

Budsaba Kanoksilapatham  
English Department, Faculty of Arts,  
Silpakorn University, Nakhon Pathom 73000, Thailand  
[kanoksib@georgetown.edu](mailto:kanoksib@georgetown.edu), [kanoksib@hotmail.com](mailto:kanoksib@hotmail.com)

**Convergences and divergences of rhetorical organizations:  
Two comparable corpora of scientific research articles**

Because English is the international language, research articles written in English have become the main channel for distributing and advancing knowledge among scholars, both native and non-native alike, in all disciplines. To understand and to produce research articles, scholars need to be aware of among other things, the rhetorical demands of research articles. In response to this need, *move analysis*, initiated by Swales (1990), provides a tool of identifying rhetorical patterns in a variety of academic disciplines. Studies along this line of research have shown that different disciplines have their own distinct rhetorical organization. To determine if two closely related scientific disciplines vary with regard to their rhetorical patterns, move analysis was conducted on two comparable corpora of biochemistry and microbiology research articles to identify *moves* and *steps* used in the four sections. The study shows that in general the research articles in the two disciplines use the same pattern of *moves*, but differ somewhat in their use of *steps*. Some of the discrepancies will be highlighted to demonstrate rhetorical variations prevailing in these two closely related fields. The comprehensive description and discrepancies identified will help both native and non-native speakers of English to better understand the structure of English research articles in various disciplines. As a result, scholars will be able to more successfully meet the demands of academic and professional discourse required by international communities. Pedagogically, the description generated from the study will be beneficial when reading and writing materials for science students or scientists are developed.