

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is an introduction to the current study. It includes the background of the study, the research questions, and the purpose of the study. The rest of this chapter presents the scope of the study that delimits the focus of the study; the significance of the study; the clarification of the term central to this study and the organization of the paper.

1.1 Background

In the 2014 Indonesia University of Education guidelines scientific writing, undergraduate students are supposed to write a research paper as a requirement in completing studies to resolve the undergraduate level studies. Before accomplishing the research paper, the students are asked to propose their research proposal through a short educational course or seminar to be judged whether the project proposed is researchable or not.

A research proposal is an important written plan or document for conducting and developing a research study. Then, writing introduction is the beginning activities of composing the research proposal. In the introduction section, the writer presents a convincing arguments to establish the issues of the background and the purpose of the study, which is based on knowledge, experience, literature review and other studies (Emilia, 2012). The background study itself includes a review of the area being researched, current information surrounding the issue, previous studies on the issue, and relevant history on the issue (Glatthorn and Joyner, 2005).

Ideally, a study should effectively set forth the history and background information on students' research problems. The purpose of a background study is

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to help the researcher to prove the relevance of his/ her research questions and to further develop his/ her research project. However, writing the introduction is the hardest thing of all to write, and the greatest care should be taken with it.

Some researchers have explored students' ability and problems in writing a research proposal. One of them is Widiastuti (2010) who investigated nine undergraduate students in English study program in Banten. She found that despite students' ability is high in the discourse semantic level, most students still have problems in achieving the communicative purpose of each major element in a research proposal. The difficulties were also faced in presenting justified arguments and understanding standard models in writing a research proposal especially in terms of its elements and linguistic features. Later Yusuf (2013) found that undergraduate students in English Department of IAIN Surabaya have serious problems in three elements of research proposal including the introduction section. Each of problem has their own causes.

None of these studies addressed whether or not students who are writing research proposal introductions incorporate the obligatory moves or elements of introduction in their background sections of research proposal introductions. Based on the aforementioned explanation, the present research extend the use of CARS model by Swales (1990) by taking the theme of typical structure of research proposal introduction section as the topic. Further, for the sake of a deep exploration on the thinking process and considering the limited time, the study analyzed the obligatory moves of background section in undergraduate students' research proposal introductions. Public university in Bandung was then chosen as the site of the study since this university is well known for its English Education Study Program and for the convenience reason.

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1.2 Research Question

The study is conducted to answer the problems formulated in the following question:

Do the undergraduate students in English Education Study Program incorporate the three obligatory steps of move introduction in their background section of research proposal introductions?

1.3 Aims of the Study

Based on the research question above, this study was set with the following aim:

To investigate whether the last semester of undergraduate students in English Education Study Program incorporate the three obligatory steps of move introduction in their background section of research proposal introductions.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study is a descriptive study of undergraduate English Education Study Program students in Indonesia University of Education Bandung. It focuses on text analysis by using Swales' CARS ('creating a research space') model to investigate the three obligatory steps of move introduction in their background section of research proposal introductions. In analyzing the steps, the researcher chose the obligatory moves because these moves are often found in background section of research proposal introduction.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Theoretically this study attempts to provide a reference on the study on research proposal. This study is expected to contribute in enrichment of the literature about the obligatory moves or elements in writing background section of

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research proposal introductions. Furthermore, this study might be preliminary inputs for other researchers to further study in the similar area of research in different contexts.

Practically, the result of the study is expected to be useful for students at tertiary level especially students in English department who have to accomplish research proposal. This will give them ideas to work on the betterment for their writing background section of research proposal introduction.

1.6 Clarification of Terms

To avoid unnecessary misunderstanding and ambiguity, some terms in the study are clarified as follows:

1. Research Proposal

Research proposal is a students' written plan for conducting their research study as one of the requirements for completing their study which is written in English (Widiastuti, 2010).

2. Introduction Chapter

An introduction is the first passage in a journal article, dissertation, proposals or scholarly research study and it sets the stage for the entire study (Creswell, 2010). It also sets the tone for what will follow and signals the reader about what to expect to learn, and why they should read on (Ellison, 2010). According to Sternberg and Sternberg (2010: 106), the introduction must answer four questions: What previous research that have led to our research? ; What does our research add to this previous study? ; Why is the addition made by our research important or interesting? ; How is the addition made?

3. CARS (Create a Research Space) Model

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CARS is a Swales' framework for research article introductions, which consists of the three moves, each made up of different constituent steps; Establishing a territory, creating a niche, and Occupying the niche (Swales, 1990)

4. Arguments: Considered by Christie & Derewianka (2008) as a recursive elements since they support thesis statement provided. Hence, it is the reason arguments restate main argument or point outlined in the thesis statement (Gerrot & Wignell, 1994). They further explain that each of the arguments/ points will be elaborated. This elaboration aims at convincing or persuading the audience (Anderson & Anderson, 1997) by giving evidences and examples (Derewianka, 1990; Coffin, 2006). Derewianka (1990) further explains that the evidences and examples should relate directly back to the statement of position.

1.7 Organization of the Paper

This research study is organized into five chapters. Chapter one is general introduction that relates to the study. This chapter highlights the background of the study, the research problem and the purpose of the study. Chapter two is review related to the literature. This chapter presents theoretical background of the study. Chapter three describes the methodology of the research. This includes the design, the participants, the data collection techniques, and the analysis. Chapter four describes the research findings concerned with analyzing the three obligatory steps of move introduction in background section of research proposal introductions. Finally, the paper is concluded in chapter five and offers some recommendations.

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