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CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF INDONESIAN AUTHORS FOR PUBLISHING ARTICLES IN ENGLISH JOURNALS: A MICROSTRUCTURE STUDY IN IHLRAMS

Warsidi Warsidi*
Universitas Islam Makassar, Indonesia
warsidi.dty@uim-makassar.ac.id
*correspondence: warsidi.dty@uim-makassar.ac.id
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Abstract
The number of generic microstructure studies within English research articles (RAs) has recently increased worldwide. However, studies on this area in the Indonesian context are still limited, specifically in the method section. To address this need, in this paper, the researcher focuses on analyzing the microstructure of 30 Indonesian History and Law Research Article Methods (IHLRAMs) because these two disciplines have never been investigated earlier in the Indonesian context. For the analysis, an English model found by Zhang and Wannaruk (2016) was employed for the initial analytical framework in both corpora. However, both data sets only partially employ this English model; thus, further analysis employed a top-down approach. The results showed that the corpora have their own microstructure models, called Indonesian history research article methods (IHRAMs) and Indonesian law research article methods (ILRAMs) models. These two findings models imply that the microstructure of the Indonesian history and law RAMs is different from an English model. Thus, these differences become a challenge for Indonesian authors and possibly also those whose English is their foreign language (EFL) when they want to publish articles in English journals. On the other hand, comprehending these differences may improve their awareness, as well as their opportunities for publishing RAs in English journals.

Keywords: an English model, history and law discipline, Indonesian RAMs, microstructure

Introduction

In recent years, there have been increasing numbers of microstructure studies on research articles (RAs). It refers to organizational ideas within sections of RAs, which more scholars call moves and steps (Amnuai, 2019; Andika et al., 2018; Lu et al., 2021; Ye, 2019), while some others prefer called moves and strategies (Arianto & Basthomi, 2021; Arsyad & Zainil, 2023; Warsidi, 2021, 2023; Warsidi & Adnan, 2024; Warsidi et al., 2024). In this regard, various linguistic scholars investigated this fundamental issue within RAs focusing on different sections in the global context. For example, some linguists have investigated microstructures in the introduction

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section (Warsidi, 2024; Warsidi, Halim, et al., 2025; Xu & Nesi, 2019; Zainuddin & Shaari, 2021) and some others have studied this area in other sections (Arsyad, Purwo, et al., 2020; Arsyad, Zaim, et al., 2020; Warsidi, 2022; Warsidi, Adnan, et al., 2025; Warsidi & Maniam, 2024). However, method section becomes the least investigated to date. Thus, this study intends to investigate deeply comprehend this section by reviewing it in the following paragraphs.

In the method section, Zhang and Wannaruk (2016) analyzed it in 120 educational empirical research article methods (RAMs) published in international high-impact factor journals. They employed two moves: describing the data collection procedures and describing the data analysis procedures. They classified a move with less than 60% employment as optional, more than 60% up to 99% as conventional, and 100% employment as obligatory. The results show that all the RAMs (100%) apply a move that describes data collection (DC), and 77.5% of them employ the procedures of data analysis (DA) move. They found a new move in the corpora (research design), but it only appears in 52% of the RAMs. Thus, the new move (research design) is optional, the DA is conventional, and the DC is obligatory in the educational RAMs in high-impact factor journals.

Furthermore, Tessuto (2015) investigated the microstructure of law RAMs written in English that were published in English-speaking countries. For the analysis, he employed a three-move model: Move 1 (introducing the research method (qualitative/ quantitative)), Move 2 (indicating data collection procedures), and Move 3 (indicating data analysis procedures). The analysis found that Move 1 (introducing the research method (qualitative/quantitative) appears in 54% of the total RAMs. Then, Move 2 (indicating data-collection procedure) appears in all RAMs (100%), and Move 3 (indicating data analysis procedure (by tables/figures) occurs in 58% of the total RAMs. These findings imply that Move 2 (data collection) is the only obligatory move, while the other two moves are optional.

Kutay (2016) analyzed the rhetorical moves within 10 RAMs in the surgical nursing discipline published in Indian journals. He did not employ any tested model for the analysis but rather directly analyzed the rhetorical moves within the RAMs. The analysis found several moves in the RAMs. The first move is identifying the research (IR) by presenting either research designs, research settings, research aims, research methods, or a research framework. The second move is details related to sampling (DS), where the selection criteria, sampling procedures, and population are presented. The third move is data collection (DC), which involves presenting the instruments and procedures used for the data collection. The fourth move concerns the validity or reliability of the instrument (VRI). The last move is data analysis (DA), where the instruments and procedures used for the data analysis are described. However, only DC and DA are obligatory among those rhetorical moves, meaning that 100% of the total RAMs employ these two moves.

