

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1 of this study includes the background of the study, the purpose of the study, statement of problems, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, the clarification of terms, and the organization of the study.

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Writing skill in an academic context is very much needed for writers who want to publish their research articles in a reputable journal. However, writing in an academic context is a challenging task to do, especially in a second language. Some writers may face the problem of putting their ideas in their research article, while other writers cannot stop writing the same ideas repeatedly (Rahmat et al., 2020). It is essential for the writers to improve their academic writing skills by practicing continuously during their studies because well-written research articles can be published (Singh, 2017).

Published research articles have many benefits for the writers, such as increasing their careers in academic fields, their reputations, and the institution's reputations (Kurniawan et al., 2019). Swales (1990) also stated that published research articles can be considered evidence that the author is eligible to participate in the target of a specific discourse community. Furthermore, most writers expect their paper to be cited for the reason that citation might be an intellectual recognition from the public and scientific community for the cited writers and their works (Davis et al., 2008).

In order to get the research article to be published, it has to consist of a specific structure. One of the important structures that must be included in the published research articles now is abstract. Generally, an abstract is a brief description of the content that occurs in the first part of a research paper. An abstract is essential because it can be said as a gate that portrays the quality of the entire research article's content (Lubis & Kurniawan, 2020). Pho (2008) said that, besides the title, an abstract is the first part of a research article that readers usually see. Moreover, Swales and Feak (2019), Hyland (2000, 2009), Salager-Meyer (1992), and Lorés (2004) also revealed that the abstract has a significant role in determining the readers' impression of the research article so that the readers can decide whether to continue reading it or not. Due to their essential role in a research article, writers must have excellent academic writing skills to compose an abstract as well as possible (Nurcik et al., 2022).

Primarily, an abstract can be a determining factor for the acceptance or rejection of a research article in terms of publication (Lorés, 2004). Then, the qualified research articles in Indonesia can be published in a journal which is then uploaded in a scientific indexing system called Sinta (Science and Technology Index). Sinta is a scientific indexing system managed by the Ministry of Education and Culture, which has

published many well-known journals from researchers throughout Indonesia. There are 6 different levels in Sinta named Sinta-1 to Sinta-6. The higher the level of indexation, the better the quality of the research article (Koushik, 2017).

An abstract has two crucial factors that must be included, which are; rhetorical moves and linguistic features (Arsyad et al., 2021). Rhetorical moves involve the organization of compositional elements or frames. There are many theories explaining the rhetorical move. However, one of the most well-known and widely used is the theory by Hyland (2000). Based on Hyland's theory, the abstract consists of five moves, namely; 1) background, 2) aim, 3) method, 4) findings, and 5) conclusion. Furthermore, there are also some 'sub-sections' in moves called steps that aim to achieve the goals of the moves (Omidian et al., 2018). Kurniawan and Sabila (2021) strengthen the statement by stating that the writers could achieve the abstract's communicative objectives by combining both the moves and steps.

The linguistic features, such as tense and voice, in the abstract have been analyzed by many researchers (Hanidar, 2016). Lewkowicz and Cooley (2003) said abstract is usually written in the present tense. Meanwhile, according to Swales & Feak (2012), the present tense is mainly used in the introduction and conclusion part, while various tenses are often used to write the findings based on their disciplines. In accordance with Swales and Feak (1990) and Zhang et al. (2012) explained that the present tense is mainly used for making the introduction, aim, and conclusion part, while the past tense is used for the method and result part. Furthermore, Zhang also found that the most used voice in the abstract is the active voice.

Moreover, a tool that can be used to analyze the structure of research article abstracts is called move analysis. The term move analysis was first proposed in the 1980s by Swales (Kurniawan & Sabila, 2021) to explain a text's rhetorical pattern or structure. Move analysis is said to have the purpose of examining the generic structure of academic writing (Vathanalaoha & Tangkiengsirisin, 2018). According to Hyland (2000), the generic structure of academic writing consists of introduction, aim, methods, findings, and conclusion.

