

## Rhetorical structure of newspaper reports: A synergy between corpus, genre and discourse analysis

Hafizah Hajimia<sup>1</sup>, Nur Rasyidah Mohd Nordin<sup>2\*</sup>, Manvender Kaur Sarjit Singh<sup>3</sup>, and Philip Golingai<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of English and Linguistics, Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Arau, Perlis, Malaysia

<sup>2,3</sup>School of Languages, Civilisation and Philosophy, College of Arts and Sciences, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Sintok, Kedah, Malaysia

<sup>4</sup>Star Media Group Berhad, Menara Star, Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

### ABSTRACT

The pandemic has intensified issues faced by the journalism community in Malaysia. This study is an attempt to help the media industries upskill themselves in terms of the written discourse. This study describes the rhetorical structures in Malaysian newspaper reports, namely The Star, in terms of the rhetorical moves and steps by using the genre theory, corpus-based discourse analysis and corpus analysis. MyCORONAS (Malaysian Corpus of Online Newspaper Articles) corpus of 90 selected news reports consisting of crime news (TSC), environmental news (TSE) and political news (TSP) was compiled and analysed quantitatively and qualitatively to identify the frequency, functions, and patterns of rhetorical moves. The findings identified a nine-move structure for the newspaper reports. The nine-move structure consists of five optional moves and four obligatory moves. Variations in the use of the steps were observed within the sub-genres. Additionally, based on the functions of the moves, it was found that the newspaper report is a hybrid genre with various communicative functions. Based on the patterns of move distribution, the dispersion value shows that the moves are tightly clustered. To conclude, the findings of this study will heighten the awareness of ESP learners on the importance of using appropriate rhetorical moves to write a newspaper report which will help the journalism industries reform themselves during the pandemic.

**Keywords:** Corpus-based; discourse analysis; journalism; newspaper report; rhetorical structure

**First Received:**

2 June 2021

**Revised:**

3 March 2022

**Accepted:**

27 April 2022

**Final Proof Received:**

15 May 2022

**Published:**

31 May 2022

### How to cite (in APA style):

Hajimia, H., Nordin, N. R. M., Singh, M. K. S., & Golingai, P. (2022). Rhetorical structure of newspaper reports: A synergy between corpus, genre and discourse analysis. *Indonesian Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 12(1), 86-99. <https://doi.org/10.17509/ijal.v12i1.46433>

### INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the newspaper industries, namely the local newspapers resulting in journalists being laid off and some publications being shut down (Hsu & Tracy, 2020; Supadiyanto, 2020). A study carried out by Supadiyanto (2020) shows the death of Indonesia's newspaper industries in the digital age during the pandemic. For Malaysia, the International

Federation of Journalists (IFJ) report shows that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated challenges faced by media workers and journalists in Malaysia whereby the press freedom has deteriorated rather disturbingly. One of the reasons for this issue is that they were often caught in a "paradoxical and risky situations, which challenge the process of news production and delivery ethically and legally" (Tajuddin & Ali, 2020, p. 106). Journalists were

\* Corresponding Author  
Email: nurrasyidah@uum.edu.my

stressed to produce more story ideas and deliver news assignments with shorter deadlines that not only impact the online news quality but also the credibility and transparency of the news organization.

From linguistic perspectives, this is due to the lack of awareness of the newspaper writing conventions by those in the media profession. Past studies showed various issues in writing newspaper reports such as the lack of writing skills among Malaysian university students and unsynchronized university syllabus and the industries (Ismail & Ismail, 2017; Saleh & Hasan, 2017), rhetorical issues with in writing the headlines and other parts of a newspaper report (Borovac, 2013; Brown, 1957; Dawning, 2010; Shahirah & Sukur, 2011), and various definitions and functions of the newspaper reports components (Bednarek & Caple, 2012; Bell, 1991; Dalu & Awad, 2018; Feez et al., 2008; Sabzevari & Sadeghi, 2013). Besides that, the media professionals were comfortable reporting news especially by following the writing style based on intuitions, creativity and the traditional inverted pyramid structure. Since these issues were not addressed from the beginning, the media professionals were unable to produce more story ideas and deliver news assignments with shorter deadlines (Tajuddin & Ali, 2020). They were unable to comply with the deadlines because they did not have a writing framework with detailed guidelines. They have been generally following a certain structure in writing news reports, which is known as the inverted pyramid. However, the inverted pyramid is not sufficient to be used as a guideline for those in the media fraternity (Emde, et al., 2016).

A Newspaper report is a genre with its own unique convention. There were scarcely any moves identified on newspaper reports to generate a rhetorical framework. Thus, generating a rhetorical framework that would better account for the lack of data is essential. A revamp of the journalism education would shape journalists into preparing for the current pandemic scenario. After all, journalism education is essential in training talents for the news industry (Zhang & Zhang, 2013). As stated by Reese (1999, p. 12), "To preserve its value, however, journalism must be part of broader academic reforms, modeling an intellectually independent integration of theory and practice, supporting not just a media labor pyramid, but also a press-literate public". Initially, a framework for journalism education in the universities was designed by the Council for Heads of Communication Studies (COHECS) in Malaysia (COHECS, 2010). However, the COHEC study did not provide guidelines of a good journalism practice, and it was too brief (Yusof, 2018). With this in mind, it is important to have a comprehensive journalism education emphasizing on the journalism practices and professionalism. It is more important

to merge the industry to the university education to prepare those in the journalism fraternity.

In order to create a journalism framework from the perspective of ESP, the fundamental grounded theory of genre analysis of Swales (2004), Bhatia (1993, 2004, 2014) and other scholars, which is the core underpinning theory of this study, as well as the corpus based approach, is essential. In studies of move analysis, analysis of the linguistic structures and features used in each move structure has been scarce especially in the newspaper report in Malaysia. Such a linguistic analysis on various rhetorical moves is useful in at least two ways. First, it makes clear the textual evidence that signals the communicative purpose of the move. It is an important factor in increasing the validity of any analysis that requires subjective judgment. Second, it provides a basis for a comparison of specialised languages across disciplines. Thus, this study addresses the following research questions:

1. What are the moves used in the newspaper reports?
2. What is the frequency of the moves used in the newspaper reports?
3. What are the patterns of the moves?