However, Cotos *et al.* (2017) discovered different functional moves and steps from those found above. They investigated the generic structures of 900 experimental RAMs in 30 disciplinary English RAs from high-impact factor journals. The authors of the RAs are both native and non-native English speakers. For the analysis, they used a top-down approach. They found three obligatory moves and 16 important steps. The moves are re-contextualizing the study method, describing the study, and establishing credibility. All 16 steps appear in 52% to 100% of the total RAs.

As reviewed above, the functional moves of indicating data collection and presenting data analysis procedures are important in the RAMs published in reputable international and Indian journals, while other moves are mostly optional and conventional. However, this review remains a question of whether these two functional moves are also important in other RAMs from different language backgrounds, such as Indonesian.

In the Indonesian context to date, studies on RAs have been conducted in the abstract (Kurniawan & Sabila, 2021) and introduction (Adnan, 2011; Arsyad & Adila, 2018; Arsyad & Arono, 2016; Rochma et al., 2020), findings and discussion (Suherdi et al., 2020), and discussion (Arsyad, Purwo, et al., 2020; Arsyad, Zaim, et al., 2020). However, research on the microstructures of RAMs is still the least conducted and limited. During my review, only one study on RAMs was conducted by Arsyad (2013). He investigated discursive structures and linguistic features in 51 Indonesian RAMs published by university-based publications in Indonesia. The corpora are from the social sciences and humanities, consisting of 15 RAMs in education, 12 RAMs in economics, 7 RAMs in linguistics, 6 RAMs in psychology, and 7 RAMs in social science. For the analysis, he employed a seven-moves structure model (SMS), and the results show that no move is obligatory found in the data, and one move of the SMS model (Move 6, limitation) does not appear in all RAMs. This finding indicates that presenting data collection and analysis procedures is also not obligatory.

However, the reviews above indicate that research on microstructures of Indonesian RAMs to date is still limited. Besides, these reviews also still remain questionable whether the microstructure of Indonesian RAMs is also different from those found in a model of English RAMs published in English-speaking countries and reputable international journals. By identifying this gap, this study intends to analyze the microstructure of RAMs in the disciplines of History and Law because, to date, none has analyzed this issue in Indonesian RAMs in these two selected disciplines. Besides, examining the microstructure of RAMs in these two selected disciplines is crucial because these two disciplines may have specific domains and special standards of scholarly communication. For example, in the History discipline, the microstructure of RAMs plays a crucial role in interpreting and constructing narratives of historical events, trends, and historical settings. Then, in the Law discipline, it is also essential for presenting legal arguments, explaining legislation and case law interpretations, and analyzing legal concepts. Understanding these potential contributions, this study intends to investigate microstructures of Indonesian RAMs in these two disciplines, by focusing on the following research questions:

1. What are the microstructure models of Indonesian RAMs in the disciplines of History and Law like?
2. Why did the Indonesian authors in these selected disciplines write their RAMs as they do?

These two questions are very interesting for further investigation because they will contribute to some insights into the literature regarding the microstructure of Indonesian RAMs and RAMs in other countries whose English is their Foreign Language (EFL). Besides, the present study may also contribute to creating awareness for Indonesian authors in these selected disciplines and other academicians in EFL countries about how their narrations are structured in their

RAMs. Through these, they will know their challenges when writing RAs in English and then improve their likely opportunities for publishing their RAs in reputable English journals. Then, as microstructure in the present study means analyzing how language narrations are structured to achieve authors' communicative purposes in RAMs, the findings may contribute to the applied linguistics as references and basic understandings to design teaching materials for English for specific purposes (ESP) and English for academic purposes (EAP), more particularly for publishing purposes. Thus, investigating these questions is significant to contribute to genre studies in RAMs theoretically and practically.

