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МЕЃУНАРОДНО СПИСАНИЕ ЗА ЛИНГВИСТИЧКИ, КНИЖЕВНИ  
И КУЛТУРОЛОШКИ ИСТРАЖУВАЊА

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Меѓународно списание за лингвистички, книжевни  
и културолошки истражувања

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## ПРЕДГОВОР

Шестиот број на меѓународното научно списание „Палимпсест“ доаѓа како потврда на заложбите од уредниците на оваа научна публикација, но и на раководството и на сиот наставен кадар од Филолошкиот факултет при Универзитетот „Гоце Делчев“ во Штип, за поставување на квалитетот на списанието во секоја смисла на едно повисоко ниво во однос на сите претходно објавени броеви. Впрочем, трудовите што се објавуваат во овој број од списанието и нивната солидна научно-истражувачка вредност го илустрираат зголемениот интерес на лингвистите, книжевните теоретичари, историчари и критичари, културолозите и методичарите на наставата од Македонија и од странство за учество во креирањето на секој нареден број. Имено, во шестиот број на „Палимпсест“ се приложени 25 научни, стручни и прегледни трудови на автори од Македонија (од Универзитетот „Гоце Делчев во Штип, од Универзитетот „Св. Климент Охридски“ од Битола и од Универзитетот „Св. Кирил и Методиј“ од Скопје), но и од други земји како што се Србија, Хрватска, Словенија, Босна и Херцеговина, Словачка, Турција, Брегот на Слоновата Коска и Мароко, во петте постојани рубрики од списанието: Јазик, Книжевност, Култура, Методика на наставата и Прикази. Очигледно е дека за меѓународното научно списание „Палимпсест“, полека но сигурно, се прошируваат сферите на интерес во голем број научни кругови во разни држави од нашата планета. Во таа смисла, пријатно изненадува покажаниот огромен интерес за објавување на научни и стручни трудови во „Палимпсест“ од нашите почитувани колешки и колеги од африканскиот научен круг.

Од друга страна, преку интересот на странските истражувачи за нашето списание, на индиректен начин и Филолошкиот факултет од Штип ја продлабочува и ја проширува научната соработка со поголем број странски универзитети што е во духот на современото високо образование во светски рамки. Во таа смисла, со задоволство можеме да констатираме дека меѓународното научно списание „Палимпсест“ дава значаен прилог во развојот и растежот на нашиот Факултет на меѓународно ниво.

Нема сомнение дека ова наше меѓународно научно списание и натаму ќе се развива по нагорна линија со што ќе нуди значаен придонес во унапредувањето и афирмирањето на македонската, но и на светската модерна научно-истражувачка работа од областите лингвистика, наука за книжевноста, методика на наставата и културологија. Упорноста и ентузијазмот на големиот број учесници од 17 земји во светот коишто се вклучени во креирањето на секој број од „Палимпсест“ претставуваат солидна основа за нашата верба во брзиот растеж на квалитетот на оваа меѓународна научна публикација. Со таква верба и ви ги нудиме за читање трудовите од шестиот број на „Палимпсест“.

Толе Белчев, уредник на „Палимпсест“

## FOREWORD

The sixth issue of the international scientific journal “Palimpsest” is not only a confirmation of the efforts of the editors of this scientific publication, but also of the management and the academic staff of the Faculty of Philology at Goce Delcev University - Stip for raising the journal’s quality in every sense to a higher level in relation to all previously published issues. In fact, the papers published in this issue and their solid scientific and research value illustrate the growing interest of linguists, literary theorists, historians and critics, cultural scientists and teaching methodologists from Macedonia and abroad for participating in the creation of each upcoming issue. Namely, the sixth issue of “Palimpsest” contains 25 research, theoretical and review papers by authors not only from Macedonia (from Goce Delcev University in Stip, St. Kliment Ohridski University in Bitola, and St. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje), but also from other countries such as Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovakia, Turkey, Ivory Coast and Morocco, in the five permanent sections of the journal: Language, Literature, Culture, Teaching Methodology and Book Reviews. It is obvious that the international scientific journal “Palimpsest” slowly but surely expands its areas of interest in many scientific circles in many countries worldwide. In that sense, it is a pleasant surprise that there is great interest in publishing research and theoretical papers in our journal by our respected colleagues from the African scientific circles.

