990) described genre as a communicative event serving a communicative purpose, that is understood by a particular discourse community. It has restrictions and constraints that are exploited by expert members of society.

Genre analysis has gained tremendous popularity with the passage of time. Various researches have been organized to analyze various genres. According to Hyon (1996) genre analysis find out linguistic features of spoken or written discourse. Hopkins and Evans (1988) term it as standardize and structured positioning of text. Berkenkotter and Huckin (1995) emphasize on presence of a connection between practices held in various disciplines and genre. Many approaches based on genre-studies have been introduced to study rhetorical structures of research articles. Bhatti et al (2019) describe the centrality of research articles in sphere of academia. Many departments demand new researches in field of academics. Various models have been introduced by Evans (1986), Swales (1990), Bhattia (1993), Hyland (2000), Santo (1996) and other researchers to study the rhetorical structure of various parts of research articles and they are being utilized by researchers to analyze abstracts, introductory passages, reviews of literature, methodologies and conclusions of articles published in different spheres.

Swales (1990) moves analysis one of the widely used model to study rhetorical and discursive structure of the introduction section of articles published in various disciplines. It is also famous as CARS- Create a Research Space in discourse community. It has been modified and contains three moves with certain sub-steps. These moves have been described in various ways by Santos (1996) and Bhatia (1993).

Duszak (1994) examined research articles related to language by Polish and English authors under the umbrella of CARS model. Her study marked a huge gap between introductions of Polish authors and Swales (1990) model. Polish research articles lack organizational structure therefore; it was difficult to find where the introduction ended. However, there was an indirect presence of move three in some articles where researchers expressed their purpose of study. Many studies lacked a clear aim. The purpose was clearly indicated in English research articles, however, there were certain deviations from Swales’ (1990) moves. A similar study was conducted by Golebiowski (1999) on articles published in Polish and English by Polish writers. He found some kind of segmentation in Polish RA published in discipline of Psychology. All other Ras refuted Swales’ model. There were variations in English articles, too. Move 1 was loaded with knowledge of background and some articles missed Move 2 also.

Another research was conducted on introductions of thirteen Ph.D. dissertations by Bunton (2002). He found the length of these introductions was more than those of research articles. However, most of them comply to Swales’ model with slight variations in few of them. This study contained introductions written by both native and non-native English speakers. He failed to find much difference between both kinds of articles.

A study was conducted by Samraj (2002) on research articles dealing with Conservation Biology and Wildlife Behavior. He analyzed introductions of these articles using Swale’s CARS model and highlighted changes in rhetorical structures in centrality claims. He paved path for revision of Swales’ model.

A comparative study of introductions of research articles published in Hungarian and English was done by Arvay-Tanko (2004). This analysis resulted in the discovery of two new moves to Swales' model which they called as *examples* and *analytical details*. The examples lacked sources whereas in analytical details, the researchers clarified the terminologies of research article. He also discovered that Hungarian writers enjoyed more freedom as compared to English writers while writing introductions. As compared to English writers, Hungarian writers were more inclined towards raising questions rather than indicating gaps.

In the field of Soft Sciences, Cheung (2012) analyzed the introductions of 43 theses using CARS move analysis. The results showed that Education Management and Linguistics theses have higher frequency of non-integral citations than Technology and Instructional Design.

Geckili (2013) studied introductions of 20 different PhD theses of Turkish and English researchers and found differences in rhetorical structures of these works. Seventy-nine introductory sections of theses of various disciplines were analyzed by Fernandez (2016) to identify rhetorical differences. The results depicted that theses of English mostly followed Swales' moves as compared to others.

Pakistani researchers also worked in field of genre analysis but unfortunately, their work remained confined to CARS analysis of introductions of international research articles. However, Shehzad (2006) studied introductions of articles particularly M1S1 in field of Computer Science. He found myriad methods used in the introductions in field of Computer Science. Khan and Mahmood (2014) investigated differences in rhetoric structures of introductory passages of theses belonging to field of Natural Science and Social Science and found they follow Swales' moves. Whereas Move 2 was missing in most of the articles. Shehzad and Abbas (2015) analyzed MPhil theses introductory passages written within Pakistani context using CARS model and found differences in rhetorical structures of introductions of theses belonging to two different fields. Similarly, Yasmin et al (2019) also conducted a CARS analysis of introductions of various disciplines but their major emphasis was on Move 1.

Pakistani researchers used Swales (1990, 2004) model to study rhetorical structures in introductory passages of various fields, however, no considerable effort has been made to study rhetorical structures of articles published in Pakistani Journals. The present study addresses this gap and apply CARS model on articles in journals published in different parts of Pakistan. The study particularly focuses on articles belonging to field of linguistics.

