Citation and the Construction of Subdisciplinary Knowledge

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Abstract

The main purpose of this study was to examine the citation patterns of discussion sections employed by local and international article writers in ESP and EGP subdisciplines of applied linguistics. Eighty article discussion sections were selected from well-established local and international journals in the field of applied linguistics, and they were sorted according to Thompson and Tribble's (2001) framework. The results revealed that local ESP and EGP writers tended to apply the integral citations to a far greater extent than the non-integral. On the other hand, international writers used citation to a significantly higher degree than local writers; ESP writers preferred the integral over the non-integral form. In contrast, international writers in EGP articles took more advantage from non-integral types, among which they selected *source* more than other types. In terms of integral types, *verb controlling* received the highest frequency. The potential diversities existing in the discussion sections written by local and international writers suggest that international writers seem to focus more on functional than formal criteria and use a wider range of citation types, giving more credit to the works of others. These differences appeared to be related to citation patterns and discoursal conventions across subdisciplines.

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1. Introduction

Citation, or making references to other texts, is the distinguishing feature of academic writing. Charles (2006) shows how a new piece of research arises out of and is grounded in the current state of disciplinary knowledge and thus constitutes an overt manifestation of the ongoing "conversation of the discipline" (311). At the same time, citation enables the writer to acknowledge or take issue with the contributions of other research and display knowledge of the field, to establish his/ her own academic authority and credibility. Citations are crucial in any research to position the work and to build on the works of others in order to evolve research further (Buchanan, 2007; Eom, 2008; Mitchell, 1995; Pennycook, 1996; Wohlin, 2008).

Citation, which involves reference to something external to the citing text (Pecorari, 2006: 3), has been seen as an instrument for achieving the rhetorical purposes of the writer, with syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic variables, and it can be categorized as *integral* or *non- integral* (Hyland, 1999; Petric, 2007; Swales, 1990; Thompson, 1996; Thompson & Trrible, 2001; White, 2004). Acknowledging the availability of a wide range of reporting forms that carry rhetorical and social meanings, Hyland (1999) adds that citation plays an important role in mediating the relationship between a writer's argument and his or her discourse community and creates a relationship between the citing and the cited text.

Craig (2007) defines citation as the listing of previously published articles in the reference section of a current work; this is usually taken to imply the relevance of the cited articles to the current work. Information about articles and the citations between them are collected in databases known as citation indices. He assumes that the citation differences are due solely to the free availability of an article and implies that many scholars working in a given discipline are currently totally unaware of important, relevant literature in their field and are unable to read and cite it. This

further suggests that authors will limit their citations to those works that are readily available in favor of citations to works that are of the highest relevance.

Given the significance of citation in the discussion sections of research articles (RAs), and the fact that citation analysis in RAs in different subdisciplines of applied linguistics has not received the right attention, this study, thus, aims to investigate the nature of citation structures manifested in the discussion sections of RAs in two sub- disciplines of applied linguistics, namely English for Specific Purposes (ESP) and English for General Purposes (EGP) across articles published internationally and locally, in Iran. Discussions, as a crucial genre in RAs, can play an effective role in writing research as they enrich the article blueprints, and citation embedded in the discussion part helps a writer deepen his point of view. Martinez (2003) states that in discussions, writers evaluate and interpret the data obtained in relation to the problem presented and attempt to persuade the readers of the relevance of the findings in relation to other findings, leading to the construction of knowledge. He adds that the discussion section is perhaps the most argumentative and abstract part of the article.

A further motivation for the present study is that sometimes non-native writers of RAs do not follow the conventions of citation analysis, and this makes the content of non-native writers' articles different from that of native writers. The difference may emanate from the context in which researchers publish their articles. Knowledge of how citation crops up in discussion sections can extend their awareness and understanding of the nature of this genre in academic writing, and it can help them construct their own discussion part in RAs more effectively. Therefore, this study may address an area of conflict between native and non-native English writers, and it aims to describe why non-native writers might not get space for publication. Respectively, the current study attempts to answer the following questions:

1. Are there any significant differences in the type of citations used by Iranian and international writers in the discussion sections of English RAs?

2. Are there any significant differences in the type of citation employed

in the discussion sections of RAs across the subdisciplines of applied linguistics?