On the other hand, through the interest of foreign researchers the Faculty of Philology in Stip indirectly deepens and extends the scientific cooperation with a number of foreign universities, which is in the spirit of contemporary higher education worldwide. In that sense, we can gladly state that the international scientific journal “Palimpsest” gives a significant contribution to the development and growth of our Faculty internationally.

There is no doubt that this international scientific journal will continue to develop in an upward direction, which will offer significant contribution to the promotion and affirmation of the Macedonian as well as the world’s modern scientific and research work in the fields of linguistics, literary theory, teaching methodology and culture. The persistence and enthusiasm of the large number of participants from 17 countries in the world involved in the creation of every issue of “Palimpsest” provide a solid basis for our belief in the rapid growth of the quality of this international scientific publication. With such faith, we invite you to read the papers in the sixth issue of “Palimpsest”.

Tole Belcev, editor of “Palimpsest”



# A GENRE-BASED ANALYSIS OF VARIATION IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCE AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING ABSTRACTS IN ENGLISH AND SERBIAN

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**Abstract.** The use of the English language in academic communication has been increasing in the last decades. Such increased use has effect on discourse and rhetorical properties of genres across languages or sometimes English even replaces national languages completely. The aim of this article is to study the presence and potential influence of genre-based conventions specific to English on the rhetorical organization in Serbian by comparing social science and mechanical engineering abstracts in the two languages. Besides the overall move frequency, the total number of moves in each abstract, as well as move repetition and move embedding are analyzed. The analysis showed that linguistic, cultural and disciplinary factors have influence on academic discourse in both languages. In particular, there is more variation between the two social science groups of abstracts. On the other hand, the engineering abstracts are more similar, although the ones in Serbian have a simpler macrostructure, fewer moves and fewer meta-discourse and promotional elements. The awareness of such differences can help Serbian authors when they want to publish in English and become members of the global academic community.

**Key words:** *abstract, genre analysis, rhetorical organization, move.*

## 1. Introduction

A number of examples, both worldwide and in the Balkan region, indicate that the use of the English language in academic communication has been increasing. Writing and publishing research articles is the most common kind of academic activity undertaken by non-native speakers of English. Besides, globalization leads to new forms of contacts and networking. As a result, not only is English used in written forms, but also in science conferences as well as student and teaching staff exchange programs, international projects and postgraduate courses.

### 1.1. Academic Discourse Globally

What comes out of the leading role of English in academic communication is that it often has effect on discourse and rhetorical properties of genres across languages or it even replaces national languages completely. This is most evident in engineering sciences, with the number of journals and conferences in Serbian constantly decreasing.<sup>1</sup> For example, since 2011 English has been the official

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<sup>1</sup> Mauranen et al. (2010:643) give a well-known phrase “*publish in English or perish*”.

language of the International Conference on Accomplishments in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and Information Technology – DEMI, organized by the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering University of Banja Luka.<sup>2</sup>

This role of English in the global academic setting made academic discourse (AD) even more appealing to researchers (Suomela-Salmi and Dervin 2009, p. 3), but also to teachers within English for Academic Purposes (EAP). What especially contributes to such status of English is that non-native speakers have outnumbered native speakers. Mauranen et al. (2010, p. 640) assume that it is quite similar in academia, although they point out that “strictly speaking, academic discourses in themselves have no native speakers [...]. They add that AD is learned by joining a particular academic community, e.g. by acquiring terminology, genres, etc., all of which can be attributed to one’s familiarity with genres in general (ibid.).

## 1.2. Genre Analysis

In its earlier forms, genre analysis has been viewed as an addition to linguistic analysis that helped researchers to study functional variations and the use of English in academic context (Bhatia et al. 2008, p. 10).

However, Swales (2005) offers a comprehensive pedagogic approach to English in academic and research contexts. Among other things, he provides definitions relating to concepts such as genre and discourse community, the two being central to the analysis itself. Thus, he (ibid., p. 58) defines genre as “[...] a class of communicative events, the members of which share some set of communicative purposes“. Apart from the purpose, the examples of genre are characterized by the similarity in contents, structure and style. Although various forms of text are used in genre analysis, the term genre implies more than mere text and textual features. Therefore, other features are included, such as social, psychological or ethnographic in order to study genres comprehensively (ibid., p. 6-7). Taking into account the social aspect, genres are directly associated with discourse communities that use them.