Method

Data sets

The present study has two data sets, including primary and secondary data. More details of the primary data are presented as follows:

Primary data

The primary data of the present study are Indonesian History and Law RAMs. To select them, eligibility criteria for selecting RAMs as corpus studies are adopted. The first is setting standard criteria for selecting journals. Journals were selected based on the highest accreditation ranks pointed out by the Indonesian Directorate of Higher Degree Research and Education (Direktorat Jendral Pendidikan Tinggi/ DIKTI) in 2017 and 2018, with decree number 21/E/KPT/2018 and 32a/E/KPT/2017. Based on these decrees, the highest journal rank in these two disciplines in the Indonesian language receives a rating Science and Technology Index (*Sinta)* 2, and no journal accepts *Sinta* 1. Thus, the journals that got the rating *Sinta* 2 in these two disciplines were selected because they had been considered as having the highest rating and quality journals in Indonesia. The selection process showed nine journals meeting these criteria; three are from the History discipline, and the six remaining are from the Law discipline. The selected journals are presented in Table 1.

The second is setting eligibility criteria for selecting 30 RAMs as corpus studies from the journals listed from the above criteria, which are 15 RAMs from each discipline. The reason for selecting them as corpus studies is because they are still among the least investigated in Indonesia. Then, 30 RAMs are selected as samples because they are considered to have represented the present study. Some earlier studies employed fewer samples than the present study, such as Suryani *et al. (2013)* employed five corpora; Anthony and Sajed (2017) investigated 12 corpora; Kutay (2016) analyzed ten corpora; Mozaheb (2015) utilized 20 corpora; Dobakti (2013) employed 30 RAs. Thus, the researcher considered that 30 RAMs for the corpus analyses represented the present study.

To select the 30 RAMs, the researcher randomly selected five articles from each of the three History journals, so the total number of corpus analyses from the History discipline is 15. Then, the researcher randomly chose 2 to 3 articles from each of the six Law journals. The numbers of corpus analyses in the Law discipline are also 15 RAMs. Thus, the total numbers of corpora are 30 RAMs from both the History and Law disciplines, which are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. The selected journals and numbers of RAMs as corpus studies

No.	Journal names	Numbers of selected RAMs
Indonesian Journals in History Discipline		
1	*Jurnal Sejarah Citra Lekha*	5
2	*Patanjala : Jurnal Penelitian Sejarah dan Budaya*	5
3	*Patra Widya: Seri Penerbitan Penelitian Sejarah dan Budaya*	5
Total numbers of the History RAs		**15**
Indonesian Journals in Law Discipline		
1	*Ijtihad: Jurnal Wacana Hukum Islam dan Kemanusiaan*	2
2	*Al Ahwal: Jurnal Hukum Keluarga Islam*	2
3	*Jurnal Legislasi Indonesia*	3
4	*Justicia Islamica: Jurnal kajian hukum dan sosial*	2
5	*Mimbar Hukum*	3
6	*Masalah-masalah Hukum*	3
Total numbers of the Indonesian Law RAs		**15**
Total numbers of selected RAs from both disciplines		**30**

Secondary data

Secondary data of the present study are writing guidelines and journal templates provided by the selected journals. Their writing guidelines and templates were found on their online websites and downloaded for analysis. The purpose of analyzing their guidelines and templates is to discover the authors' reasons for why they wrote their RAMs as they did. Thus, the analysis results regarding these data were reported in the discussion section.

Data analysis

To discover microstructure models in both History and Law RAMs, the researcher first employed Zhang and Wannaruk's model (2016) for analyzing both data sets. The purpose of using this English model was to ensure whether it, which was designed based on English RAMs published in reputable international journals, is ably capturing the microstructure of RAMs in the present study. However, the results revealed that this model was not appropriate for the present data sets, and thus, further analyses were conducted using a top-down approach (Warsidi, 2021; Warsidi & Adnan, 2024) and comprehending linguistic signals to indicate functional moves and steps. This analysis aims to discover a microstructure model(s) that could represent both data sets.

In the microstructure analysis, moves and steps have to be clearly defined to avoid any wrong analysis. "A move is a broader class of communicative events than a step because one move might have several steps" (Warsidi, 2021). However, some scholars call steps also strategies. Based on this definition, steps or strategies become parts of a move.

After moves and steps or strategies have been clearly defined, top-down approaches (Warsidi, 2021; Warsidi & Adnan, 2024) were employed to find moves and strategies located in every single sentence, clause, phrase, or group of sentences. Then, to recognize whether a phrase, clause, or sentence contains a move or strategy, the researcher used strategies from Loi *et al.* (2016) by recognizing linguistic signals to comprehend the meaning and purpose of texts and then giving them codes. By

employing these approaches and strategies, the researcher could find the microstructure of RAMs in the present study.

