

Language style for scientific publication

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About me

- Anuraga Jayanegara
- Bojonegoro, 2 June 1983
- Married (1 wife & almost 5 children)
- 2003: BSc (Bogor Agric Univ, Indonesia)
- 2008: MSc (Univ Hohenheim, Germany)
- 2010: PgDip (Polytech Univ Catalunya, Spain)
- 2011: Dr.sc ETH/PhD (ETH Zurich, Switzerland)

Publication experience

➤ **Author:**

Scopus: docs 31, citations 331, h-index 11

➤ **Reviewer:**

12 internatl journals (IF 0.4 to 3.4)

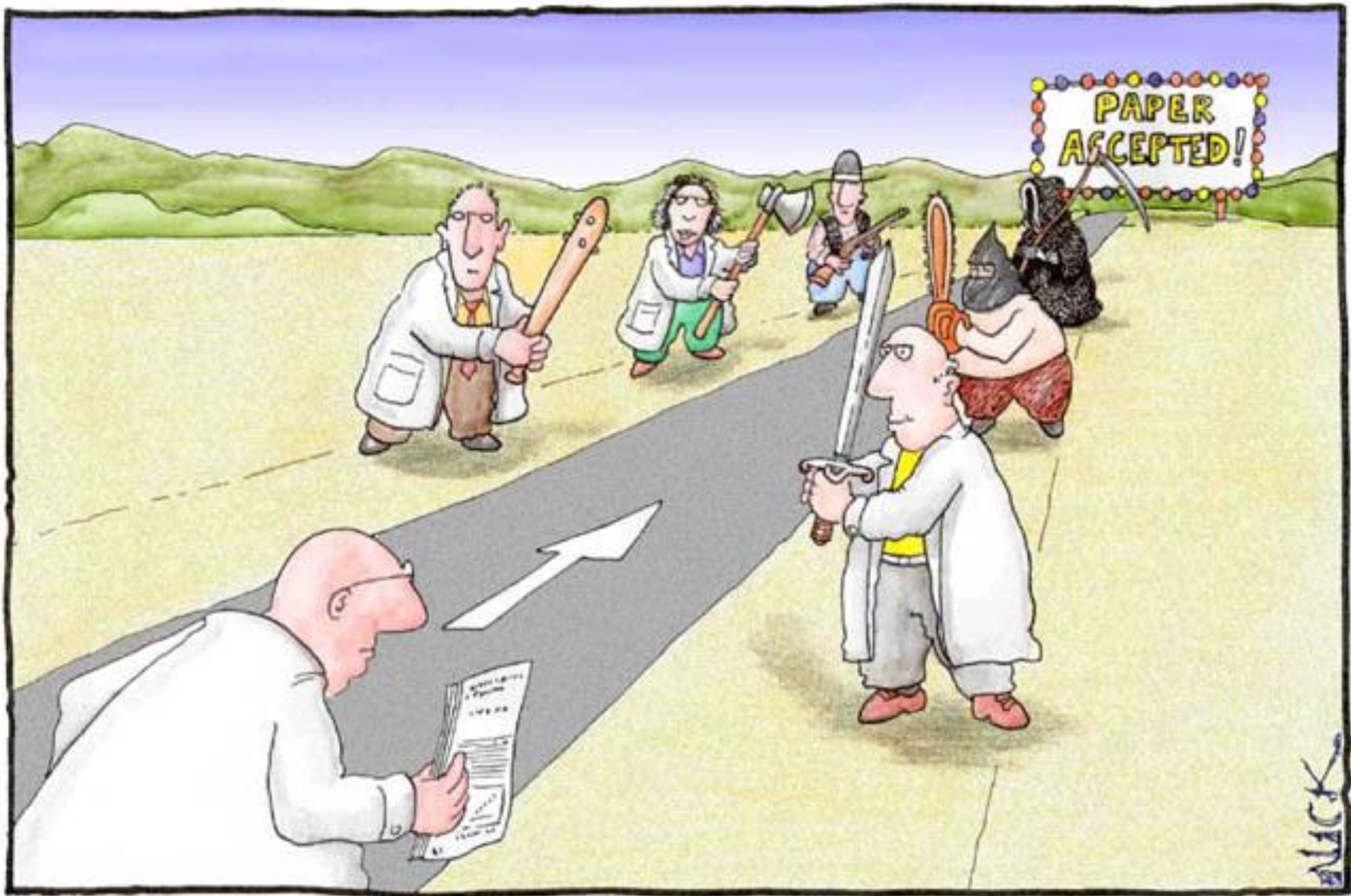
➤ **Editor:**

Media Peternakan IPB (Scopus Q4)