Swales introduced his first model for the rhetorical analysis of research article introductions back in 1981, completing it afterwards as the CARS (Create a Research Space) model. This model shows how authors use language structures to create their own research space in a particular discourse community (Swales 2005: 140). In line with their rhetorical roles, specific parts are labelled as *moves*, whereas every smaller element used to realize each move is referred to as a *step*. In reference to abstracts as a part-genre,<sup>3</sup> Swales and Feak (2009, p. 5) define moves in the following way:

“A *move* is a stretch of text that does a particular job. It is a functional, not a grammatical term. A move can vary in length from a phrase to a paragraph.”

Genres strongly rely on rhetorical organization of texts, i.e. schemes or structures that point to previous knowledge, experience and other texts, whether in terms of

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<sup>2</sup> In 2017 the conference was renamed to the *International Conference on Accomplishments in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering*.

<sup>3</sup> The abstract is referred to as part-genre, while, for example, research articles or lectures are genres (Swales and Feak, 2009).

form or content (*ibid.*, p. 83). In addition to schematic structures, the patterns of linguistic realization are studied as well (Flowerdew and Forest 2009; Pho 2008). Lakić (2012, p. 27) emphasizes that, owing to its comprehensive approach, genre analysis enables us to understand “not only how the text is written, but also why it has been written in a particular way”.<sup>4</sup> The examples of such analysis best reflect the interrelatedness of form and function of linguistic structures at the textual level.

### 1.3. The genre analysis of abstracts

Although the CARS model first referred to research article (RA) introductions, many authors have adapted it to other parts of RAs, including abstracts. As information density and compactness in abstracts are very high, rhetorical analysis of this part-genre encompasses various approaches. A number of authors (Pho, 2008; Swales and Feak, 2009; Živković, 2014) agree about the number of moves within the abstract. It is possible to use five different moves, but all of them do not have to be present in a single abstract. Other authors, such as Van Bonn and Swales (2007, p. 97), specify the first move determining it by the following rhetorical roles that lead into the research itself: emphasizing the importance and main characteristics of the topic, and/or emphasizing the existing knowledge about the topic (general or specific (with or without citation)). Dževerdanović-Peجویć (2015) opts for another move structure in linguistics abstracts comprising setting the scene, summarizing previous research, introducing purpose, describing the methodology and summarizing results, but also adds key words as the sixth move.

Having studied move frequency in the abstracts published in 1980 and 1997, Hyland (in Swales and Feak, 2009, p. 20) proved that not every move is necessary. Hyland attributed the increasing number of abstracts containing Introductions (from 33% to 47%) and Discussion (from 7% to 22%) to more competition among authors (*ibid.*). This is why abstracts have more promotional features so the whole articles could be accepted by the journals, thus gaining wider readership.

The aim of this article is to study variation between social science (SS) and mechanical engineering (ME) abstracts in English and Serbian. More specifically, taking the corpus comprising RA abstracts as a starting point, genre analysis has been used to study rhetorical structures. These structures include the key sections of abstracts or moves, i.e. their macrostructure as: Introduction – I, Purpose – P, Methodology – M, Results – R and Discussion – D<sup>5</sup> (Swales and Feak 2009, p. 5). Besides the overall move frequency, macrostructure (the total number of moves in each abstract<sup>6</sup>) as well as move repetition and move embedding (Pho, 2008) are analyzed.

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<sup>4</sup> [...] ne samo kako je tekst napisan, već i zašto je napisan baš na taj određeni način“.

<sup>5</sup> IPMRD is further used as a label for abstract macrostructure. At the same time the examples provided herein contain abbreviations that mark corresponding moves (e.g. P for Purpose).

<sup>6</sup> Although Swales and Feak (2009) do not distinguish between steps within moves, in some studies the CARS model is applied in introductions (Martín Martín, 2003). This model implies that the authors make an introduction to their research in the abstract so that it corresponds in short form to the introduction of the RA.

## 2. Methodology

Genre analysis in this article is based on the theoretical frameworks proposed by Swales (2005) and Swales and Feak (2009).

As this study is based on a quantitative-qualitative approach, the corpus consisting of RA abstracts published in journals played a key part. There were altogether 100 abstracts, 25 SS and 25 ME abstracts in English and Serbian.

