OCCUPYING THE NICHE IN THE INTRODUCTORY PARTS OF ENGLISH PSYCHOLOGY THESES

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ABSTRACT

In the literature, studies carried out on academic genres have shown that rhetorical actions scholars followed have seemingly varied to the contexts in which context-bound discourse practices are put into. In this regard, researchers point out that, for authors, shaping their discursive practices to the norms of discourses scientifically holding the power is apparently a strategy followed for wider recognition. Generally, English texts structured both by native and non-native speakers have been found rhetorically more complex than the local ones. In this paper, the researcher intended to analyse comparatively rhetorical categories in the introductory parts of 30 master theses written in English by Turkish researchers and 30 master theses by native speakers of English in the field of Psychology published between 2015-2020. The dissertations by Turkish academics were retrieved from Council of Higher Education Thesis Center while the corpus by native speakers were collected from ProQuest Database ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global by caring the comporable corpora criteria (Connor, 2002). Thus, Move 3 -Occupying the Niche- in Swales CARS Model (2004) was sought within introductory parts in order to explore how authors in the same field but different contexts deal with publicizing the significance and value of their study, so the texts were coded by two raters on the basis of the steps fixed in Move 3. Raters firstly independently coded the steps and then ratings were compared for inter-rater reliability check: the percentage of agreement across raters calculated was 91.05%. The analyses show that, despite small number of differences in frequency between two corpora, Move 3 is equally and frequently operated in introductory parts of psychology master theses by both Turkish academic and native speakers of English. Specifically, the most frequent steps in both corpora are announcing present research and followingly research questions/hypotheses whereas no data were found regarding the steps of "announcing principal outcomes" and "outlining the structure of the study" in theses. As to stating the value of research, it was observed that, although the rate of occurence of the step is higher in the corpus by native speakers of English, Turkish researchers frequently stated the value of their study in the intrroductions of their master theses.

Keywords: Genre Analysis, Theses' Introductory Parts, Occupying the Niche, Psychology, Linguistics