

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers an overview of the study, including the background of the study, purposes of the study, statement of problems, scope of the study, the significance of the study, clarification of terms, and organization of the study.

### 1.1 Background of Study

As English is clearly acknowledged as one of the most important languages used around the globe, it is used for several purposes and contexts such as international business, medical context, and other professional contexts (Al-khasawneh, 2017). There is also a high demand for English to be applied in academic contexts in outside English-speaking countries (Kuteeva, 2013). Therefore, those demands expect students, teachers, and business professionals to operate in bilingual or multilingual settings. For non-English-speaking country academia, using English in academic context is a major challenge especially when they have to write a scientific paper. There are various aspects that have to be taken into account such as diction, grammar, and also structure. Those contribute to the complexity of using English in writing an acceptable scientific paper in academic context, especially for students.

Being one of the non-English-speaking countries, Indonesian students find it difficult to use English when they have to write an undergraduate thesis. To obtain an undergraduate degree, universities in Indonesia are often required to write an undergraduate thesis (Indrian, 2019). An undergraduate thesis is a research paper that must be completed in the final year of a degree program and the topic is chosen based on a student's own area of interest. However, a supervisor chosen from their departmental faculty will assist the students in their undergraduate thesis. The supervisor provides guidance, support, and suggestion throughout the research. For undergraduate students, writing an undergraduate thesis is their first time conducting research and they have to investigate a problem and report it in the form of an undergraduate thesis. An undergraduate thesis usually consists of six sections;

**Annisa Rizkyanti Gustina, 2020**

***MOVE ANALYSIS OF UNDERGRADUATE THESES AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS' PUBLISHED RESEARCH ARTICLES ABSTRACTS***

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia | repository.upi.edu | perpustakaan.upi.edu

abstract, introduction, literature review, design methodology, findings and discussion, and conclusion. In the abstract section, students also have to include an abstract in English as one of the requirements for undergraduate thesis submission.

Like undergraduate theses, students must also submit a research article as one of the requirements for obtaining a degree. A research article (RA) is considered as an important genre (Fazilatfar & Naseri, 2014). RA is considered as crucial when it is intended to be published in international and reputable journals (Kurniawan, Suherdi, Lubis, & Danuwijaya, 2019). As noted by (Yearley, 1981). RA is considered as one of the most applicable genres in academic research writing which has been broadly surveyed and generated significant pedagogical implications. Such an organization is considered helpful for authors who want to publish their articles in international reputed journals. Hyland (2000) states research article has two purposes. The first purpose deals with new knowledge to the discourse community and the second purpose is to persuade the members of the discourse community to admit the statements. Moreover, many studies have been conducted on Research Articles (RA) structure, its social construction, and historical evolution. These studies have analyzed the rhetorical structures of certain sections, such as abstracts (Chalak & Norouzi, 2013; Darabad, 2016), introductions (Loan & Pramoolsook, 2015), results, and discussions (Loan & Pramoolsook, 2015), and conclusion chapters (Doró, 2015). Like the undergraduate thesis, students who will submit their research articles also require the submission of an English version of the abstract. Therefore, as non-English-speaking country students, writing an abstract in English is a challenge, either it is for an undergraduate thesis or a research article.

Both undergraduate theses and research articles have different purposes, style, and requirements. The purpose of an undergraduate thesis is to obtain a university degree which should meet the academic requirements. It may differ from one institution to another. On the other hand, a research article serves an original contribution to the research community about the result of their research. The requirement for research articles is that they should meet the standard format depending on the publisher. Yet, undergraduate theses and research articles have

Annisa Rizkyanti Gustina, 2020

**MOVE ANALYSIS OF UNDERGRADUATE THESES AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS' PUBLISHED RESEARCH ARTICLES ABSTRACTS**

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia | repository.upi.edu | perpustakaan.upi.edu

similarities. They are parts of academic writing which have a similar internal structure like both contain abstract, introduction, literature review, research methodology, findings and discussion, and conclusion.

In a general sense, both undergraduate theses and research articles must have an intriguing abstract. The abstract section is considered by the readers as an essential part of a research article to lead the readers to get further information in the papers. Abstract is a mini-version of the whole paper. Abstract is like a cover that can attract possible customers' interest and represents the first and only contact with potential readers of the whole piece of writing (Krajnakova, 2014). Through the abstract section, the readers may gain information immediately which the readers specified its relevance to their interests (Tischler, 2011). In the context of academic, the writing of an abstract can be difficult and more challenging for students due to a lack of awareness of the steps or organization required to write scientifically (Male, 2018). In line with Brown (2011), writing an abstract is not only a complex activity but also a process involving the whole competencies. Thus, being able to compose effective abstracts is critical for academic authors. An abstract should be informative which contains fundamental moves such as Introduction, Purpose, Methodology, Results, and Conclusion (Swales, 2004).