J Indonesian Trop Anim Agric Undip (Scopus)

J Ilmu-ilmu Peternakan UB

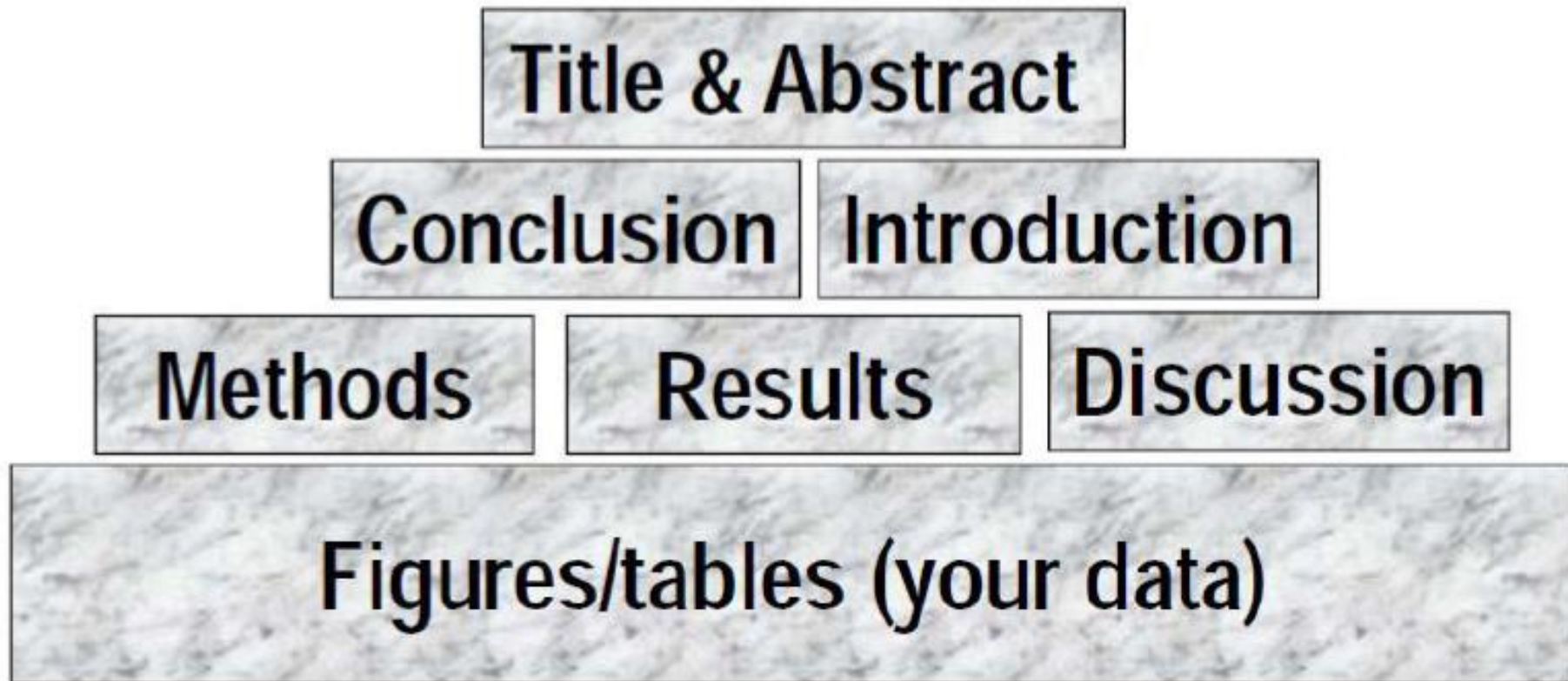
J Agripet Unsyiah



1. Paper structure

- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction → **Why?**
- Materials and methods → **How?**
- Results → **What?**
- Discussion → **So what?**
- Acknowledgement
- Reference
- Tables and figures

2. Writing order



3. Manuscript length

Part	Page	Part	Page
Title	Concise	Discussion	4-6 pages
Abstract	1 paragraph	Conclusion	1 paragraph
Introduction	1.5-2 pages	Figures	Minimum
Methods	4-6 pages	Tables	Minimum
Results	4-6 pages	References	20-40
20-40 pages (double space)			

4. Writing thought

- Clarity of writing follows clarity of thought. So first think what we want to say, then write it as simply as possible.
- A well-written article enables readers to understand it without much external support.
- A good writer generally is also a good reader.

