CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter provides the conclusion of the study and some suggestions for future studies, especially those related to rhetorical move analysis.

5.1 Conclusion

The present study was designed to investigate the variations of rhetorical structure realization in thesis and dissertation abstracts written by Indonesian local and international graduate lecturers as well as its relation to the genre knowledge development of the authors. The study also aimed to find out if there is any difference between the abstracts written by local and international graduates in terms of rhetorical move realization and genre knowledge trajectories. The main conclusions can be deduced based on the study.

Using Hyland's (2000) five-move analysis, this study has identified similarities in move manifestations between the abstracts. Move 4 – *Findings* was found to be the most manifested move among the six abstracts, while Move 5 – *Conclusion* was the least manifested move in most of the abstracts. Two out of six abstracts excluded the use of the Conclusion move, and they were the abstracts written in Indonesian universities. In the step occurrence level, regardless of the varying occurrence percentage of the steps, all six abstracts did not apply Step 2 and Step 3 of Move 5 due to the contrasting nature of the two steps. The most dominant steps across data were Step 2 of Move 1 and Step 3 of Move 3 as they were found in five out of six abstracts. The move patterns of the abstracts varied with the use of embedded moves and steps, but the majority of the abstracts applied the five moves in sequence from Move 1 to Move 5.

Regarding genre knowledge development, it can be derived from the findings that the varying life experience and social situations of a person can lead to various ways of expressing their knowledge development in genre through their writing. Although there was no explicit teaching of this particular genre, an environment favorable to academic activities could help strengthen and develop someone's knowledge and ability in academic writing, as reflected from the writings of the

international graduates. However, as evidenced by the analysis result of the local graduate, certain social circumstances may prevent or intercept them from making use of the acquired knowledge in genre to their writings. Development of someone's knowledge especially on genre could still take place, but it does not automatically reflect in the actual writing.

5.2 Suggestions

Notwithstanding the small scale of data employed in the study, the outcome of the present study contributes to the existing literature in academic writing, particularly in genre move analysis in final papers such as theses and dissertations. The study also gives an insight to help future researchers in constructing a research abstract. However, since the study was limited to a small size of samples, it was not possible to generalize the results of this study to all states of affairs. Due to the difficulty in accessing final paper archives across universities, the use of a small data sample is unavoidable. Hence, the use of a larger set of data from various fields is recommended to help establish a greater degree of accuracy in the analysis of the rhetorical structure and genre knowledge development of abstracts in theses and dissertations across disciplines. Further research on genre knowledge development in relation to the discourse pattern of abstract is also suggested. Specifically, having an organized archive of research files is suggested to all students and researchers to allow easier access in case needed in future studies.