The outcome of this study will be a journalism framework which can further improve the inverted pyramid structure with the inclusion of a more detailed guideline. It is hoped that with this framework, the media professionals will be able to produce newspaper reports with speed, precision and accuracy as well as integrating the theoretical and practical aspects.

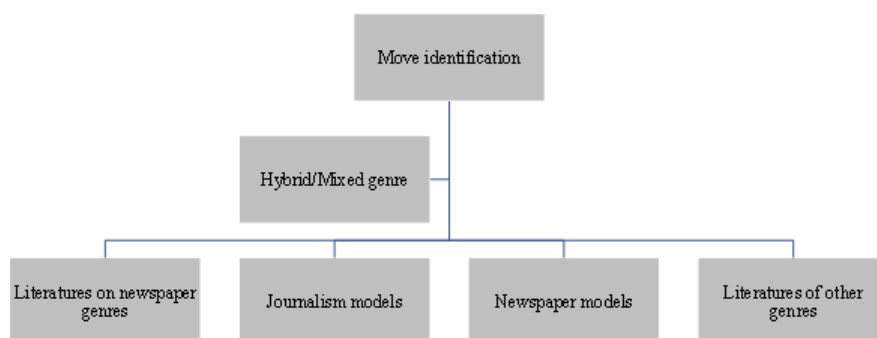
### **Newspaper Genre**

A number of studies on newspaper genre analysis were referred to in order to come up with the newspaper report moves. Identifying literatures is one of the important stages of genre analysis according to Bhatia (2004). Thus, in order to identify the rhetorical moves of newspaper reports, the current study refers to four sources, namely past literatures on newspaper genre analysis, journalism models, newspaper models and rhetorical moves of various other genres. Figure 1 shows the four sources used to identify the rhetorical moves in the newspaper reports in the current study.

Every news is written in a certain structure. The most commonly used news structures are the inverted pyramid, hourglass, focus or narrative. Among those structures, the inverted pyramid will be further elaborated, as it is the most basic structure used by most journalists in writing a news report. This is a common structure that has been traditionally used in the writing of newspaper reports. However, this does not mean that all the journalists use the same structure to write their news. Some may use other structures according to their creativity.

**Figure 1**

Sources for Move Identification Process in MyCORONAS Corpus

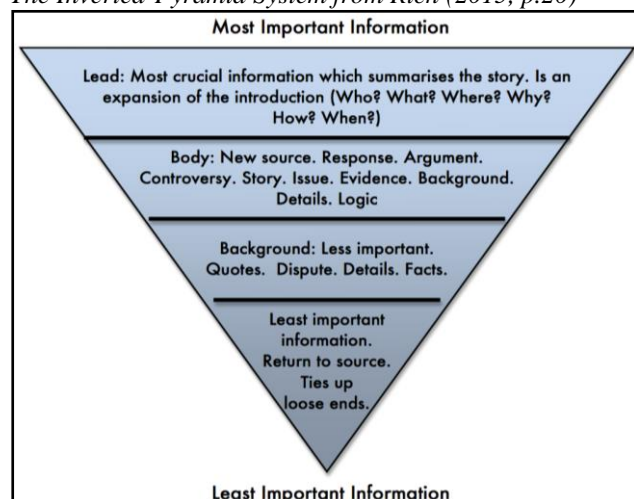


Any other explanations, background or other secondary material will be further mentioned according to the order of the news. This type of arrangement for a newspaper report is known as the

inverted pyramid style (Emde et al., 2016). Figure 2 shows the inverted pyramid diagram adapted from Rich (2015).

**Figure 2**

The Inverted-Pyramid System from Rich (2015, p.20)



Subsequently, a number of news report models were referred to such as Van Dijk's (1988) News Scheme Model, Gunesequera (1989) and Bell's (1991) model of news structure for news text in order to identify the rhetorical moves of newspaper reports from Malaysian context. Overall, the moves identified for the newspaper report refer to this theory which has been used by most journalists. The basis of the theory is the inverted pyramid and Van Dijk's (1988) model News Scheme and Bell's (1991) model discourse structure for news texts to identify the core components and the components of the newspaper report. Finally, studies on a number of other genres and discourse such as political genre for political news, environmental genre for environmental news, and legal genre for criminal news were adapted.

Next, Table 1 shows past literature on newspaper genre analysis and journalism models. It

presents studies referring to Newsom and Wollert's (1988) seven components of newspaper report from a journalist perspective, CARS model (Swales, 2004), Bhatia's (1993) generic structures and moves of news report and editorial, Zarza et al. (2015) and Bonyadi's (2010) moves on editorial, Sabzevari and Sadeghi's (2013) components on newspaper reports, Jabbari and Farokhipour's (2014) moves on newspaper report and Bonini's (2009) components on newspaper report.

The long list of literature in Table 1 serves as a reference to identify the moves. There seems to be a gap when it comes to analysing the newspaper report writing, namely in terms of showing moves identified for the newspaper report. Thus, the current study has referred to these studies by adapting their most relevant moves to a newspaper report genre for the move identification of my study.

