

Unit 3 Introduction & Literature Review

Part I Introduction

1 Moves in writing an introduction: The CARS model

Move 1: Establishing a research territory

Step 1 Claiming topic centrality

Step 2 Showing general background of the topic

Step 3 Reviewing current studies in the topic area

Move 2: Establishing a niche

Step 1 Reviewing literature

Step 2 Indicating a gap

Step 3 Raising research questions

Move 3: Occupy the niche

Step 1 Outlining purposes

Step 2 Announcing present research

Step 3 Announcing principal findings

Step 4 Introducing methodology

Step 5 Indicating the research article structure

Notes:

1. Introduction is different from Conclusion, as the former should not be too specific or detailed when introducing the findings.

2. Points to take note of when outlining the research paper in the introduction: 1) Use future tense or present tense; 2) Use first person or the third person; 3) Avoid using too much passive voice.

Note: CARS stands for Create A Research Space

2 Patterns of centrality claims in the Introduction section

Signals for centrality claims	Specific topics
1) Over the last few years, tremendous stride has been made in	the technology of organic food.
2) In the last decades, there has been an explosive growth in	the digital technology in different fields.
3) In recent years, with the medical advance,	tobacco use has been identified as the leading preventable cause of mortality.
Specific topics	Signals for centrality claims
1) Breast-feeding	is currently a subject of immense health and nutritional interest all over the world.
2) User training	has been identified as one of the key factors responsible for ensuring the success of end-user computing (EUC).
3) Coronavirus	has become a serious public health concern all over the world because its hyperinfection through human-to-human transmission.

3 Expressions for centrality, gaps and purposes

Types of centrality	Types of gaps or problems	Types of purposes
importance / significance	unexplored / unaddressed / unknown	suggestion / proposal
prevalence / widespread	inaccurate	development / construction
seriousness / gravity	limited	evaluation / examination
interest / attention	lacking	hypothesis
recency / directness	needing to improve	analysis

4 Tenses used in the Introduction section

Tenses	Functions	Examples
Present perfect/Present continuous/Present/Past (when referring a particular event)	Situating the topic	The past decade has seen an increasing amount of research into medical fraud.
Present	Defining key terms	The term genetically modified organisms (GMOs) refers to plants, microbes and animals with genes transferred from other species in order to produce certain novel characteristics.
Past/Present perfect	Reviewing literature	Many studies have focused on glucagon as an important regulating hormone.
Present/Present perfect	Indicating the gap	No quantitative estimations have been conducted for such assessment.
Past (sometimes present tenses are used)	Describing the objective of the study	The present survey was conducted to investigate the understanding of radiation phenomena.
Present	Describing the objective of the paper	This paper investigates a narrow piece of this general problem. We ask:
Present perfect/Past	Reporting what have been done	In this paper we have developed only the most basic mathematical tool.

5 Functions of citations in the Introduction section

1) Describe a phenomenon to claim centrality

e.g., There is an unprecedented multidisciplinary convergence of scientists dedicated to the study of nanotechnology (Davidson, 2014).

2) Define terms

e.g., A suspect case of the COVID-19 infection refers to a person with clinical signs and symptoms suggestive of pneumonia (Zhou, 2020).

3) Review literature

e.g., Early studies were based on observation of suspect case (John, 2020).

4) Give examples

e.g., For example, the effects were found in spleen, liver, and other organs of foetus and newborn animals (Shubbert et al., 1998).

5) Indicate the gaps

e.g., There seems a lack of investigations on the influence of GM crops on mammals (Gibbs, 2011).

6) Justify the significance

e.g., Helping students to have a better understanding of greenhouse gases and their impact on the temperature of the earth is urgent (Meadows, 1999).

Exercise 1

Directions: The following sentences are taken from the Introduction section of a research paper. Reconstruct these sentences into a logical order and try to reanalyze the reconstructed paragraph by using the CARS model.

A. Most of the literature on this form of writing focuses on first-year students, their understanding of research processes, and (often) how their transition to university-level research-based writing can be made least traumatic.

B. Yet somehow, by the time they have reached their senior year, at least some undergraduates have become reasonably proficient, though generally far from expert, at constructing papers based on sources.

C. Despite rumors of its death in 1982, when Larson declared it a “non-form of writing,” the research paper in one form or another remains an extremely common assignment in postsecondary education, and the conversation whether students should be taught how to do it, continues unabated.

D. In addition, I look beyond their skill sets to investigate what these senior students understand by the role of research itself in the larger realm of academic life, not just for students but for academics in general.

E. In this article, I seek to extend the conversation beyond first year to look at the skills and knowledge displayed by senior students in a variety of disciplines, and their perceptions of how they acquired these skills and knowledge.

F. The difficulties that students experience while making this transition are many.

Exercise 2

Directions: Rearrange the order of the following paragraphs to form a coherent introduction.

1

1) Most of the studies on the relationship between economic growth and pollution have focused on utilizing carbon dioxide emissions as an indicator of environmental degradation (Salahuddin et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2016). However, carbon dioxide emissions is a portion of environmental degradation. In recent years, the ecological footprint of Wackernagel and Rees (1998) is accepted as the more comprehensive indicator to determine the degree of environmental degradation because it considers cropland, grazing land, fishing grounds, forestland, carbon footprint, and built-up land. Based on the above reasons, the main aim of this study is to examine the effect

of economic growth and other possible predictors (energy consumption and financial development) on the ecological footprint for the period 1977–2013 in 11 newly industrialized countries namely South Korea, Singapore, Brazil, China, Turkey, Thailand, Malaysia, Mexico, India, South Africa, and Philippines.