The English ones were published from 2007 to 2014 and taken from the online electronic databases of the following journals: *Proceedings of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Part C: Journal of Mechanical Engineering Science (JMES)* by Sage Publications and *Contemporary Social Science: Journal of the Academy of Social Science (CSS)*, published by Taylor and Francis Group.

The SS abstracts in Serbian were published in *Zbornik Matice srpske za društvene nauke (ZMSDN)*<sup>7</sup> from 2007-2013 and copied from the online database of Serbian citation index. Primarily owing to the fact that mechanical engineering abstracts in Serbian are relatively shorter, they were taken from several journals, that is, their online databases: 10 from *Integritet i vek konstrukcija (IVK)* published by the Society for Structural Integrity and Life and the Institute for Testing of Materials, 7 from *IMK 14 – Istraživanje i razvoj (IMK)* by the “14. Oktobar” IMK Institute and 4 from two journals, namely *Tehnika (T)* published by the Association of Engineers and Technicians of Serbia and *Facta Universitatis, Series: Mechanical Engineering (FA)* taken from the Serbian citation index. These abstracts were published from 2010 to 2014.

Furthermore, the fact that a number of major engineering journals in Serbian are already being published in English is another reason why abstracts have been taken from a few journals. As many of these journals still contain abstracts written in Serbian, they were included in the study.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. Move frequency

Rhetorical and genre properties in the corpus could not be studied in parallel. Namely, 11 SS abstracts in Serbian do not follow the IPMRD<sup>8</sup> model. Although only original RAs were included in the corpus, most Serbian social science articles are completely theoretical. At the same time, the articles from *ZMSDN* taken as whole do not reflect the IPMRD structure, but they contain thematic headings related to the subject of research. The absence of the IPMRD model was an obstacle to include these in further analysis. They are characterized by narrative structure without many rhetorical elements, such as well-defined introductions, or metadiscourse as a clear guideline for readers. This is due to the specific nature of presenting social research in the Serbian language that resembles review articles.

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<sup>7</sup> Even though *ZMSDN* is published in the Cyrillic alphabet, the examples were downloaded in Latin.

<sup>8</sup> This abbreviation complies with the model applied in this study, unlike the so-called IMRD, which does not contain Purpose as a separate part, but only as a step within the Introduction according to the CARS model.

The exception is Purpose, always present even in the case of SS abstracts in Serbian and mainly realized as a prepositional phrase, e.g. *u ovom radu (in this paper)*:

(1) **(P)** (1) *U radu je prikazana etnička slika stanovništva Srbije i etnodemografske promene u periodu 1991–2002 [...]. (ZMSDN 9)*

**(P)** (1) *The ethnic structure of population in Serbia and the ethno-demographic changes from 1991-2002 are presented in the paper [...]. (ZMSDN 9)<sup>9</sup>*

Namely, such rhetorical organization can be compared to cultural aspects of AD in other Slavic languages, such as Ukrainian and Russian (Yakhontova 2006),<sup>10</sup> or Czech (Čmejrková and Daneš, 1997), whose AD lacks metadiscourse and promotional elements to a great extent. Therefore, it seems that in Slavic languages authors are not primarily concerned with creating a niche for themselves in the way the authors of abstracts in English are, in order to promote their work. Since the abstract is not a competition arena, Slavic authors mainly present the contents of the article, without pointing to previous research or using evaluative structures to present and discuss results. Consequently, the analysis of move frequency in the English and Serbian abstracts showed different percentages. It is interesting to observe that all abstracts have the Purpose move, whereas less than half of ME abstracts in Serbian present the results of the research (Table 1).

**Table 1** Macrostructure – move frequency

	English		Serbian	
	SS	ME	SS	ME
Introduction	20 (80%)	19 (76%)	12 (85.71%)	16 (64%)
Purpose	25 (100%)	25 (100%)	14 (100%)	25 (100%)
Methodology	23 (92%)	25 (100%)	8 (57.14%)	22 (88%)
Results	19 (76%)	23 (92%)	8 (57.14%)	12 (48%)
Discussion	20 (80%)	19 (76%)	11 (78.57%)	19 (76%)

In addition to Purpose, most abstracts contain Methodology, although it is only present in all ME abstracts in English. This is a very important move in ME because of the experimental nature of research. Moreover, a great number of SS abstracts in English also have Methodology as it is a way to bring research closer to readers and explain how the authors have obtained findings.