**Table 1**

*Literature on Newspaper Genre Analysis*

Newsom & Wollert (1988)	CARS (Swales, 2004)	Bhatia (1993)- news report & editorial	Zarza & Tan (2016) adapted from Bhatia – editorial	Bonyadi (2010) adapted from Bhatia- editorial	Sabzevari & Sadeghi (2013)	Jabbari & Farokhipour, (2014) adapted from Swales (2004) – news report	Bonini (2009) adapted Swales (1990) – news report
1. The lead	<i>move 1</i>	NEWS	M1: Headline	1st Schematic structure	The Core Major news	<i>move 1</i> : Title Definition	TITLE
2. The transition of the second point in a tie-in	Establishing a territory Step1- Claiming importance	REPORT: - solution situation problem evaluation	M2: Presenting the case S1: Addressing an issue/problem	INTRODUCTIO N <i>move</i> : ORIENTATION (OR) and CRITICISM (CR)	Headline	<i>move 2</i> : Preparatory Comment	<i>move 1</i> : Citing the most evident aspect
3. Further elaboration on the main point	Step2- Making topic generalization s	EDITORIAL	S2: Elaborating an issue		Minor Details Background information	Main Topic <i>move 3</i> : Main Thesis <i>move 4</i> : Analysis Steps:	<i>lead</i> <i>move 2</i> : Summarising the fact
4. Support for the lead	Step 3- Reviewing items of previous research	<i>move1</i> : Presenting the case, <i>move2</i> : Offers arguments, <i>move3</i> : Reach conclusion, and <i>move4</i> : Suggesting further actions	S3: Providing background information S4: Presenting standpoint M3: Justifying or refuting events S1: Explaining S2: Contextualising argumentation	2nd Schematic structure THE BODY <i>move</i> : presenting, developing and evaluating sub-topics forming a typical sequence	Minor Details Background information	argumentation, argumentation 1, argumentation 2 and so forth. <i>move 6</i> : Directive	<i>text body</i> <i>move 3</i> : Narrating the fact <i>move 4</i> : Describing details of the fact <i>move 5</i> : Contextualising in situational terms <i>move 6</i> : Pointing out reactions to the fact <i>move 7</i> : Contextualising in historical terms <i>move 8</i> : Pointing out related facts
5. Background	<i>move 2</i>		M3: Justifying or refuting events		Minor Details Background information		
6. Development of the main idea	Establishing a niche (citations possible) via: Step 1A: Indicating a gap, or Step 1B: Adding to what is known Step 2: Presenting positive justification <i>move 3</i> Presenting the present work via: Step 1: Announcing present research descriptively and/or purposively Step 2: Presenting research questions or hypotheses Step 3: Definitional clarifications Step 4: Summarizing method Step 5: Announcing principal outcomes Step 6: Stating the value of the present research Step 7: Outlining the structure of the paper.		S1: Explaining S2: Contextualising argumentation S3: Comparing and contrasting M4: Articulating a position S1: Expressing opinion S2: Evaluation S3: Raising suggestions S4: Expressing prediction	3rd Schematic Structure THE ENDING <i>move</i> : Concluding the topic	Minor Details Background information		

**METHOD**

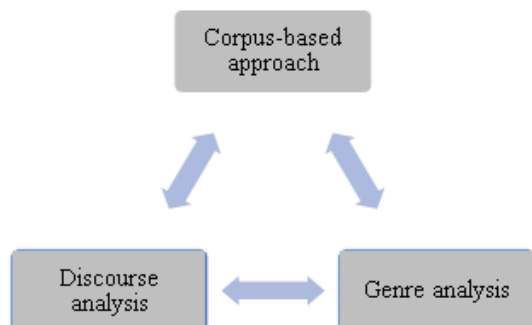
This study employed a systematic methodology integrating genre analysis, discourse analysis and corpus-based analysis. In this study, genre analysis is the study of the "situated linguistic behaviour" (Bhatia, 1997, p. 633) carried out to analyse the rhetorical structure and communicative purposes.

Discourse analysis shows the steps and stages that are used to analyse the genre. Whereas, corpus-based analysis is the tool used to analyse the genre according to the styles in the discourse. It is to explore the benefits of quantitative findings in order to learn the structural patterns of a language. Thus, a synergy effect is created with the combination of these three approaches. It integrates Bhatia's (1993) seven stages of genre analysis and Upton and Cohen's (2009) seven stages of corpus-based discourse analysis, which was complemented using the corpus analysis and Kaur and Singh's (2014) computer-assisted corpus analysis (CACA).

Figure 3 below shows the approach used in this study to identify the rhetorical structures in newspaper reports for MyCORONAS corpus. The approach below is an integration between corpus, genre and discourse analysis to be known as Corpus-integrated approach to discourse and genre analysis (CiDGA).

**Figure 3**

*Corpus-Integrated Approach to Discourse and Genre Analysis in MyCORONAS corpus*



Next, this study shows the stages of conducting a CiDGA. It employs a mixed method research design as it adopts the post-positivist and pragmatism worldview which is explained through the process below. It addresses the macro level of the newspaper reports rhetorical structure whereby a rigorous qualitative and quantitative research procedure was carried out by the researchers to identify the moves and steps which were validated through the inter coder reliability assessment and by interview with the experts in the field to achieve trustworthiness of the findings (Guba & Lincoln, 1981, 1982; Lincoln & Guba, 1989).

The present study first used the qualitative approach to move scheme identification and hand-tag the moves identified in the corpus followed by the quantitative approach to analyse the frequency

of each move used using the (computer-assisted corpus analyses) CACA approach proposed by Kaur and Singh (2014), which addresses the sentence level linguistic structural patterns and computing frequency of the linguistic forms in the corpus. Laurence Anthony's concordance tool known as AntConc was used to calculate the frequency of the moves identified and the results were generated using the concordance, concordance plot, file view and dispersion tool. This is the quantitative part.

