

## **Abstract**

Based on a corpus analysis of 72 research articles, this thesis examines citation practices in four academic disciplines, two soft (linguistics and art history) and two hard (biology and astronomy). The first part provides quantitative results for the usage of two basic types, integral and non-integral citation. The non-integral type is preferred mainly in biology (91%), whereas astronomy and linguistics do not show such strong preference. In art history, both types are used with similar frequencies. The second part is focused on integral citation and examines instances of its sub-types (verb-controlling, naming and non-citation). The third part analyses the distribution of citations in the individual sections of research articles which shows to be dependent on the structural organization of the article. In general, two tendencies have been found: in articles with IMRD structure (biology and linguistics), citations occur mainly in the introduction and discussion. In astronomy and art history, citations are almost evenly distributed across the text. The last part of this thesis is focused on reporting verbs and their semantic classification (research, cognitive and discourse acts). Astronomy shows strong preference for research acts verbs, whilst biology employs this type only slightly more often than the discourse acts verbs. The least used in hard sciences are cognitive acts verbs, in contrast, they are the most used type in art history. Linguistics uses all classes with no remarkable tendencies.

All parts of this thesis take into consideration the presupposed differences in the construction of knowledge in hard and soft domains. The hard ones proceed linearly, whereas humanities re-examine previous theories. The choice of the type of citation and the reporting verb is also dependent on the importance of human factor in this process. The results of this thesis show that the presupposition is valid for biology and art history, which can be thus placed on the opposing poles of the hard - soft sciences continuum. Astronomy proves to be “softer” than biology and linguistics “harder” than art history.