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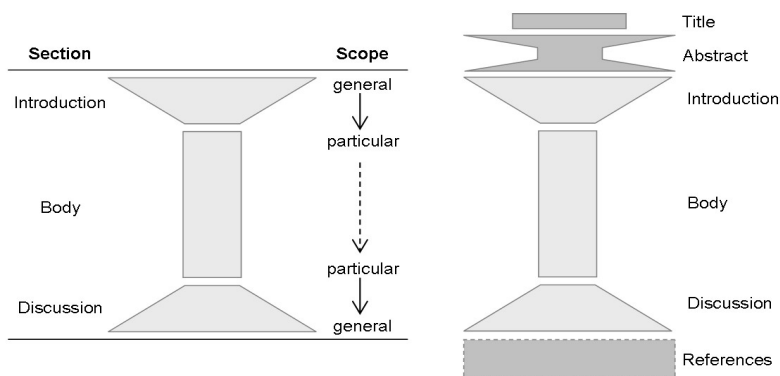
# Aims Objectives and Relevance of Selecting a Title of an Article

**Sudhakar Agarkar**

## 1. Writing a Research Paper:

Writing a research paper and publishing it in a research journal is an integral part of a researcher’s professional life. But writing is not every researcher’s favourite activity. Obstacles encountered in getting a paper published can sometimes be nerve-wracking.

Novice writers may find a scientific style of writing a little difficult in the beginning for novices. But the difficulties are not insurmountable. With clear communication and concise writing anyone can take up the task of preparing a research article. There are generally two models those are used in writing research articles. They are called Hour Glass Model and King Model. Hour Glass model has sections like Introduction, Content Body and Discussion. The King Model, however, has sections like Title, Abstract, Introduction, Content Body, Discussion and References. It is the second model that is normally used in writing research papers.



## 2. Preparing the Title of an Article :

Title is the most read content of the research article. It summarises the main ideas of the study. Moreover, it helps the internet search also. An attractive title will motivate the reader to go through the article. An uninteresting title, on the other hand, will make the reader shy away from the article. Hence, the title has to be framed with intelligence and awareness. A long title contains too many waste words, like Investigations, Information, Status, etc. A very short title

does not communicate the central theme of the paper. A good title contains the fewest possible words that adequately describe the content and purpose of the research paper.

The titles of the research papers can be conveniently categorised into three types.

- 1) **Declarative:** It declares the outcome of the work referred to in the article. For example, Enhancing the sale through Digital Media.
- 2) **Descriptive:** It describes the main aspect of the article. For example, Impact of digital advertisements on the sale of the product.
- 3) **Interrogative:** It raises a relevant question. For example- Does digital advertisement affect the sale of a product?

There are a few styles that are commonly used while framing the titles of the articles. They are-

- 1) How to style e.g. How to have a healthier and productive office?
- 2) Identifying and solving a problem e.g., Parenting guru from chaos to success.
- 3) The make statement e.g., Thousand elderly make multiple online, so can you.
- 4) Strike a note on controversy e.g. Why all guys' chat; A first insight.
- 5) Shorter titles e.g., Fat makes you thin.
- 6) Ask questions e.g., Six types of investors, which group are you in?
- 7) Use headlines that offer explanation e.g., New shampoo leaves your hair easier to manage.
- 8) Go for an intrigue style e.g., Wall Street getting kicked in the face by Asian techs.
- 9) Try a finality e.g., Ultimate guide to making money.
- 10) Craft a top list e.g., Top ten investing mistakes to avoid.

### 3. Some Examples:

I would like to share a few titles from my own writings for journals and for books.

#### 3.1 Article for IISRR-IJR:

IISRR wanted to bring out a special issue on Corona Pandemic last year. Professor Asit Das, the Chief Editor of the journal, approached me for a relevant article. I have prepared an article describing how distance education is playing an important role in continuing teacher pupil interaction during the pandemic period. I wrote an article describing the historical developments of distance education and went further to discuss the advantages of distance education when face to face interaction is not possible. The article was titled "From Social Distancing to Distance Education." It was incorporated in a special issue of IISRR-IJR brought out in August 2020 as volume 6, issue II.

