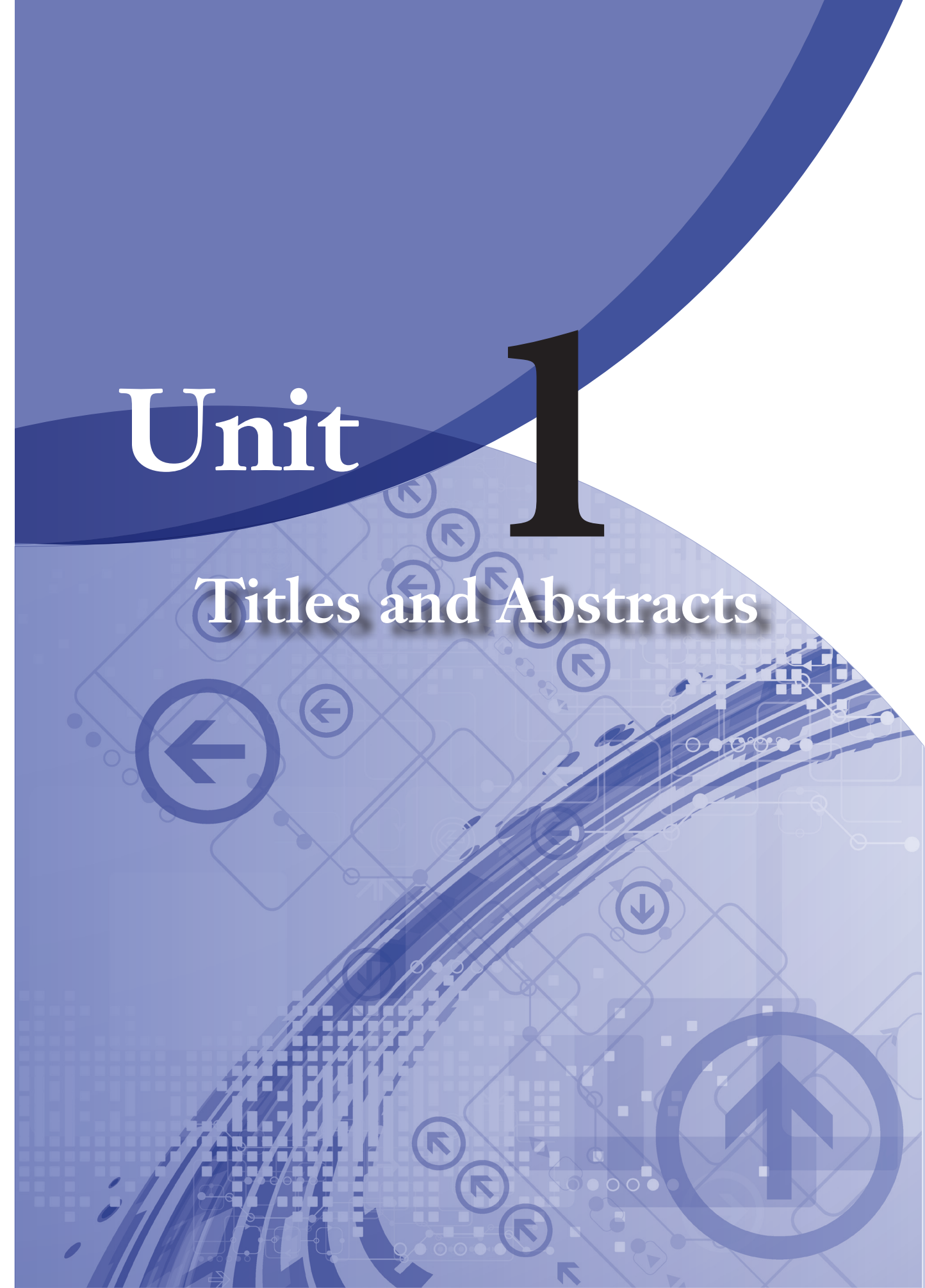


Unit

1

Titles and Abstracts



Part I

Introducing the Unit

This unit helps you to learn how to write the title and abstract that are important components of an academic article. Specifically, the title and the abstract reveal what the article is concerned with in the most concise and direct manner. More often than not, a reader would resort to the title and the abstract to grasp the gist of the article in the limited-time situation. Therefore, it is crucial for a writer to construct the title and the abstract with a fundamentally reader-oriented view of writing.

Simply put, the title and the abstract constitute a brief summary of the whole article. That is, the title describes the article in a clause or a phrase, whereas the abstract delineates the article with a few more sentences. In a sense, the abstract purports to provide a short explanation and extension to the title. Thus, it is significant to note that the title and the abstract should be written with logical consistency, instead of two separate parts.

In the following sections, we will attempt to display how to write the title and the abstract for the readers to better obtain the theme of the article. First, some useful expressions will be introduced for your use in academic writing, and then we are going to learn some ways of organization so as to better understand the structure of the title and the abstract. Following that, some examples will be analyzed and exercises will be provided for you to improve your writing skills in practice.

Part II

Learning Useful Expressions

Expressions for Titles

For a theoretical study

- **Toward a Theory of Recapitulatory Tonal Alterations**
- **The Theoretical Debate on “Sinologism”: A Rejoinder to Mr. Zhang Xiping**
- **Infinite Gardens of Earthly Delights: A Visual and Kinesthetic Model for Perceiving Dance**
- **The Concept and Genealogy of the Ultimate Origin: An Exploration of Constancy in the Hengxian Text of the Shanghai Museum Collection**

For an empirical study

- **A Corpus-based Study of the Correlation between Text Technicality and Ideational Metaphor in English**
- **Exploring the Role of Phraseological Knowledge and Syntactic Knowledge in L2 Listening Comprehension**
- **The Impact of Mother Tongue Instruction on the Development of Biliteracy: Evidence from Somali–Swedish Bilinguals**
- **Effectiveness of Spelling Interventions for Learners with Dyslexia: A Meta-analysis and Systematic Review**

Expressions for Abstracts

Illustrating the objective of the study

- **This article aims to examine** the second of these presuppositions **in hopes of** painting a more complete and analytically adequate picture of actual practices.
- **In this article I refute** the argument that language is wholly arbitrary.

Presenting the research methodology

- **Adopting a corpus-based analysis, this study compared how** MA and PhD applied linguistics dissertations/theses in China **differed in terms of** stance making in their texts.