5. Language style for publication

- Compress the sentence
- Improve the flow
- Use link words
- Avoid frontal overload
- Avoid common language mistakes

a. Compress the sentence

- Reducing unnecessary or redundant words
- Instead of: “a considerable number of”, better: “many”
- Instead of: “this result would seem to indicate”, better: “this indicates”

b. Improve the flow

- At the beginning of a sentence put old information that links back to the previous one and, at the end, put the new information we want readers to focus on.

c. Use link words

- Such as: although, as is clear from, as a result of which, but, most of which, or, so, gerund forms (using...), while, which is why, which indicates that, when, where, yet, etc.
- This approach improves message management, enhances readability and avoids redundancy

d. Avoid frontal overload

- Too much information is placed at the front of the sentence and too little at the end → make readers difficult to process the information
- Instead of: “Working with students is what attracts me most in this job”, better: “What attracts me most in this job is working with students”

e. Avoid common language mistakes (1)

➤ **Active or passive?**

Both are fine but wherever possible use active form. Instead of: “The program is focused on...”, better: “This program focuses on...”

➤ **He or she?**

Use plural forms to avoid sexist writing. Example: “...end-users unless ‘they’ possess...”

e. Avoid common language mistakes (2)

➤ **Color or colour?**

Use either UK or USA spelling consistently

UK: Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary

USA: US Websters dictionary

➤ **NGO or ngo?**

Abbreviations must be capitalized

e. Avoid common language mistakes (3)

➤ **A small number of or a few?**

Avoid using long-winded expression, always try to use a shorter alternative

Example:

“despite the fact that” vs “although”

“in order to” vs “to”

“has been engaged in a study of” vs “has studied”

RAS	Main functions	Preferred style	Rules of thumb
Title	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indicates content and main discoveries • attracts the reader's attention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • short and simple words (7-10) • purposive (targets a specific audience) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoid complex grammar • make it catchy! • avoid redundancy (“<i>An investigation of...</i>”, “<i>The analysis of...</i>”, “<i>Effect of...</i>”, “<i>Influence of...</i>”, “<i>New method...</i>”)
Abstract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reflects the main 'story' of the RA • calls attention but avoids extra explanations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • past (perfect) tense and passive voice(!) • short and concise sentences • no citations, tables, equations, graphs etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoid introducing the topic • explain: what was done, what was found and what are the main conclusions • bring summary 'numbers'
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduces the topic and defines the terminology • relates to existing research • indicated the focus of the paper and research objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • present tense for referring to established knowledge or past tense for literature review • extensive overview of literature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use state-of-the-art references • follow logical moves • define your terminology to avoid confusion

Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides enough detail for competent researchers to repeat the experiment • who, what, when, where, how and why? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • past tense • correct and internationally recognised style and format (units, variables, materials etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mention everything you did that can make importance to the results • don't cover your traces ("<i>some data was ignored</i>") • establish an author's voice ("<i>we decided to ignore this data</i>") • if a technique is widely known, refer to it by its name (don't re-explain it) • use simple(st) example to explain complex methodology
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gives summary results in graphics and numbers • compares different 'treatments' • gives quantified proofs (statistical tests) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • past tense • use tables and graphs and other illustrations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • present summary data related to the RA objectives and not all research results • call attention to the most significant findings • make a clear distinction between your work and that of others

Conclusions
and Discussion

- answers research questions/objectives
- explains discrepancies and unexpected findings
- states importance of discoveries and future implications

- simple or present tense (past tense if it is related to results)
- allows scientific speculation (if necessary)

- do not recapitulate results but make statements
- make strong statements (avoid “*It may be concluded...*” style)
- do not hide unexpected results — they can be the most important ones

References

- provide a list of related literature and sources of information
- support the ideas in the paper

- depends on journal but authors/editors, year and title must be included

- always cite the most accessible references
- cite primary source rather than review papers

6. Reason for rejection

- Originality
- Logics
- Completeness of data
- English
- Author guide
- Experimental design & statistics
- Ethical issue

7. Politics in publication

- Sitasi jurnal di mana kita submit → kontribusi meningkatkan impact factor jurnal
- Prediksi calon reviewer dan sitasilah mereka → kontribusi dalam meningkatkan h-indeks reviewer