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Functions of Cited Sources in Indonesian Research Articles (RAs) in the History and Law Disciplines

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Abstract

Citation is very significant in academic writing because it may create engagements with earlier findings and improve academic reputations. Studies on this area within academic writings have been widely conducted with varied purposes, but citation functions have received a small portion of scholarly attention. Besides, studies on this area in the Indonesian context are hardly found in the literature. Understanding this need has encouraged me to analyze citation functions in Indonesian History and Law research articles (RAs) because these two disciplines have been rarely investigated in genre studies, particularly in the Indonesian context. To reach this purpose, this study analyzed 30 Indonesian RAs from the History and Law disciplines to discover whether the functions are either to provide background information, provide evidence, or present beliefs, ideas, and issues circulated. The results revealed that citations found in the present study function as background information, evidence, and to present beliefs, ideas, issues circulated. However, these functions appear differently in each section. These findings imply that the citing orientation is addressed differently in each research article section. While these findings theoretically may contribute to the literature regarding citation functions in each section, they practically may provide awareness of article authors regarding the functions of citations in writing RAs.

Keywords: *citation functions; History and Law disciplines; Indonesian research articles (RAs)*

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Introduction

Citation is very important to linkage between research (Nazir et al., 2020) and indicates growing numbers since 2007-2018 (Clermont et al., 2021) because it may improve academic reputations (Massucci & Docampo, 2019). Besides, studies on this area have received wide scholarly attention with various purposes, including for measuring authorial stances or voices (Işık-Taş, 2018; Januarto & Hardjanto, 2020; Wang & Feng, 2018; Xu, 2024), citation practices (Anderson & Lemken, 2023; Frachtenberg, 2023; Warsidi et al., 2023), forms and functions (Lee et al., 2018; Petrić, 2007), and evaluative practices (Azar &

Hashim, 2022; Symon et al., 2018; Vindrola-Padros & Johnson, 2020). The findings of these studies imply that understanding citation practices in writing academic research papers is significant because authors expertizing in citations may situate their stances or voices, adjust their understanding of writing practices, and create writing engagements appropriately. Thus, they may make effective communication and good writing engagement for their research papers.

Concerning the authorial stance or voice, more linguists have analyzed it in various academic texts. The results indicate that citation is important in discourse studies (Simaki et al., 2020) and different between one and the others. For example, international research article abstracts (RAAs) employed more frequent stance markers compared to Chinese RAAs (Wang & Feng, 2018; Xu, 2024). This finding is also consistent with research articles (RAs) published in international journals written by Turkish and English native authors. In this regard, they employed authorial stances more than those written by Turkish authors in national journals (Işık-Taş, 2018). Then, While Persian authors used attitude markers and boosters more, English authors tended to use hedges and self-mentions than Persian authors (Hashemi & Hosseini, 2019). Besides, RAAs that contain co-authors use authorial stances more frequently than those of a single author in applied linguistics (Januarto & Hardjanto, 2020). Then, authors who employ more self-mentions (pronouns) to persuade their target readers can establish their credibility, improve their identity, and engage their readers in review articles (Symon et al., 2018). In contrast, these findings are different from those found in Li (2021) that applied linguists tend to reduce their presence in their RAAs to enhance their research objectives. The reason for these inconsistent research findings may be because of the differences in the cultural and educational backgrounds of the authors (Wang & Feng, 2018). However, to engage critically with cited sources, Lingard (2018) found that mastering citation strategies is a key component to creating more writing engagement for persuasive literature review and closeness with target readers (Suau-Jiménez, 2020).

In the citation practice, some academic authors have investigated it in various contexts and revealed contextual findings. For example, while authors cited more numbers of sources, only a few of them evaluated their citations to gain claims, discover gaps in scholarly engagement, and detect whether the cited works were misinterpreted, underutilized, or superficially cited (Anderson & Lemken, 2023). In computer systems RAs, citations mostly function to demonstrate new research and to make their research contributions more visible and credible within the academic community (Frachtenberg, 2023). On the other hand, second language learners (L2) cited earlier findings with different purposes. They primarily use citations to circulate knowledge of the topics rather than for evaluation or stance-taking. In this regard, they often exhibit a non-committal stance toward their cited sources (Lee et al., 2018). In integrated citation, although both English and Indonesian authors prefer employing more non-integral citations than integral ones, English authors display slightly more frequently than Indonesian authors, but Indonesian authors use citations primarily for description rather than for creating critical engagement (Warsidi et al., 2023).

