CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides general information about the study by first discussing the background of this study, followed by the purposes, statement of problems, scope of the study, significance of the study, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.

1.1 Background of Study

Academic writing is a type of writing used in academic contexts to communicate complicated concepts and arguments in a certain topic. Academics can discover new fields of investigation and propose unique methods to solve complicated issues by synthesizing and interpreting previous research. Various forms of scholarly composition, including books, research papers, and student theses are published and increasing in number each passing year as an effort to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge (Pasavoravate, 2011). Among the various types of academic output, research articles stand out as perhaps the most common genre that researchers are expected to produce (Kaya & Yagiz, 2020). However, many writers may face challenges in constructing a research article, especially when they lack awareness of the required writing conventions and norms. As a result, the process can become difficult and may lead to failure for some individuals (Martin, 2003). Thus, it is essential to improve academic writing skills as the writers publish their research articles.

According to Kurniawan et al. (2019), publishing research articles offers several advantages to authors, including enhancing their careers in academic fields, improving their reputations, and boosting the reputation of their affiliated institutions. Swales (1990) also posited that published research articles serve as evidence of an author's eligibility to contribute to a particular publication. Additionally, writers commonly anticipate that their papers will be cited, as citation serves as intellectual

recognition from the public and the scientific community for both the cited authors and their works (Davis et al., 2008).

To write a research article as a publication, it has to consist of a specific structure; abstract. An abstract in a research article is a brief summary of the entire research work to reduce the amount of time spent reading (Kurniawan, Lubis, Suherdi & Danuwijaya, 2019). It is usually placed at the beginning of the article, and it provides readers with a quick overview of the research question, objectives, methodology, findings, and conclusions. The abstract presents the fundamental essence of the article and serves as the readers' initial encounter with its content (Pho, 2008). The promotion of a research article commences with the abstract, wherein authors must persuade readers' interest and convince them to continue reading that the reading is worth to be published (Ghasempour & Farnia, 2017; Hyland, 2009).

In the context of abstract writing, Arsyad et al. (2021) emphasize the importance of including two essential components: rhetorical moves and linguistic features. Among various theories explaining rhetorical moves, one of the most renowned and widely adopted is Hyland's theory (2000). According to Hyland, an abstract consists of five moves: 1) background, 2) purpose, 3) method, 4) product, and 5) conclusion. These moves may also have subsections referred to as steps, which are intended to achieve the objectives of each move (Omidian et al., 2018). Furthermore, Kurniawan and Sabila (2021) support this notion by stating that writers can effectively achieve the communicative goals of an abstract by skillfully combining both the moves and steps.

Rhetorical move analysis is a genre analysis approach that has caught the interest of many professional academics and educators in order to study academic writing's rhetorical moves. By analyzing the rhetorical moves present in a piece of communication, researchers can gain a better understanding of how the writer is attempting to persuade or influence their audience, and how successful they are likely to be in achieving that goal. Nowadays, there are many studies that investigate this topic in any kind of setting. One of the primary reasons behind the rising interest in

this area is the necessity to provide common models of academic writing abilities (Marefat & Mohammadzadeh, 2013).

Several comparative studies on rhetorical arrangement of abstracts were undertaken in an attempt to support the notion by Marefat and Mohammadzadeh (2013) that rhetorical move analysis is needed as common models in academic writing. Some studies employed research article abstracts as data, such as Kaya and Yagiz (2020), who used 195 abstracts from each group to compare the abstracts published by two groups in the field of English Language Teaching (ELT) by Turkish academics and non-Turkish researchers working in Anglophone nations. It has been discovered that three moves (Purpose, Method, and Product) appear often in Turkish authors' abstracts, but foreign writers include four moves (Purpose, Method, Product, and Conclusion) more frequently in their abstracts.

There is also a study from Khany and Malmir (2019) who investigated the abstracts from five social and behavioral sciences: economics, law, political sciences, psychology, and sociology. The abstracts were chosen from worldwide publications with a high impact factor in each discipline. According to their findings, social science authors place a greater focus on the research aims and its contribution to the field. Other studies preferred to use research articles from national and international journals as the data, such as Amnuai (2019) from Thailand and Putri and Kurniawan (2021) from Indonesia, both of which compared the abstracts of their local scholars to international in their concerned disciplines. The studies reported that there were similarities and differences in both journals. The trajectory of an author's genre knowledge is significantly influenced by their educational level and the presence of a supportive academic environment.

