3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This rhetorical study compiled a corpus of 30 research articles from highly cited journals in psychology that were purposively selected from the Scopus database. The number of chosen articles follows the research conducted by Alamri (2020) and Wannaruk and Amnuai (2016). These papers were carefully selected from highly referenced psychology publications to ensure a representative sampling of influential research. In addition to selecting highly cited research articles, several other criteria were applied in the data selection process, such as source type, document type, and language used. The source type is a research article. Furthermore, the selected data must follow the keyword, namely psychology, but limited to psychology with social humanities fields only. Finally, the language used in the article must be written in English. The selected data is not limited to the article's publication year, so this research focuses on all publications with the highest citation in Scopus. After determining the data criteria, the top 100 highly cited psychology research articles were selected based on the criteria as the initial database. After that, the data was sorted again to become the top 30 highly cited psychology research articles.

To support this rhetorical research, the data were analyzed by a combination of frameworks based on the work of Hyland (2000) for the abstract, Swales (2004) for the introduction, Cotos et al. (2017) for the methodology, and Moreno and Swales (2018) for result, discussion, and conclusion. These frameworks provide a comprehensive model derived from cross-disciplinary corpus studies for analyzing the rhetorical moves and steps used in academic writing. This study used cut-off frequency (Kanoksilapatham, 2005) to measure the stability of moves in the corpus. In order to be acknowledged as a conventional move, a move must take place in at least 60% of the relevant parts in the corpus. A move is deemed optional if its frequency drops below 60%.

The analysis process involved some important steps. First, the research article data was retrieved through Scopus, and 30 articles were screened from 100 articles based on specific criteria. After that, each data was analyzed using Google spreadsheets to make it easier to analyze moves and steps. The data was then broken down into a sentence for the abstract and a paragraph for the introduction until the conclusion section. Each article was analyzed sequentially from the abstract to the conclusion using a combined framework. Furthermore, the analysis results were calculated as the rate of occurrence divided by the number of corpora and multiplied by one hundred. Finally, the results of the presence of move-steps were calculated

and presented using percentages also described with categorization referring to the research conducted by Kanoksilapatham (2005).