In evaluative practice, two scholars have investigated how authors create engagements with their cited reviewing literature. For example, evaluative practice has been analyzed to discover how content ideas within the citations are interpreted and critiqued to contribute some insights into theory development (Azar & Hashim, 2022). The results show that only a few citations involve empirical evaluation, and they contain less scholarly engagement with their substantive citations. As a result, they rarely evaluate earlier theoretical findings and employ less scholarly engagement, and thus, their writing may not attract readers to read further details. Besides, evaluative practice has been investigated to identify rhetorical strategies to construct authorial identities in applied linguistics, and the results found that first-person plural pronouns, such as "we," were used more frequently than singular pronouns (Symon et al., 2018). This finding implies that self-mentions need to be employed strategically in review articles. This way aims

to establish authors' credibility, improve their identities, and create an engagement with their readers.

However, while authorial stances or voices have attracted more scholarly attention and dominated investigation over the other citation studies, citation function is among the least investigated over the last periods. My reviews only show that a few academic authors demonstrated this issue in research articles, including Lee et al. (2018). One of the purposes of Lee et al. (2018) is to discover the functions of citations using an earlier framework (Petrić, 2007). The results revealed that authors tend to employ attribution more than the other functions (87,43% of the total functional strategies). This finding means that authors tend to simply report their cited sources without engaging critically with their cited sources. As a result, their writing is less engaging and indicates a lack of critical evaluation. This finding was consistent with those found in master theses in Europe as authors in master theses tend to employ attribution more than the other citation functions, but lower-rated theses employed this function more than those of rated thesis (Petrić, 2007). These findings imply that the lower the rated writings, the higher the attribution function employed.

However, although citation function has been analyzed in research articles and master theses, citation function in Indonesian RAs is hardly found in the literature. Moreover, although genre of RAs in the Indonesian context has received more scholarly attention (Alkamillah et al., 2022; Arianto et al., 2021; Arsyad & Adila, 2018; Arsyad et al., 2020; Lubis, 2020), citation functions have not been analyzed this far. Although citation studies have been carried out in Indonesian RAs, their focus was citation types and ways in the introduction section (Warsidi et al., 2023). Then, citation studies focused on other disciplines, such as education, social and political sciences, and linguistics (Adnan, 2010). Understanding this gap has encouraged and motivated me to investigate citation functions of Indonesian RAs in the History and Law disciplines because these two selected disciplines are among the least investigated in genre studies. Besides, while these two disciplines are interdisciplinary and connected, they share differences. In this regard, the History discipline often uses documents, archives, and historical data as its main sources, while the Law discipline tends to focus on legal cases, case studies, law status, etc. To realize this intention, I employed genre theory as an analytical approach to analyze data in the present study because this approach has been sufficiently employed in analyzing rhetoric, citations, and various purposes in both academic texts such as research articles (Swales, 1990) and professional texts (e.g. Warsidi, 2024). To focus on this study, I formulate this study to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the functions of cited sources in Indonesian History RAs?
2. What are the functions of cited sources in Indonesian Law RAs?
3. Do these two data sets have similarities regarding the functions of cited sources? If so, to what extent do they diver?

Answering these three research questions are important because the results may contribute to the theory and practices of academic writing. Theoretically, this study may put some insights into the literature regarding the functions of cited sources in Indonesian RAs. Practically, it may create awareness among Indonesian authors in these two selected disciplines regarding the functions of cited sources when reviewing earlier research findings. Besides, it may be used to design teaching materials for writing publications, specifically for citing practices.

Methodology

1. Research Design

This study used both quantitative and qualitative approaches for analyzing and reporting data analysis results because these two research approaches may support each other more convincingly rather than one single approach. This design may resolve and provide a more holistic comprehension of research problems being researched (Creswell, 2021). In this regard, while the quantitative approach was used to discover citation functions found

in those data sets quantitatively, the qualitative approach was used to describe the citation functions in detail, including by providing examples found in the data sets.