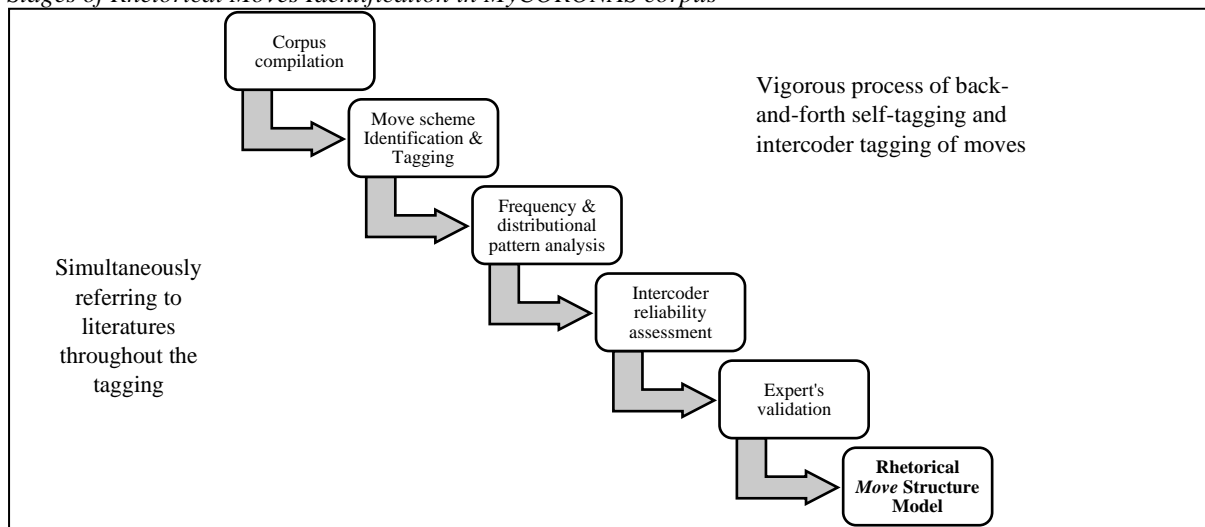
Figure 4 shows stages of rhetorical moves identification applied in this study. Intercoder reliability assessment was done by using 2 intercoders and Cohen Kappa was used to analyse the differences. Six experts from the field were interviewed to verify the moves identified. Vigorous process of back-and-forth self-tagging and intercoder tagging of moves were conducted until the 'Good' strength of agreement among the coders with the Kappa value at 0.78 has been reached. This is a mixture of qualitative and quantitative part.

The rhetorical structures of the moves were identified from a genre-specific corpus known as Malaysian Corpus of Online Newspaper articles (MyCORONAS), consisting of 90 newspaper reports from the crime news (TSC), the political news (TSP), and environmental news (TSE), with 30 reports taken from each criterion respectively. The corpus is compiled for 8 months from February 2019 until September 2019. The total number of words compiled in CORONAS corpus is 270.150 words consisting of TSC (103.171), TSP (78.794) and TSE (88.185). The move analysis involved creating a move schema for each set of the documents in the corpus, namely moves tagging, a frequency analysis, and an analysis of the distributional patterns of the moves identified.

Three sub-genres were chosen for this study based on a keyword search that was conducted on the topics in the Star newspaper before identifying which topics to choose. During the time frame of the corpus compilation, these 3 types of news appeared most frequently in the front page compared to any other news. Keyword search from 1 January 2019 - 31 December 2019 showed the following distribution: politics (6442), environment (3210), social issues (6147), sports (215), business (4791), technology (28400), health (4546), and lifestyle (371). Even though environmental news was not the highest; however, it was one of the most popular due to its newsworthiness during that time period.

The identification of percentage of practices (most obligatory, obligatory, optional, and not obligatory) was adopted using Yong's (2001) formula.

**Figure 4**  
Stages of Rhetorical Moves Identification in MyCORONAS corpus



Yong (2001), as cited in Ng (2015) who studied the moves in milk advertisements, generated the four-level system which is used to categorise the frequencies of occurrences of the

various moves. It is used to trace the general pattern and structure in the frequencies of occurrences of the moves. Table 2 below shows the scale used for this study.

**Table 2**  
Scale for the Practice and Move Occurrence

Frequency of move occurrence= $\frac{\text{X no. of files it appears}}{\text{N no. of files}} \times 100$	Practice
$75\% \leq f \leq 100\%$	Most Obligatory
$50\% \leq f \leq 75\%$	Obligatory
$25\% \leq f \leq 50\%$	Optional
$0\% \leq f \leq 25\%$	Not obligatory

(Adapted from Yong 2001, p. 60)

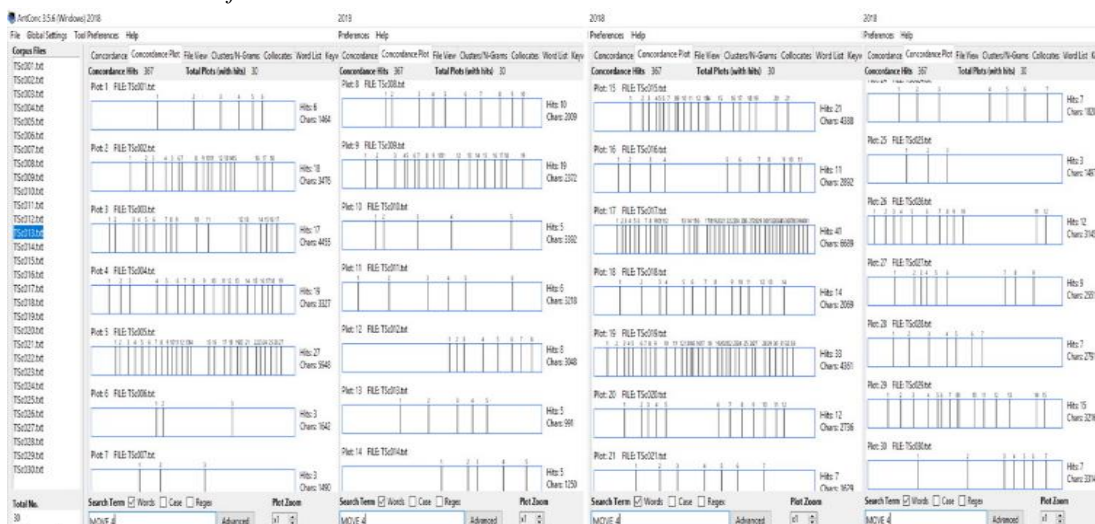
To calculate the Frequency of move occurrence (%)

- The X number of files the move appears is divided by the N number of samples that is 90 for this study.
- The percentage is then obtained by multiplying the result of step 'a' by 100.

