



### Lexical Bundles in Research Article Introductions: CARS Model Moves<sup>1</sup>

(Adapted from Cortes, V. (2013). *The purpose of this study is to*: Connecting lexical bundles and moves in research article introductions. *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, 12, 33-43; and Lin, M-H., & Kuo, C-H. (2014). The rhetorical functions of lexical bundles in computer science research article introductions. *Asian ESP Journal*, 10(2), 244-275.

Lexical bundles are groups of 3 or more words that occur in a language (e.g., English) or variant of that language (e.g., academic English). The aim of this handout on lexical bundles is to provide a resource for students across the disciplines for whom academic English is a somewhat new language variety. Many of these bundles are discipline-specific; that is, some are typical to academic English in the sciences, others are typical to academic English in humanities fields, some are shared across disciplines, and so on.

The lexical bundles below are specific to research article introductions across disciplines. Therefore, this handout is most useful when used alongside the handout [“CARS Model – Rhetorical Moves in Research Article Introductions in English.”](#) For example, in **Move 3: Occupying the Niche** (below), “the remainder of the paper is organized as follows” is a typical or standard bundle of words in academic English that occurs toward the end of the introduction in a published research article or student research paper that lets readers know what to expect and in what order to expect it.

#### Move 1: Establishing a Territory (i.e., known, established knowledge)

a great deal of  
one of the major/most important  
play an important role in the  
a wide range/variety of  
the significance/importance of  
is defined as  
it has been suggested/shown that  
it was found that the  
referred to as the  
studies have shown that  
an understanding of the  
it is well known that  
the development of the  
to the development of  
to the extent that  
a great deal of  
are more likely to  
as a result of  
at the same time  
in a number of ways  
in relation to the  
in the absence/case/context/field/form/presence of  
on the other hand  
the degree to which  
the effects/nature/result of the  
in a number of studies



in the development of  
the impact of the  
a wide variety/range of  
are more likely to  
as a function/result of  
for the first time  
have been shown to be  
in addition to/related to the  
on the basis of the

**Move 2: Establishing a Niche** (i.e., lack of knowledge; research deficit)

however, to date scant research/few studies  
little is known about the  
it is necessary to  
it should be noted that  
the effect of the  
the degree to which  
in the context of  
it is difficult to  
the relationship between the  
there is a need to  
there are a number of  
with respect to the  
a better understanding of  
is known about the  
there is a need to  
there is a gap in/lack of  
the problem/validity of

**Move 3: Occupying the Niche** (i.e., contribution to knowledge)

in the present study  
the aim/objective/purpose of this paper/study was/is to  
in this paper we show that  
to determine the effects of  
an analysis of the  
in the context of the  
the remainder of the paper is organized as follows  
in this paper, we present/propose/focus on  
in this/next/previous section  
the research question/s  
the hypothesis/es is/was that

<sup>1</sup> The term “move” refers to a segment of text (e.g., background context; literature review; research question, problem, or hypothesis; and so on) with a particular purpose or function.