2. Studies on Citation

Mitchell (1995) examined the citational analysis contained in the first nine volumes of *Journal of Property Valuation and Investment*, between 1981 and 1990. Hyland (2001) examined self-citation and first person pronouns in 240 RAs which consisted of 30 papers from 10 leading journals (in each discipline) in eight disciplines selected to represent a broad cross-section of academic practice from 1997 and 1998 issues. Thompson and Tribble (2001) examined citation in 80 RAs and 16 theses written in two departments at the University of Reading, 8 theses from the Department of Agricultural Botany, and 8 from the Department of Agricultural and Food Economics. Charles (2006) investigated the phraseological patterning that occurs in reporting clauses used to make references to others' research in eight theses in Politics/International Relations and eight theses in Natural Sciences. Petric (2007) examined the rhetorical functions of citations in 16 master's theses in the field of Gender Studies at an English-medium university in Central Europe. Pancheshnikov (2007) compared 5467 citations retrieved from all of the published works of faculty members and 3429 citations retrieved from all the masters theses completed at the Department of Biology of the University of Saskatchewan in the period 2002-2004.

Mitchell's (1995) study indicated the mean number of citations per article gradually increased. Computer Science, Finance and Psychology articles showed larger increase in citations. Hyland's (2001) results have shown that some 69 % of cases of self-mention occurred in Humanities and Social Science papers, with an average of 38 compared to only 17 in Science and Engineering. The results also revealed that about 70% of the papers in the study contained a reference to the author. Thompson and Tribble (2001) reported the lower density of citations amongst the Science and Technology articles (7.3-8.4) compared with higher incidence among the Social Science articles (10.1-12.5) while Biology stood out as

exceptional with 15.5. They acknowledge that quotation is a relatively common feature in the Social Science and Humanities texts but that is scarcely used in the Science texts. They showed considerable variation in citation practices between the different disciplines, with Philosophy being the only discipline that prefers the integral over the non-integral. They also showed that writers in Agricultural Botony used the non-integral Source and Identification types more frequently while the Agricultural Economists made far greater use of integral naming citations and more mention of names without giving full citation information. Charles' (2006) findings showed that disciplinary differences are seen in the frequency of clause types, with human subjects being more frequent in Politics while non-human subjects cropped up more in Natural Sciences. His data also revealed four verb groups extensively used: ARGUE, THINK, SHOW, and FIND. Petric's (2007) study drew attention to greater inclusion of citation in high-rated theses vis-à-vis low-rated ones. Attribution was common in both types of theses while other rhetorically more complex citation types requiring analytical skills were used more often in high-rated theses. Pancheshnikov's (2007) results showed that the major differences in the use of material types by faculty members and students were a significantly higher percentage of journal articles cited in published works in comparison with student theses. In terms of age of monographs, the results showed that in both cases about 50 percent of citations were made to publications of the last ten years, and over 90 percent of them to publications of the last thirty-five years. Zhang's (2008) study revealed tendencies of various journals for inclusion of citation, and books and articles were overwhelmingly dominant reference sources in the journals, though the degree varied from one journal to another. Zhang also revealed that qualitative scholars have a tendency to consult books while in quantitative studies scholars are less likely to cite books but rely to a great extent on journals.

Given the significance of citation in scholarly writing, the above studies tacitly point to the diversities involved in different disciplines in making references to works of others. However, this diversity might camouflage the tendencies in citation practices in different subdisciplines. To develop a

better understanding of citation practices, an extension of earlier studies between subdisciplines is warranted. Because of contradictory and sometimes confounding results, this study needs to refine the operation of citation patterns. Finally, because a majority of citation studies have been conducted across different disciplines, we expect that subdisciplinary variations between local and international writers in Applied Linguistics also mark important citational tendencies.

3. Methodology

3.1 Selection of the subdisciplines

The subdisciplines selected in this study were English for Specific Purposes (ESP), and English for General Purposes (EGP). The selection was motivated apparently by the growing tendency of more and more language researchers to publish in the journals related to these two subdisciplines. This is becoming more evident with the rapid growth in the number of research writers (particularly non- native speakers) during the last two decades. A further reason is the increasing number of the Iranian researchers in the field of English language teaching to attach themselves to one of the above sub disciplines.

