

Lexical Cohesion Patterns in Research Articles: Hard Science vs. Soft Science Disciplines

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Abstract

There are many features that contribute to the failure or success in the publication of academic research articles. Thematization, rhetorical moves, information structure, lexis and content are among such features. Lexical cohesion pattern which is one of the most important cohesive mechanisms for the actualization of textual coherences is one of the features in this regard that seems to be unexplored. Drawing upon Hoey's model (1991), this study aims at exploring the way lexical cohesion patterns are distributed in Introduction section of hard and soft science research articles. In so doing, a corpus containing 90 research articles from three disciplines from hard science articles (namely, Chemistry, Physics, and Engineering) and three disciplines from soft science articles (namely, Psychology, Sociology, and Linguistics) were analyzed. For the purpose of our analysis, the frequency and distribution of lexical cohesion patterns were summed; and the Chi-square statistical procedure revealed that there is a significant difference indistribution of lexical cohesion patterns in hard and soft disciplines.

Keywords: *Lexical cohesion patterns; hard disciplines; soft disciplines; Chi square*