In analyzing guidelines and templates as the secondary data, the analysis focused only on the method section to discover any instruction signaling microstructures of the method, including such as research approach, research method, research design, data collection, data analysis, procedures for the analysis, data, validity, etc. Once any of these language signals appear in journals' guidelines or templates, they are read and analyzed carefully to ensure that they are the instructions for the method section. Then, they were counted and reported in a table form.

Lastly, to ensure the reliability of data analysis results, the results (including the accuracy of the translation) were checked and reviewed several times by five scholars having completed Ph.D. in linguistics, three of whom are experts in genre analysis of RAs, and the other two are experts in linguistics. The recheck and review results revealed no significant issue with the analysis results, and thus, the data analysis results must be valid and reliable. More details about their comments are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. The reliability of the data analysis results

Reviewers	Comments regarding the data analysis results	Meaning
1	Good	Reliable
2	Good	Reliable
3	I have basically no argument with the overall quality of the thesis and the results have been set out logically and have adequate exposition.	Reliable
4	The results are presented clearly with good English, good grammar, and good spelling.	Reliable
5	The results are clear, logical, and founded with adequate exposition and interpretation.	Reliable

Findings and Discussion

Findings

This section aims to address the questions as presented in the introduction section. Firstly, what are the microstructure models of the Indonesian RAMs in the disciplines of History and Law like? Then, why did they write RAMs as they do? To answer these questions, the researcher employed a top-down approach to analyzing these selected disciplines. However, not all RAs in these two disciplines have a method section in their papers. For example, among the 15 RAs in the History discipline, four of them did not describe a method used in their study. More RA numbers that have a method section are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Number of RAs in both History and Law disciplines employing a method

Number of RA Disciplines	Number of RAs employing a method	Number of RAs without a method
15 RAs in the History discipline	11	4
15 RAs in the Law discipline	10	5
Total numbers	21	9

Table 3 shows interesting data, i.e., among the 15 RAs in the History discipline, only 11 (73.33%) RAs have a method, while the other four RAs (26.67%) do not

have this section. Then, among 15 RAs in the Law discipline, only 10 RAs (67,67%) employ a method, while the other five (33.33%) do not have this section. Therefore, to answer the two research questions above, the present study focused its analysis only on those RAs employing a method but ignoring those that do not contain a method in their RAs. The reason for choosing them is that the present study's analysis focused only on the method section. Thus, the total number of RAs as corpus analyses is 21 RAMs, of which 11 RAs are from the History discipline, and 10 RAs are from the Law discipline.

Using a top-down approach to discover the microstructure models of history and law RAMs

The texts from both data sets are concise, so the information about a method is either lacking or limited. Then, the microstructure analysis using a top-down approach identified two new models in the data. The new models are called the IHRAMs and ILRAMs models.

IHRAMs model

This model was designed based on the microstructure analysis using a top-down approach in the History RAMs. It has three moves, as presented in Figure 1.

Move 1: Describing the research approach or method
Move 2: Describing the data collection procedures
Strategy 2A: Elaborating on the data collection procedure(s)
Strategy 2B: Detailing the data collection procedure(s),
Strategy 2C: Describing the scope of the study
Strategy 2D: Describing the sources of the data or respondents
Move 3: Describing the data analysis procedures
Strategy 3A: Recounting the data analysis procedures
Strategy 3B: Detailing the conceptual formula

Figure 1. The IHRAMs model

To find out the applicability of this new model, the researcher employed the new model to analyze the History RAMs. The results showed that all History RAMs employed the three moves of the model. Thus, this model is applicable to the History RAMs in the present study. The summary analysis results are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Results of Employing the IHRAMs model to analyze the microstructure of Indonesian History RAMs

Moves and Strategies	**Number of articles**	
	IHRAMs (N=11)	**Percentage**
Move 1: Describing the research approach or method	**11**	**100%**
Move 2: Describing the data collection procedures	**11**	**100%**
Strategy 2A: Elaborating on the data collection procedure(s) and/or,	1	9.10%
Strategy 2B: Detailing the data collection procedure(s),	8	72.73%
Strategy 2C: Describing the scope of the study (new) and/or	3	27.27%
Strategy 2D: Describing the sources of the data or respondents (new)	4	36.36%
Move 3: Describing the data analysis procedures	**11**	**100%**
Strategy 3A: Recounting the data analysis procedures	7	63.64%
Strategy 3B: Detailing the conceptual formula (modified)	4	36.36%

Notes: N= Number of Indonesian RAMs

Table 4 above shows that all moves appear in all Indonesian History RAMs, which indicates obligatorily. More details about the move employment of this model are presented in the following moves and strategies.