3.2 Material

The corpus consisted of 80 RA discussion sections from well-established local and international journals in applied linguistics. That is, each subdiscipline was represented by 40 RA (RA) discussions: 20 representing international and 20 representing local journals. The articles were selected on an available basis from the established journals of applied linguistics. *English for Specific Purposes Journal, TESOL*, and *System* represented international journals, and on the local basis these sub disciplines were represented by local journals of *Iranian Journal of Applied Linguistics* (IJAL), *Journal of the Faculty of Letters & Humanities of Shahid Chamran University, Roshd FLTJ, Teaching English Language and Literature* (TELL), and *Journal of Humanities* published by Shiraz University. Since these local peer-reviewed journals are not defined by sub-

disciplinary characteristics, they accept articles related to the broad area of applied linguistics. Therefore, the contents of these journals were closely examined to select the articles which represented the above mentioned subdisciplines. The corpus was restricted to empirical studies. Thus, theoretical and review articles published in special issues were excluded from the scope of the present study. In order to make the analysis more reliable and avoid the intervening variable of time, only RAs published in the year 2000 onward were selected and included in the study.

3.3 Instrument

In this study, Thompson and Tribbles' (2001) framework for integral and non-integral citations was used to analyze the materials. Thompson and Tribble further categorize non- integral and integral citations as follows:

3.3.1 Non-integral citations

1. *Source:* This function is to attribute a proposition to another author. The proposition might be an assertion, such as in the factive report of findings in other research, or attribution of an idea to another. For example,

(1) Citation is central … because it can provide justification for arguments (Gibert, 1976).

2. *Identification:* It identifies an agent within the sentence it refers to. For example,

(2) A simulation model has therefore been developed to incorporate all the important features in the population dynamics (Potts, 1980) …….

3. *Reference*: This type of citation is usually signaled by the inclusion of the directive "see". Or example,

(3) DFID has changed its policy recently with regard to ELT (see DFID, 1998).

4. *Origin:* The citation indicates the originator of a concept or a product. For example,

(4) The software package used was Wordsmith Tools (Scott, 1996)

3.3.2 Integral citations

1. *Verb controlling*: The citation acts as the agent that controls a verb, in active or passive voice. For example,

(5) Davis and Olson (1985) define a management information system more precisely as …

2. *Naming*: The citation is a noun phrase or a part of a noun phrase.

(6)Typical price elasticities of demand for poultry products in Canada, Germany and the UK are shown in Harling and Thompson (1983).

3. *Non- citation*: There is a reference to another writer but the name is given without a year reference. It is most commonly used when the reference has been supplied earlier in the text and the writer does not want to repeat it. For example,

(7) The "classical" form of the disease, described by Marek, causes significant mortality losses.

The rationale for the selection of Thompson and Tribble's framework was that it can be regarded as the most comprehensive work because its classification takes into account a combination of formal linguistic criteria, such as the syntactic position of the citation within a clause i.e. integral citation, and function or content criteria, such as whether the citation identifies the origin of an idea or is used as an example, that is, non-integral citation, so their framework takes account of all the citation types.

3.4. Procedure

This research is a qualitative and quantitative corpus-based study on how academic writers in the subdisciplines under study use citation strategies in their articles. The selection of articles was on the basis of their relevance to the subdisciplines and their empirical nature. This was done following a strict principle. We asked an experienced colleague of ours to help us in sorting the articles. Each one of us judged the articles separately and those on which two of us agreed about the subdiscipline they sided with we judged to represent that subdiscipline. The study targeted the analysis of citation types used in RA discussion sections, excluding introductions, footnotes, endnotes, references, methods, and abstracts from this analysis. After selecting the text corpus, word count was run on in order to determine the quantity or the length of the corpus. Then the data was sorted to identify and classify each type of citation. Finally, the frequency of the types of

integral and non-integral citations was calculated, to detect the possible differences in the citation classes and judge whether the differences were significant. Having this in mind, we conducted a pilot study by taking Thompson and Tribble's (2001) work as a starting point. Ten articles of each subdiscipline were examined and analyzed by the present researchers to ensure the accuracy of the identification of the syntactic position and the function of citation types. Statistical analysis revealed a correlation of .98 between the two researchers in identifying the citations. Table 1 delineates the quantity of the corpus in the subdisciplines under study.

