



Exploring Recurrent Academic Expressions in Scientific Journal Articles and Their Functions in Supporting Academic Reading Comprehension

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Received: 2026-06-05 Revised: 2026-06-29 Accepted: 2026-06-29 Keywords: Expressions; keywords; journal article; reading comprehension DOI: 10.24256/ideas.v14i1.11051 Corresponding Author: Faridatun Nida faridatun.nida@amikompurwokerto.ac.id Bisnis Digital, Universitas Amikom Purwokerto, Banyumas, Jawa Tengah	<i>University students need to be able to read article journal and comprehend the content in limited time. In fact, the surveys confirmed that the students face many challenges. However, the previous research only gave a clue of the effective strategy, that is by using keywords. Hence, this research is presented to provide the recurrent expressions written in journal articles as keywords to help the students find and understand the important information easier and quicker. The researchers also classify them based on its functions. The data was taken from sentences in the Abstracts of journal articles, considering that this subsection contains a summary of all parts, and utilizing the AntCont application. By collecting 100 Abstracts taken from 50 review articles and 50 research articles, the data was firstly identified by its common lexical bundle. Further, Genre Analysis theory was utilized to classify the functions of the bundles into the statement of purpose, method, and result. After completing the analysis, the researchers found that by identifying the keywords, not all of the bundle expressions were classified into one function. Several sentences were classified into the mixture of purpose and method, or method and result. Nonetheless, the identified keywords are predictably applicable and useful to help the students obtain the prominent information from a journal article. Therefore, the findings are applicable and beneficial for university students, or general reader of journal article, who need to implement the strategy of reading journal article by acknowledging the keywords.</i>

1. Introduction

Reading comprehension is still becoming a talkable topic among researchers (Temur & Sezer, 2023). However, the issues evolved. Early studies might regard the word 'comprehension' as a skill that relates to the mastery of vocabulary and grammar. The analysis lies on how students can remember more vocabularies or how student apply the grammar rules. Nowadays, 'comprehension' relates to the cognitive and analytical process. It is about how students understand the content of the text and further, evaluate, interpret and think critically about what they read (Alexander et al., 2012). These abilities unconsciously become a must-to-have skill as the responds to their needs, especially for those who study in university.

University students are required to be able to read a journal article as the references for doing a research, writing a paper or delivering a presentation (Tenopir et al., 2007; Wang et al., 2013). In fact, previous research provides evidence of how the students have struggles with reading journal articles. Unfamiliar academic, technical terms and vocabulary is the commonest (Jannah et al., 2025; Juhastris et al., 2025; Rahman, 2020). Other problems deal with the specific purpose of reading journal articles. They lack of knowledge on understanding the journal topics (Karunarathna, 2020) and the content (Rungsinanont, 2021). Whereas, the students have to be able to select the important details and summarize the content while taking it as reference (Aliponga, 2013). In brief, the literatures explored the problems face by students while reading journal articles.

Besides the necessity of mastering skill for reading journal articles, we know the fact that journal articles consist of many pages. Hence, university students not only struggle with their skill in comprehending the text, but also with the limited time to read all sections in journal articles. Speed reading technique, like screening and skimming might be acknowledged. However, speed means nothing when it does not come with understanding (Rahmah & Salsabila, 2024).

In this digital era, students need to have both, speed and comprehension, at once. This is challenging. (Damayanti et al., 2025) said that the students need strategy to reach both, the speed and the comprehension. Meanwhile, (Khoerunnisa et al., 2025) in her research found that there is a need for integrated-journal support, like systematic vocabulary enrichment. Hence, reviewing literatures to propose the solution, the researcher adopt the notion of (Swan et al., 2018) on his research that keyword is the highly recommended strategy to make a text easier to understand.

Further review found that the recommendation has been confirmed by two researchers (Alhourani, 2025; Finissha et al., 2022). Even (Finissha et al., 2022) proved that the students can find the important point and think critically after understanding the text by keywords. Those literatures shows that there is a path to fulfill the gap between the findings of their research.