Move analysis has attracted the attention of a lot of researchers in these past few years. Many studies about move analysis have been done in many different disciplines. For example, the studies of move analysis and steps in the abstract of national journals, including ELT research articles (Zulfa & Kurniawan, 2020). The studies are also conducted between different index journals (national and international) such as tourism journal article (Sabila & Kurniawan, 2020), cross-disciplinary journal article (Indarti, 2022), nursing journal article (Lubis et al., 2022), and obviously there is much more research on move analysis which is not mentioned here. Based on previous studies, there has been a study that investigated the move analysis at different Sinta levels (Zulfa & Kurniawan, 2020). However, Zulfa and Kurniawan (2020) only investigated

the realization of the moves and steps of their study and conducted it in a different field from this study.

However, no study yet examines the realization of moves, steps, and linguistic features in abstracts of sports science research articles in Sinta while in fact, sports science is also one of the fields that are included in Sinta. According to Bishop (2008), sports science is a study using the scientific processes to accompany sports practice in order to improve sports performance. Even though it is not considered a top journal in Sinta, Haff (2010) argued that sports science is an essential aspect of daily life because nowadays, science and sports are often combined to achieve the goal of increasing athletes' sports performances to an optimal point.

The nonavailability of study regarding sports science research article abstracts is the main factor in conducting this research. Therefore, this study has a purpose to analyze the realization of rhetorical moves and linguistic features of sports science research article abstracts and to discover whether Sinta level has a role in it or not. By doing so, it is expected that this research will be able to give new insights and knowledge about move analysis and linguistic features in the abstracts of research articles in the field of sports science.

## **1.2 Purposes of the Study**

Using the theory of Hyland (2000), this study aims to explore the realization of rhetorical moves and linguistic features, including tense and voice, used in the abstracts of sports science research articles that are published on Sinta. Moreover, this study also aims to discover the manifestation of moves, steps, and linguistic features from sports science research articles at each Sinta level and to find out whether Sinta level affects the realization of moves, steps, and linguistic features or not.

## **1.3 Statement of Problem**

The research questions of this study as shown below:

1.3.1 How are rhetorical moves and linguistic features realized in published sports science research articles' abstracts in different levels of Sinta?

1.3.2 Does Sinta level affect the realization of rhetorical moves and linguistic features?

## **1.4 Scope of the Study**

This study investigates the use of move analysis and linguistic features in the abstracts of sports science published research articles that were taken at least from one journal from each different level of Sinta (Sinta-2, Sinta-3, Sinta-4, Sinta-5, Sinta-6). The framework of this study uses the five models theory by Hyland (2000).

## **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This study could be a new guide to writing proper abstracts because it explains the structure of proper abstracts in published research articles, especially in the field of sports science, considering that previously no research examined abstract structures in sports science research articles.

## **1.6 Clarification of Terms**

To make this paper easier to understand, the following is an explanation of the key terms used in this research:

### 1.6.1 Move Analysis

Move analysis is initially proposed to teach non-native English speakers about the rhetorical structure of a text. As time passes, move analysis nowadays has developed into other areas of English for Specific Purposes (ESP) (Kurniawan & Sabila, 2021).

### 1.6.2 Move

Move is a term that is used to describe the communicative act, which has the purpose of defining the communicative objective of a whole text (Lorés, 2004).

### 1.6.3 Step

Step is a characteristic of the move which has a function to fulfill the communicative objective of the move they belong to (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 essential linguistic features categories in writing an abstract (Arsyad et. al., 2021).

### 1.6.5 Tense

Tense is a grammatical category which indicates the form of the verb in which the linguistic act occurs; whether it is in the past, present, or future (Michaelis, 2021).

### 1.6.6 Voice

Voice is an indicator to indicate whether the subject is doing an action (active voice) or being a receiver of an action (passive voice) (Batubara & Mahardhika, 2020).

## **1.7 Organization of Paper**

This study consists of five parts which are mentioned below:

### 1.7.1 Introduction

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*AN ABSTRACT MOVE ANALYSIS IN NATIONAL JOURNALS: A CASE STUDY ON SPORTS SCIENCE RESEARCH ARTICLES*

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#### 1.7.2 Theoretical Background

Chapter 2 of this study covers theories, concepts, and related previous studies.

#### 1.7.3 Research Methodology

Chapter 3 of this study consists of research design, data sources, data analysis, and data presentation.

#### 1.7.4 Findings and Discussion

Chapter 4 of this study presents the findings and discussion.

#### 1.7.5 Conclusion and Suggestion

Chapter 5 of this study provides conclusions and suggestions which might be useful for further studies in the related field.