(2) **(P)** (5) *This paper attempts to respond to this need and call **(M)** by re-introducing concepts drawn from political economy and political science [...]. (CSS 5)*

<sup>9</sup> The examples have been translated by the author.

<sup>10</sup> Yakhontova (2006) studied conference abstracts, which represent different part-genre. It is important to stress cultural aspects of AD here that are general for RAs as a frame genre, though.

Since the Serbian ME authors do not use the Result or even the Introduction move as much as their English-speaking peers, this may indicate that these moves are not the parts they want to highlight. Hence, it seems that those authors do not strive to primarily promote and “sell” their abstract<sup>11</sup> by presenting the research findings, for example. Also, fewer moves may point to different expectations inside a discourse community in which promotional elements are not typical. However, mere indication of relatively high frequency of occurrence of most moves as seen in Table 1 implies that the Serbian authors in ME adhere to conventions specific to AD in English.

Different expectations and the use of promotional elements are related to the writing style of a certain culture. Specifically, a lack of metadiscourse elements points to more implicit rhetorical strategies, in the SS abstracts in Serbian in particular. In a similar way, comparing the Czech and the Anglo-American scientific writing style, Čmejrková & Daneš (1997, p. 56) conclude that the relationship between Czech authors and his/her readers is based on similar background and common knowledge, so the authors use less explicit writing style. This is especially the case in social science and humanities, in which authors and readers share common contextual reality, the metadiscourse in such circumstances not being as relevant.

In contrast with this, even when they are not experimental, the SS abstracts in English almost always contain at least some elements that guide the reader through the text:

(3) **(I)** (1) *‘Truth’ recovery has become part of a globalised ‘formula’ which transitional justice advocates claim is imperative to conflict transformation.* (2) **Yet** the value of ‘truth’ and efficacy of international ‘truth’ recovery templates has been **negatively critiqued**. (3) *Increasingly, ‘localised’ approaches to memory work are seeking to develop innovative and context-specific processes [...].* **(M)** (4) *Through ‘local/global’ perspectives and ‘bottom-up’ critiques,* **(P)** *this article explores how transitional justice discourse has been mediated [...].* **(M)** (5) *Using a case study of the Historical Enquiries Team (HET), a police-led ‘truth’ recovery process distinctive to Northern Ireland,* **(M)** *it examines the paradoxes of transitional justice and the challenges [...].* **(P)** (6) *In order to do this,* **the article examines the purpose of the HET [...].** **(P)** (7) **The aim is to consider** the controversial nature of dealing with the past [...]. **(D)** (8) *The complications of a police-led ‘truth’-recovery process in a divided society with a history of contested policing and the lessons for other societies in transition* **are discussed.** (CSS 11)

Some of the guiding elements are given in bold in (3) to show how the author first sets the ground for research and establishes a dialogue with the discourse community (adversative conjunct *yet*). Then, the author focuses on her research, its objectives and possible implications. All the bolded parts are clear elements of rhetorical organization in the abstract. Additionally, the choice of lexis, primarily adjectives, serves to attract the readership to consider the article in its entirety

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<sup>11</sup> This rhetorical and promotional role of abstracts was emphasized by Yakhontova (2002).

(claim, imperative, negatively critiqued, innovative, controversial, paradoxes, complications).

### 3.2. Macrostructure - the model of rhetorical organization

Taking into account the prevailing rhetorical motivation, four parts of the corpus differ in terms of the total number of moves in each abstract. This can be seen from Table 2.

**Table 2** The number of moves in English and Serbian abstracts

		English		Serbian	
		SS	ME	SS	ME
The number of moves	5	11 (44%)	15 (60%)	3 (21.42%)	3 (12%)
	4	10 (40%)	7 (28%)	7 (50%)	15 (60%)
	3	4 (16%)	3 (12%)	2 (14.28%)	5 (20%)
	2	-	-	2 (14.28%)	2 (8%)

Table 2 shows that only most of the abstracts from *Journal of Mechanical Engineering Science (JMES)* contain all five rhetorical moves (15 abstracts). In addition, nine abstracts from the same journal have linear distribution of moves, which reflects the structure of the whole article (IPMRD), comprising 36% of all abstracts.