Move 1: Describing the research approach or method

As found in the analysis, the Indonesian RAMs tend to employ a term *approach* rather than *design*. This term is found in all 11 History RAMs (100%). This finding means that Move 1, *describing the research approach,* is obligatory. The ways of employing this move are shown in the following two examples:

Example 1: ***"Melalui metode sejarah kritis dengan pendekatan politik ekologi****, bencana alam tanah longsor yang semakin serius mengancam kehidupan masyarakat Indonesia dibahas dalam tulisan ini.* ***Metode sejarah kritis digunakan untuk mengungkap historical aspect dari peristiwa bencana alam*** *dalam kaitannya dengan kebijakan dan masifnya penetrasi ekonomi global yang kapitalistik dan eksploitatif terhadap sumber daya alam."* HIS04
[**Through a critical history method with an ecological, political approach**, landslides that increasingly threatened the lives of Indonesian people are discussed in this paper. **The critical history method is used to investigate the historical aspects of natural disaster**s concerning the policies and the massive penetration of the global economy that is capitalistic and exploitative of the natural resources.]

Example 2: ***"Pembahasan dalam artikel ini menggunakan pendekatan kodikologi****. Hal itu sejalan yang dikatakan Mulyadi (1974) bahwa kodikologi fokusnya pada fisik naskah untuk mengungkap waktu, tempat penyalinan, para penyalin dan pengarang, termasuk iluminasi.* ***Pendekatan ini ditunjang juga dengan tekstologi****, terutama berkaitan dengan teks yang mengungkap sejarah naskah, seperti kolofon dan bagian catatan."* HIS06
[**The discussion of this article uses the codicology approach**. This approach is in line with Mulyadi (1974) that the focus of codicology is on the physicality of the manuscript to reveal the time, place of copying, copyists, and authors, including illuminations. **This approach is also supported by the textology (of the texts)**, especially regarding the history of the texts, such as colophons and notes sections.]

Example 3: *"Agar pertanyaan tersebut dapat terjawab,* ***tulisan ini akan menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif.*****"** HIS07
[To answer the questions, **this study will use a qualitative approach**.]

The authors in the examples above describe either the research approach or method used in their RAMs. In the bolded text, they clearly state the approach or method employed in their study. This move was found in all 11 RAMs.

Move 2: Describing the data collection procedures

This move, *describing the data collection procedures,* also appears in all 11 History RAMs (100%), so it is obligatory in the IHRAMs. However, the description of data collection is short, concise, and lacks details. Here are some examples:

Strategy 2B: Detailing the data collection procedure(s)

This strategy was found in eight (72.73%) IHRAMs. However, the description of data collection seems short, and thus, the information regarding the procedures of data collection is weak and lacks details. Examples of employing this strategy are:

Example 4: ***"Kajian ini menggunakan sumber-sumber yang diperoleh melalui studi dokumen dan metode sejarah lisan****.* ***Melalui studi dokumen, didapatkan sumber-sumber tertulis berupa catatan dan arsip-arsip pribadi koleksi Wardono sebagai salah seorang subyek dalam kajian ini***." HIS02

[**This study uses sources obtained through a study of documents and oral history methods. In the document study, some written sources, such as notes and personal archives of Wardono's collection, are one of the research focuses of this study.**]

Example 5: *"Dalam penelitian itu,* ***penelusuran tempat penyalinan atau skriptorium dalam naskah Betawi dilakukan juga dengan studi pustaka****."* HIS06
[In that research, in addition, **the investigation of the copying sites or scriptorium of the Betawi manuscripts library research was also conducted**.]

Example 6: ***"Selain menghimpun sumber melalui* library research*, proses heuristik dilakukan juga dengan melakukan* field research *dilakukan untuk menghimpun jejak historis*** *di kota-kota yang menjadi kajian dalam penelitian ini."* HIS10
[**In addition to the library research resources, the heuristic process was also carried out by conducting field research to collect the historical traces** in the cities.]

The examples above, in particular the bolded parts, explain how the data collection is conducted. Here, the authors mention the document they used for the investigation. As shown in all the examples above, they describe the ways they obtain their data. However, they only mention the sources of data collection, such as documents, oral historical methods, written sources, field research, etc. They do not mention their procedures of how to collect key information from documents, written and oral sources, field research, etc. As a result, their information regarding *the description of data collection* is shallow and lacks details.