Table 1: Word frequencies in local and international article discussions

Articles	ESP	EGP
Local	27208	19422
International	31663	24165
Total	58871	43587

4. Results

4.1 Local ESP articles

Table 2 displays the overall frequency of citations in local ESP articles.

Table 2: Citations in local ESP articles

Integral citation	F	%
Verb controlling	34	25.7
Naming	53	40.1
Non-citation	7	5. 3
Total	94	71.2
Non-integral citation		
Source	23	17.4
Identification	12	9.0
Reference	3	2.2
Origin	0	0
Total	38	28.7

Total citation types: 132

As shown in Table 2, the total number of citations in local ESP articles was 132 of which integral citations were remarkably present. Moreover, the quantitative results showed substantial differences between the integral citation types occurring in local ESP articles. *Naming* (53 with, 40.1%) was the highest in frequency, with the least frequent turning to be *Non-citation* (7 with, 5.3%). Considerable variations were also observed between non-integral citation types. S*ource* was the highest (23 with, 17.4 %) while the *Origin* type did not occur at all. It seems that the writers in local ESP articles used the *source* citations to attribute information or activity to an author, as this function of citation helps writers display their knowledge of the topic. Chi-square was applied revealing statistically significant differences in frequency of citation types at P<0.05 level of significance (chi-square= 23.75; critical value= 3.84).

4.2 International ESP articles

Table 3: Citation types in international ESP articles.

Integral citation	F	%
Verb controlling	36	18.3
Naming	42	21.4
Non-citation	52	26.5
Total	130	66.3
Non-integral citation	F	%
Source	38	19.3
Identification	15	7.6
Reference	12	6.1
Origin	1	0.5
Total	66	33.6

Total citation types: 196

As shown in Table 3, in total, there were 196 citations occurring in international ESP articles, with 130 citations (66.3%) coming from integral, and 66 citations (33.6%) from non-integral indicating that the density of citations of non-integral type was much lower and the writers in

international ESP articles prefer the integral over the non-integral form. Moreover, there were variations in the frequency of integral citations with *Non-citation* (52 with 26.5%) being the highest, and the least citations coming from *Verb controlling* (36 with 18.3%). Table 3 reveals that the frequency of the non-integral *Source* was the highest with *Origin* attracting the least attention. It is important to note that these divergences between integral and non-integral citations occurring in international ESP articles are statistically significant as shown by chi-square value (chi square= 20.89; critical value= 3.84; P<0.05).

4.3 Comparing local and international ESP articles

A closer look at the figures in Tables 2 and 3 shows that there were both similarities and differences between citation practices in local and international ESP articles. International ESP writers employed significantly more citations than local writers. International writers used *Non-citation,* the sub-category of integral citation types, to a higher degree than local writers. Accordingly, international writers tended to make far greater use of *Non-citation* type by giving the author's name without a year reference, and it is most commonly used when the year reference has been supplied earlier in the text and the writer does not want to repeat it. Repeating the author's name with a year reference might make a confusing situation for the readers and might reduce the authenticity of the text or cause the size of the text to be unnatural. *Non-citation* was very insignificant in texts written by local Iranian authors (with 5.3%) while the frequency of *Naming* in the local data was extraordinarily high.

Variations in using non-integral citation patterns seemed less important in local and international discussions. The original pattern appears not to be characteristic of discussions in ESP. The only remarkable difference was the greater inclination of international writers in using *References.* The chi square value (5.78) revealed substantial differences between local and international ESP articles in terms of integral citations with one degree of freedom at P<0.05 and critical value of 3.84. Significant differences were observed in non-integral citations in local and international ESP articles (chi-square= 7.52; critical value= 3.84; df= 1; P<0.05).

4.4 Local EGP articles

Table 4: Citations in local EGP articles.