2) The developmental dynamics of the 11 newly industrialized countries make them viable candidates to be studied, to understand their role in ecological footprints and provide more insight into climate change mitigation. The contributions of this study to the existing literature are as follows; first, this is the first study to examine the relationship between economic growth and ecological footprint in newly industrialized countries. Second, as an estimation of a bi-variate empirical model may lead to unreliable results, this study uses a multivariate empirical model using energy consumption and financial development as explanatory variables. Third, unlike previous studies, the methodologies used in this study consider cross-sectional dependency and country-specific heterogeneity among countries. Moreover, the empirical findings of each country can be separated using a parameter estimator and causality procedure, therefore, the obtained results will be more policy-oriented.

3) In recent decades, increasing visible signs of climate change and global warming have contributed to raising the awareness of environmental degradation (Ipcc, 2014). Similarly, the effect of economic activities on environmental degradation has become one of the most attractive topics for researchers. In this regard, the environmental Kuznets curve hypothesis is the most examined hypothesis which explains the relationship between income level and environmental pollution. According to the EKC hypothesis, environmental degradation is increased with the first stages of economic growth to a certain point, and after turning point, the economic development leads to environmental improvements, thus, an inverted U-shaped relationship between economic growth and environmental degradation (Panayotou, 1993).

2

1) However, negative attitudes towards these substitutes for conventional paper dictionaries come from a significant proportion of students, parents, as well as foreign language teachers who observe their students consulting their PEDs while answering questions in class, doing reading, listening, and translation work, etc. Although recognizing dictionary consultation as one important means of acquiring English proficiency, the teachers do not care about their own ability to identify what their students' consultation with PED is like and whether their consultation is too frequent to the extent of damaging their inference ability. Guidance on the best use of PEDs is badly needed.

2) All these analyses were carried out in the English as a second language (ESL) environment and the English as a foreign language (EFL) situation in China is different. It is not clear so far what kinds of PED are being used by Chinese EFL

students. The study was aimed to fill this gap.

3) It has become increasingly popular in recent years for Chinese foreign language learners in various professions and at all levels to use pocket electronic dictionaries (PEDs). Combining dictionaries, notebooks, address books, calculators, etc. together, the new, small machines are loved by students with the declared advantages of having multiple functions, being portable and user-friendly.

4) Empirical studies on the efficacy of pocket electronic dictionaries in language learning are in short supply, with the exception of a few pioneering researchers about the futures of PEDs by Hong Kong language educators (Taylor & Chan, 1994; Chi, 1996; Taylor, 1996) and particularly the one by Tang (1997). A language educator at the University of British Columbia, Tang was extremely concerned with the use of PED by Chinese students. A summary of the way of PED consultation was attempted and a couple of users were singled out in particular and their looking up processes were charted.

Exercise 3

Directions: Read the jumbled sentences below that combine to make an introduction. Write the letter or letters that match with each component in the table underneath in the right order. Note that some components include more than one sentence. Two of the letters are given for you.

- A. A similar case is made here but it is maintained that, in some instances and increasingly over the last two decades, bilateral trade remains stable or even increases in times of outright military conflict or political discord.
- B. These authors showed that the relationship between these factors is far more complex.
- C. Conventional wisdom, at least within liberal schools of thought, holds that trade promotes peace and inhibits war.
- D. The focus then moves to a presentation and discussion of the key quantitative and qualitative findings.
- E. The inevitability of this causal correlation has, however, not only been challenged but also disproved in the literature, such as by Kang (1998) and Mayer (2008).
- F. The final section considers more general consequences of the results and analyses before noting some drawbacks of the investigation and offering suggestions for forthcoming research.
- G. This will be illustrated through the analysis of economic and political relations of a selection of country dyads in Africa and the Middle east since 1975.
- H. After a review of some of the most important academic contributions on this subject, an explication of the literature search methodology follows.

1 Topic & Background	2 Thesis	3 Purpose	4 Organization
C			H

Exercise 4

Directions: Read the following introduction which contains at least one major flaw and evaluate it using the checklist that follows.

[1] With improving levels of education and easier access to information through the internet, the public has become more aware of the potential health risks posed by the products they consume. [2] A vast array of products is now legally required to carry health warning labels in some countries. [3] One of the most dangerous products, cigarettes, has been coming with such messages since the mid-1960s (Hiilamo, Crosbie & Glantz, 2014). [4] There is much support in the political arena to raise awareness of the hidden dangers of mobile phones, particularly regarding radiation exposure. [5] However, little attention is given to the many, sometimes serious, accidents smartphones caused by distracting their users. [6] It is averred here that, based on the data collected through this study, this risk is very real and that manufacturers of smartphones should, thus, be legally obliged to include messages that warn of this hazard. [7] This paper includes a literature review, the study's results, and a conclusion.

Checklist for an introduction

Components	Questions to consider
Topic	1) Is the topic easily distinguishable?
Background	2) Is sufficient background information given and does it illustrate the topic's importance?
Thesis	3) Is an opinion specified and is it stated appropriately?
Purpose	4) Is the purpose of the paper explained?
Structure	5) Are the key sections of the paper outlined clearly?