Research Objectives

The present study aims:

1. To analyze moves that are followed by researchers while writing introductions in different Pakistani journals.
2. To find the most frequent move in introductory passages of the research articles published in local Pakistani journals.

Research Design

The corpus for this study is collected from five journals that are being published across Pakistan and are present on Higher Education Commission (HEC) website. These journals have free access to all and available on internet. It consists of 20 articles, four articles from each journal. This study involves introductory passages of articles under domain of Linguistic, however, the selection is random. These journals include *Kashmir Journal of Language Research (KJLR)* which is published by University of Azad & Jammu Kashmir in Muzaffarabad, *NUML Journal of Critical Inquiry (NUMLJCI)*, *Baluchistan Journal of Linguistics (BJL)*, *Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities* published by Allama Iqbal Open University in Islamabad, and *International Research Journal of Arts and Humanities (IRJAH)* published by University of Sindh in Jamshoro. The corpus contains passages published in articles in these journals from 2018 to 2020. A list of journals is given in Table 1.

The introductory passages from 20 articles are copied and pasted in a separate word file for convenience to apply the model. The file has 15 pages which include the name of journal, author and is named as Introduction 1, Introduction 2 and so on, unto Introduction 20 for ease of identification of passage. The reason behind choosing this number is shortage of available duration, and to give equal representation to articles published in journals of different provinces of Pakistan. Moreover, in literature review, we found that Benton (2002) applied CARS on corpus of 45 introductory passages belonging to 08 different fields, which means he picked around 5 passages from each of the discipline. Samraj (2008) also studied 8 introductions each from three different disciplines. Rahman, Darus & Amir (2017) studied rhetorical structures of introductions of 20 articles published on four international journals.

Each introduction is studied individually under the framework of CARS (1990, 2004) and moves are noted along with the recurring steps in form of a table. A chart is also made to reflect the frequencies of moves

in the articles and see the general rhetorical trend in introductions of articles published in various Pakistani journals.

Table 1

Sr. No.	Journal	Institute
1	<i>Kashmir Journal of Language Research (KJLR)</i>	University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (Muzaffarabad)
2	<i>NUML Journal of Critical Inquiry (NUMLCI)</i>	NUML (Islamabad)
3	<i>Baluchistan Journal of Linguistics (BJL)</i>	Department of English & Literature Lasbela University (Baluchistan)
4	<i>Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities (JSSHAIOU)</i>	AIOU (Islamabad)
5	<i>International Research Journal of Arts and Humanities (IRJAH)</i>	University of Sindhi (Jamshoro)

Table 2

	CARS (1990, 2004)
Move 1	Creating a Territory
Step 1	Claiming Centrality
Step 2	Topic Generalizations
Step 3	Literature Review/ Citation
Move 2	Establishing a Niche
Step 1A	Indicating a Gap
Step 1B	Adding to What Is Known
Step 2	Presenting Positive Justification
Move 3	Presenting the Present Work
Step 1	Announcing Present Research Descriptively / Purposively
Step 2	Presenting Research Questions or Hypotheses
Step 3	Definitional Clarifications
Step 4	Summarizing Methodology
Step 5	Announcing Principal Outcomes
Step 6	Stating the Value of the Present Research
Step 7	Outlining the Structure of the Research Paper

The present study is based on Create a Research Space (CARS) model (1990 and 2004) in order to explore move structures of introductions of research articles of local Pakistani journals. The similar model is used by Rahman, Darus & Amir (2017) to rhetorical structures of introductions of 20 articles published on four international journals. The modified model is given in Table 2. This CARS (1990, 2004) model was used due to following:

1. CARS (1990 and 2004) have been used widely in research communities to study move structures in introductory passages for almost past two decades.

2. These have been used to study move structures in multidisciplinary research articles, academic genres (Alives, 2007) and reviews of books (Babli, 2003)
3. The model is flexible and welcomes modifications according to new practices in genre (Bunton, 2002).
4. The application of this models is also noticed in introduction sections of papers presented in conferences across the world (Simpson and Swales, 2001).

Finding

The results show that Move 1 (Creating a Territory) is present in all the 20 introductions whereas, the ratio of Move 2 and Move 3 was 70% and 80% respectively.

