Summary: The Schematic Structure of Computer Science Research Articles

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Posteguillo investigates the schematic structure of computer science RAs from three Computer Science journals with reference to the IMRD (introduction, methodology, results, discussion) framework, and also in terms of a framework of stylistic/content/textual *moves*. A *move* is a classification for a unit of text smaller than the sections (IMRD), for instance some *move*s in a conclusion may be 'referenc to previous research', '(un)expected outcome', or 'recommendation for future research'.

The *introductions* section is present in 100% of the RAs investigated. The introduction section is analysed under Swales' (1990) CARS (Create A Research Space) model. This model consists of several possible *moves*, each of which is carried in a sequence of *steps*. A significant contrast between computer science RAs and RAs studied by Swales, is that a *review of previous research* is *not* obligatory in computer science, whereas it is obligatory in the literature studied by Swales.

The *results* sections, which is used in about 55% of the RA sample, is analysed in terms of Brett's (1994) classification of moves and steps. A sturdy pattern is the use of *pointers* in results sections, i.e. textual references to tables and figures. Naturally, *pointers* are most prevalent in *resutls* sections.

Apart from identifying the frequency of different moves/steps in the various sections, Posteguillo (1999) also identifies cycles of moves, for example the *procedural-pointer-statement of data* move.

Posteguillo also finds that the use of the *indicating RA structure* move is abnormally frequent in computer science research, possibly because the schematic structure of computer science RAs is less stringent/has weaker conventions than other (longer established) fields.