Considering how recent studies have been dominated by either comparing research articles or master theses from countries above, there is still no study yet examining the realization of moves, steps, and linguistic features in abstracts of psychology research articles in Sinta while in fact, psychology is also one of the fields that are included in Sinta. According to Krishnasamy (2011) psychology is common

to all human beings, it can explain why people act the way they do. He argued that it can affect the different languages and particular cultures. Psychological science is essentially important since its main purpose is to help us understand people and to improve the quality of human lives. Therefore the studies in this field would be better if delivered in an appropriate way to give wider knowledge to the public.

This research will provide new insights and information regarding rhetorical move analysis and linguistic features in abstracts of research publications in the field of psychology. It can enhance our understanding of how scholars in psychology construct their abstracts for publication and help to identify gaps or inconsistencies in their communication strategies. Moreover, this research can also contribute to the development of effective academic writing practices and standards, particularly in terms of presenting research abstracts in a concise, coherent, and reader-friendly manner.

1.2 Purpose of the Study

This study aims to discover the rhetorical moves as well as the linguistic features, including tenses and voice, used in the selected research article abstracts published in psychological journals that were indexed by Sinta. Moreover, this study also aims to discover the realization of moves, steps, and linguistic features from psychological research articles in each Sinta level.

1.3 Statement of Problem

With respect to the problem presented above, this study attempts to answer these following questions:

1. How are the rhetorical moves realized in the selected research article abstracts published in Sinta-indexed psychological journals?
2. What is the configuration and pattern of moves and steps published in psychological research article abstracts in different levels of Sinta?
3. What linguistic features are dominantly involved in those rhetorical moves?

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1.4 Scope of the Study

The present study focuses on investigating how research article abstracts of the psychology journals indexed by Sinta are structured by using rhetorical moves analysis. This study also analyzes the dominant linguistic features applied in each move of the abstracts. The data were chosen from six different Sinta levels to discover a comparison between the writers whether it affects the realization of rhetorical moves and linguistic features. The framework of this study uses five models theory by Hyland (2000).

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to be a useful guideline to make good abstracts, especially for psychology students, since it reveals the common organizations and linguistic features used in research articles abstracts of the psychology field published by Sinta-indexed journals.

1.6 Clarification of Terms

To avoid the confusion and misunderstanding of some terms, these points below are some clarifications of the terms used in this research:

1.6.1 Move Analysis

Move analysis is a text analytical framework aiming to reveal the fundamental intent of a written or spoken discourse by categorizing textual components according to their communicative objectives (Swales, 2004; Yang & Allison, 2003).

1.6.2 Move

A communicative unit in written or spoken discourse that serves a specific purpose and contributes to the overall structure of the text (Swales, 1990).

1.6.3 Step

A smaller element which has principal purposes to obtain the objective of the encompassing move (Bhatia, 1993; Swales, 1990)

1.6.4 Linguistic Features

Linguistic features are one of the essential parts that must be included in an abstract. Tense and voice are considered important linguistic features in writing an abstract (Arsyad et.al., 2021).

1.6.5 Tense

Any verb form used to convey the time of the action or state denoted by the verb itself (Knapp & Watkins, 2005).

1.6.6 Voice

A verb inflection that indicates the semantic roles of the subject in a sentence, indicating whether the subject is the doer of the action or the one being affected by it (Mauludini, 2020).

1.7 Organization of Paper

This paper is organized into five chapters, as follows:

1.7.1 Introduction

This chapter encompasses several aspects, such as the study's background, research objectives, problem statement, study scope, significance, definition of key terms, and the overall organization of the paper.

1.7.2 Theoretical Background

This chapter provides detailed explanations of multiple concepts, theories, and prior studies, serving as supportive evidence to answer the research question of this study.

1.7.3 Research Methodology

This chapter explains the research design, data sources, data analysis, and data presentation.

1.7.4 Findings and Discussion

This chapter presents the findings and discussions of the study.

1.7.5 Conclusions and Suggestions

This chapter elaborates the conclusion of this study and suggestions for further related studies.

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