Table 3

MOVE	KJLR	NUMLJCI	BJL	JSSHAIOU	IRJAH	Total
Move 1	4	4	4	4	4	100%
Step 1	4	3	4	3	3	85%
Step 2	0	2	2	2	1	35%
Step 3	4	3	2	4	4	85%
Move 2	3	4	2	4	1	70%
Step 1A	3	3	1	4	0	55%
Step 1B	3	2	1	1	1	55%
Step 2	0	0	2	0	0	10%
Move 3	4	4	4	2	3	85%
Step 1	3	4	4	2	1	70%
Step 2	1	1	2	1	0	25%
Step 3	1	2	1	0	1	25%
Step 4	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Step 5	1	0	0	0	0	5%
Step 6	1	3	1	0	0	25%
Step 7	0	0	0	0	0	0%

Move 1: Creating a Territory

The author sets the ground for his research in this move with the help of background information which may include centrality claim, general statements or references of previously conducted studies. One of three steps of Move 1 was noticed in almost all introductions in the selected corpus.

Step 1: Claim of Centrality

The author claims the centrality of his study by talking about the significance of his study at present time. This step was present in 85% of the introductions present in the corpus. It was present in all the four selected introductions of *Kashmir Journal of Linguistic Research* and *Baluchistan Journal of Linguistics*. Some of the examples of this step from the corpus are:

“...extensive reading has gained immense importance in domain of language...” (Riffat & Noreen, 2020)

“...academic discourse has established its centrality in discourse studies...” (Abbas & Shehzad, 2015)

Step 2: Generalizing the Research Topic

In this step, the authors give generalizations about the present practices, phenomena, or knowledge in the field under study. This step was scarcely present in the introductory passages of selected corpus with the

percentage of 35 %. It was altogether absent in *Kashmir Journal of Linguistic Research*, however, only 1 article of *International Research Journal of Arts and Humanities* had this step. For example,

“... as mostly, loanwords are need based, so people are bound to use English loanwords in their daily life...” (Atta, Ali , & Saleem , 2020)

Step 3: Literature Review/ Citation

This step involves references to the researches that have been done already. It can involve both integrated and non-integrated references. This step was followed in 85% of articles. The highest ratio of this step was found in introductions of articles of *Kashmir Journal of Language Research*, *Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities (AIOU)*, and *International Research Journal of Arts and Humanities*. Only 2 out of four articles of *Baluchistan Journal of Linguistic* followed this step. Some instances of this step were:

“... Shaw (1991) indicates that among all sections in a thesis...”

(Yasmin , Mahmood , & Butt, 2019)

“Fairclough (2001) says that CDA critically analyses the text to reveal broader perspective...” (Manzoor, Khan, & Jabeen, 2020)

Move 2: Establishing a Niche

In this move. The author identifies a research gap that is needed to be filled by new research. This can involve adding to what is already known or providing a positive justification of a phenomenon that has already been studied. This move was present in 70% of the selected corpus.

Step 1A: Identifying Research Gap

The author finds out the gap that is needed to be filled by further research and which lacked considerable attention. This step was present in all the introductions of *Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities*. It was completely absent in *International Research Journal of Arts and Humanities* and only one article of *Baluchistan Journal of Linguistic* had this step in the introduction. The ratio of this step was considerably high in *Kashmir Journal of Language Research* and *NUML Journal of Critical Inquiry*.

Step 1B: Adding to What is Already Known

In this step, the researcher adds to the already known stock of knowledge. In other words, it is a kind of extension of present existing research. The percentage of occurrence of this step was 55%. This step was mostly followed in *Kashmir Journal of Language Research* whereas, only one out of four articles of *Baluchistan Journal of Linguistic*, of *Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities*, and *International Research Journal of Arts and Humanities* each. An example of this step was

“...however, some useful parallels may be drawn from Nikolaou’s (2017) investigation of two basic functions in context of Athens...” (Nikolaou & Shah, 2019)

Step 2: Giving a Positive Justification

This step provides information about the need of research or a positive justification to fill out the indicated gap. This step was least followed in the introductory passages included in corpus. Only 2 introductions of *Baluchistan Journal of Linguistic* followed this step.

“...immediate feedback can have more positive impact as Hattie (2009) states that feedback is actually productive when learners get to know about accuracy...” (Ismail, 2019)

Move 3: Presenting the Present Research

According to Swales (2004) model, this step involves announcement of present research and has 7 different steps. This step was present in 85% of the introduction passages of corpus under study. All the articles of *Kashmir Journal of Language Research*, *NUML Journal of Critical Inquiry* and *Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities* demonstrated this step in the introductions. However, the ratio of presenting the present study was missing in some of the introductions of *Baluchistan Journal of Linguistic* and almost negligible in *International Research Journal of Arts and Humanities*.