2. Collecting Data Sets

The corpora used in this study are 30 Indonesian RAs from the disciplines of History and Law. To select these numbers of RAs, this study employed several standard criteria for selecting journals and RAs as corpora. First, the journals are from the disciplines of History and Law published in Indonesian institutions. Next, they must receive a national accreditation status Science and Technology Index 2 (SINTA 2) because this accreditation status is considered to have high and standard writing qualities. Then, they use the Indonesian language as a communication medium. After employing these standard criteria, three journals from the discipline of History and six journals from the discipline of Law were determined as selected journals.

Then, to meet the 30 RAs from the selected journals, this study selected 15 RAs from each discipline. These RAs were selected based on the citation numbers. In this regard, RAs that contain more citations are more potentially selected as data sets. The reason for employing this standard is that this study intends to measure citation functions with RAs. Thus, determining more citation numbers for selecting data sets may create more opportunities for analyzing citation functions.

3. Data Analysis

This study used a framework from Wang (2006) to analyze citation functions because this framework could identify the authors' purpose when citing prior texts. In this regard, when the author cites a source, there could be one of three possible purposes: it could function to provide *background information*, provide *evidence*, or present *beliefs, ideas, and issues circulated*. *Background information* means all the information about the topics when the authors may need to provide the context of the topic. *Evidence* means all the information that functions to support the authors' claim. Here, the authors use the cited sources as evidence to support their claim. The function *beliefs, ideas, and issues circulated* means that the authors present the cited sources to provide more information. However, in this function, all the information disseminated or circulated in the text is from the cited sources, while the citing authors only describe or report it. This function is also called a source of meaning because the authors mainly get their ideas from their cited sources. In this study, these three functional categories were used to discover the functions of cited sources in the data. By employing this framework, the results could develop the literature and inform the authors about which functional purposes to follow.

Then, the steps for analysing data sets were conducted through reading the corpora using top-down approach (from top to down) for at least three times. Then, every text that contains a citation was carefully comprehended to ensure their functions and they were matched using a framework from Wang (2006) as presented earlier in this sub-section.

4. Reliabilities

To ensure the reliability of the analysis results in the present study, the results of the analysis and the finding examples were checked by two supervisors in linguistics who are experts in genre studies and citation analysis. In this regard, once there was an issue with the data analysis results, we discussed it until we reached an agreement. Unfortunately, there was no disagreement with them (100% agreement). Thus, this process may indicate that the analysis results are reliable.

Results and Discussion

After analyzing the functions of cited sources using Wang's framework, the results are reported into three sub-sections to answer the three research questions. The three sub-sections are the functions of cited sources in Indonesian History RAs, the functions of cited sources in Indonesian Law RAs, and the comparison between the findings from these two data sets.

1. The Functions of Cited Sources in Indonesian History RAs

After analyzing the functions of cited sources in Indonesian History RAs, the results revealed that citations contain three functions: background information, evidence, and beliefs, ideas, issues circulated. However, these three functions appeared differently in each section of Indonesian History RAs. More details of these analytical findings are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. The Functions of Cited Sources in Indonesian History RAs

Functions of Cited Sources in Indonesian History RAs	Appearances in the introduction section	Appearances in the method section	Appearances in the results and discussion section
Background information	**158 (97.53%)**	21 (35.59%)	33 (7.95%)
Evidence	-	-	**295 (71.08%)**
Beliefs, ideas, and issues circulated	4 (2.47%)	**38 (64.41%)**	87 (20.97%)
Total numbers	**162 (100%)**	**59 (100%)**	**415 (100%)**

As presented in Table 1, the cited sources have different functions in each section. In this regard, while they are mostly used as *background information* in the introduction section, they mostly function to present *beliefs, ideas, and issues circulated* in the method section. However, they are mostly used as evidence in the results and discussion sections. This finding showed that cited sources may function differently in each section of History RAs.