Integral Types	F	%
Verb controlling	23	22.3
Naming	42	40.7
Non-citation	5	4.8
Total	70	67.9

Non-integral Types	F	%
Source	25	24.2
Identification	2	1.9
Reference	6	5.8
Origin	0	0
Total	33	32.0

Total of citation types: 103

The total citations presented in the discussion sections of local EGP articles were 103. A closer examination showed about 67.9% was tagged as integral, and 33 (32.0%) non-integral. So, local EGP writers like local ESP writers make greater use of integral structure to place the author in subject position and to attribute a stance to cited authors. In terms of integral citation types, Table 4 demonstrates that the *Naming* obtained the highest percentage (47.7%) and *Non-citation* type contained the lowest percentage (4.8%). In the case of non-integral citation types, *Source* yielded high frequency (25 with 24.2%), like local ESP writers, and *Origin* the zero frequency. Chi-square analysis revealed statistically significant differences, with the value of chi-square (13.29) being far greater than the critical value (3.84) at $P<0.05$. In other words, local EGP writers tended to apply integral citations to a greater extent than non-integral ones to place the author in subject position and to attribute an idea to cited authors.

4.5 International EGP articles

Table 5: Citation frequencies in international EGP articles

Integral Citations	F	%
Verb controlling	30	17.0
Naming	25	14.2
Non-citation	25	14.2
Total	80	45.4

non-integral Types	F	%
Source	55	31.2
Identification	15	8.5
Reference	26	14.7
Origin	0	0
Total	96	54.5

Total of citation types: 176

As can be seen in Table 5, 176 sample citations were drawn from international EGP articles, and the number of integral and non-integral citations retrieved from this subdiscipline was 80 and 96, respectively. Comparison of the two types of citation showed that the frequency of the non-integral citations was higher than integral. In terms of integral citation types, *Verb controlling* was preferred over the other types (17.0%), and *Naming* and *Non-citation* were employed with the same frequency (25 out of 80). The preference for *Verb controlling* reveals that the writer makes frequent references to individual studies and compares their findings to his own findings. The most common type of Non-integral citations occurring in international EGP articles was *Source* (31.2%), and the analysis showed that *Origin* yielded zero frequency. Thus, the predominance of non-integral citations in international EGP articles is in contrast with local articles. Chi-square analysis revealed that these differences were not statistically significant because the value of chi-square (1.45) with one degree of freedom was less than critical value (3.84) and the level of significance (.22) was more than *p* value (P<0.05).

4.6 Comparing local and international EGP articles

The analysis of citation frequencies and percentages of local and international EGP articles revealed considerable differences between them. In terms of the integral citation types, there seemed to be a substantial difference between local and international article discussions. The overall percentage of integral citations in the international EGP article discussions (45.4%) was less than the local ones (67.9%). The most remarkable difference was related to *Naming* and *Non-citation* types in integral citations.

The total number of non-integral citations in local article discussions was 33 (32.0%) as compared to 96 (54.5%) in international articles. International writers had greater tendency in using *Source* while *Origin* was not employed by neither of the local and international writers. The last important point to note is that international EGP writers tended to utilize more citation practices than local EGP writers to provide support for their proposition and acknowledge the arguments of others. Running chi-square test, the study revealed statistically meaningful differences in citation practices employed in local and international article discussions because the value of chi-square (19.10) outran the *critical value* (3.84) at p<0.05.

Separate chi-square analyses between the integral and non-integral citation types in local and international article discussions suggested that the difference exists in the non-integral citations, with the observed value of 30.76 being far greater than the critical value (3.84).

4.7 Sub-disciplinary comparison

In the third pass of analysis, citation practices were compared across two subdisciplines of EGP and ESP. All the citations retrieved from the local ESP and EGP articles were 132 and 103, respectively. Although the proportion of citations in ESP articles was relatively greater than EGP, chi-square analysis did not show the significance of these differences in integral citation, with the critical value (3.84) relatively higher than the chi-square value (3.51) at p< 0.05 and the level of significance (06) greater than p value (.05). Although local ESP writers tended to make more use of integral

citations than local EGP writers, the differences were not borne out significant and writers in these two subdisciplines relatively followed the same manner. Moreover, there were similarities between local ESP and EGP articles as far as the Non-integral citations were concerned. The frequency of non-integral citations in these two subdisciplines (ESP and EGP) turned to be 38 and 33, respectively and chi-square test clarified that the difference was not meaningful because the value of chi-square (.35) was far less than critical value (3.84) at p< 0.05, and so local ESP and EGP writers were not far away from each other in employing Non-integral citation practices.

