

Article Analysis Example

Article Analysis

A genre-based analysis of English research article abstracts and the linguistic feature of personal pronouns for financial economics

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Abstract: This paper presents an empirical study of move structures and personal pronouns of fifty English RA (research article) abstracts based on the model of Bhatia (1990). It revealed that three other move patterns were ascertained besides ten out of the analyzed abstracts following his move order. The analysis of personal pronouns showed that first-person plural pronouns are used far more frequently than other types of personal pronouns and no presence of the second-person and the third-person pronouns were detected in the abstracts. A further analysis suggests that first-person plural pronouns can perform multiple functions in abstracts. ESP (English as Special Purpose) teachers may benefit from the study to guide students to explore the discourse conventions of the RA abstracts in their own texts.

Key words: RA abstract for financial economics; genre analysis; move; personal pronouns

1. Introduction

With the recognition of the role English plays in the world language, researchers need to read English research articles to keep abreast with the latest development of a relevant field and exchange academic information. "An abstract, as commonly understood, is a description or factual summary of the much longer report, and is meant to give the reader an exact and concise knowledge of the full article" (Bhatia, 1993, p. 78). It is, therefore, the urgent need that Chinese researchers and students obtain a comprehensive understanding of the genre knowledge about RA abstracts.

Over the last 20 years, a large number of studies on academic writing have focused on research articles, in particular, its structure, social construction and historical evolution (Samraj, 2002). Swales (1990, p. 132), in an overview of completed textual studies of the genre of the research article (RA), says that "it is easy to see that some fields are much less well represented than others; for example, there is very little on disciplines such as economics or sociology". Therefore, financial economics was chosen as the discipline of the present study to fill the gap. A further justification for the present study is that it will be a contribution to the comprehensive and global research in genre analysis of research articles.

2. Method

2.1 General principles and procedures of data collection

In order to ensure reliability of the results as well as eliminate writer's biases, data collection should strictly follow the scientific method of sampling. Principles suggested by Nwogu (1997, p. 121) as to the selection of

Article analysis example refers to the process of critically examining a piece of writing to understand its structure, themes, effectiveness, and overall impact. An article analysis not only delves into the content but also evaluates how the author conveys their message and the techniques they use to engage the reader. This article aims to provide a comprehensive guide on how to conduct an article analysis, complete with examples and tips for effective evaluation.

Understanding the Purpose of Article Analysis

Article analysis serves multiple purposes, including:

- **Critical Thinking:** It encourages the reader to think critically about the text and its implications.
- **Improved Comprehension:** Analyzing an article helps in gaining a deeper understanding of the material.

- **Writing Skills:** It can enhance writing skills by exposing readers to various styles and techniques used by authors.

By engaging in article analysis, readers can develop a more nuanced understanding of the subject matter and the author's intent.

Steps for Conducting an Article Analysis

To effectively analyze an article, follow these structured steps:

1. Read the Article Thoroughly

Before diving into analysis, it is crucial to read the article carefully. Take notes on key points, arguments, and any unfamiliar terms or concepts. This initial reading helps in grasping the main ideas and the overall tone of the piece.

2. Identify the Author's Thesis

The thesis is the central argument or claim that the author is making. Identifying the thesis is essential for understanding the purpose of the article. Ask yourself:

- What is the main point the author is trying to convey?
- How does the author support this claim?

3. Examine the Structure

Analyzing the structure of the article involves looking at how the content is organized. Consider the following:

- Introduction: How does the author introduce the topic? Is there a hook to engage the reader?
- Body Paragraphs: How are the arguments structured? Are they coherent and logically arranged?
- Conclusion: Does the conclusion effectively summarize the main points and reinforce the thesis?

A well-structured article typically flows smoothly from one point to the next, making it easier for readers to follow the author's argument.

4. Evaluate the Arguments

After understanding the structure, it's time to evaluate the arguments presented in the article. Consider the following aspects:

- Evidence: What kind of evidence does the author provide? Is it credible and relevant?
- Persuasiveness: How convincing are the arguments? Does the author anticipate counterarguments and respond to them effectively?
- Bias: Is there any apparent bias in the author's writing? How does this impact the overall message?

