

How do Spanish writers organize thesis introduction chapters? A move and step analysis with reference to thesis writing in English.

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Since the 1990s the analysis of written academic genres has received an increasing attention among discourse and rhetorical studies (Swales 1990, 2004). The doctoral thesis has been little studied, as compared to the amount of work carried out on the research article. Despite this, there have been several attempts to describe specific aspects of PhD theses as a genre, in particular the rhetorical moves of certain sections, such as the introduction (Bunton, 2002), the conclusion (Bunton, 2005) and the literature review (Kwan, 2006), as well as the organizational structure or macrostructure of PhD theses (Thompson, 1999; Paltridge, 2002). Other studies have focused on different rhetorical-linguistic aspects, like the use of metatext (Bunton, 1999), citation practices and modal verbs (Thompson, 2001). In the Spanish literature, however, the tradition of genre studies on academic writing is not as extended as it is in English, and the doctoral thesis is not an exception. On the other hand, it has been pointed out from contrastive rhetoric and English for Academic Purposes studies that cross-cultural differences related to particular academic backgrounds are reflected in the rhetorical and linguistic organization of texts (Connor, 1996; Connor and Kaplan, 1987). In this context, then, a comparative study between different languages can yield interesting results. Such study is being carried out under the research project *RETEX**, on the scientific production of researchers from the Universidad Politécnica de Valencia. Our paper presents an analysis of the introductory sections of 25 doctoral theses in computing written in Spanish, based on the model proposed for thesis introductions in English by Bunton (2002). We aim to observe any variations with respect to this model at the move and step levels to identify the organization of the introductory chapters of our texts. Concerning moves, we will analyze moves to validate the three-move structure (*Establishing a Territory, Establishing a Niche, Announcing the present*

research) and to determine the patterns and frequency of move cycling. At the step level, we will focus on (a) identifying any new steps not mentioned in Bunton's model, and (b) considering embedding between steps, as suggested by studies on the structure of research article introductions (e.g. Samraj, 2002: 16). Our analysis will thus lead to a more detailed version of Bunton's model, where embedding between steps will be reflected in the form of substeps included within the most extensively developed steps of certain moves.

* *Redes Textuales: Análisis Intratextual e Intertextual del Discurso de una Comunidad Científica (RETEX)*. Subsidized by the Generalitat Valenciana (GV04B-375).

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