As far as integral citations practices were concerned in the discussion sections of international EGP and ESP articles, differences between these two subdisciplines were revealed because the chi-square value (11.90) was much larger than the critical value (3.84) at P<0.05 and these differences were likely related to their discoursal conventions, their style, and their social conventions. There were also clear diversities in the non-integral citations by international writers in ESP and EGP subdisciplines. The frequency of non-integral citations in ESP and EGP article discussions was 66 and 96, respectively with the chi-square test showing significant differences with the value of chi-square (5.55) at P<0.05. So, international writers followed different strategies in employing non-integral citation practices, and these differences appeared to be related to their specific citation conventions, discoursal conventions, and style.

5. Discussion

The findings of this research lead us to the recognition of subdisciplinary variations in applied linguistics in local and international articles in terms of citation practices. Findings are also revealing as they show the potential differences that exist in discussion sections written by local and international writers, and can give a broad view of tendencies by text producers, writers, and authors. Citation practices can provide opportunities to nonnative researchers to extend their awareness and understanding of the importance of the discussion section in academic

writing, and it can help them construct their own discussion part in RAs.

5.1 Local and international ESP articles

In view of the first question, which asks for any citational differences in the discussion sections of ESP articles, data analysis showed marked variation in the citation practices between local and international ESP articles. The infrequent use of *non-citation* in local ESP articles might be the undue pressure exerted by the local journal gatekeepers and reviewers on the authors to provide the readers with the exact and complete, though repetitive and monotonous at times, citations. Many of the in-house journals, to the present researchers' knowledge, are extremely fastidious and they regard *non-citations* as unacceptable and unconventional. So manuscripts might be returned to the authors for not supplying the year reference, even though the year is mentioned earlier in the immediately preceding text.

Alternatively, some Iranian writers might not possess a high share of knowledge in structuring their RA citations based on the standard rules. By contrast, Iranian writers preferred the *Naming* citation over international writers to signify a text rather than a human agent. In other words, the citations which were employed by local writers in this subdiscipline were predominantly noun phrases or parts of noun phrases which identify a particular equation, method, formulation, or a similar construct with individual researchers. These differences may reflect their insufficient skill in rendering citation strategies or their social and cultural tendencies in citation practices.

In applying the non-integral citations international ESP writers seem to rely upon the functional criteria more than Iranian ESP writers. The authors of the ESP articles in the present study focus more on *Source* and less on other non-integral citations to attribute information or activity to an author. By acknowledging the source material to an author, they refuse from a serious violation or detraction of academic community. What is expected is that the share of international as compared with local ESP writers in this respect was greater, and the percentage of non-integral citations was higher

in international articles. We speculate the following reasons for the existing differences:

1) Their social and epistemological conventions are different.
2) Their individual study types are dissimilar.
3) Their audiences are not similar.
4) Citation conventions are also different.

In short, the comparison shows that international ESP writers have the tendency to make more varied use of integral and non-integral citations in contrast to local ESP writers and they tend to stress citations differently in different contexts of study. They are likely to show a high share of knowledge in applying citation types according to the standards established by their target discourse community. International writers set a discursive framework of integral and non-integral citations in order to establish a space for their research and for publication. Their scholarly work should have certain characteristics if it is to be published, and these characteristics should be acceptable to the experts, the gatekeepers of the journals. They abide by the citation principles set by their discourse community and strictly follow these principles and show a certainty and agreement between themselves and cited authors.

On academic basis, looking at citation from the readers' perspective, the readers of the target discourse community should be informed and assured that the reporting research is relevant to the public and agreed goals of that discourse community. To do so, international writers use a wide range of citation types and they give more credit to the works of others. They establish the worth of their research area in order to increase the reader's attention. As Hyland (1999) contends, "readers always have the option of rejecting a writer's message and therefore always play an active role in its construction" (342). So international writers exhibit more diversity in using citation strategies in their academic articles to provide a basis for their arguments and support their claims with intertextual warrants. Local ESP writers, on the other hand, demonstrate more biased distribution of citation types, implying that they may not be at the appropriate stage of cognitive or intellectual development. It is also likely that the boundaries of local ESP

and EGP are not crystal clear because there are no professional subdisciplinary-specific journals and publication context in Iran.

5.2 Local and international EGP articles

Verb controlling, as exercised in local and international articles shows that citation acts as the agent that controls a verb. This reveals that the writer makes frequent reference to individual studies and compares their findings to his own experiment. Writers make references to previous works as a strategy for supporting their claims and giving credit to the works of others and avoiding academic offence, especially plagiarism because it stems from an intentionally deceptive act.