Step 1: Announcing Present Research Descriptively / Purposively

This step was the most frequent step among all the steps of Move 3 and occurred in 70% of the corpus. It involved description of the objectives of the study. The highest ratio of this step was in *NUML Journal of Critical Inquiry* and *Baluchistan Journal of Linguistic*. However, it was present in only one of the for selected introductions of *International Research Journal of Arts and Humanities*. Some of the instances of this step were:

“... this study aims to explore the effectiveness of phenomenon of CS in Access Microscholarship program...” (Haidar, Malik, Rizwan, & Butt, 2020)

Step 2: Presenting Hypothesis/ Research Questions

Only 25% introductions of the corpus demonstrated research questions. This step was optional in the introductions of all the 5 journals and was completely absent in *International Research Journal of Arts and Humanities*.

Step 3: Definitional Clarifications

This step is concerned with defining the terms that are significant in the current study. Only 25% articles followed this step. None of the articles of *Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities* possessed this step. An instance of this step was:

“...portfolios are defined as ‘collection of text the writer has produced...” (Ismail, 2019)

Step 4: Summarizing Methodology

This step was missing from all the introductions present in the corpus.

Step 5: Announcing Principal Outcomes

This step was only present in one article of the corpus i.e. *NUML Journal of Critical Inquiry*. It was missing in all the other introductions and thus, it can be considered optional. The example of this step was:

“the present study...prove that visuals ‘counter-ness’ only exist in relation to national discourse...” (Khan, 2019)

Step 6: Stating the Value of the Present Research

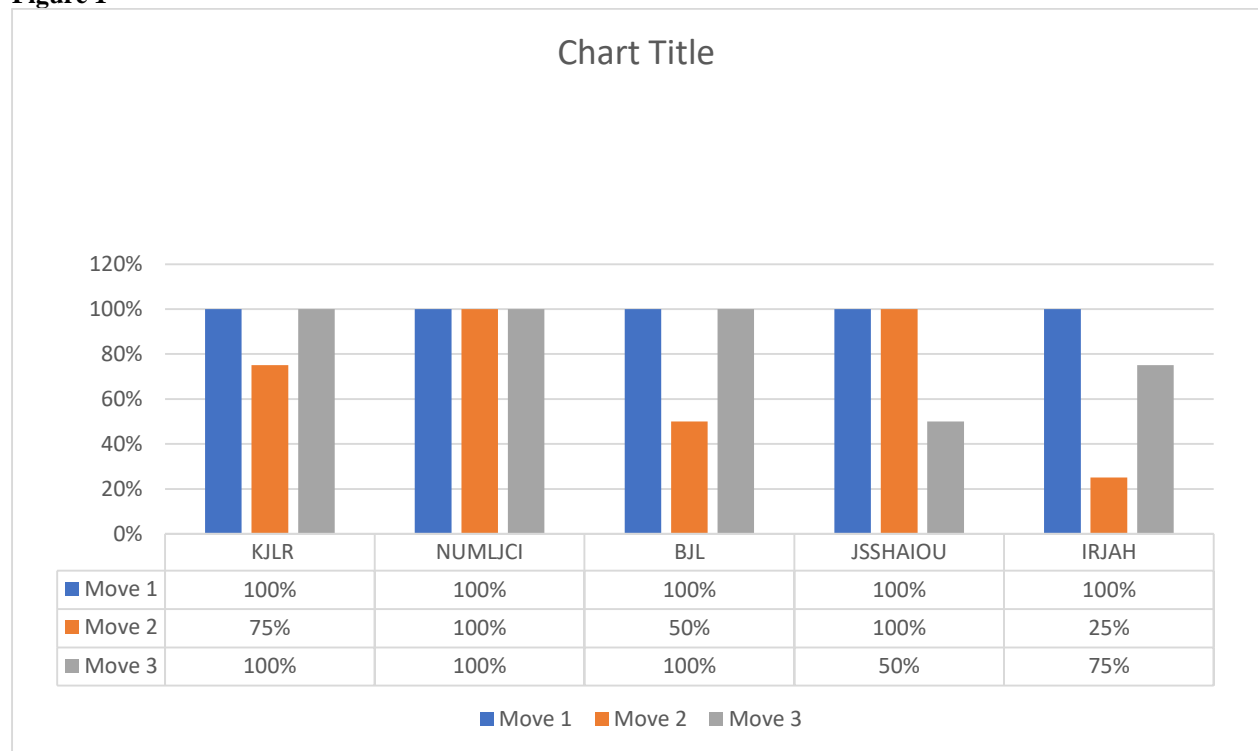
This step presents the value of the study that is being conducted. The ratio of this step was comparatively low. It was present only in 25% of articles and was completely missing *International Research Journal of Arts and Humanities* and *Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities*. This step was followed as:

“...exploring this phenomenon is important to understand the role of...employed by authors” (Abbas & Shehzad, 2015)

Step 7: Outlining the Structure of Paper

This step involves description of structure of article i.e. how different sections are arranged. It was completely missing in all the introductions of the corpus.

