



**University of Zabol**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Literature**  
**Department of English**

Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Teaching  
English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)

**Subject:**

**Authorial presence in academic texts: A corpus-based comparative  
study of Iranian and International journals in Applied Linguistics**

**Supervisor:**

Dr. Behruz Lotfi Gaskaree

**By:**

Mohammad Sadeghian Sourki

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## **Abstract**

Academic writers, irrespective of their disciplines, need to position themselves as a competent member of their desired professional communities through showing their authorial presence in texts. They employ voice and stance in variation in their texts (Can & Yuvayapan, 2018). Despite the thick literature on authorial presence in academic texts, our understanding of Iranian researchers' practice as they project themselves in academic texts is incomplete. Consequently, the current study quantitatively and qualitatively investigates different degrees of the authorial presence in academic discourse in Iranian and international journals in Applied Linguistics. Five top rated International journals as well as five top Iranian journals were used to provide the required corpus of the current study. This corpus contains 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 examined and analyzed in this study (125 international and 100 Iranian research articles). AntConc 3.5.9 and NVivo 12 two computer programs used to analyze the data. First, frequency analysis was performed to find the authorial self-mention markers and, their frequency in the research articles. Then, the authorial self-mention markers examined one by one in context to determine their discourse function based on Hyland's (2002) categorization framework of rhetorical functions of authorial self-mention markers. Our findings provide evidence of overall underuse of first person in Iranian journals, especially self-mention markers "I" and "My", but substantial overuse of self-mention words "Researcher" and "We" for different functions. The use of singular first-person subject seems to be unusual in Iranian academic context and Iranian writers afraid to reveal their own identity through their writing. The results of this study could be beneficial for Iranian EFL authors' practice to have their own voice and stance through their texts.

### **Key words:**

Academic texts, Applied linguistics, Authorial presence, Authorial identity, Meta-discourse, Self-mention markers