

Unveiling the Secrets of an Original Research Work

Analysis of the structure of original research papers: an aid to writing original papers for publication

JOHN SKELTON

SUMMARY

Background: An increasing number of people involved in medicine are under pressure to publish research. But there is little understanding of how to describe structured writing.

Aim: This paper aims to describe the structure of original research papers published in the *British Journal of General Practice* with a view to providing insight into the nature of such analyses, and particularly to help researchers and trainers to write and teach writing more successfully.

Method: A sample of 50 original papers published in the journal between January 1989 and March 1992 were examined. The papers were subjected to a form of 'move structure analysis', a technique used in applied linguistics: move structure analysis assigns a tentative function to a piece of text, and identifies words/phrases associated with it. To be recognised, moves thus identified had to occur in the active section of the paper in 85% of the corpus and/or appear in the same order relative to other moves in 50%.

Results: Fifteen moves were identified. Four in the introduction, three in the method, and four each in the results and discussion. These moves functioned, for example in the discussion, to state limitations and defend successes; describe achievements; contextualise procedures and findings; and offer recommendations. Frequency scores ranged from 55% to 100%, and order stability scores from 50% to 80%, with three moves being unidentified.

Conclusion: It is possible to derive from this study a template for structuring academic medical writing. This template may be built up from the exemplificatory quotations in the text, to provide assistance to educators and less experienced writers.

Keywords: research in general practice; manuscript preparation; research methodology; periodical content.

Introduction

WRITING for publication is an important skill for an increasing number of people in medicine. For some, publication means prestige and career advancement, for others a means of finding emotional support by opening and pursuing dialogue.

There is a growing literature which details of applied linguistics on the structure of the scientific research paper.¹⁻⁴ Much of it discussed as applied to 'SLA',⁵ and there is a now substantial body of work on the ecology of the scientific research paper.⁶ Relatively little of this work, however, is on medical

writing and the fact that '...indeed, if ever, (and in academic medicine is probably because it is unknown within medicine: Of studies on aspects of communication within medicine, there is a vast amount on spoken language, particularly the general practitioner consultation — Swanen and Roter include a comprehensive update.⁷ However, where attempts at identifying a structural taxonomy are made these tend to rely on (observers') impressions, rather than analysis. There is less on written language, and almost nothing that touches on the social context of scientific writing, while even that's excellent guide has little to say on linguistic structure.⁸ Most journals, including the *British Journal of General Practice*, offer some sort of advice to authors, sometimes in with the *Journal*'s further referring the reader to the work of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.⁹ Such advice, however, tells prospective writers what to do rather than how to achieve it. Moreover, the majority of style manuals (guides) that set out to help with scientific writing are weak, mistaken in matters of language, or redundant rather than educational — in effect, full of suggestions that the writer should 'be clear', with misleading indications, or none at all, as to just what clarity is to be achieved.

It was assumed that an author seeking publication wishes to stake a claim in the scientific community by sharing knowledge in an appropriate manner. This paper describes how three aims, first, to offer a description of the structure of papers published in the *British Journal of General Practice*; secondly, to offer insight into how the analysis of a text might be approached; thirdly, and most importantly, to outline a basic template for the structuring of academic work, of value to readers who perceive themselves as having difficulty in writing for publication and which can provide the key moments which must be included in an original paper.

Method

The corpus consisted of 50 research articles published in the original paper section of the journal between January 1989 and March 1992. Only original papers were considered since the constraints on structural variety for this section are stringent: the same is true for most scientific journals. Articles for inclusion in this section are not solicited, and are therefore in competition with other papers and subject to the value judgements of the reviewers. For the same reason — the stronger constraints imposed — only papers which contained the traditional sections of introduction, method, results and discussion were included. The great majority of original papers conform to this structure, it being editorial policy. All 15 original papers in the January to March 1992 issues were included to bias the material studied towards recent practice. All original papers published between 1989 and 1992 were then assigned a number from 1-50 drawn at random to make up the balance of the corpus.

Move structure analysis

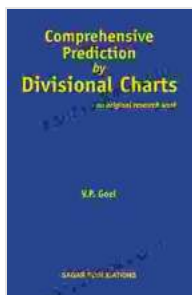
The corpus was first subjected to a form of move structure analysis. This is a technique developed in applied linguistics to analyse spoken or written language. 'Move' as a technical term dates back to Sinclair and Coulthard¹⁰ is full definition of a

1 Skelton J, ed. *Research lessons*, Department of General Practice, University of Birmingham.
Submitted 3 November 1991; accepted 10 March 1994.
© *British Journal of General Practice*, 1994, 44, 455-459

Delving into the World of Original Research

Authored by a renowned academic with decades of experience in conducting groundbreaking research, "An Original Research Work" is a

meticulously crafted guide that empowers readers with the knowledge and tools necessary to excel in this challenging yet rewarding endeavor. The book is divided into easy-to-navigate chapters, each illuminating a different aspect of the research process.



