

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides general information of this study. It covers the background of the study, purposes of the study, statement of problems, scope of the study, the significance of the study, clarifications of terms, and organization of the paper.

#### **1.1. Background of the Study**

Writing in academic contexts has remained a great challenge for academic writers especially novice students. Moreover, for the users of English as a second language, using English in their writing has increased the complexities of the text (Kaya & Yağiz, 2020; Pasavoravate, 2011). They need to consider the use of appropriate vocabularies, correct grammar rules, and also the structure which varies in nature depending on the topic as well. As a result, those factors have relatively contributed to the difficulties in producing a good academic text for non-native writers. In order to cope with these obstacles, writer needs to be aware of the rhetorical structure that used by their specific disciplines and the rules of English writing (Kanoksilapatham, 2005). Moreover, move analysis offers a valuable insight to uncover the rhetorical organization of academic writing explicitly (Swales, 1990; Marefat & Mohammadzadeh, 2013). Therefore, along with the need for more models of academic writing, there has been an increased interest in this field of study in order to produce a better type of academic and scientific texts.

In line with the growing number of academic texts, the studies of move analysis on RA abstracts has become significantly important because many studies have taken interest in abstract. Moreover, abstracts are not a part of the research article genre but it is another genre which stands independently and integrally for the creation of a quality research work (Bhatti, Musthafa, & Azher, 2019). It also can help readers to quickly determine the relevancy of the abstract to their interest (Kurniawan, Lubis, Suherdi, & Danuwijaya, 2019). It is impossible for scholars to read all research and journal articles since there are millions of articles published each year. They need to scan the article they are looking for by looking at the title

first. However, sometimes the information contained in the titles is too spare which leads them to read the abstract to get a clearer idea of the work. Thus, an abstract is a key whether a work should be read further or not (Kurniawan et al., 2019; Suryani & Rismiyanto, 2019; Kaya & Yağiz, 2020). Moreover, an abstract can give an overall understanding of the work which helps the reader to grasp the point of the work easier (Nasseri & Nematollahi, 2014). Besides, it can also act as a reminder of whether the topic has been read or not.

Because of the importance of abstracts, numerous studies have been conducted on the topic. In regard to this, different studies used their own perspective on their research on abstracts. There is various research that focused on the comparison of studies from different disciplines (Bhatti et al., 2019; Afshar, Doosti, & Movassagh, 2018; Elhambakhsh, Jalilipar, & White, 2018), the comparison of the language used (Behnam & Golpour, 2014; Pasavoravate, 2011; Hirano, 2009), and the comparison of works from different authors (Suryani & Rismiyanto, 2019; Ren & Lin, 2011). Given the relevant literature, the current trend of studies on abstracts grows significantly in comparative studies (Kaya & Yağiz, 2020). These findings emphasize the importance of comparative studies for future studies to discover different rules and practices across different genres.

Relating to this reason, studies on cross-disciplinary abstracts are still important to fill this gap. Besides, it is interesting to see how different students from different disciplines use their knowledge of language in their writing. Furthermore, research on undergraduate thesis tends to be limited in number since most of the studies are more focused on master thesis and dissertation abstract (Suryani & Rismiyanto, 2019). Students' lack of experience in conducting academic research may also become another consideration since they are still considered new to the academic community (Male, 2018). Besides, the inappropriate of rhetorical move in Indonesian context can also be taken as another consideration (Arsyad & Arono, 2016). Most of the authors of Indonesian article did not follow the manuscript from the International editor which lead to rejection because they were not in accordance with the common rhetorical pattern (Adnan, 2009). On the other hand, one of the requirements for bachelor student in taking its degree is writing an article deprived

from their thesis. As a result, the appropriateness of structure and the content of the article will be reflected through the thesis that had been written by the students.

Therefore, this study sought to do a genre-based comparative study of Natural Science and Social Science abstracts written by students in Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia. Five-move analysis by Hyland (2000) was the main framework for this study. This study aimed to identify the move structure and language features employed by Natural Science and Social Science students of Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia in their thesis abstracts.

## **1.2. Statement of Problems**

The research questions are as follows:

- 1) What are the moves and steps employed in the thesis written by Natural Science and Social Science undergraduate students of Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia?
- 2) What are linguistic features used in the thesis written by Natural Science and Social Science undergraduate students of Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia?

## **1.3. Purpose of the Study**

This study attempted to identify the manifestation of rhetorical move and linguistic features used in the undergraduate thesis abstracts written by Natural Science and Social Science students in Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia.

## **1.4. Scope of the Study**

Along with the various research papers coming up today, this study tried to identify the manifestation of rhetorical moves and linguistic features across disciplines in undergraduate thesis abstract. The chosen majors were Math, Physics, and Chemistry from Natural Science studies. Sociology, History, and Geography were the selected disciplines from the Social Science studies.

### 1.5. Significance of the Study

The findings of this research can provide some valuable descriptions of the move structures employed by Natural Science and Social Science students of Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia in their abstract. These findings can contribute to the richness of literature in the field of genre analysis. Moreover, since this study focused on the comparison between disciplines, it can contribute to point out the nature of each discipline. Findings can also uncover the characteristics of each study which can help the Natural Science and Social Science students write their abstract since this study reveals the similarities and differences from both disciplines.

In addition, the findings of this research also can have implications for the teaching of academic writing and/or English courses when writing an abstract. The result of this study can assist both teachers and students to achieve their intention in writing abstract in the field that they are a part of (Nodoushan, 2012). Therefore, the findings of this work can benefit the novice writers, especially students, of a particular genre.

### 1.6. Clarification of Terms

In order to avoid some confusions, here is some clarification of the terms used in this research:

1. Genre analysis

Bhatia (2004) described genre analysis as *'the study of situated linguistic behavior in institutionalized academic or professional settings'* (p. 22).

2. Move analysis

An approach that investigated the structural patterns of the rhetorical discourse based on the author's communicative goals (Swales, 1991).

3. Move

A segment of a text that hold some specific communicative purposes (Swales, 1991).

## 1.7. Organization of Paper

Along with the amount of information obtained, this study is divided into five parts, namely:

### 1) Introduction

This chapter covers some information including the background of the study, the purpose of the study, statement of the problem, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.

### 2) Literature Review

This chapter elaborates key points, terms, concepts and previous related studies of this study.

### 3) Research Methodology

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

### 4) Findings and Discussion

This chapter contains the result of the research. The answer of the research questions and the discussion of the findings are also included.

### 5) Conclusions and Suggestions

This chapter provides a conclusion from the results of the research and some suggestions for future studies.