Abstract

This study explores the use of English discourse strategy in physical chemistry abstracts. In order to investigate how researchers send clear messages regarding the contents of their studies, move analysis was used to account for finite verb tense, voice and specific vocabulary in 30 abstracts of a representative journal in this field. The results indicate that although each move showed the different frequencies in the use of tense and voice, the features of the moves in this genre did not agree with the findings in previous studies. The researchers in this disciplinary field tended to report detailed experiment procedures in Methods and substantial research findings in Results, and thus they could omit Introduction and Conclusions. In general, present tense was more used than past tense in order to create the image of new accomplishments of their research.