Figure 1



Discussion

Most of the moves present in the corpus were cyclical. Move one was the most recurring move among all the introductory passages of the corpus. The details of frequency in introductions of articles of each journal of the corpus are given as under:

NUML Journal of Critical Inquiry

The most recurring move of this journal was Move 1. It was present among all the articles and almost all the articles began with Move 1. There were only 10 occurrences of Move 2 whereas Move 3 had 15 occurrences

Table 4

NUMLJCI	
Introduction	Move Sequence
1	M1, M2, M1, M2, M1, M1, M1, M1, M2, M3, M3
2	M1, M2, M1, M3, M1, M3, M3, M1, M3, M3
3	M1, M3, M1, M2, M1, M2, M1, M2, M2, M1, M2, M1, M3, M3
4	M3, M1, M2, M1, M1, M3, M3, M3, M3
Frequency	Move 1 = 20 Move 2 = 10 Move 3 = 15

Kashmir Journal of Language Research

Move 1 was repeated most of the times in the introductions of this journal. Although, Move3 was present in all the introductions but, it was less frequent and occurred only 9 times in corpus. There was no fixed move for beginning the introduction. However, all the introductions ended at Move 3.

Table 5

KJLR	
Introduction	Move Sequence
5	M2, M1, M2, M2, M1, M2, M2, M1, M2, M1, M1, M2, M3
6	M3, M3, M1, M3
7	M3, M1, M2, M1, M1, M1, M2, M1, M3, M3, M3
8	M1, M2, M1, M2, M1, M2, M1, M1, M1, M3
Frequency	Move 1 = 17 Move 2 = 12 Move 3 = 9

Baluchistan Journal of Linguistics

There was equal frequency of Move 1 and Move 3 in the introductions included in corpus from this journal. All the introductions began with Move 1. Move 2 was found to be optional and was missing in half of the introductions of this journal.

Table 6

BJL	
Introduction	Move Sequence
9	M1, M3, M1
10	M1, M2, M2, M1, M1, M3, M1, M1, M3, M3, M3
11	M1, M2, M1, M3, M1, M3, M2, M3, M3, M2, M1, M2, M2, M1, M3, M3, M3
12	M1, M3, M1, M3
Frequency	Move 1 = 14 Move 2 = 7 Move 3 = 14

Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities

Move 1 is most frequent move in the introductions of articles of this journal and all the introductions began with Move 1. There was no clear announcement of present study in all the introductions and the introductions was replete with review of literature with no clear direction.

Table 7

JSSHAIOU	
Introduction	Move Sequence
13	M1, M2
14	M1, M1, M1, M2, M1, M1, M1, M1, M1
15	M1, M1, M3, M2, M3
16	M1, M3, M1, M2, M2, M1, M2, M3, M1, M1, M2, M3, M3
Frequency	Move 1 = 16 Move 2 = 7 Move 3 = 6

International Research Journal of Arts and Humanities

Move 1 was most frequent move in all the introductions published in this journal. Move 2 was missing from almost all the introductions. All the introductions started with Move 1. The ending varied in all articles.

Table 8

IRJAH	
Introduction	Move Sequence
17	M1, M1, M1, M3
18	M1, M1, M3, M1, M1
19	M1, M3
20	M1, M2, M1, M1, M1
Frequency	Move 1 = 12 Move 2 = 1 Move 3 = 3

Conclusion

The present study studied introductions of 20 different research articles published in 5 different local Pakistani journals using Swales (1990, 2004) CARS- Creating a Research Space model. Each introduction was studied individually, and moves were noted in the table. The study found out that almost all the introductions comply to Swales model however, there are certain degree of deviance in some of them. Move 1 is present in all the introductions which means that establishing a niche is necessary while writing introductions to be published in these journals. Move 2 was frequent in Kashmir Journal of Research Language, *NUML Journal of Critical Inquiry* and *Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities* (AIOU), however, it was found to be optional in *Baluchistan Journal of Linguistics* and *IRJAH*.

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