

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1. Background of the Study

Abstract is the representation of an academic paper. It is defined as summary of thesis, research article, review, conference proceeding or any academic paper (Tavakoli & Tabatabaei, 2017). It is located at the beginning section of Research Article and is normally written with 100-250 words. Hyland (2000) affirms that abstract is functioned as 'advertising means', meaning it has role to attract the readers by providing them with basic information of the research article content. Therefore, Ahmed (2015) suggested that abstract is needed to be good-written as it will help the readers to acknowledge the essential knowledge of the research topic so they will be able to decide whether the article is worthy to be read entirely or not. Many academics may be able to conduct a lot of outstanding researches but not all of them are capable to report their research in the form of written text properly (Sidek, Mat Saad, Baharun, & Idris, 2016).

In order to produce a good-written abstract, there are several aspects need to be considered by the writers. One of those important aspects is termed as the rhetorical move or rhetorical structure. Regarding to this, many scholars have proposed various pattern of abstracts' structures. Dos Santos (1996) proposed the first design of the abstracts' move structure which consists of five moves: (1) situating the research, (2) presenting the research, (3) describing the methodology, (4) summarizing the findings, and (5) discussing the research). Few years later, Hyland (2000) came up with the brief adaptation of the Santos (1996)'s five moves

and called them as: introduction (introducing the context of the paper), purpose (establishing the aim of the study), method (describing the method used in the study), result (stating the finding accomplished in the study), and conclusion (stating the summary of the study).

Numerous studies has contributed to analyze the abstract of research article. Most of the studies were comparing one group of research article with another group to seek the rhetorical moves employed by the abstract. For instance, some studies compared two group of abstracts. The groups could be in similar or different disciplines, or nationally or internationally published (Ahmed, 2015; Al-khasawneh, 2017; Darabad, 2016; Tavakoli & Tabatabaei, 2017; Zanina, 2017). Studies indicated that that particular research articles abstracts are employing move patterns proposed by scholars. For instance, in their studies Al-khasawneh (2017) and Zanina (2017) found that the abstracts they analyzed mostly employed three moves of structure (purpose, method, and conclusion). But there was also a significant difference found between those abstracts in the introduction and conclusion moves.

Studies of abstracts' move structure are also reported the research using transitivity analysis in order to seek the meaning represented in the abstracts. Huang (2009) emphasized transitivity analysis study to compare International and Chinese research articles' abstracts and found that the process of transitivity play an important role in the realization of move structure in abstracts' research articles. The findings are fairly consistent with the later study conducted by Zheng, Yang, & Ge (2014) who analyzed the abstracts in English-medium research articles. The

same findings also found in the studies which using the transitivity analysis to analyze the abstracts (e.g. Antônio, 2006; Vathanaloha & Tangkiengsirisin, 2018).

As stated before, the preceding studies in this field have analyzed the move structure of abstracts from various disciplines, for instance Linguistic and Literature, Dental, Engineering, and Chemistry. Yet, not many of the current studies has taken into consideration on specific move of abstract. Especially in the background of study, which is considered as a prominent element as this section has function to provide the readers with basic information. This leads to the focus of this study. By drawing on move structure concept and Halliday (1994)'s transitivity system, the study intents to identify and compare how the background of study in *TESOL Quarterly* and *TEFLIN* research articles' abstracts are stated. The move analysis and the transitivity are expected to provide useful information for Indonesian students who are conducting research articles and are having the intention to publish it widely.

## **1.2. Research Question**

Based on the background of the study, the research questions are formulated for this study:

1. How is the transitivity system established in the background of study section of abstracts in *TESOL Quarterly* and *TEFLIN* Journal?
  - a. What types of functions are used in the background of study of abstracts in *TESOL Quarterly* and *TEFLIN* Journal?
  - b. How is each function lexicographically represented?

### **1.3. Purpose of the Study**

The main purpose of this function is to identify the functions of background of study section of abstracts in *TESOL Quarterly* and *TEFLIN* journals. Furthermore, it is to identify the lexicogrammatical features of each functions identified.

### **1.4. Scope of the Study**

The scope of this study focuses on analyzing the transitivity system of the background of study section of abstract in *TESOL Quarterly* and *TEFLIN* journal. The term of transitivity system in this study refers to the functions of the background of study section and the lexicogrammatical features in each functions identified. To identify the functions, the study adapted CARS move structure of background of study (Swales & Feak, 2012) and to analyze the lexicogrammatical features identified in each function, the study employed Halliday's the transitivity system theory. However, the research is limited only on the background of study section of the abstracts and it does not provide the structural analysis similar to the previous studies conducted this topic but it more focuses on the functionality of the background of study section of abstracts.

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

The study provides the understanding of the transitivity system of the background of study section of abstracts in *TESOL Quarterly* and *TEFLIN* journal. The transitivity system, in this study, refers to the functions of the background of study and the lexicogrammatical features constructed the functions. The study may be a reference for English major students, especially the English Education Study Program (ELESP) to write the abstracts in their skripsi by providing the example

of background of study section of abstracts from two different SCOPUS registered journals. Moreover, the study is expected to contribute to development of knowledge about background of study section of abstracts in research article by using transitivity system.