(4) **(I)** (1) *Dual-fuel engines are modified compression ignition engines [...].* **(P)** (6) *In this article, a three-zone model for the analysis of heat-release rate during the dual-fuel combustion process will be derived.* **(M)** (7) *This model will be tested against data obtained for diesel combustion and then applied [...].* **(R)** (8) *It will be shown that there is little evidence to support [...].* **(D)** (9) *The conclusion of this work is that dual-fuel combustion may be better considered [...].* (JMES 12)

In order to present the research as a relevant one, authors normally start from general points (Introduction), move towards specific (Purpose, Methodology and Results) and end with Discussion, which brings more generalization relating to a particular research topic or issue (Swales and Feak 2001). In comparison to the ME abstracts in English, only three abstracts from *Contemporary Social Science (CSS)* adhere to the said sequence of moves. It may be due to the fact that most of these articles are theoretical, which is why rhetorical strategies in the abstracts are organized and distributed in a variety of ways. In other words, those abstracts reflect individual writing styles in social science.

However, the results obtained by Martín Martín (2003) show that abstracts in experimental social science in Spanish do follow linear distribution of moves in accordance with the key parts of the article. On the other hand, only one SS and two ME abstracts in Serbian of this kind were found in the corpus.

Even though the ME abstracts in Serbian were collected from four journals (which may have caused some degree of variation), it can be said that only the majority of ME abstracts in general have a dominant model of rhetorical

organization (15 abstracts in each language). Thus, the Serbian ME abstracts mainly have four moves, whereas the corresponding English ones have five moves.

Nevertheless, when some moves are not present in the Serbian ME abstracts, the model is still linear. For example, when the introductory part is missing, there is a PMRD model (four abstracts). There is similar variation in the *ZMSDN* abstracts and it suggests that Serbian authors use a wider array of rhetorical models, including those with two moves only. But, if there are fewer moves in an abstract, there is less possibility for conveying relevant information from the article. For instance, combinations in the abstracts with two moves are as follows: IP, IR or PR, which means that these moves comprise contents the authors wish to share with their readers.

(5) **(I)** (1) *Vrlo visoka čvrstoća omogućava žičanom užetu da prenese velike zatezne sile [...].* (2) *Žice od čelika vrlo visoke čvrstoće su postojale [...].* (3) *Dalja poboljšanja posle toga su uvedena [...].* (4) *Žičana užad uvek imaju ograničen vek [...].* (5) *Zbog toga ona moraju da se podvrgnu inspekciji [...].* (6) *Krajnji korisnik mašine sa čeličnim užetom u svakom slučaju želi da ima grubu ocenu [...].* (7) *To je jedan od razloga zbog kojih su tokom niza godina izvedena obimna istraživanja [...].* **(P)** (8) *Namena ovog rada je da ponudi pregled informacija o postupcima proračuna i da prikaže mogućnosti i ograničenja [...].* (IVK 1)

**(I)** (1) *Very high strength enables wire ropes to support tensile forces [...].* (2) *High-strength steel wires had already existed when [...].* (3) *Since then further improvements have been introduced [...].* (4) *Wire ropes always have a limited service life [...].* (5) *This is why they have to be subjected to inspection [...].* (6) *However, the end-user of a machine with steel wire rope wants to have an approximate estimation [...].* (7) *This is one of the reasons why extensive testing has been done over the previous years [...].* **(P)** (8) *The purpose of this paper is to offer an overview of information about calculation procedures and to show the possibilities and limitations [...].* (IVK 1)

In contrast with the competitive and broader Anglo-American discourse community, the Serbian authors, especially in social science, do not try to present their research by reflecting on other authors' work (with or without citing) or by counterclaiming. Hence, they do not mostly create their own research space, at least not in the way that the native English authors do.

Notwithstanding the numerous individual differences, more consistent rhetorical organization and homogeneity is present in the ME abstracts taken as whole. This can be explained by the research process and the way the authors present the corresponding article, which are more uniform regardless of the national discourse community to which the author belongs to. It is quite similar in some other Slavic languages, such as Czech. Čmejková (1996, p. 146) underlines that the awareness about the norms typical for writing in English is more present among hard sciences (e.g. engineering, medicine, etc.) compared to the soft. Mere presence of the IPMRD model in the Serbian ME abstracts is a signal that their authors are accustomed to the conventions of the Anglo-American discourse community. The



results show, though, that the promotional elements often used in certain moves or some moves in particular, e.g. Results, are not used as much.