By critically evaluating the arguments, readers can discern the strengths and weaknesses of the article.

5. Analyze the Language and Style

The author's choice of language and writing style can greatly affect the article's impact. Consider the following:

- Tone: Is the tone formal, informal, persuasive, or informative? How does it influence the reader's perception?
- Diction: What kind of vocabulary does the author use? Are there any jargon or technical terms?
- Figurative Language: Does the author use metaphors, similes, or other literary devices? How do these enhance the message?

Analyzing the language and style helps in understanding how the author engages the reader and conveys their message.

6. Consider the Audience

Understanding the target audience is crucial in analyzing an article. Ask yourself:

- Who is the intended audience?
- How does the author tailor their language and arguments to appeal to this audience?

An effective article will resonate with its intended readers, making it essential to consider the author's awareness of their audience.

7. Reflect on the Overall Impact

Finally, consider the overall impact of the article. Reflect on the following questions:

- What emotions did the article evoke?
- Did you find the article informative, persuasive, or engaging?
- How does the article contribute to the existing body of knowledge on the topic?

This reflection allows for a holistic understanding of the article's significance and effectiveness.

Article Analysis Example

To illustrate the process of article analysis, let's consider a hypothetical article titled "The Impact of Climate Change on Global Food Security."

1. Overview of the Article

The article begins with a compelling introduction that outlines the urgent nature of climate change and its potential effects on food production. The thesis is clearly stated: climate change poses a significant threat to global food security, and immediate action is necessary.

2. Structure of the Article

- Introduction: The author presents alarming statistics about climate change and food scarcity.
- Body Paragraphs: The article is organized into sections that address various aspects of food security, such as crop yield, economic implications, and social impacts.
- Conclusion: The conclusion summarizes the main points and calls for global cooperation to mitigate the effects of climate change.

3. Evaluation of Arguments

The author supports their thesis with a variety of evidence, including research studies, expert opinions, and case studies. The arguments are persuasive, and the author effectively addresses potential counterarguments by acknowledging differing viewpoints on climate adaptation strategies.

4. Language and Style Analysis

The tone of the article is formal and urgent, employing strong diction that underscores the seriousness of the topic. The author uses metaphors, such as "the clock is ticking," to emphasize the immediacy of the issue, making the article more engaging.

5. Audience Consideration

The intended audience appears to be policymakers, environmental activists, and the general public concerned about climate issues. The author uses accessible language while still providing in-depth analysis, making the article suitable for a wide range of readers.

6. Overall Impact

The article successfully evokes a sense of urgency and responsibility in its readers. It leaves a lasting impression, encouraging further discussion and action on climate change and food security.

Conclusion

Conducting an article analysis involves a systematic approach to understanding the content, structure, and impact of a piece of writing. By critically engaging with an article, readers can develop a deeper appreciation for the author's purpose and the effectiveness of their arguments. The example provided illustrates how these analytical steps can be applied in practice, offering a clearer picture of the article's significance. Whether for academic purposes or personal growth, mastering article analysis is a valuable skill that enhances critical thinking and comprehension.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an article analysis example?

An article analysis example refers to a detailed examination and interpretation of a specific article, highlighting its main arguments, methodology, and implications, often accompanied by personal insights and critiques.

What are the key components of an effective article analysis?

An effective article analysis includes a summary of the article's main points, an evaluation of the author's arguments, discussion of the methodology, analysis of the implications of the findings, and personal reflections or critiques.

How can I structure my article analysis example?

You can structure your article analysis by starting with an introduction that presents the article, followed by a summary, a critical evaluation of its arguments, a discussion on the methodology, and concluding with personal insights or recommendations.

What methodologies are commonly analyzed in articles?

Common methodologies analyzed in articles include qualitative research, quantitative analysis, case studies, surveys, and experimental designs, each having different implications for the validity and reliability of the findings.

Why is it important to include personal insights in an article analysis?

Including personal insights in an article analysis is important because it demonstrates critical thinking, allows for a deeper engagement with the material, and provides a unique perspective that can enhance the overall analysis.

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