Naming clarifies to the readers that the reference is related to a particular researcher. Researchers prefer to integrate the ideas of others into their arguments. Thompson and Tribble (2001) also showed that the *Naming* citation was more commonly used (by more than four times) in the Agricultural Economics texts. This is an important difference in local and international articles as revealed in our findings. Where international writers may emphasize *Verb controlling* to give credit to the works of others and to establish their own academic authority and credibility, local writers may make use of *Naming* to stress the agents of research rather than acknowledge the works. This seems to be a divergence from the norms of the academic community, which emanates from the local writers' culture. Persian culture seems to be more person oriented than performance oriented. They value people more than their achievements, contrary to the Western tendency to credit the works irrespective of who the researcher is.

By and large, the use of non-integral citation exceeded the integral in international articles in this subdiscipline suggesting researchers' preference for making information prominent by emphasizing the reported research rather than the researcher. International writers of EGP, and ESP, reveal similarities in terms of citation practices; that is, they apply a wide range of citation types because their goals and their audiences are different, all of which could affect their citation practices.

5.3 Sub-disciplinary comparison

The similarity between local ESP and EGP articles might stem from the fact that locally no expertise discourse community has been set for these subdisciplines. In fact, local journals are not defined by sub-disciplinary characteristics; they accept articles related to the broad area of applied linguistics. Therefore, they adopt, or they are advised by the journal editors to follow, a general pattern for citing references within the text instead of specifying a strict ciational pattern for their prospective authors.

What is evident is that citation practices act as contextual variables that are related to community norms, but local authors are sometimes seen to violate the public goals of international discourse community. This is true when we see that the local articles in the two subdisciplines in focus are very congruent in terms of citation treatment, with the *source* types being the simplest citations that local writers tend to use, because the other citation types require analytical skills.

In the local ESP and EGP articles, writers tended to overuse the integral citation types. This implies they pay more attention to the structure of citations or to explicit grammatical roles; on the other hand, they underestimate the functions of citations, or they ignore the intentions of writers. Generally, local writers place the author in subject position to attribute a stance to cited authors. In fact, they focus more on formal than functional criteria by considering the syntactic position of the citation within clause than identify the citation as the source of an idea or as an example. The congruence might be dictated by the local journal policy and their lack of subdisciplinary distinction in the broad context of English language learning in Iran. By contrast, authors of international articles, who publish in subdisciplinary specific journals, gradually develop a feel for and an awareness of acceptable patterns of citation practices.

Therefore, with the distinct variation existing between citation behaviors of ESP and EGP at international level we suggest that local ESP and EGP writers, like international writers, should extend citation types and expand the range of choices available to their readers.

6. Conclusion

Citation plays a key role in establishing a arelationship between a writer's argument and his discourse community; it is also used for comparison or for support of the writer's own research. Making references to previous finding, as a strategy for supporting claims, is mandatory in academic articles. Citation practices have been found to vary according to discipline (Hyland, 1999) and according to genre (Thompson & Tribble, 2001). The diversity and breadth of citation reflect the complexity of citation practices, and this, in turn, makes difficulties for novice writers in learning to cite appropriately. The results of this study marked subdisciplinary tendencies that are reflected in citation patterns of local and international ESP and EGP articles.

As mentioned earlier, the capacity to cite appropriately is an important role in academic writing, and it is an area of substantial difficulties for the novice writer. The findings of this research have clear implications for the writers, readers, and novice researchers. The paradigm used in this study can help writers deepen their point of view and extend the range of citation types that they might utilize in their writings. Attention to citational patterns in academic writing would encourage novice researchers to examine the wider context of situation and to become aware of the different functions of citations within the text. Citation patterns can give novice researchers in ESP writing classes opportunities to extend their awareness and understanding of the importance of this feature in academic writing and it can help learners construct their own knowledge. The typology of citations outlined in this study can be utilized for developing classroom activities, and student researchers will be able to develop a fuller understanding of the cultural and linguistic role of citation in their field of study. Local authors would also familiarize themselves with this taxonomy to use a wide range of citation types in their academic writing and to add to the quality of their articles in terms of authenticity and credibility.

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