

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Writing is a skill of rendering a language into a form that can be reconstructed by other people. It is developed by learning to produce an appropriate writing in an efficient way. The academics are required to present their research appropriately and understood by the readers. Most of them are able to conduct their research in a valuable result, but unable to write it efficiently. One researcher emphasized that a successful academic writing depends on the individual writer's projection of a shared professional context (Hyland, 2004, p.1). The purpose of academic writing is to assist readers' understanding. Academic writing needs to be coherent, written in a logical order, and brings together related points and materials. In order to make an academic writing seems constructed, researchers are required to have an appropriate writing skill in conducting a research in an efficient way so that the readers are able to get the idea of their research.

An abstract is an abbreviated summary of the content of an article or a research proposal written comprehensively (Fain, as cited in Tan & San, 1998, p.40). It is the representation of whole problems discussed and is written in the beginning of a research article. It helps the readers to gain the ideas contained in articles by reading brief information given and it leads them to be capable in selecting the articles they would preferably take. The generic purpose of research article abstracts is to provide a brief information of the content of an article and to

draw the readers to read the article. As noted by Ahmed (2015), a well-constructed abstract enables readers: (a) to identify the basic content of a document quickly, (b) to determine its relevance to their interests, and (c) to decide whether or not they need to read the document entirely. Therefore, it is critical for academic writers to study the language of abstracts in order to be proficient in composing an effective abstract.

Recently, Darabad (2016) conducted a study discussing the formation of the abstracts in cross-disciplinary research articles in terms of the rhetorical structure – the moves and the steps - employed in each abstract by using the *five-move* model proposed by Hyland (2000). Another research was written by Can, Karabacak and Qin (2016) which focused on analyzing the structure of moves of research article abstracts in applied linguistics by applying the move coding framework proposed by Pho (2008). Other researches written by San and Tan (2012), Achmed (2014), Sidek et al (2016), and Al-Khasawneh (2017) also intended to seek on the rhetorical structure of research article abstracts. They showed the similar results that the pattern of each move in the research article abstracts examined were varied. In analyzing the data, Achmed (2014), Sidek et al (2016), and Al-Khasawneh (2017) used Hyland's *five-move* model (2000), while San and Tan (2012) preferably used Santo's framework.

Previous studies mostly focused on analyzing the structure and the move organization of research article abstracts and so far, there has not been any research focusing on analyzing the abstracts through a transitivity analysis. For this reason, this study gives a different perspective of a research by discussing research article

abstracts through the identification of the functions of the results and describing the lexico-grammatical features conducted in each function. The Transitivity System proposed by Halliday is selected as the methodology to analyze the data. This study is expected to take part as a significant role in helping not only readers to select and understand their readings, but also researchers to construct their research article abstracts.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

Based on the background, the research questions found in this study are:

1. What are the experiential functions of the result move in the abstracts of research articles in *TESOL Quarterly* and *TEFLIN Journal*?
  - 1.1. What processes are used and how are they lexico-grammatically represented?
  - 1.2. What participants are used and how are they lexico-grammatically represented?
  - 1.3. What circumstances are used and how are they lexico-grammatically represented?

## **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study is to investigate the experiential functions of the result move in the abstracts of research articles in *TESOL Quarterly* and *TEFLIN Journal* by identifying the processes, the participants, and the circumstances used and describing the lexico-grammatical features that represent each function.

#### **1.4 Limitation of the Study**

The limitation of this study appears in the data resource selection which only focuses on the result move in the abstracts of research articles in *TESOL Quarterly* (published in 2018) and *TEFLIN Journal* (published in 2018). The lack of the researcher's experience which may impact the conclusion of the study can be the other limitation.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The outcome of this study can be necessarily applied as a reference for the students majoring in English in producing a research (Skripsi) especially on research article abstracts. Other researchers may benefit this study to write their research article abstracts. This study expectedly results in giving contribution to the development of academic writing especially in research article abstract writing.