Move 3: Describing the data analysis procedures

Move 3, *describing the data analysis procedures,* is employed by all 11 RAMs (100%), so this move is also obligatory. It has two strategies, *recounting the data analysis procedure(s)* and *detailing the conceptual formula.* However, to shorten the word numbers, the researcher only exemplifies one of the strategies.

Strategy 3A: Recounting the data analysis procedure(s)

This strategy means that the authors provide the details of how they analyze the data after the data have been collected. This strategy appears in seven History RAMs. The examples of this strategy in the data analyses are:

Example 7: *"Setelah diperoleh fakta-fakta sejarah yang kredibel melalui kritik sumber,* ***selanjutnya dilakukan interpretasi berdasar kronologi dan sebab akibat dan kemudian dikonstruksi menjadi kisah sejarah*** *(*history as written*)* (Garraghan, 1957)." HIS03
[After obtaining credible historical facts through a critical examination of sources, a further **interpretation was made in terms of chronology and cause and effect (relationship), and then they were constructed into a historical narrative (history as written**) (Garraghan, 1957).]

Example 8: *"Dekorasi itu mempunyai keunikan dalam iluminasi dan ilustrasi.* ***Iluminasi dan ilustrasi tersebut dideskripsikan, di antaranya dengan mengidentifikasi bentuk atau motif, warna, simbol, dan fungsinya dalam teks****."* HIS06
[The decoration is unique in terms of illuminations and illustrations. Then, **the illuminations and illustrations are described by considering things such as their shape or motif, color, symbols, and functions in the text**.]

Example 9: ***"Tahap pertama*** *yang dilakukan dalam metode sejarah* ***adalah heuristik*** *yang merupakan sebuah tahapan atau kegiatan menemukan dan menghimpun sumber, informasi, jejak*

> *masa lampau (Herlina, 2014: 7-15).* ***Tahap kedua adalah kritik yaitu memilah dan memilih juga menyaring keotentikan sumber-sumber yang telah ditemukan.***" HIS08
> [**The first stage** of the historical method **is heuristics** which is a stage or activity to find and collect sources, information, and traces of the past (Herlina, 2014: 7-15). **The second stage is critical scrutiny, namely sorting out and selecting as well as determining the authenticity of the sources that have been found**.]

All the examples above, particularly the bolded parts, explain the procedures used to analyze the data. As shown in Example 7, the author describes how the data are interpreted.

In summary, the microstructure analysis employing a top-down approach found a new model for IHRAMs. This new model was tested again with the data, and the results revealed that it is appropriate for the microstructure of RAMs in the History discipline because all three moves of the model are obligatory in the data.

ILRAMs model

This model was found based on the microstructure analysis in the Indonesian Law RAMs using a top-down approach. It only has two moves because not all Indonesian Law RAMs describe data collection and analysis. The authors mainly describe only one function, data collection or analysis. This model is presented in Figure 3.

Move 1: Describing the research approach
Move 2: Describing the ways of collecting and analyzing data
Strategy 2A: Describing the examples or location of the study and/ or strategy
Strategy 2B: Describing the research instrument(s) and/or strategy
Strategy 2C: Elaborating on the data collection procedure(s) and/or strategy
Strategy 2D: Describing the scope of the study or source of data and/or strategy
Strategy 2E: Detailing the data analysis procedures

Figure 2. The ILRAMs model

The results of employing the ILRAMs model showed that this model is very applicable to the data in Indonesian Law RAMs. Summary analysis results are presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Results of Using the ILRAM model to analyze the microstructure of Indonesian Law RAMs

Moves and strategies in the ILRAM model	**Number of articles**	
	ILRAMs (N=10)	**Percentage**
Move 1: Describing the research approach	**10**	**100%**
Move 2: Describing the ways of collecting and/ or analyzing data	**10**	**100%**
Strategy 2A: Describing the examples or location of the study and/ or	2	20%
Strategy 2B: Describing the research instrument(s) and/or	2	20%
Strategy 2C: Elaborating on the data collection procedure(s) and/or	2	20%
Strategy 2D: Describing the scope of the study or source of data and/or	6	60%
Strategy 2E: Detailing the data analysis procedures	7	70%

Notes: N = Number of ILRAMs

Table 5 above presents the results that all moves of this ILRAMs model appear in all data analyses (100%), so both moves are obligatory. Based on these findings, this new model is appropriate for the Indonesian Law RAMs in the present study. It also implies that the microstructure of Indonesian Law RAMs is different from those found in Zhang and Wannaruk (2016).