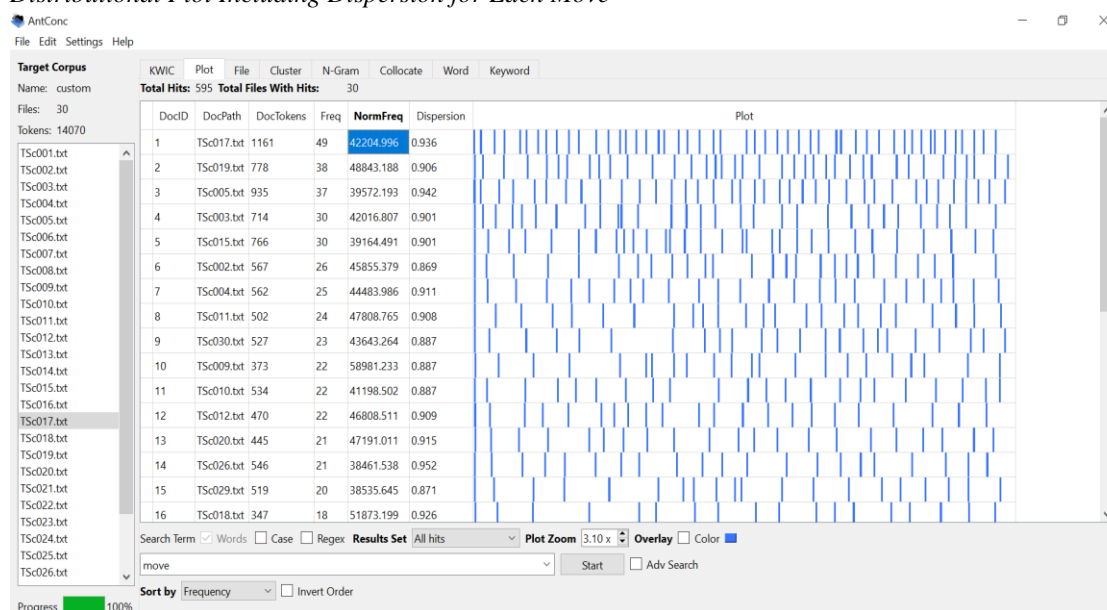
The data of the distributional pattern of the moves extracted from the plots are shown in figure 5

and figure 6 below. Those are extracted from Antconc 3.5.6 and Antconc 4.0.

**Figure 5**  
Distributional Plot of Each Move in Individual File



**Figure 6**  
*Distributional Plot Including Dispersion for Each Move*



In the findings section, the distributional plot is presented in an alternative way using the dispersion and converting to bar chart to help the readers capture the big picture much more easily.

The concordance search results are plotted in a 'barcode' format, with the length of the text normalized to the width of the bar and each hit shown as a vertical line within the bar. This shows the position of moves in the target texts; it also shows the statistics which decides the parameters for determining the dispersion measure (Anthony, 2021).

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Rhetorical Moves Manifested in the Corpus

A nine-move structure was identified after an exhaustive stages of corpus compilation, identification, and analysis of the frequency and the patterns of moves in the newspaper report. The rhetorical model showing the core components, moves and communicative functions of the newspaper reports identified are summarised in Table 3 below. The term sub-move is used by Nwogu (1997), Bhatia (1993) and Lin (2015) referring to the constituent elements of moves. Sub-moves are different realizations of moves. According to Henry and Roseberry (2001), steps occur in a particular order, whereby Bhatia (1993) mentions that a sub-move “realizes different aspects of the moves....with distinguishing status in generic structure” (p. 57).

Considering the research need and the findings of this study, the term sub-move is adopted. Sub-moves are referred to move constituents, disregarding whether they are optional, obligatory and whether they appear in a fixed sequence (Lin,

2015). The list begins with move 1, which establishes a territory corresponding to the component headline of the newspaper reports. This is followed by the lead component consisting of two moves: move 2, which is introducing the news lead, and move 3 providing secondary information. Move 2 and move 3 show the most important point in a newspaper report.

The next one is the text body component consisting of three moves: move 4 elaborates the event; move 5 provides supporting facts; move 6 provides historical context; and move 7 narrates unrelated events. These moves show the important details of the story as well as support moves in the lead component. Finally, the ending component consists of move 8 which points out related facts to the news report either by relating to the previous sentence or relating back to the lead of the news report. Move 9 references verbal reactions which appear in all the moves of all the core components.

Move 1 functions as an abstract or a catchy title for the newspaper report. Move 2 consists of the most important information basically summarizing the whole news report. It consists of who, what, where, when and how information. This is followed by move 3, which provides additional information which was overlooked by the authors in move 2. Both moves complement each other and are mostly used to create move 1. Move 4 provides supporting details to the lead and further elaborates the events in the story. It consists of crucial information to expand the lead, evidence, background details, arguments between actors in the news, and others. Basically, this move provides helpful but not critical information.

**Table 3**  
*Rhetorical Model of Malaysian Newspaper Reports in MyCORONAS*

<b>Rhetorical Model for the Preparation of Newspaper Report in Malaysian Media Industry</b>		
CORE COMPONENT	MOVE	FUNCTION
<b>HEADLINE</b>	<move 1> Establishing a territory	Abstract of the whole story- claims centrality and makes topic generalization
<b>LEAD</b>	<move 2>Introducing the news lead <move 3>Providing secondary information	Elaborates the headline with 5W 1H. Additional information which is not in the <i>move 2</i> . Elaborates the headline with 5W 1H.
<b>TEXT BODY</b>	<move 4>Elaborating the event (The Crime News) TSC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● &lt;sub move 4a&gt;Establishing the case</li> <li>● &lt;sub move 4b&gt;Narrating court proceedings</li> <li>● &lt;sub move 4c&gt;Providing court sentencing and penalties</li> <li>● &lt;sub move 4d&gt;Requesting to public</li> <li>● &lt;sub move 4e&gt;Establishing follow up action</li> </ul> (The Political News) TSP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● &lt;sub move 4a&gt; Depicting evil picture of foreign/internal enemies</li> <li>● &lt;sub move 4b&gt; Portraying religious values</li> <li>● &lt;sub move 4c&gt; Justifying current policy</li> <li>● &lt;sub move 4d&gt; Stating state orders</li> <li>● &lt;sub move 4e&gt; Narrating court proceeding</li> <li>● &lt;submove4f&gt; Providing court sentencing and penalties</li> </ul> (The Environmental News) TSE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● &lt;sub move 4a&gt; Establishing follow up action</li> <li>● &lt;sub move 4b&gt; Stating factual information</li> <li>● &lt;sub move 4c&gt; Indicating cause and effect</li> <li>● &lt;sub move 4d&gt; Predicting negative consequence</li> <li>● &lt;sub move 4e&gt; Court sentencing and penalties</li> <li>● &lt;sub move 4f&gt; Proposing new policies</li> </ul> <move 5> Providing supporting fact	Further elaborates <i>move 2</i> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● elaborates the incident</li> <li>● cites verbal reactions</li> <li>● Provides situational context (cause, reason and how the event took place)</li> <li>● Shows general situation or solution of an event</li> </ul> Provides proves. Statistical figures or expert’s testimonial
	<move 6> Providing historical context	Shows previous facts, which have possibly triggered the current one (history/cause)
	<move 7> Narrating unrelated events	Unrelated information to the current news
<b>ENDING</b>	<move 8> Pointing out related facts	Provides detailed closure to further elaborate <i>move 2</i> Provides abrupt closure
	<move 9> Referencing verbal reactions	Shows actors reactions

