CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a general overview of the study, which includes the background of the study, the statement of problems, the purpose of study, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, the clarification of terms, and the organization of the paper.

1.1 Background of Study

Due to the fast-moving information exchange in today's busy world, the study of research articles' rhetorical organization has received a great attention among researchers. This attention came from the current academic situation, in which there are millions of research articles published every year (Darabad, 2016). In academic settings, research articles are important as they are considered a medium for the researchers to exchange knowledge across disciplines (Flowerdew & Dudley-Evans, 2002). Conducting and publishing a research article can be seen as documentary proof that the author qualifies for membership in the target of a particular discourse community (Swales, 1990). For scholars, especially lecturers and students in a higher institution, research article publication offers beneficial impacts to elevate their careers, reputations as well as the institution's recognition and reputation (Suherdi, Kurniawan & Lubis, 2020).

Of the research article sections, the abstract section is one of the most crucial sections of a research article. In general, an abstract is a short text that appears in the first section of a research article that provides a summary of the content. Abstract is indeed important for several reasons. First, it is considered as a doorway to persuade readers to take a look at the paper fully (Lorés, 2004). Second, it can help the reader to determine the relevancy of the topic with their interest (Kurniawan, Lubis, Suherdi & Danuwijaya, 2019). Last, when aiming to publish the research article into an eligible publisher, an abstract is also important as it will help the editorial team decide whether the paper is qualified for further review (Tullu, 2019). Hence, acquiring the skill of writing a good quality of research article abstract is therefore important.

However, for non-native English-speaking novice (NNEN) writers, writing a good quality abstract is still perceived as a challenging task. The ability to create the abstract effectively can be difficult for them, especially when the writing is aimed at meeting the expectation of a reputable journal (Kurniawan et al., 2019). Additionally, in this globalization era, where English has acquired a status of international language in research and publication, the requirement of writing the English version of abstract has become obligatory (Flowerdew, 2002; Al-Khasawneh, 2017). Consequently, the complexity is much more significant for the NNEN writers since they also have to face a different variety of writing norms across languages. In order to deal with those challenges, having the awareness of the rhetorical structure of one particular genre through move analysis is considered as a reliable strategy to help the writers understand how language is used in a certain context (Behnam & Golpour, 2014; Hyland, 2003).

Move analysis is a genre-based approach used to identify the rhetorical organization of one particular genre based on the author's communicative purpose (Swales, 1990). The rhetorical organization consists of 'move' and 'step' and is determined by the linguistic features (Swales, 1990; 2004). The identification of the communicative purpose of a research article structural pattern has been considered helpful to reduce the complexity of research article writing as it can turn the audience's attention from looking at the text from the surface structure to a situated-context structure (Amnuai, 2019). As a result, the study of this topic keeps being a central agenda among researchers to help the writers improve the quality of their academic writing.

Studies of rhetorical moves of research article abstracts have been conducted in various contexts. Some studies focused on the comparison of abstracts within the same particular disciplines (Maswana, Kanamaru & Tanjino, 2015; Suntara & Usaha, 2013; Tankó, 2017) and across different variety of disciplines (Darabad, 2016; Omidian, Shahriari & Chanturia, 2018). Other than that, some other studies focused on investigating the abstract written by the native and non-native authors, for example, the comparison of Accounting abstract from International and Thailand Journal (Amnuai, 2019) or the comparison of Mathematics and Applied Linguistics abstract from the Iranian and International

journal (Behnam & Golpour, 2014). Beside rhetorical structure, the linguistics features of abstracts were also investigated (e.g. Kurniawan et al., 2019; Tankó, 2017).

Despite the fact that the research of the abstract has been extensively studied, the study of Indonesian abstract in the field of soft and hard science is still under study. Additionally, recognizing how the prior comparative studies were dominated in comparison of abstract from journal articles, conducting research in a different setting is needed to take into account. With these concerns, the present study aims to explore rhetorical move structures and linguistic realizations of abstracts written by NNEN writers in a different setting. The analyzed data in the present study were abstracts written by NNEN writers in the field of hard taken from an academic workshop held in a state university in Bandung. The findings from this study will provide researchers knowledge of abstracts and can give an insight to the body of knowledge of how the NNEN writers in the soft and hard science field in Indonesia rhetorically organize their abstract.

1.2 Statement of Problems

This study sought to address the following questions:

1) How do the non-native English-speaking novice writers in the field of soft and hard science rhetorically organize their abstract?

2) What are the dominant types of tense and voice used in conveying the rhetorical moves?

1.3 Purpose of Study

The present study aimed to investigate the rhetorical move structures and to investigate linguistic realizations such as tenses and voice in abstracts written by the non-native English-speaking novice writers in the field of soft and hard science in a state university in Bandung.

1.4 Scope of Study

In line with the growing number of the comparative study of abstract, the present study aimed at examining the realization of rhetorical moves and the linguistic features of abstract written by the soft and hard science authors. In the

field of hard science, the abstracts were written by the authors from seven disciplines, namely Biology education, Chemistry education, Mathematics education, Natural Science Education, Geography Education, Nursing, and Physical and Sport Education. While, in the field of soft science, the data were written by the authors from thirteen disciplines, namely English Language Education, Linguistics, Indonesian Language Education, Sudanese Language Education, Elementary School Education, Management, Office Management Education, Communication Program, Social Education, Civics Education, Arabic Language Education, Economy Education, and Curriculum Development Education. Hyland's (2000) five-move model was employed as the framework of the analysis.

1.5 Significance of Study

The finding of this research can enrich the existing literature in the field of genre analysis. The findings also provide a valuable description of rhetorical moves pattern and linguistic features employed in the abstract written by the soft and hard science authors in the field of education. Moreover, since this study focused on the comparison between disciplines, it also can contribute to pointing out the nature of each discipline.

1.6 Clarification of Terms

To avoid some confusion, the clarification of terms mentioned in this research is presented in the following.

1. Genre Analysis

    Genre analysis is a study of a 'situated linguistic behavior in institutionalized academic or professional settings' (Bhatia, 2004, p. 22). Genre analysis is known as an approach to examine a type or style of writing of one particular genre.

2. Move Analysis

    Move analysis is defined as a genre-based approach used to identify the structural pattern of a particular discourse based on the author's communicative purpose (Swales, 1990)

3. Move

Move is a unit of text that performs a particular communicative purpose. (Swales, 1990)

1.7 Organization of Paper

This study is organized into five chapters, namely:

1) Introduction

   This chapter presents a general overview of the study, which include the background of the study, the statement of problems, purpose of study, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.

2) Literature Review

   This chapter elaborates the key points, terms, concepts and previous related study.

3) Research Methodology

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

4) Findings and Discussion

   This chapter presents the findings and discussion of the study.

5) Conclusions and Suggestions

   This chapter provides a conclusion of the study and some suggestions for the future study.