2. The Functions of Cited Sources in Indonesian Law RAs

After analyzing the functions of cited sources in Indonesian Law RAs, the results revealed that the function of cited sources is used as *background information*, *evidence,* and *beliefs, ideas, issues circulated*. However, while background information appeared to be the most dominant in the introduction, and beliefs, ideas, and issues circulated appeared to be the most dominant in the two other sections (method, and results and discussion sections), evidence seems to be the least employed in this selected discipline. More details of the analysis results are described in Table 2.

Table 2. The Functions of Cited Sources in Indonesian Law RAs

Functions of cited sources in Indonesian Law RAs	Appearances in the introduction section	Appearances in the method section	Appearances in the results and discussion section
Background information	**177 (89.40%)**	1 (3.57%)	49 (11.01%)
Evidence	8 (4%)	-	111 (24.94%)
Beliefs, ideas, and issues circulated	13 (6.60%)	**27 (96.43%)**	**285 (64.05%)**
Total numbers	**198 (100%)**	**28 (100%)**	**445 (100%)**

As presented in Table 2, cited sources have different functions in some sections. In this regard, function as background information appears to be the most dominant in the introduction section, while beliefs, ideas, and issues circulated appear dominantly in the method section, and results and discussion section. In contrast, function as evidence is the least employed function in the introduction and method sections. These findings indicate that the functions of cited sources in the introduction section are different from those of the method section, and results and discussion sections. More details about the employments of the three citation functions are exemplified with data found in the present data sets.

a. Function as Background Information

This citation function appears to be the most dominant in the introduction section of both data sets. However, this function rarely appears in the other two sections. The

examples of this function in both data sets are presented as follows:

Example 01: ***"Perang Aceh menjadi salah satu fenomena terbesar*** *dari bentuk permusuhan kolonial Belanda terhadap Islam, selain tampak dalam berbagai kebijakan politik seperti dalam hal politik haji, subsidi terhadap kelompok keagamaan, dan pengawasan di sector pendidikan bagi orang pribumi khususnya pengajaran agama (Protschy, 2011: 124)."* HIS03

[**The War in Aceh became one of the most significant phenomena** of animosity between Dutch colonialists and Islam, in addition to the various (anti-Islam) political policies such as in the case of the politics of pilgrimage, subsidies to religious groups, and supervision in the education sector for Indigenous people, especially for religious teaching (Protschy, 2011: 124)]

Example 02: *"**Peneliti yang banyak menggali kekayaan naskah Betawi adalah Chambert-Loir. Dalam penelitiannya, dia berhasil mengungkap peran pengarang penyalin yang berasal dari tiga generasi dalam keluarga Fadli.** Penelitian yang mengungkap tradisi penulisan naskah di Betawi juga dilakukan oleh Maria Indra Rukmi (1997). Peneliti menggali khusus peran Algemeene Secratarie, Batavia sebagai sebuah tempat penyalinan. Di kantor ini banyak naskah disalin oleh para penyalin profesional."* HIS06

[**The researcher who explored more of Betawi manuscripts was Chambert-Loir. In his research, he succeeded in exposing copywriters' roles from three generations in Fadli's family**. Research that investigated the tradition of writing scripts in Betawi was also carried out by Maria Indra Rukmi (1997). She explored the role of Algemeene Secretary Batavia as a place of copying the script. In this place, many texts were copied by professionals.]

In Example 01, the author describes the most significant phenomenon that occurred in Aceh as an example how Islamic movement, which was considered as a threat. It illustrates the topics to readers and intends to provide comprehension about the contexts of the study. Thus, the example intends to provide *background information* for the readers. Thus, the provided citations aim to provide background information to readers. In Example 02, the author uses the cited source about the Betawi script in previous investigations to inform topics and overview the context of the current study. The main aims to this information is to provide *background information* for the readers. By comprehending the topics and the context of the topics, authors in these examples indicate that their citations provide *background information*. This functional citation mainly appear to be the most dominant in the present data sets. This finding seems to support earlier findings that citations the introduction section of Indonesian RAs are mainly used to provide *background information* (Adnan, 2010). In contrast, it sounds different from those in English research article introductions (RAIs) that reviewing literature may aims to evaluate knowledge and create a space for further research (Swales, 1990).