Comprehensive Prediction By Divisional Charts: An original research work by V. P. Goel

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 45665 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 521 pages
Lending : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported



Chapter 1: The Essence of Original Research

The book begins by defining the concept of original research and explaining its importance in the pursuit of knowledge. It emphasizes the need for rigorous methodologies, critical thinking, and an unwavering commitment to uncovering the truth. This chapter lays the foundation for understanding the subsequent chapters.

Chapter 2: Crafting a Research Question

A well-defined research question is the cornerstone of any successful research project. In this chapter, the author provides a step-by-step guide to formulating a compelling and answerable research question. It covers techniques for brainstorming, refining, and narrowing down research topics.

Chapter 3: Navigating the Literature

Thoroughly researching existing literature is crucial for understanding the current state of knowledge and identifying gaps that need to be addressed. This chapter delves into different types of literature sources, including academic journals, books, and conference proceedings. It also provides tips on conducting effective literature searches and using citation management tools.

Chapter 4: Selecting Appropriate Research Methods

The choice of research methods depends on the nature of the research question and the type of data being collected. This chapter explores a range of qualitative and quantitative research methods, discussing their strengths and limitations. The author provides practical advice on choosing the most appropriate method for different research studies.

Chapter 5: Designing a Research Plan

A well-structured research plan ensures that the project is carried out efficiently and effectively. This chapter guides readers through the process of developing a detailed research plan, including specifying the study population, sampling procedures, data collection methods, and data analysis techniques.

Chapter 6: Collecting and Analyzing Data

Data collection and analysis are the heart of any research project. This chapter provides a comprehensive overview of different data collection techniques, including surveys, interviews, and observations. It also covers various statistical analysis methods for extracting meaningful insights from the collected data.

Chapter 7: Communicating Research Findings

The final step of the research process is effectively communicating the findings to the academic community and beyond. This chapter discusses different methods of presenting research results, including writing academic papers, giving presentations, and publishing in scholarly journals. It also provides tips on writing clearly and concisely, and using appropriate visuals to enhance understanding.

Beyond the Chapters: Additional Features

In addition to its comprehensive content, "An Original Research Work" includes several valuable features to enhance the reader's learning experience:

- **Case Studies:** Each chapter includes real-world case studies that illustrate the concepts discussed. These case studies provide practical examples of how to apply research principles in different research contexts.
- **Thought-Provoking Questions:** Throughout the book, readers are presented with thought-provoking questions that encourage critical thinking and deeper understanding. These questions stimulate discussions and expand perspectives on the subject matter.
- **Further Reading:** At the end of each chapter, the author provides a list of recommended resources for further reading. These resources allow readers to explore specific topics in greater depth and stay abreast of the latest research developments.

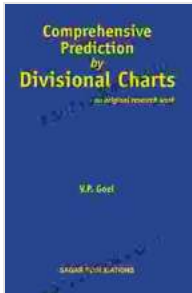
Benefits of Reading "An Original Research Work"

Reading "An Original Research Work" provides numerous benefits for students, researchers, and professionals alike:

- **Empowering Researchers:** The book empowers readers with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to conduct original research independently. It provides a roadmap for navigating the research process from start to finish.
- **Advancement in Academia:** Original research is essential for career advancement in academia. This book arms readers with the tools necessary to produce high-quality research that contributes to their field of study.
- **Enhanced Problem-Solving Skills:** The research process involves identifying problems, developing solutions, and evaluating outcomes. Reading this book sharpens problem-solving skills that are valuable in both academic and professional settings.
- **Improved Communication Skills:** Communicating research findings clearly and effectively is a crucial skill. This book provides guidance on how to write, present, and publish research in a compelling and impactful manner.

"An Original Research Work" is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in conducting original research. It is the definitive guide that leads readers through the entire research process, from formulating a research question to disseminating the findings. Whether you are a student embarking on your first research project or an experienced researcher seeking to refine your skills, this book is an essential companion. By understanding the principles and practices outlined in this book, you can

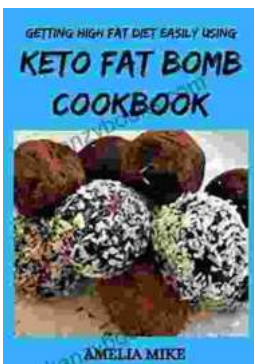
unlock the secrets of original research and make meaningful contributions to the advancement of knowledge in your chosen field.



Comprehensive Prediction By Divisional Charts: An original research work by V. P. Goel

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 45665 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 521 pages
Lending : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported



Getting High Fat Diet Easily Using Keto Fat Bomb Cookbook

Unveiling the Power of Fat Bombs The Keto Fat Bomb Cookbook empowers you with a treasure trove of knowledge and tantalizing recipes, igniting a culinary...



Are You Cryin' Brian? Find the Inspiration and Humor in Life's Everyday Moments

Life can be full of surprises. The good kind, the bad kind, and the kind that make you wonder what the heck just happened. In *Are You Cryin' Brian?*, Brian...