Some sample excerpts are provided for Move 4 of each sub-genre as it shows the most prominent differences. In move 4 in TSC (crime news), the author establishes the case, narrates court

proceedings, provides court sentencing and penalties, and requests the public to establish follow up action. The sample excerpts can be found below.

**<sub move 4a>Establishing the case** “O’Reilly’s body, with his hands bound with shoelaces and legs tied with cloth...at 5.15pm on Monday”.(TSC004).  
**<sub move 4b>Court proceedings** “G. Thinathayaalan, 25,... at a Sessions Court here as the charge was read out to him before judge ... He is accused of...He claimed trial.”. (TSC009)  
**<sub move 4c>Court sentencing and penalties** “The charge under Section 302 of the Penal Code carries a mandatory death sentence upon conviction”. (TSC009)  
**<sub move 4d> Requesting to public** Comm Mazlan urged the public ... “If you see anyone suspicious, please contact the police immediately,” he said. (TSC018)



In move 4 in TSP (political news) the author depicts an evil picture of foreign/internal enemies, portrays religious values, justifies current policy,

states state orders, narrates court proceedings and provides court sentencing and penalties. Below are the sample excerpts.

**<sub move 4a> Depicting evil picture of foreign/internal enemies** “He said the motive ... allegations ... RM90mil issue...” (TSP026)  
**<sub move 4b> Religious values** “We are not only for the Malay Muslims, but also for the interests of the whole country when we say ummah”. (TSP003)  
**<sub move 4c> Justify current policy** “It will serve as a long - term blueprint in building national policy on defence and security.” (TSP002)  
**<sub move 4d> State orders** “He called for the Election Commission to take appropriate action” (TSP030)  
**<sub move 4e> Court proceeding** “Justice Malanjum held that PKR candidate Dr S. Streram had locus standi to file an election petition” (TSP018)  
**<sub move 4f> Court sentencing and penalties** “The Shah Alam High Court granted a discharge not amounting to an acquittal to Siti Aisyah” (TSP010)

In move 4 in TSE (environmental news) the author establishes follow up action, states factual information, indicates cause and effect, predicts

negative consequences, courts sentencing and penalties, and proposes new policies. Below are the sample excerpts.

**<sub move 4a> Follow up action** “Open burning offenders in Sarawak will face stiffer penalties”(TSE002)  
**<sub move 4b> Establishing scientific fact** “As for the plastic bag...a physical obstruction in the gastrointestinal tract of the whale”. (TSE030)  
**<sub move 4c> Showing cause and effect** “Plastic pollution in our oceans is a very serious threat to marine wildlife. This should be a grave reminder of the need to dispose plastic properly...” (TSE028)  
**<sub move 4d> Negative consequence** “if the rain returns, they expect flooding to get worse ....”(TSE001)  
**<sub move 4e> Court sentencing and penalties** “The proposed penalty for illegal open burning is increased from a fine of RM20,000 or three years’ jail to RM100,000 fine or five years’ jail.” (TSE002)  
**<sub move 4f> Proposing New Policies** “The government has decided to regulate open burning activities...This amendment aims to minimise haze pollution...”(TSE002)

In Move 5 the author states statistical figures or expert’s testimonial related to the event to support the previous statement. In move 6 the author provides background information about the event that has happened in the past to enable readers to understand the chronology of the event, and shows previous facts which have possibly triggered the current one. Move 7 are presents events which have no connection with the headline or the lead of the current news but may have a connection with one of the events or the actors involved in the current news. It narrates unrelated events which show unrelated information to the current news. Move 8 is the concluding sentence of the news. It points out related facts which provide detailed closure to further elaborate move 2 and mostly provides abrupt closure. Finally, in move 9 is provides references of verbal reactions made by the actors from the interpretation of the authors. This is in the form of an indirect report or a direct report.

frequency analysis of the nine main moves in MyCORONAS.

**Table 4**  
*Summary of Moves TSC, TSP and TSE*

Moves	TSP	TSE	TSC	TOTAL
1	30	30	30	90
2	30	30	30	90
3	8	8	27	43
4	339	317	367	1023
5	2	72	12	86
6	53	16	101	170
7	10	0	1	11
8	34	22	26	82
9	333	274	359	966
<b>TOTAL</b>	839	769	953	2561

The move analysis was conducted separately for each set of documents; the star crime (TSC), the star environment (TSE) and the star politics (TSP). The next section describes the frequency of moves in TSC, TSE and TSP followed by examples of each move as it appears in the MyCORONAS corpus

Move 1, move 2, move 4 and move 9 are the most obligatory moves as they occur in all 30 files in TSC, TSP and TSE. The first two moves, move 1 and move 2, appear 90 times respectively in CORONAS, reflecting that each document has a single occurrence in the corpus. However, there was 0 hit in TSE. Move 3 is optional in TSP and TSC, whereas it is not an obligatory move in TSE. Move 5 shows the highest number of differences in terms of sub-genres. In TSP and TSC, move 5 is not an obligatory move with as little as 3.33 % and 10% of occurrences. However, in TSE, it is an obligatory

**Frequency of Moves**

The occurrence of moves is basically guided by the communicative purposes embedded in the nature of the moves. Table 4 shows the summary of the

move with 66.66% of occurrence. The vast difference shows that environmental newspapers provide more supporting facts in terms of factual and environmental scientific information. Move 6 is obligatory in TSP and TSC, whereas it is not obligatory in TSE. This shows that TSP and TSC give more importance to the background information of an event compared to the environmental news. Move 7 does not occur in TSE; however, it is not an obligatory move in both TSP and TSC. Move 8 indicates a problem or a solution, and is the most obligatory move in TSP, followed by obligatory move in TSC and TSE. The tables below show sample excerpts of moves and sub moves for the subgenres of TSC (the crime news), TSP (the political news) and TSE (the environmental news).