Unlike the ME abstracts, a higher degree of individual work and less generalized research and writing procedures can be found in the English SS abstracts. This is evident from Table 2, which shows greater variation in the number of moves in the CSS abstracts. Namely, most of the abstracts have been written by a single author (17 abstracts), thus the claims and argumentation are the result of individual endeavor and effort. On the other hand, there are fewer ME abstracts that belong to one author (five in Serbian and three from *JMES*). Furthermore, the social science corpus in Serbian follows IPMRD to a lesser degree, with just more than half of abstracts with a relatively precise rhetorical model.

To conclude, the two sciences are part of different traditions – argumentative and experimental, individual and team work, abstract and concrete. This is reflected in the way the research is presented to readership. Therefore, Hyland (in Lorés, 2004, p. 299) claims that the themes and directions which social science research can take are broader in comparison to the engineering that deal with narrowly defined, concrete phenomena and processes. That is why social science authors seek various, often interactive ways to engage readers and convince them to read the whole article, primarily by using more metadiscourse elements.

### 3.3. Repeated moves

Some of the abstracts have their moves distributed in different ways, depending on whether some of them are repeated or left out. Repeating moves implies that a rhetorical element occurs a couple of times in the abstract or is realized by structures that are not adjacent.

**Table 3** Repeated moves in English and Serbian abstracts

	English		Serbian	
	SS	ME	SS	ME
Introduction	-	-	2	-
Purpose	18	3	5	7
Methodology	5	4	2	3
Results	3	-	2	-
Discussion	1	1	-	-

As opposed to other rhetorical structures, Introduction is almost always a single unit, mainly at the beginning of the abstract. Table 3 shows that the majority of repetitions occurs in the English SS abstracts (13 abstracts), which makes them stand out from the other three groups (five English ME, seven Serbian ME and three Serbian SS abstracts with repeated moves).

Purpose and Methodology are the moves most often repeated in the corpus, as the CSS example below shows:

(6) (P) (3) *I explore this question (M) by investigating cultural contestation in post-Agreement Macedonia and Northern Ireland. (P) (4) Theoretically, I consider the importance of cultural differences in the integration versus accommodation debate on constitutional design in divided societies. (M) (5) Empirically, I draw on original research from the two cases whereby respective peace agreements were designed to manage a self-determination dispute. (P) (6) First, I argue that symbolic controversies relating to cultural emblems, flags and insignia pose a particular kind of test for the stability of power-sharing systems. (CSS 9)*

Repeated rhetorical elements enable authors to expand the research topic, to add and to elaborate on some of its aspects. Thus, the author can shift the focus to particular parts of the research, with the help of adequate lexico-grammatical structures. This is well illustrated in (6) above.

Also, the repeated moves are the indication of cyclic character when the research is presented within the abstract. The findings of the study show this character is more typical in the English SS abstracts, as more than half of the abstracts contain such moves. Besides, different or related themes can link to each other, as (6) shows. The subject of research (P) is particularly stressed by author's explicit presence (personal pronoun *I* and verb phrases *explore*, *consider* and *draw on*). Then, the noun phrase *this question* in sentence (3) refers to the previous section in Introduction. By asking a question the setting is created to emphasize the importance of the topic. Next, the procedures are given to solve the issue (M), the topic is expanded (P) by using *I argue that* and methods made more specific (*empirically*, *original research*). Finally, the author once again talks about the purpose of the article stating the research focus (*symbolic controversies to cultural emblems, flags and insignia*). As these moves also exist in the whole corpus, the ME authors can choose to use them as well.

In conclusion, it seems that the repeated moves primarily depend on the research field. A cyclic approach is more suitable to social science, in which themes and rhetorical moves are easily recycled having in mind the research process, abstract concepts and argumentation. On the contrary, the ME authors tend to present their research in a linear and composite manner, most often the way it proceeded. In any case, when authors choose to repeat moves, they opt for creating and confirming their research space (Swales, 2005).