Derived from the research by Alhourani and Finissha, this present research is curious to do further analysis on what are keywords that can help readers, in this case especially the students, to understand the important point of information on journal articles through reading the Abstract section. The existed research was found to be more focus on the rhetorical movement in Introduction section of journal articles which specifically discuss the topic from the field of applied linguistic studies (Farhang-Ju et al., 2024). Another research was tracked to be more focus on the discussing the form of language units and its word classes (Pathmanathan et al., 2024).

Meanwhile, (Yang, 2024) analyze the lexical bundles to compare them based on the applied research method. Comparing to the present research, there are three points that is proposed as novelty. We will more focus on analyzing the Abstract section, remembering that the previous research focused on the Introduction section. Then, the present research will be conducted by collaborating the theory of lexical bundle and genre analysis so that the expression will not be classified based on the functions, not involving the theory of word classes or research method. In other words, there is no research discuss specifically the expressions in the Abstract section of journal articles which are then classified based on its functions, and further it is applicable for the students and the reader in general to identify the specific information in such type of text.

Keywords that we are going to discuss refers to sequences of words that are commonly stated by researchers or authors when they write the manuscript. This is clearly stated to hinder the ambiguity since a journal article has specific part which is also called as keywords, commonly positioned below the Abstract. As the result, keywords in this study are considered as recurrent used expressions.

While highlighting the gap from the previous researchers, the researcher assumes that the recurrent expressions found in journal article manuscript appear and form patterns. The assumption seems in line to the notion of (Siu et al., 2024). In her research, she took viewpoint from corpus linguistics study, that the recurring word sequences are commonly referred to as lexical bundles, which play important roles in academic discourse and knowledge construction. Hence, the researcher believe that the patterns can be identified through its lexical bundles. By its understanding, the researcher utilizes the corpus-based theory, that is Lexical Bundle to identify the formulaic and systematic expressions.

Further, these bundles are hypothesized not only appear as statement, but perform important discourse function. The functions are categorized by the structure of the text type, that we know the minimal subsection in journal article, by the employment of Genre Analysis Theory. Collaborating it with Academic Phraseology, both theories will help the research to specifically characterized the bundles academically and analyze the functions based on the predictable section it belongs to.

Those theories show the clear objective of the research, that is to identify expressions that are frequently found in journal articles, propose the identical keywords to get the point of information and classify them based on its rhetorical functions.

By proposing the objectives, the researchers expected that the findings not only provide and complete the literature. It also proposes a concept that understanding the content of journal articles is not determined by mastering vocabulary and grammar, but by understanding the point of information and the skill of acknowledging expressions which are functioned as rhetorical signs of those important points in scientific text.

In the future, the lexical bundles which are identified as the keywords for certain information can be a guidance for readers. They can remember the keywords and find it in the abstract section of a journal article they read. Imaginably, this strategy is helpful for their reading activities, especially to achieve the understanding of content.

2. Method

The design of methodology utilized in this research was a result of the compilation of several adopted methods and theories from previous studies. This study employed qualitative corpus-based approach which has been utilized by (Li & Lei, 2025; Siu et al., 2024). In the process of compiling the data to be a corpus, the researcher searched for the journal articles that derived from the digital business studies and was written in English.

The limitation to the field of digital business was conducted by considering the respondents of further research. The data in this research was also limited to the part of Abstract section. Other sections were not included. There are 100 titles of journal articles which are involved as the source of the data, consisting of 50 review articles and 50 research articles. From those journals, the researchers will re-write the Abstract section to compile it as the list of statement.

After the corpus is composed, the data analysis was started. AntCont by (Anthony, 2024) helped the researcher to identify the recurrent lexical bundle in journal article, especially in part of abstract. The selections of the bundles are conducted by the identifying the meaning and the reference of the subject and the predicate of the sentences. After the bundles were identified, each of them was classified based on its communicative functions. The classification of function was adopted from (Pathmanathan et al., 2024; Yang, 2024).

There are three minimally three points of information that the reader of journal article should be able to understand and re-explain as references: the purpose of the research, the methodology of the research and the results of the research. The meaning was interpreted to examined in what segment or section they belong to; introduction, method or result and discussion (Farhang-Ju et al.,

2024). This examination is conducted manually by the researchers to ensure that the interpretation of meaning and its classification based on the function is precise. Therefore, the bundles uncover the identical expressions of each segment summarized in Abstract section.