b. Functions as Evidence

This function mostly appears in the results and discussion section in only one corpus, Indonesian History RAs. Usually, this function is used to support the authors' claims. Some examples of the cited sources functioning to provide evidence are:

Example 03: *"Untuk melaksanakan pengawasan atas dipatuhinya kontrak politik oleh raja Buleleng dan Jembrana, **seorang kontrolir Belanda yang tunduk kepada perintah asisten residen ini ditempatkan di Singaraja**. Meskipun pada prinsipnya pemerintah Belanda tidak ikut campur pada persoalan internal raja-raja Bali, termasuk di Buleleng dan Jembrana yang sudah membuat kontrak politik, **kehadiran kontrolir ini menjadi awal dari intervensi politik kolonial terhadap kehidupan di Bali*** (**Koloniaal Verslag over het jaar 1856, hlm. 34**)." HIS03

[To supervise over the fulfillment of political contracts by the king of Buleleng and Jembrana, **a Dutch controller who was loyal to the assistant resident was posted to Singaraja**. Although, in principle, the Dutch government did not interfere in the internal affairs of Bali kings, including in Buleleng and

Jembrana based on the already signed political contracts, however, **(in reality) the presence of the controller had become colonial political intervention in Bali (Koloniaal Verslag over het jaar 1856, p. 34)**.]

In the Example 03, the author firstly makes a claim (as underlined) and then cites a source about the history of a political issue in Bali. Because the author makes a claim before the citation, and the context of the cited sources are to support the claim, this example indicates to provide *evidence* to support the author's claim. This functional citation mainly appears in the results and discussion section in the present study. The reason sound clear that in the discussion section, authors make a claim, which the claim needs to be supported with literature. This finding seems to support German literary research (Frost, 1979), in agriculture and chemistry (Bahadofar & Gholami, 2017), and in Chinese expositional texts (Wang, 2006) where the majority of the sources are used to provide *evidence.*

c. Function to Present Beliefs, Ideas, and Issues Circulated

This function appears to be the most dominant in the method section. In this regard, its appearances are 38 (64.41%) in the method section of the History discipline and 27 (96.43%) in the method section of the Law discipline. The reason is that most authors in these two data sets used citations as the sources of ideas. However, it was rarely found in the other sections. The ways authors employed this function in their research articles are presented as follows:

Example 04: *"Hukum merupakan bagian dari karya cipta manusia yang dimanfaatkan untuk menegakkan martabat manusia. Manusia tidak menghamba kepada abjad dan titik koma yang terdapat dalam undang-undang sebagai buah perwujudan nalar, tetapi hukum yang menghamba kepada kepentingan manusia untuk menegakkan nilai-nilai kemanusiaan.* ***Hukum tidak hanya produk rasio, tetapi bagian dari intuisi. Relevansinya dengan nilai dasar kebangsaan ialah mewujudkan konsepsi keadilan yang beradab, seperti sila kedua Pancasila.[11]***" LW05

[Law is a part of the work of the human inventions that are used to uphold human dignity. Humans do not serve the alphabet and the semicolon contained in the law as the logical realization, but the law serves humans' interests to uphold human values. **The law is not only a ratio product, but it is a part of intuition. Its relevance to the fundamental value of nationality is to realize a conception of civilized justice, like the second principle of Pancasila.[11]**]

Example 05: "***Mengambil fenomena perubahan pemasyarakatan dalam masyarakat industrial Barat sebagai titik keberangkatan, Mayr menyebutkan empat elemen kunci* yang *dapat ditandai dalam perubahan sistem koreksional, yakni* 23:** (1) public punishments involving the infliction of pain declined, and the mind started to replace the body as the object of punishment; (2) a centralized state apparatus for the control of crime and the care or cure of other types of deviance emerged; (3) these groups became increasingly separated into different types, each with its experts and professionals; (4) deviants became increasingly segregated into closed institutions, and the prison emerged as the favored form of punishment and behavior modification." LW07

[**Based on the phenomenon of penal reform in Western industrial society as a starting point, Mayr mentioned four key elements that can be marked in a corrective system change, namely 23:** (1) public punishments involving the infliction of pain declined, and the mind started to replace the body as the object of punishment; (2) a centralized state apparatus for the control of crime and the care or cure of other types of deviance emerged; (3) these groups became increasingly separated into different types, each with its experts and professionals; (4) deviants became increasingly segregated into closed institutions, and the prison emerged as the favored form of punishment and behavior modification.]