The results of analyzing the secondary data

As presented in the method section, secondary data in the present study are writing guidelines and journal templates. The purpose of analyzing these data is to answer the third research question: why did the authors of Indonesian History and Law RAs write their RAMs as they do? The summary analysis results to answer this question are presented in Table 6.

Table 6. The summary results of analyzing nine History and Law journal writing guidelines and templates

Moves	**Number of move appearances**			
	Journals' Guidelines	**Percentages**	**Journals' Templates**	**Percentages**
Move 1: Describing the research approach or method	3	33.33%	6	66.66%
Move 2: Describing the data collection procedures	1	11.11%	2	22.22%
Move 3: Describing the data analysis procedures	0	0%	1	11.11%

Table 6 shows that not all journals provide move instructions in their guidelines and templates. Among nine journal guidelines, three (33.33%) instructed their authors to describe their research approach, while only one (11.11%) suggested their authors describe data collection procedures. Then, among nine templates, six (66.66%) guided their authors to describe their research approach; two (22.22%) instructed their authors to describe data collection procedures; one of them (11.11%) suggested their authors describe their data analysis procedures. These findings indicate that describing the research approach (Move 1) is pivotal in the journals of these two data sets. However, the other two moves seem to be unimportant in these nine journals because only very few (either in their guidelines or templates) instruct these two moves to their authors. These findings may become the reason authors wrote their RAMs as they do.

In summary, the microstructure analysis employing a top-down approach and comprehending linguistic signals found two new models, IHRAMs and ILRAMs models. These two finding models are the typical microstructure of both data sets. These two new models indicate that the microstructure of Indonesian RAMs in these two disciplines is different from those in the English RAM model published in reputable international journals, as presented in Zhang and Wannaruk (2016). The differences may be because of journal conventions. The journal guidelines and templates in the present study tend to instruct their authors to describe the research approach rather than describing data collection and data analysis procedures. This finding answers the second research question that journal convention may become the reason why authors in the present study wrote their RAMs as they do. Thus, this convention indicates challenges for Indonesian authors in these two selected

disciplines when they want to publish their RAs in reputable international journals. On the other hand, understanding that their writing convention is different from those in internationally reputable journals and starting to follow the conventions of reputable English journals may become strong opportunities for them to publish RAs in reputable English journals.

Discussion

The microstructure analysis using a top-down approach in the present study found two microstructure models: the IHRAMs model for the History RAMs and the ILRAMs model for the Law RAMs. These finding models are different from those found in English RAMs published in reputable international journals, as presented by Zhang and Wannaruk (2016). At least three differences exist between the present findings and those found by Zhang and Wannaruk (2016). The first difference is that the information provided in Indonesian History and Law RAMs in the present study is concise, short, and lacks details. Hence, the number of communicative functions found in the data is limited, while the model from Zhang and Wannaruk has many steps or strategies to communicate functions. For example, the authors of the present findings describe data collection, such as documents, oral historical methods, written sources, and field research. However, Indonesian authors in the present study do not show their procedures for collecting key information from documents, written and oral sources, field research, etc. As a result, their information regarding *the description of data collection* lacks details. However, in English, authors elaborate on and justify data collection procedures in more detail (Zhang & Wannaruk, 2016).

The second difference is that the present research findings tend to employ the functional term '*approach'* to analyze data, while the model of Zhang and Wannaruk (2016) tends to use the term '*design'* as a communicative function. The last difference is regarding research data. The present findings in Law RAMs only used one of the communicative functions, either data collection or analysis. Rarely did Law RAMs describe both data collection and data analysis procedures. However, in Indonesian History RAMs, these two functional moves are important, but the description regarding data collection is concise and thus lacks details. The reason may be that few journals instruct these two functional moves to their authors. On the other hand, in the model from Zhang and Wannaruk, these two communicative functions (data collection and data analysis) indicate importance.

Surprisingly, compared to other languages and disciplines, the present research findings also seem different from other findings. For example, compared to other language backgrounds, the authors of the RAMs in the present study tend to describe their research method by presenting the research approach and data collection, while English RAMs tend to describe their data collection and data analysis (Cotos et al., 2017; Tessuto, 2015; Zhang & Wannaruk, 2016). They also differ from those published in Indian journals, as found in Kutay (2016). The differences are that the present findings describe the research approach and data collection in more detail, while the Indian RAMs tend to employ functional moves of identifying the research (IR), details related to sampling (DS), data collection (DC), validity or reliability of the instrument (VRI), and data analysis (DA) (Kutay, 2016, pp.75-76). However, only DC and DA are obligatory among these rhetorical moves, which means that all corpora employ these moves.