3. Results

The corpus-based analysis of the collected research data in this study identifies lexical bundles and the keywords of recurrent academic expressions in Abstract section related to specific functions. In line with the research design and theory stated in Methodology section, the function refers to the information in those expressions which represent and can be associated to section in journal article; Introduction, Method or Result and Discussion.

Table 1. List of Expressions to State Research Purposes

Types of Journal Article	Expressions
Research article	The aim of this study is to ...
	The aim of the research is to ...
	It aims to ...
	The study aims to ...
	This study aims to ...
	This research aims to ...
	This research aimed to ...
	This study explains ...
	This study analyzes ...
	This study specifically analyzes ...
	This study attempts to ...
	This study attempted to ...
	The study delves ...
	This research delves into ...
	The primary objectives of this study were to ...
	The purpose of this study is to ...
	The purpose of this article is to ...
	The purpose of writing this article is to ...
	The research investigates ...
	The study investigates ...
	This study investigates ...
	This study examines ...
	This study addresses that gap by examining ...
	This study explores ...
	This paper explores ...
	This paper tests ...
	This paper evaluates ...

	The article provides ... The intention of this study is to ... In this paper, we explore ... We re-examine ... We study ... Based upon ..., this research aims to ... Based on ... theory, the purpose of this paper is to ... Building on ..., this study investigates ... As a part of ..., this article sheds light on ... As the ..., we provide ... As a result, the study was done to ... In response, this study examines ... Therefore, this study aims to ... Therefore, this research aimed to examine ...
Review article	This study presents ... This study analyzes ... This study aimed to ... This study aims to ... This paper aims to ... This research paper aims to ... This literature review aims to ... This literature research aims to ... This conceptual article aims to ... This conceptual paper aims to ... This articles systematically reviews ... This systematic literature review investigates ... This research is a review of the literature on ... The purpose of this study is to ... The purpose of this literature study is to ... The paper investigates ... This paper proposes ... This research explores ... The current research comprises ... Based on ... review, this study identifies ... In order to make sense of the noise, a literature review was carried out to ...

The researchers classify two types of journal articles; research article and review article. The first prominent information provide by the author of journal is the purpose of the research. Table 1, especially in column of research article, displayed that there are variety of expressions which uses the verbs aim and

purpose. It means that both words are more frequently used than other verbs like investigate, explore, explains, examines, etc.

Similarly, on the column of review article, the verb aim and purpose are more frequently used than others. It is assumed that both verbs have the literal meaning which is closest to reader's meaning of stating the purpose of the research. By the function and the position, both grammatically and meaning, those verbs commonly appear as the keywords for stating the purpose of the research. The researchers also find some expressions which merge the purpose and the methodology.

Table 2. List of Expressions to State Research Purposes and Methodology

Type of Journal Article	Expressions
Research article	The aim of this study is to ... by utilizing ... method. This study specifically analyzes ..., involving ..., Therefore, this study aims to collect ... for ... people who ...
Review article	To address this gap, the current study conducts a Systematic Literature Review considering ... and includes ...

Identifying the second prominent information in journal article, the expressions state the methodology of the research. It could be longer or shorter, depending on what information of methodology that is highlighted by the author. The more detail the information, the longer the statement. Although the element of information is determined, there is no specific standard about the completeness of statement. Hence the data listed by the researchers are vary. Several expressions are stated in one sentence, and the other expressions consist of many sentences.

Table 3. List of Expressions to State Research Methodology

Type of journal article	Expressions
Research article	As a result, the study was done to ... A qualitative methodology was used to ... A quantitative analysis was conducted from ... A sample of ... The primary data obtained was processed ... A quantitative approach was employed with was utilized to ... The approach in this study is ... Using ... approach, the research examines ..., evaluates ..., and synthesizes ... The quantitative analysis focuses on ..., while the qualitative analysis reviews ...