The examples above are used to present *beliefs, ideas, and issues circulated* because the authors gained the information mainly from their cited sources. In Example 04, the

meaning of the text is gained from the cited sources because the ideas are mainly from the citation. Also, Example 05 basically gets its ideas from the issue circulated in the Western industrial tradition, which is from the citation. In these two contexts, the authors mainly get the ideas or concepts they are discussing from the cited sources. This finding means that the source of the authors' meaning is the cited sources, which are commonly found in the method section in the present study. This functional appears to be the most dominant in the method section. The reason may be that authors intend to show ideas originally from the cited sources. Thus, they mostly used ideas from circulated in literature. This finding is also consistent with those in Australian expositions, where authors mostly used sources to create *ideas* and *issues* that are commonly circulated in a particular socio-cultural setting (Wang, 2006).

3. The Comparison of Citation Functions In Indonesian History and Law RAs

After comparing the analysis results found in Indonesian History and Law RAs, the comparison showed similarities and differences in citation functions in both data sets. The similarities are that in the introduction section, the functions of cited sources in both data sets are used mostly for background information, which the History RAs employed in 97.53%, and Law RAs used in 89.40% of the total appearances. Then, the next similarity in both data sets is that in the method section, the function of cited sources is used mainly as beliefs, ideas, and issues circulated. In this regard, the History RAs used it in 64.41% of the total citation appearances, while the Law RAs employed it in 94.43% of the total citation appearances in the method section. In contrast, in the results and discussion section, the function of cited sources in both data sets is different. In this regard, while the cited sources in History RAs function mostly for providing evidence (71.08%), these cited sources are used as beliefs, ideas, and issues circulated in the Law RAs (64.05%). This comparison implies that while the functions of cited sources in both data sets have similarities, they also have differences. However, their similarities are more than their differences because they share similarities in two sections (the introduction and method sections), while their differences are only in the one combined section (the results and discussion section).

The findings of this study showed that citations have different functions in each section of Indonesian History and Law RAs. This finding implies that authors have different purposes when citing literature in different RA sections. In the introduction section, for example, the function of the cited sources tends to provide *background information*. This finding is consistent with earlier research in the Indonesian RAIs in the disciplines of education, linguistics, and social-political science, where it was found that most cited sources are used to provide *background information* (Adnan, 2010). The reason may be that non-native English learners tend to circulate knowledge rather than evaluate their cited sources (Lee et al., 2018). In contrast, this finding is inconsistent with English RAIs, in which the primary purpose of the citations in the introduction is to *create a research space* within the literature (Swales, 1990). In this regard, citations in English RAIs are used to review previous studies, justify the research topics, indicate gaps from previous studies, state the general claim (Arsyad et al., 2018), show research contributions more visible and credible within the academic community (Frachtenberg, 2023), and to create research innovations (Warsidi et al., 2024; Warsidi & Adnan, 2024). These inconsistent findings between the Indonesian and English RAIs are related to the purpose of employing the citations, which then might affect their citation functions.

In the method section, the present research findings showed that citations in both data sets are alike as both data sets tend to use citations to present *beliefs, ideas, and issues circulated*. These findings mean that the authors use citations as a source of ideas and meanings. The reason for this finding may be that the method section needs analytical frameworks designed from earlier research for the data analysis in the current context. For this purpose, article authors provide citations to provide ideas and meanings for convincing their target readers. This finding is similar to

those found in Australian expositional texts, where the sources are used to create *ideas* and *issues* that are commonly circulated in a particular socio-cultural setting (Wang, 2006). In this context, the authors mostly agree and have a positive attitude toward the cited sources. For example, the author wrote, "This study used the historical method from Gottschalk (1983), which contains…". In this example, the author mainly gets their ideas from the cited source and also agrees with the citation. In this context, thus, the citation is the main source of ideas.

