

## NOMINALIZATIONS IN RESEARCH ARTICLE ABSTRACTS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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### ABSTRACT

Most studies on nominalizations in research articles tend to exclude the abstracts, which undoubtedly contain the thesis of the articles. The assumption is that abstracts are rather short in comparison with the main articles and that their language too is rather simplistic to warrant any serious research attention. This has resulted in a dearth of studies in the language of abstracts, especially nominalization. To plug this hole, this paper sought to explore whether or not abstracts draw on nominalizations to achieve information density, and also compare the use of nominalizations, if any, in abstracts of research articles in the humanities and the sciences. A corpus of 50 abstracts was drawn from the humanities and the sciences and analyzed quantitatively for instances of nominalization tokens, and the linguistic processes used to achieve nominalization. The findings of the study revealed that abstracts employ nominal style in writing. It was also found out that there was a higher frequency of nominal structures in the sciences than the humanities. Also, intra-discipline analysis showed a divergent use of suffixation in the realization of nominalizations. The findings of the study have implications for the teaching of nominalizations as a feature of academic writing.

**Keywords:** Nominalization, deverbal, tokens, gerundive nominals, derived nominals.