Using ... approach, we conducted ...
 Using ... approach, we derive ...
 Using ... approach, data was collected through ...
 Using ... approach, the data were collected from ... and
 analyzed with ...
 Using ... approach, the research collected Analyses
 were conducted using ...
 Using ... methodology, we ... The review explores ...
 Drawing on ... case study, we trace ... We organize ...
 through ... analysis.
 Drawing on ... theories, the research tested ...
 Through ... analysis, ... aids in identifying ...
 We conducted an online survey using ... Our study
 comprises ... of .. respondents. The data was
 subjected to ...
 The dimensions tested include ... The quantitative
 research analyzed ... The purposive sampling
 method used was ... Furthermore, the data analysis
 was ...
 Through ... methods, this study investigates ...
 This study targets ... A cross-sectional survey of ...
 respondents was analyzed using ...
 The research method uses ...
 The research method used is ... The data used ...
 The research method used is ... The data collection
 technique ... Data were obtained from ...
 The research uses ... approach. The analysis process us
 carried out by ...
 Interviews are conducted with ...
 ... sampling was undertaken in this study. in the first
 stage, ... was selected using ... In the second
 stage, ... Data was collected from ...
 ... theory is used to analyze ...
 ... is employed to ...
 An ... survey was distributed to ... About ... were
 collected and analyzed using ...
 A ... data set is formed by ...
 A ... methodical approach was used. First, ...
 documented ... Second, ... was carried out to ...
 Finally, ... analysis of ...
 A ... research design was employed. Primary data were

collected using ...

This research analyzes ... through ... The data are analyzed by ...

This type of research uses ... This study uses ... analysis method.

The type of research used is ... Data analysis used ...

It analyzes ... among ... through ...

The research object comprises ... The objectives are to assess ... A ... survey with ... was analyzed using ... on ... respondents.

Based on the sound methodological approach that ...

The research population is ...

The method of writing articles is ... The population in this study amounted ... The sampling technique used is ... The tested carried out are ...

The method used in this research is ... The sample used is ... The sampling technique used ... The data analysis technique used ...

Case studies from ...

The participants in this study consisted of ... The data collected for this study is ... The analysis method employed in this study encompasses ...

This research employed ...

This paper takes ... approach.

In response, this study adopts ... The researcher uses ...

The first part of the research ... The goal of the analysis is to ... The second part develops ...

Employing ..., the research focuses on ... Data collection employs ... The study assesses ...

Employing ... approach, the research ...

It employs ...

... is employed to ...

The study examines ... Hypothesis were developed to ...

This study uses ...

This study uses ... This study evaluates ...

The study utilized ...

The study examines ... The theoretical framework ... hypotheses were developed to ... The hypotheses were tested with ...

In this study, the analysis was conducted using ...

This research used ... approach.

This research is conducted in ... The method used is ...

	This research followed survey study using ... approach. This research applies ... The data collection technique used is ... The data is then analyzed through ... This study adopts ... The theoretical framework uses ... This study empirically examines ... This study involved ... This hypothesis was tested using ... The population consists of ... The population in this study were ... There was ... respondents. To this end, hypotheses on ... are derived from ... Utilizing ..., our ... identifies ... Based on ... framework, we surveyed ... The sample consisted of ... was used to ... Meanwhile, the data was directly collected through ... The sample was obtain using ... Furthermore, the hypotheses were tested using ... By conducting analysis ..., the study identifies ... The author use ..., analyzing a dataset ...
Review article	The analysis uses ... This study uses ... This study uses ... to ... The analysis includes ... This paper applies ... The method used in this research is ... This study uses ...The approach used is ... the data collection technique is ... The data used ... The approach used in this literature review is ... The data collection technique is ... The data used in this descriptive qualitative approach comes from ... By synthesizing ... this study identifies ... By analyzing ..., this review examines ... Analyzing ..., we first identify ... Second, we reveal ... Third, we analyze ... Employing ... approach, the research synthesizes ... The analysis identifies ... Using ... tools, the review examines ... Drawing on ... theories, we conducted ... In this study, we considered ... specifically, the study focused on ... In our proposed method, we created ... Through a literature review, this paper discusses ... The present study utilizes ...

Through Systematic Literature Review, it examines ...
Our initial sample consisted of ...
We review literature ...