Overall, in TSC, TSP and TSE, the sub-moves identified in this study are embedded within the main moves. Each of the sub-genres has several different sub-moves which show their own communicative purposes. The news report consists of a combination of discourses such as political, legal, and environmental discourses. Modification towards the move needs to be carried out based on the discourse.

**Distributional Patterns of Moves**

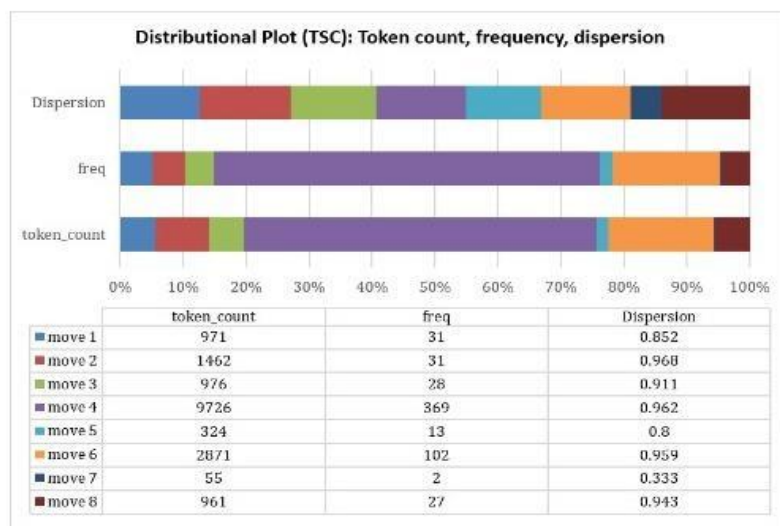
This section shows the findings on distributional patterns or the forms of moves from The Star Crime

(TSC). TSC is chosen as an example here because it has the highest number of moves. From the distributional patterns, a number of information is retrieved from the frequency and dispersion to show the positions of the moves in each file. Data from the frequency and dispersion are used to summarize and explain each of the plot distances made by the moves. According to Glen (2014), dispersion in statistics is a way of describing how spread out a set of data is. When a data set has a large value, the values in the set are widely scattered; when it is small the items in the set are tightly clustered (Glen, 2014). Distance in the plot varies according to the number of words and the length of each sentence in the files. The concordance plots show how well the moves are dispersed across a corpus. So, the information is as important as frequency, but in a different dimension. Figure 7 below shows the chart indicating the result of the distributional plot of the Star Crime.

The overall value from the dispersion data set is small. This indicates that the moves in the crime newspaper set are tightly clustered. The lowest dispersion is move 7 with 0.333 dispersion, followed by move 5 with 0.8 dispersion and move 1 with 0.852 dispersion which is tightly clustered. The highest value is of move 2 with 0.968 dispersion followed by move 4 with 0.962 and move 6 with 0.959 dispersion value, which shows a lesser tight cluster.

**Figure 7**

*Chart Indicating the Result of Distributional Plot of the Star Crime Newspaper Report Malaysia*



Move 3 and move 8 are in the middle range with a dispersion value of 0.911 and 0.943 respectively. Move 1, establishing territory, occurs in all the files. The position of move 1 occurs in the first line or at the beginning of each of the articles in the core component headline. Move 2, introducing the news lead, occurs in all the files. The position of move 2 is on the second line in each of the

newspaper reports, in the core component lead. Move 2, file TSC001, appears further from the beginning line compared to TSC003 and TSC005.

Move 3, providing secondary information, occurs 26 times in 15 files. The distributional pattern shows that move 3 occurs in the lead and the text body. In the lead, 4 files with move 3 in the front position that is right after move 2 which is in

TSC003, TSC005, TSC006, TSC008, and TSC020. In the text body, 4 files with a move in the middle position occurring after move 4 which is file TSC004, TSC007, TSC015, TSC023, and TSC025. In the lead and the text body, 3 files, that is, TSC010, TSC011, and TSC030, occur in the front position and the middle position. It is used to complement the headline and the lead. It fills the missing pieces to the WH's in the headline and the lead. The distributional pattern of move 3 in the lead is unique when compared to move 2 and move 1. Move 3 occurs in a few sentences in a file which indicates that the missing pieces to the headline and the lead are retrieved from a few sentences. This explains the various numbers of hits in each file such as in TSC005, TSC011 and TSC030.

Move 4, elaborating the event, occurs in the front, middle and end positions of the newspaper report depending on the length of the file. Move 5 provides supporting facts. In the crime newspaper reports, not many statistics were used by the authors to report the cases. The positions are basically from the middle to the end of the newspaper reports. Move 6, which provides historical contexts, mostly occurs towards the end position. In the crime newspaper reports, statistics were fairly used by the authors to report the cases. Most of moves 6 occur from the middle to the end positions of the newspaper reports. Move 7, narrating unrelated events, occurs towards the end position in file TSC023. It seems that move 7 becomes the least favourite by the authors. Move 8, pointing out related facts, occurs towards the end position with multiple occurrences showing the ending of the report, for example, TSC005, TSC020 and TSC008. Move 9, referencing verbal reaction, occurs in various positions. It appears from the lead to the end of the ending. The bigger the file, the larger the plots of this move. Move 9 is mostly clustered very close together, in other words it is arranged very close together in almost all the prior and the pre paragraphs. It is basically scattered everywhere around the newspaper report.