Compared to other disciplines, the present research findings also seem different from those found in Arsyad (2013), Cotos *et al.* (2017), Morales (2016), Peacock (2011), and Kutay (2016). The present research findings show that the RAMs in the present study tend to present a functional move describing the research approach, while most findings in the literature do not include this move. For example, Arsyad (2013) investigated the generic microstructure of the Indonesian RAs of six disciplines, religious studies, education, economics, language and literature, psychology, and social science, and found no terminology describing the approach for the analysis. Also, Morales (2016) found that the applied linguistics RAs published in high-impact and non-high-impact factor journals mostly describe subjects/materials, procedures, and data analysis. However, the term describing the approach was not found in these data. Kutay (2016) also found two obligatory moves in the surgical nursing RAs, data collection, and analysis, but did not describe the approach. Peacock (2011) also found variations of communicative structure within eight disciplinary RAMs, with most of them employing three essential moves, presenting procedures, materials, and data analysis, but no functional move of describing the approach. Furthermore, RAMs in the management discipline employ functional moves of data collection, data analysis procedures, and describing the procedure of measuring variables (Lim, 2006), but no move to describe the research approach. Thus, the present research findings indicate that Indonesian authors in the present research data have different microstructures from those found in English as well as in internationally reputable journals and Indian RAMs and other disciplines as presented in the above literature.

Dissimilarities are not only found between the Indonesian RAMs in the present study and those in English but also found between Iranian RAMs and English RAMs. Only 50% of Iranian RAMs describe how to analyze their data (Fazilatfar & Naseri, 2014), while it is important in English RAs. The Iranian RAMs mostly present data collection methods and describe their research design.

Regarding dissimilarities, the author in the present study finds that the journal convention is the reason why authors wrote RAMs as they do. The analysis of the journal guidelines and templates undertaken in this study revealed that describing an approach is pivotal, as it appears in most of their templates. However, another possible reason is that the RAMs of the present study tend to employ the term describing an approach because, in the Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), approach (*pendekatan*) means a method to analyze data. Thus, authors in the present findings may perceive the term describing an approach as a way of analyzing their data. In line with dissimilarities, my earlier study also revealed that disciplinary, language, and cultural variations of RAs may influence the way authors write their RAs (Warsidi, 2021; Warsidi et al., 2024; Warsidi et al., 2023).

In short, dissimilarities in writing conventions possibly occur between discourse communities as they are influenced by their disciplines and language backgrounds. The present finding is evidence that Indonesian RAMs in the History and Law have different microstructures from those found in reputable English journals (Zhang & Wannaruk, 2016). Practically, these findings become challenges for Indonesian article authors in these two disciplines to publish their RAs in reputable English journals. They need to be aware of their microstructure model and then situate and adopt the English microstructure model. On the other hand, by an awareness that their microstructure model is different from those in English, they

also improve their opportunities to follow the English microstructure model, and hence they have high opportunities to get their RAs published in reputable English journals.

Conclusion

Identifying the need for analyzing Indonesian RAMs in the History and Law disciplines has encouraged the researcher to investigate the microstructure of these selected corpora and to discover the authors' reasons behind what they did. After undertaking microstructure analysis, the results showed two microstructure models: the IHRAMs model for the microstructure of History RAMs and the ILRAMs model for the microstructure of Law RAMs. These findings differ from the microstructure of the English model (Zhang & Wannaruk, 2016). The reason for the difference is because of journal conventions. The journal guidelines and templates in the present study tend to suggest authors presenting their approach for the data analysis, while the microstructure of RAMs in reputable English journals tends to present data collection and data analysis procedures.

These findings provide both theoretical and practical contributions. Theoretically, these findings put some more insights into the literature that genre of RAMs in one community is very possibly different from the others. The present findings prove that Indonesian RAMs in the disciplines of History and Law have a different microstructure from those in reputable English journals, as presented in Zhang and Wannaruk (2016). Practically, these findings may become challenges for Indonesian academics and those whose English is their EFL to be aware of their microstructure model when writing RAMs. By awareness of their microstructure model, authors may improve their opportunities to adapt the microstructure of English RAMs and, thus, publish their RAs in English or reputable international journals. However, this study was limited to only two disciplines, while in the other disciplines, investigation in this section is very rarely conducted. Thus, considerably other disciplinary RAMs will need to be done to determine whether they also confirm the findings of the present study.

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