From the column of research article, the type of the research, the technique and the design is the noun phrase which are seen as keywords for the expressions of methodology of the research. It is clear and direct to state. Meanwhile, the review article is more identical with the noun phrase literature review. By the predicate, research article and review article sometimes similar, but other times can be different. The similarity lies on the verbs conducted. It is clear because the methodology talks about how the research was done. Meanwhile, the different is shown by the verb synthesize. It is commonly used by review article because the research is conducted by compiling the data and taking the point of it. Based on the data, the researchers also find the expressions which inform the method and the result in one sentence.

Table 4. List of Expressions to State Research Methodology and Result

Type of journal article	Expressions
Research article	The aim of this study is to ... by utilizing ... method. As a result, the study was done to ... This study specifically analyzes ..., involving ..., Using ... method, the study found that ... Analyzing nightlight data, we posit that ... In an explorative multiple-case study, it finds that ... We employ ... By testing a sample of ..., our estimation results confirm that ... Case studies highlight ... This review underscores ... Based on the result of ... analysis, it explains that ... The result of the study indicates that ... The utilization of ... has been shown ... The study advances ... by showing how ...
Review Article	By integrating ..., this article develops a ... By analyzing ..., this review identifies ... Through the synthesis of the result of literature review, it is understood that ... With data collected from ..., we find that ...

The third important point we, as reader, have to understand while reading Abstract is about the result of the research. Based on the result of analysis, the findings could be stated with the combination of methodology and result or be

stated alone with no combination with other parts.

Table 5. List of Expressions to State Results of the Research

Type of journal article	Expressions
Research Article	The study results ... Results show that ... Results show that ... The research also establishes ... The results show ... The results reveal that ... The results indicate that ... The result showed that ... The result of this research is that ... The results of this article are ... The result of this study is ... The results of this study include ... The result of this study indicated that ... The study reveals that ... The study finds that ... The findings underscore ... The findings show that ... The findings suggest that ... The findings reveal that ... Findings reveal that ... The study also highlights ... Findings indicate that ... Our findings indicate that ... The authors' findings demonstrate that ... According to the results, ...
Review Article	The findings show that ... Findings suggests that ... The results are ... The results of this literature review article are ... The results of this study show that ... The results reveal that ... Results indicate that ... The poll results show that ... Therefore, the proposed framework is ... The results show that ... Based on the findings, the study proposed ... It further introduces ... The study proposes ... The review emphasizes ... Our findings reveal ...

Key findings include ...

The result show ...

The findings indicate that ...

We derive ... and conclude the paper with ...

The data displayed on table 5 shows that both research article and review article have similar identical subject, that is the result and the finding. Other similarity is seen from the verb, that uses the word show or by the helping verb that align with the subject, is or are. The frequency of using those phrase or verb is simply predicted, that is because the expression states the result. Therefore, using these words for direct expression is the right choice for the limited space of Abstract section.

4. Discussion

Based on the results presented on the Result section, the discussions are organized through its classified functions. There are five classifications of expressions that state the important point of information the students or readers should understand after reading the Abstract of journal articles. It includes the purpose, the methodology and the result of the research.

Expressions to State Research Purposes

The information delivered in Abstract is usually started by explaining the purpose of the study. The researchers found the identical keywords to deliver such information. According to the type of journal articles, research articles commonly have keywords “aim”, “purpose”, or other verbs that relates to the function of informing the goal of the research. There is “attempt”, “investigate”, “analyze”, “explore”, “study” and “examine”. The position of this expression is identified in the beginning of paragraph so that it is regarded a representative of information delivered in Introduction section. Some abstracts state it in the first sentence of the paragraph. Other abstracts state it in the second or third sentence because it precedes by explaining phenomenon as the background or reason of doing the research.

Another type of journal articles, that is review article, seems to have a clear, distinctive keywords to make reader aware of its type. Although the verbs seem similar, the researchers found that the purpose often uses keywords “systematic”, “literature”, “review” and “conceptual”. In this case, it is suggested that the teachers or lecturer explain the students about the type of the journal article so that they can understand the meaning of those keywords.