## **DISCUSSION**

Firstly, the findings of this study are in line with those of Newsom and Wollert (1988), Swales (2004) CARS model, Bonini (2009), Van Dijk (1988), and Bell (1991). Some of the moves were mainly adapted from these four scholars. In MyCORONAS corpus, move , establishing a territory, appears in all the newspaper reports. This move is given great emphasis and is found to be consistent with Swales' (2004) model. Swales' (2004) revised CARS model highlighted the existence of a similar move to move 1, where the author claims centrality and makes a topic generalization. Move 1 of the present study indicates a similar adaptation where the author

highlights and centralises the idea of the news report on a particular topic. However, as an author of a conventionalized genre, the author states the topic according to the organisation's internal requirements.

Secondly, this finding shows that the moves in newspaper reports have different rhetorical structure compared to other types of reports in the media discourse. Each of the sub-genres in this study has its own private intentions and a certain degree of versatility embedded in them. Each of the sub-genres analysed has its own communicative purposes. As mentioned by Bhatia (1993), reporting genres are considered under super-genres, which are seen as colonies of several related genres with the sub-genres even though they share the same set of communicative purposes but are distinguished in terms of other contextual factors.

In this study, even though the mode is almost similar (how the text is constructed), the contextual factors that distinguish these sub-genres are most prominent within the field (subject matter of the text). Within the field, there are various discourses involved in the entire text, for example, political discourse within the political newspaper, legal discourse within the crime newspaper, and environmental or geographical discourse within the environmental news.

Finally, the findings from the moves indicate that the newspaper report is a hybrid genre. In accordance with Bhatia's (2004) definition of interdiscursivity, the move analysis in this study shows the appearances of interdiscursivity of the text-external factors with the newspaper report by being a hybrid (mixed and embedded) genre. Interdiscursivity is defined as "interaction across and between genres, resulting from text-external factors" (Bhatia, 2010, p. 32). Each sub-genre is embedded with the differences in the field, such as in move 9, the authors' standpoints, the actor's views, and the context. Mixed genre in this study is expository with a combination of news journalism, narrative journalism, and press journalism (factual, narration, promotion and interpretations).

In the current study, newspaper genre communicative purpose is achieved by giving shape to promotional genre through the narrative and informative purpose in the newspaper report, to attract readers to the article, to increase readership, to inform (informational), and to entertain (narrative). The invasion of territorial integrity here as mentioned by Bhatia (2014) shows the "non-conventional use of generic resources of newspaper reports for promotional purposes in the informative and persuasive sense, but not in the marketing sense" (Bhatia, 2014, p. 101). However, this is also a promotional tactic of the newspaper authors to persuade the readers to read, while at the same to increase the readership and the ranking of the Star newspaper in the media industry.

One of the characteristics of the narrative genre in newspaper is the description of news events through the eyes and minds of real persons involved in the events, who become characters with whom readers can empathize and identify by answering the 'how' and 'why' questions (Van Krieken & Sanders, 2017). Even though in this study the move shows the existence of reporting, which addresses the 'who', 'what', 'where', and 'when' questions in a neutral way with reference to official sources, these are many instances where the 'how' and 'why' were seen particularly in move 4 (elaborating the event), move 5 (providing supporting fact), move 6 (providing historical context), and move 9 (referencing verbal reactions) in the newspaper reports.

In the newspaper report genre, the "point-of-view" writing and emotive appeals are storytelling techniques (Berning, 2011; Wahl-Jorgensen, 2013a, 2013b), as well as using the actors' characters and names with reference to an event. In the text body component, the authors tend to narrate the events by referencing verbal reactions to the event, establishing the timelines of the event, and stating the role label of the person being cited. This is in line with Bell's (1991) model. The model shows clearly the narrative nature of the news. It consists of actors, action, setting, reaction and consequences which make the newspaper report colourful and narrative. This is promotional as well as informative to the audience. All components in this model apply to the current study on newspaper reports, except for the commentary sections which include context, evaluation and expectation, which shows that the newspaper reports in the current study has the same expository and narrative style.

Move 4 consists of the mixing or bending of genres as mentioned by Bhatia (2004). From the analysis, the 'private intentions' of a newspaper report consisting of factual reporting and narration are very prominent. The existence of narrations such as police arrests and court events make the whole factual news more narrative and expository like. From the analysis of the corpus, it can be seen that this type of narration does not exist in all the news genres. Therefore, it was an optional meaning. Some newspapers have the court events, while others do not. Even though move 4 is obligatory, the embedded story in each move is optional. This type of move is known as the peripheral move as mentioned by Kathalia (1992). This is identified in all the 3 files: TSC, TSP and TSE.

Move 8 has the least important information at the bottom. This move ends abruptly in most of the newspaper reports. It seems as if the newspaper report does not end in a report-like manner and more of a 'to be continued' narrative writing.

## CONCLUSION

From the pedagogical perspective, the results can be useful for journalism ESP curriculum designers, book developers, language syllabus designers, and instructors of general English to care more for rhetorical patterns as a whole in order to produce more native-like materials for language learners. Genre awareness is one of the many neglected aspects. The number of variations of moves used in MyCORONAS corpus indicate great pedagogical space for developing methodology and teaching materials through corpus-based research. However, the pedagogic process or syllabus should be corpus-informed rather than corpus-based in order to be beneficial. In contrast to the traditional approach where students are taught the grammatical rules, they can engage in an inductive process through close observation of the data, and then move towards classifications, hypothesis-testing and generalization-forming. With the advent of this computer-based learning skill, corpora have changed the role of an educator from an instructor to a facilitator and elevated the role of learner from a passive recipient to an active researcher. Future research could examine the moves in other media discourses to describe their function, the type preferred by text-type, and their frequency and distribution at both the sentence and paragraph level. Comparing the use of these rhetorical patterns in different newspapers and sections and even other countries could provide a more comprehensive understanding of the role of the moves.

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