### 3.4. Move embedding

Apart from being realized by sentences, clauses and phrases can serve as rhetorical elements. As lexico-grammatical units (owing to their structure and their sentence-building potential), they are signals of the so-called move embedding (Pho 2008). This means that two or more moves can be found within a single sentence. In the English part of the corpus, Purpose and Methodology are most often combined, as there are 17 such combinations in the SS and eight in the ME abstracts. Martín Martín (2003) attributed this to limited space in abstracts, having found that these two moves were embedded in a single sentence in around 30% of examples. This can be illustrated using the following corpus examples:

(7) **(M)** (6) *By varying the plastic tangent modulus **(P)** special cases of linear hardening are studied, including ideal materials [...].* (JMES 20)

(8) **(M)** (4) *Through “local/global” perspectives and “bottom-up” critiques, **(P)** this paper explores how transitional justice discourse has been mediated [...].* (CSS 11)

Apart from the said combinations, Results occur with other moves in the English corpus (i.e. M-R, R-D, P-R), in which the authors typically embed two moves.

Specifically, embedding allows the economy of rhetorical structures. In addition to making abstracts more compact, it contributes to the cyclic character of schematic structures, particularly in the SS abstracts in English. Both repeated and embedded moves confirm more flexible textual organization and presentation of key sections in the abstract.

Also, two finite clauses can be combined and used in the English corpus with different rhetorical roles, every time linked by an additive conjunct *and* (four examples in the SS and three in the ME abstracts), as in the sentences below:

(10) **(R)** (8) *The study finds that the public has been largely unresponsive to the White House and **(D)** concludes by questioning the faith that many have in the broad premise of the potential of presidential leadership of the public.* (CSS 24)

The phrasings, such as *the study finds [...]* and *concludes*, point to rhetorical moves with the use of inanimate agent and evaluative clauses.

Although embedding is present in the Serbian corpus, it is not very common. Methodology is combined twice with Purpose in both parts of the corpus, and with Results in the SS abstracts (three examples). This means that almost all rhetorical elements in the ME abstracts in Serbian are realized by whole sentences, one of the two examples being presented in (11):

(11) **(P)** (7) *Autori su razvili **(M)** jedan postupak zasnovan na statički neodređenim metodama i izradili odgovarajuće kompjuterske programe koji olakšavaju njegovu primenu.* (IMK 14)

**(P)** (7) *The authors have developed **(M)** a model based on statically indeterminate methods and created adequate computer programs which facilitate its application* (IMK 14)

Together with repeated moves, embedding prevails in the English abstracts, especially the SS ones. This is due to the lexico-grammatical properties of English and discipline specifics. Namely, in those abstracts less space and wording is generally used to present processes and procedures undertaken. Hence Methodology is more often combined with other structures. In the ME abstracts, on the contrary, the research process and its particular stages are presented in more detail, mostly using a single sentence or several sentences.

#### 4. Conclusions

Academic discourse is under the influence of various factors, such as linguistic, cultural and disciplinary. As the global academic community is evolving nowadays, social factors play an important part, the size of a particular discourse community being a prominent one. In other words, the number of those who will read papers in Serbian and English differs to a great extent, which may affect rhetorical conventions of the abstract which become institutionalized over time.

A more uniform character of engineering sciences may be explained by the fact that Serbian-speaking authors in ME rely on the international academic scene (papers, literature, conferences, etc.). However, the SS abstracts, characterized by a rather subjective tone, deal with the national scientific context. As a result of that, cross-linguistic analysis has shown more variation between the two SS groups of abstracts. The results also reveal that the SS abstracts in Serbian only partly follow the widely accepted IPMRD model.

On the other hand, the ME abstracts are more similar, as the IPMRD model is present in both groups. Still, the ones in Serbian have a simpler macrostructure, fewer moves and fewer promotional elements. Greater similarity between the ME abstracts can be explained by the common research process and the presentation of research results in engineering sciences, regardless of the national discourse community that the author belongs to.

In addition, discipline-oriented research processes and argumentation enable authors to present their research in a variety of subtle ways, with each discipline's AD becoming more specific and acquiring particular properties. This is best reflected by the presence and realization of the Methods move, as well as repeated or embedded moves, which may deserve more or less space and prominence in social science and mechanical engineering abstracts.

Owing to the fact that the English language has become a *lingua franca* of today's academic community, the language skills and the awareness of genre conventions do not only imply the knowledge of another, auxiliary language but the basic academic literacy (Hyland 2009a:3-4). As our researchers and students need to write in English more and more, it is extremely important for them to know the rhetorical and linguistic conventions related to abstract and RA writing in a particular discipline-based discourse community.

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