

5. Conclusion

The strategy of abstract writing is crucial for conveying a writer's argument clearly, especially for non-native English writers in the Outer and Expanding Circles. In light of the first research question, which asked about rhetorical patterns and metadiscourse strategies in abstract writing, both circles shared a preference for two main strategies: the IPMFC pattern, indicating a detailed research presentation, and the PMFC pattern, indicating direct communication. These findings showed no significant difference in how writers organized ideas in abstracts. In terms of metadiscourse, both circles preferred the use of textual markers, emphasizing the comprehensive explanation of the problem rather than directly addressing the objectives. However, differences arose in their use of interpersonal markers. Outer Circle writers frequently used attitude markers and self-mentions, showing more personal engagement with readers. In contrast, Expanding Circle writers used booster markers to reinforce their opinions, demonstrating certainty without explicit reader engagement. These findings suggest that while both groups preferred textual markers over interpersonal markers, significant differences indicate varying levels of confidence in conveying arguments and engaging readers. Furthermore, the second research question regarding the characteristics of the writers showed that both circles' writing styles were still influenced by high-context culture, as demonstrated by their detailed and narratively focused use of textual markers. However, an emergence of a cultural shift in the Outer Circle was evident through the increased use of attitude markers and self-mentions, reflecting growing confidence in directly expressing opinions. In essence, while both circles shared comprehensive and detailed writing strategies influenced by high-context cultures, differences in metadiscourse use indicated varying levels of direct engagement and opinion reinforcement, suggesting a blend of high and low-context cultural influences in academic writing. Additionally, this study suggests that future research should research article abstracts in other fields. Moreover, the influence of cultural context, educational systems, and external factors such as audience acceptance of writing styles can contribute to a deeper understanding of the diverse and evolving nature of academic writing across cultures.