The data also shows that there is no standardization of stating the purposes. Some of them rarely state the purpose implicitly. The others state it by one or two sentences. Such cases show that the first sentence states the purpose in general

and the second sentence usually states the specificity or the limitation when the previous sentence is too general. Another case is found that the second sentence states the second purpose. It is allowed to the researchers propose more than one goal for their research. As a result, the students should be aware of reading the next sentence in case the purpose is not only one point or not stated specifically in one sentence.

Expressions to State Research Purposes and Methodology

While some abstract is identified having more than one sentence to state the purpose of the research, other abstracts are found merge two points of information, the purpose and the methodology, in one sentence. The method that is stated after the purpose could be the method for doing analysis or the respondent involved. Since the information is merged, the keywords are combined. There are “aim” and “utilizing” or “analyze” and “involve” in one sentence. It is also possible that the authors give more details about the method in the next sentence. Therefore, the readers should check the following sentences.

Expressions to State Research Methodology

Complete methodology includes information of the form of data, source of data, techniques of data collection, techniques of data analysis and tools for data collection and analysis. Related to the data, we can identify them by the keywords of “methodology”, “method”, “design”, “population”, “respondent”, “analysis”, “approach”, “hypotheses” or “theories”.

Meanwhile, the verbs identically used to state the methods are “use”, “utilize”, “apply” “employ”, or “test”. Several data shows that the sentence begins by explicitly stating certain types of sampling technique, like purposive sampling, or techniques like interview or survey. In this case, the lecturers are suggested to deliver an introduction to the students so that the students become aware of the variety of techniques for collecting or analyzing the data. Since the methodology covers a lot of information, most of data shows that the method is not only stated by one sentence. Some abstracts deliver it in detail within two to four sentences. Hence, the students also should read it carefully.

In fact, not all authors write it in detail. Some tend to write the point that is highlighted, perform the excellency or make it different to another research. As the result, the students should activate their critical thinking to interpret the implicit information through the limited, stated information of methodology. Information that can be interpreted through the provided methodology is about the form of data and source of data. Students can infer by understanding the steps of analyzing the data.

Although the verbs to inform method are identified, the verb “analyze” seems possibly applied to state the purpose and the method. In this case, the students can differ them by acknowledging the position where the word is mentioned. When the sentence which uses verb “analyze” is located after explaining the issues or phenomenon, it can be identified as the purpose of the research. When the sentence is located after the purpose, it could be identified as method. Furthermore, it is also characterized by the keywords that follows or collocate together in one sentence. They will be preceded or followed by preposition “to” to state the purpose of utilizing the techniques or certain design.

Expressions to State Research Methodology and Result

Remembering that Abstract is limited to the word characters, some authors merge the methodology to result in one sentence. Due to its compacity, the information about the methodology is also limited. As we can see on table 4, they will only state the techniques, the theory or the design for analyzing the data and follow it by the findings. Hence, the students should be critical to interpret the form of data or the techniques of data collection.

Expressions to State Result

The most-two noticeable keywords for this function are “finding” and “result”. Both possibly collocates to verbs “show”, “reveal”, “discover”, “indicate” in research articles. While for review articles, the commonly used verbs are “establish”, “propose”, “suggest” or “conclude”.

Most of data shows that the result is delivered in more than one sentence, especially for the research which have more than one purpose or a purpose that the goal is about classification or identification of factors, effects, and etc. In this case, we can identify it by the use of numbering like first-second-third or the transition like “further”, “then”, “moreover” or “also”.

Patterning the expressions and proposing the keywords for the important point that the students and the reader of journal article in general is seen like arranging guidance for them when they do not know what should they know while reading journal articles or what statement that should be more focused on while looking for certain information to take as references.

5. Conclusion

The findings displayed by the table and the discussion delivered by paragraphs clearly answer the purpose of the research. The important point of information in Abstract of journal article can be identified by keywords and functions. It shows that the information is actually delivered by the pattern of expressions.

Hence, it is expected that the findings can be helpful for the readers of journal articles, especially students to inspire and give insight that there is a strategy to understand the information in journal article faster than translating the text or

reading all of the sections over the pages without knowing the important point of information.

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