#### 3.2 Article for Resonance:

Resonance, brought out by the Indian Academy of Sciences Bangalore, publishes serious articles on science education. I wanted to write an article for this prestigious journal to bring out the close

relationship between educational psychology and teaching practices. A variety of titles were framed. For example: Theories of Learning and Teaching of Science, Impact of Educational Psychology on Classroom Interaction, Psychological Understanding and Science Education, etc. Finally, I chose the title "Influence of Learning Theories on Science Education" and sent it to the editor. It was published in the August 2019 issue of the journal.

### ***3.3 Article for a Journal on Psychology:***

I had conducted some research on the curiosity of behaviour of students studying in schools of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). In order to know the questions, the students have a Question Box was kept in the classroom. Students were expected to write down their questions on a sheet of paper and drop in it. Analysis of the data revealed some interesting facts about the inquisitiveness of the students from underprivileged homes. I prepared an article entitled "Inquisitiveness among the Underprivileged Students: Analysis and Implications". It was published in the Journal on Education and Psychology in 1999.

### ***3.4 Article for an International Journal:***

We have celebrated 900<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of a great Indian Mathematician Bhaskaracharya in 2014 (as he was born in 1114). As a part of my tribute to him I studied his famous book Lilavati and conducted workshops for school and college students. While conducting workshops I have realised that the pedagogy adopted by Bhaskaracharya to teach mathematics to her daughter was very effective. In order to share my understudying of the pedagogy advocated by Bhaskaracharya and to bring out its relevance in present time I prepared an article entitled "Pedagogic Implications of Bhaskaracharyas's Liavati". It went through an expert scrutiny and was published in the "International Journal of Statistical Science and Mathematics" in 2016.

## **4 Chapter for a Handbook:**

I was invited to contribute a chapter on my research work for the International Handbook on Science Education brought out by Sense Publishers. I have devoted a large part of my career to understand hurdles faced by the socially deprived students and develop remedial measures to overcome them. Hence, I submitted a proposal to write on learning hurdles and remedial measures. Once my proposal was accepted by the Editor (Prof. Yew Jin Lee of the National Institute of Education, Singapore) I have tried to put down my first-hand experiences in detail. The chapter was quite long (more than 30 pages) but the title was short "Combating Learning Hurdles arising out of Social Deprivation".

## **5. Chapter for a Futuristic Book:**

Professor Yin Cheong Cheng from the Hong Kong Institute of Education was planning to bring out a book highlighting the need to change school and college education to fulfil the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> Century. I wanted to contribute an article based on my work related to teaching of mathematics

in Ashram schools (residential schools for tribal children). To emphasize that teacher training has to take into account the students whom they are going to teach I chose a title “In-service Training of Mathematics teachers in Ashram Schools”. It was incorporated in a book entitled “Subject Teaching and Teacher Education in the New Century” published by Kluwer Academic in 2002.

#### **6. Chapter for a Book on Research:**

Professor Mei-hung Chiu from the Graduate Institute of Science Education, National Taiwan Normal University at Taipei, Taiwan was on a mission to compile research on science education being conducted in Asia. Since 2006 I was working on a project “Open Educational Resources for School (OER4S). I decided to put down my first-hand experiences gained in the project and contribute a chapter for the book. I wanted to discuss the process of designing open educational resources, motivating the stakeholders to use them and assessing the impact of OER on science education. The chapter entitled “Role of Open Educational Resources to Support School Science Education in India” was included in the book brought out by Springer Science + Business Media, Singapore in 2016.

#### **7. Chapter for a Book on Global Perspective:**

I was approached by Dr. Ben Akpan from Nigeria to contribute a chapter for the book entitled “Science Education: A Global Perspective”. In order to describe how science and technology can be used for social development I prepared a case study of India. The chapter was entitled “Science Education for National Development: An Indian Perspective”. The editor liked the idea and suggested some changes. The book with my chapter was published by Springer International Publishing, Switzerland in 2017.

#### **8. Steps to Remember:**

There are a few steps that one should follow for preparing an effective title of a research article. These are-

- **Step 1:** Ask yourselves these questions: What is my paper about? What techniques /design were used?, What is studied?, What were the results?
- **Step 2:** Use your answers to list key words.
- **Step 3:** Create a sentence that includes the key words you listed.
- **Step 4:** Delete all unnecessary/repetitive words and link the remaining.
- **Step 5:** Delete non-essential information and reword the title.

I wish you all the best in your endeavour of writing research articles. Please remember “Practice makes a man Perfect”. So, start doing, you will be an expert someday.