In order to reach the communicative purposes, moves and steps are used to arrange the idea in abstracts (Richard & Schmidt, 2002). These moves and steps are analyzed using rhetorical move analysis. The rhetorical move is a term proposed by a linguist John Swales to describe the rhetorical or linguistic pattern, stage, or structure in the text (Nordquist, 2019) which he believed that the structure of research articles, presentations, and grant proposals are different from each other because all of them have different communicative goals (Swales, 1990). Its purpose is originally to help non-English-speaking country students to improve their ability in reading and writing of research articles in English. Many researchers have used this method of analysis to reveal the generic structure of not only research articles but also other academic, professional, and general genres (Biber, Connor, & Upton, 2007). The rhetorical structure of genre is frequently identified using its constituent "moves". A move is "a discursal or rhetorical unit that performs a communicative

function in a written or spoken discourse,” (Swales, 2004: 228-229). A move has a characteristic specific to a genre; thus, knowledge about the function of each move and the structural pattern of the whole text will allow for a greater understanding of a specific genre (Bhatia, 1993). Each move represents different communicative purposes that are used within community members and it is reflected by the language used to present specific purposes (Muangsamai, 2018).

In the past few years, rhetorical move analysis has engaged the attention of many researchers because it has now become an influential approach to identify the structure of various texts from different disciplines (Amnuai, 2019). Many studies have been done in various disciplines regarding move-based analysis. Specifically, various studies of rhetorical move analysis have emerged across disciplines such as English Teaching Study (Male, 2018), law (Ghasempour & Farnia, 2017), psychology (Talebzadeh, Ghafar Samar, Kiany, & Akbari, 2014), and linguistics (Ren & Li, 2011; Suntara & Usaha, 2013). Generally, those studies only investigated rhetorical moves and verb tenses of the research article abstracts.

However, there are still a few researchers who have analyzed the moves and the linguistic features of undergraduate thesis and published research articles of undergraduate students in the subfield of applied science. Therefore, this study aims to examine the rhetorical moves and linguistic features of abstracts of undergraduate theses and undergraduate students’ published research articles. By doing so, this study can give an insight into the body of knowledge about the rhetorical move of undergraduate theses and undergraduate students’ published research articles in their abstract section.

## **1.2 Purpose of Study**

This study aims to examine how the rhetorical moves are applied and to investigate the linguistic features such as tenses and voices included in the abstract section of undergraduate theses and undergraduate students’ published research articles. Moreover, this study aims to explore the manifestation of rhetorical moves and patterns in the undergraduate theses and research articles’ abstract section from undergraduate students’ published research articles.

Annisa Rizkyanti Gustina, 2020

**MOVE ANALYSIS OF UNDERGRADUATE THESES AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS’ PUBLISHED RESEARCH ARTICLES ABSTRACTS**

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia | repository.upi.edu | perpustakaan.upi.edu

### 1.3 Statement of Problem

The research questions of this research formulate as follows:

1. How are rhetorical moves realized in hard-science undergraduate students' theses and undergraduate students' published research articles abstracts?
2. What linguistic features are frequently manifested in those rhetorical moves?

### 1.4 Scope of Study

This study reveals the realization of rhetorical moves and the linguistic features of science undergraduate theses and undergraduate students' published science research articles abstracts which consisted of five subfields (Biology, Physics, Computer Science, Chemistry, and Mathematics) representing applied science. This study applies Hyland's model (2000) as the framework for the analysis.

### 1.5 Significance of Study

This study can serve a guideline to make good abstracts because it reveals the structure and linguistic features used in abstract sections of science undergraduate theses and undergraduate students' published research articles. Therefore, to give an insight knowledge in the published and unpublished science academic paper, the undergraduate students, especially in Indonesia, can apply the results of this research in preparing their abstract section based on its requirement.

### 1.6 Clarification of Terms

To avoid the confusion and misunderstanding of some terms, this point below are clarifications of the terms used in this study:

1. Genre Analysis

Hyland (2009) defines genre analysis is a broad term embracing a range of tools and attitudes to texts, from detailed qualitative analysis of a single text to more quantitative counts of language features.

Annisa Rizkyanti Gustina, 2020

**MOVE ANALYSIS OF UNDERGRADUATE THESES AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS' PUBLISHED RESEARCH ARTICLES ABSTRACTS**

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia | repository.upi.edu | perpustakaan.upi.edu

## 2. Moves Analysis

Move analysis is one an approach proposed by Swales in 1981 to describe the rhetorical or linguistic pattern, stage or structure in the text.

### 1.7 Organization of Paper

There are five chapters in this paper, as follows:

#### 1. Introduction

This chapter covers an overview of the study, including background of study, purposed of study, statement of problem, scope of study, significance of study, clarification of terms, and organization of study.

#### 2. Theoretical Background

This chapter covers theories, concepts, and related previous studies employed for the completion of the present study. In addition, the elaborations included are regarding undergraduate thesis, research article and discourse patterns.

#### 3. Research Methodology

This chapter provides research design, data sources, data analysis, data presentation, and synopsis of the movie.

#### 4. Findings and Discussion

This chapter presents the findings and discussions of the study.

#### 5. Conclusions and Suggestions

This chapter covers conclusions and suggestions for further related studies.