However, in the results and discussion section, the present research findings indicated that citations found in History RAs have different functions from those found in Law RAs. In this regard, while authors in the History research article discussions (RADs) used citations mostly to provide evidence to support authors' claims, authors in the Law RADs used citations mostly to present *beliefs, ideas, and issues circulated*. The reason for these different findings may be that authors in the History discipline used citations to validate their historical claims, and thus, they may need evidence of specific information for support. In contrast, authors in the Law discipline employed citations to highlight their legal arguments to be more interpretive or argumentative. The finding in History RAs supports those found in German literary research, where the majority of the citations are used to support the authors' statements or interpretations (Frost, 1979), in agriculture and chemistry RAs to provide *support* (Bahadofar & Gholami, 2017), and in Chinese expositional texts, where the majority of the sources are used to provide *evidence* (Wang, 2006). Furthermore, it is similar to the Chinese RAs, where cited sources are mostly for confirmation and support (Lin et al., 2013).

In contrast, these findings are different from the English tradition. In English RADs, the functions of citation may either support the author's claim or compare it with the current research findings, which is shown in Swales' discussion model (1990). In high-impact factor journals, most citations are used to compare with the current research findings, and the next most frequent functions are for support recommendation and interpretation (Dobakhti & Zohrabi, 2018). Thus, the functions of the citations in the Indonesian RADs are similar to those in German literary research (Frost, 1979), Chinese RAs (Lin et al., 2013), and agriculture and chemistry RAs (Bahadofar & Gholami, 2017), but they are different from those in English RAs. This finding means that in the discussion section, Indonesian authors in the present study rarely evaluated their findings with existing literature, as likely found in earlier study (Warsidi & Maniam, 2024). These inconsistent findings provide evidence that genre may be influenced by the nationality, language, and disciplinary backgrounds of their authors.

Conclusion

This study mainly set out to explore the functions of cited sources in Indonesian History and Law RAs and compared the functions of cited sources in these two data sets. The results showed three important findings as conclusions. Firstly, citations in Indonesian History RAs have three functions. They are background information, evidence, and beliefs, ideas and issues circulated. However, in the introduction section, they tend to function as background information; in the method section, they tend to present beliefs, ideas, and issues circulated; in the results and discussion section, they function as evidence. Secondly, citations in the Law RAs also have three functions as likely in the History RAs. However, in the introduction, they mostly function as background information, but in the other two sections, they mostly function to present beliefs, ideas, and issues circulated. Thirdly, the comparison between the two data sets implies that they share similarities in citation functions in the introduction and method sections. In the introduction section, both data sets tend to use citations for background information, while in the method section, both of them tend to use citations to present beliefs, ideas, and issues circulated. However, in the results and discussion section, the citations in both data sets have different functions. In this regard, while citations in History RADs function as evidence, they tend to function as present beliefs, ideas, and issues circulated in Law RADs.

The comparison implies that while authors in these two data sets contain similarities in the introduction section and method section, in one hand, they also have differences citation functions in their results and discussion section, on the other hand. The discussion by comparing the present findings and literature also implies that the functions of citations in the present research are different from those in English RAs. The Indonesian authors in the present study use citations to provide *background information* and *evidence*. In contrast, English RAs employ citations not only to provide *background information* and *evidence* but also to *find the knowledge gaps* within the literature and *compare their research findings with the literature* in their discussion.

These present findings may draw theoretical and practical implications. Theoretically, these may add some insights to the literature that citations in RAs may have different functions in each section. Besides, citations may also have different functions in different discourse communities, which indicates that one community may have its own conventions of citation functions. Practically, these findings may provide awareness of article authors regarding the functions of citations in writing RAs. Unfortunately, this study is limited to analyzing Indonesian RAs in two disciplines, and thus, the results may not be generalized to other disciplinary RAs. Because of this limitation, further studies on citation functions by comparing Indonesian and English RAs published in reputable journals are recommended to create more meaningful insights into the literature and for practical benefits for students and novice authors.

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