

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

The ability to write a text has played an important role for the undergraduate students of the English Department in Indonesia since it is one of the requirements to graduate from the university by submitting their final project reports written in English. Not only important to fulfill the requirement of the university graduation, the ability to write well is actually very essential and very much required for their further studies. In postgraduate program, for example, students are always assigned to write papers to be presented in the lecture session so as to be able to develop their knowledge. Therefore, as a preparation for their advanced study, the ability to write a text coherently is very much needed. However, some language experts admit that it is not easy to be able to write well even though writing in their own native language. Brown (2004, p. 218) states that only few children from developed country learn to express themselves clearly with logical, well-developed organization that accomplishes an intended purpose. Indonesian students as foreign language learners are also similar to that, so that is the reason why they are expected to make research report properly by knowing and exploring about how to write it well, including knowledge about rhetorical moves and linguistic realization.

Chandrasekhar (2002, p. 1) stated that research is an attempt to communicate. Science begins with curiosity, follow on with experiment and

analysis, and leads to findings which are then shared with the larger community of experts and perhaps even the public. The research is therefore not just a record of technical work, but is also an attempt to communicate to a larger audience. It is related to what Allah said in the Holy Qur'an *surah* Al-'Alaq verse 1-4 as follows:

أَقْرَأْ بِأَسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ (1) خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ (2) أَقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ (3) الَّذِي
عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ (4) عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ (5)

According to *surah* Al-'Alaq above, it is an encouragement from Allah to humankind to learn and curious about anything. Allah has ordered us to improve our knowledge through reading and writing. As reading and writing has communicative purpose between reader and author, the next discussion will be about an abstract that can be an introduction tool of a research for the readers.

As a part of research, an abstract has important role to present the points of research. In Indonesia, amount of education institutions obligates the students to make an abstract in two language versions; Bahasa Indonesia and English. To write an abstract, there are several models or frameworks that can be a guidance such as Hyland's model, Swales's model, Bhatia's model, etc. Every model is basically similar to each other, the thing that makes different is the number of moves for each model and understanding toward emphasized function. This present study used Hyland's model of

rhetorical moves because it enables this proposed study to properly distinguish the territory of the research abstract.

Rhetorical move analysis is one of the genre-based approaches used to characterize the structure of research article and it has become an influential method today. A move is a textual unit of texts linked to the aim of the writer (Amnuai, 2019, p. 1). In this case, it is common to analyze research abstract using move analysis. Several researchers focused their studies on the comparison of rhetorical moves of English research abstracts with those of research abstracts written by other languages speakers, Chinese (Hongwei, 2011), Iran (Amir & Hussein, 2016), Thai (Amnuai, 2019), and Equador (Tovar, 2019). Based on these findings, variations were noticed not only in the form of rhetorical movements, but also in writing styles, ways of expressing and presenting ideas.

From the description above, we can assume that the bond of abstract and research article is generally strong. That leads a question about how is the structure of an abstract. It is important to follow the proper moves to write the English version of abstract since it is one of requirement for submission matter. However, for non-native English speaker, writing an abstract with good accuracy is not easy. Amnuai (2019, p. 1) stated that both rhetorical moves and linguistics realizations are essential factors in the abstract writing process. This is because although writers are highly qualified to communicate general English, a lack of specific knowledge which is generic types, will make it hard to compose research papers,

particularly for non-native writers who don't have enough experience in writing English.

Besides of rhetorical moves analysis, linguistic realizations in research article abstracts including stance markers (hedges and boosters) are also important to support a good abstract. "Abstract involves meta-discourse which associates the appropriate use of linguistic realization" (Al-Shujairi et al., 2016, p. 379). Meta-discourse plays a key role in information construction in academic papers, for example research papers, by handling the relationships with cultural, academic and rhetorical practices of authors and readers that usually come from the same discourse community (Hu and Cao, 2011, p. 2796). Based on that reason, this proposed study investigated the linguistic features in terms of stance markers in research abstract.

The research about stance markers including hedges and boosters in Indonesia is quite rare, yet hedges and boosters can bring impactful outcome to our writing specially to convey our voice to the readers appropriately. Stance can be described as an attitude aspect and includes features relating to how writers present themselves and express their thoughts, judgments and commitments (Hyland, 2005; Shirzadi et al, 2017, p. 30). The lack of proper study about hedges and boosters makes it difficult for students to apply the hedges and boosters in their writing. Moreover, even when they use hedges and boosters, they are still confused about the function and how to apply it properly. Salichah et al. (2015, p. 155) stated that in reality, amount of language learning writers is lack of knowledge about hedges and

boosters. It shows because there is lots of overused, underused and misused found in their writing. Those weaknesses make the writers irrelevant to hedges and boosters' basic characteristics and context.

Hedges show the writer's decision to reject a full commitment to a statement, allowing information to be seen as an opinion rather than as approved fact. Boosters, on the other hand, encourage writers to express their convictions and express their commitment and solidarity with the audience. (Hyland, 1998; Hyland, 2005; Myers, 1989; Shirzadi et al, 2017, p. 31). While being vocal in academic writing shows the author's commitment to the statements they convey, other academics say that exaggerations should be avoided in scientific writings since they bring an unnatural tone to the text. (Hinkel, 1997; Kazemi, 2016). Studies of hedges and boosters is valuable because it suggests you how to measure a commitment through some strategic hedges and boosters in order to reach a successful academic writing (Aull, 2015; Lancaster, 2014, 2016; Aull, 2019, p. 4)

This present study will be valuable for pedagogical implication to improve the students' realization towards stance markers particularly hedges and booster and move analysis in Indonesia. It is expected to add some knowledge about those topics and it can be used to lead improvement in writing skill. It is specifically for English abstract writing and generally for academic writing in TEFL context.

B. Research Question

1. What are the patterns of Moves that occur in English abstracts written by Indonesian and International writers?
2. What are the similarities and differences of the using of hedges and boosters in English abstracts written by Indonesian and International writers?

C. Objectives of Study

1. Investigating the patterns' occurrence or frequency of Moves on English abstracts written by Indonesian and International writers.
2. Exploring the similarities and differences of the using of hedges and boosters in English abstracts written by Indonesian and International writers.

D. Significance of Study

The result of the study is important for significances below:

1. For the lecturers
 - a. Informing the important aim of writing a proper English abstract to the students.
 - b. Giving some material about stance markers, the research can become an example of the using of hedges and boosters.
 - c. Describing the rhetorical moves in order to introduce the students about abstract writing process.
2. For the students

- a. Improving their English to be better, generally for writing in academic language and particularly for abstract writing process.
- b. Knowing the definition, the use, and the example of hedges and boosters.
- c. Applying the knowledge from this research to their thesis making process.

E. Definition of Key Terms

1. Abstract

In this study, abstract is a part of a research that mentions points and is used as a summarization of a research. The corpus of abstracts was taken from two groups, Indonesian and International writers. The abstracts were retrieved from Cogent Education, this journal site is Scopus indexed (Q3) checked via *scimagojr.com*

2. Rhetorical moves

In this study, rhetorical move is the structure of an abstract based on Hyland's model. They are linked to each other in rhetorical form and comes in order from introduction, purpose, method, product and conclusion.

3. Linguistic realization

Linguistic realization aims to detect linguistics features that appeared in an abstract. The linguistic features discussed in this research are hedges and boosters.