



University of Zabol

Faculty of Humanities

Department of English

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Master of Arts in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)

Subject:

Lexical Bundles in the Conclusion Section of Research Articles in
Applied Linguistics: A Comparative Study of International and Iranian
Journals

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Abstract

Lexical bundles, sequences of words that recur frequently in corpus-based discourse, are indicators of fluent language production both in L1 and L2. Hence, to the best of researcher's knowledge, no research is conducted on the characteristics of lexical bundles in the conclusion section of applied linguistics research articles. Consequently, the present study aims to extend this line of research by comparing the form, function, and frequency of lexical bundles in the conclusion section of research articles published in international vis-à-vis Iranian applied linguistics journals. Five highly rated international journals as well as five top Iranian journals were used to provide the required corpus of the current study. This corpus included 102,000 words in total, from which 50,000 accounted for Iranian journals and 52000 were found in international journals. A total of 225 research articles published from 2015-2018 were selected to be analyzed in this study (125 international and 100 Iranian research articles). AntConc (2018) version 3.5.7, free computer software developed by Anthony (2007) was adopted to identify four-word lexical bundles. For analyzing structural and functional features of lexical bundles, the Hyland's (2008) taxonomy was adopted. The findings revealed that the bundles were more frequent in the conclusion section of research articles in Iranian journals as opposed to international journals. Structural analysis of lexical bundles showed that passive structure was used infrequently in international journals. In addition, analyzing the function of lexical bundles indicated that procedure and resultative bundles were used more frequently by Iranian writers. Based on the results of this study, it can be concluded that Iranian writers overused lexical bundles in terms of passive structure, procedure, and resultative bundles in comparison with international writers. Results will be applicable for researchers and authors who want to communicate more effectively in their communities of practice.

Keywords: Applied linguistics, Conclusion section, International applied linguistics journals, Iranian applied linguistics journals, Lexical bundles