

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Writing a research articles title require consideration of what the study is about and the methodology of the study, which is basically a brief summary about the study (Bailey, 2011). Huppatz (2010) also mentions that the titles should also be clear in stating the topic of the study. Furthermore, Porra et al. (2014) mention that there are methods and instruments which are needed in order to formulate the title, and not to mention the lexicogrammatical rules when writing the article. Authors need to specify the method and instruments they are using in their research without any unclear aspects. This is due to the fact that the knowledge needs to be true and able to be proven by other people (Bailey, 2011). Bailey mentions that the lexicogrammatical rules needs to describe the content clearly and in the format of formals.

In the construction of the syntax, Halliday (2014) proposes the view of a pragmatist to do so. He calls it the Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL). This system will be used to examine the lexicogrammatical features presented in the titles. In the architecture of a clause, he distinguishes the subject and the verbs into the participant (nominal groups) and process (verbal groups) respectively. Even though a title is not always presented as a clause, we may use this system to analyse the titles as they are mainly presented as nominal groups. This distinction of the

functional view of the structure is what Halliday called as the Transitivity System. The nominal group contains the representation of the object by the head or the thing. Halliday mentions that a head may or may not be qualified by a pre- or post-modifiers. One of these modifiers includes the adjectives and articles, which he labels as epithets and deictics respectively. Halliday also mentions that nominal group sometimes contains verb in the form of present participle which is considered to be with a finite. In verbal groups, Halliday (2014) mentions that the verbal group contains a finite and a main verb which it represents a process or an activity of the clause. The process then would fall into one of the six types of process: material, mental, verbal, relational, existential, and behavioral. These types would be based on what the process is. For example, the word *speaking* is representing the process of speaking of a language by someone, and because it uses mouth, sounds, and meaning, it is a verbal process.

The construction of research article titles was categorised into five categories: (1) Nominal Group; (2) Non-finite Clause Title (V-ing Title); (3) Prepositional Phrase Title; (4) Full Sentence Title; and (5) Compound Title (Soler, 2007; Balch 2012; Stephanie, Kuo, & Kuo, 2012; Bavdekar 2016). However, Stephanie et al. proposes that titles in research article would be distinguished into three main categories: nominal, v-ing, and compound. Stephanie et al. also mentions that most research articles follow the structure of nominal structure. Data shows that the most common title type used in research articles is the compound

title of nominal title (Soler, 2007; Stephanie, Kuo, & Kuo, 2012). Stephanie et al. discusses that the compound form of the nominal title is due to the nature of the title being the description of the research. The result of the research is an object, which is represented by the nominal group. Even the v-ing titles are also considered to be nominals, with the present participle verbs at the initial position of the title is considered to be an epithet, which is an element of the nominal group (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Stephanie concludes that the most common type title used in research articles is the nominal title. Furthermore, in the analysis of the compound title, Stephanie et al. found that the combination between the two parts of the title are in accordance to Swales' (2012) and Anthony's (2001) findings.

Studies of compound titles have resulted in the possible combinations between the two parts of the titles (Swales & Feak, 2012; Anthony, 2001; Rath, 2010; Stephanie, Kuo, & Kuo, 2012). Initially, Swales and Feak (2012) explained that there are four possible combinations: Problem-Solution, General-Specific, Topic-Method, and Major-Minor. Anthony (2001) found that there are other possible combinations for the said title type, which are: Name-Description, Topic-Scope, Topic-Method, Description-Name, and Topic-Description. Lastly, Stephanie et al. concluded that the combination of the compound title would mainly be Discipline-Specific. Similar to Stephanie's study, Rath also found one possible combination between the two parts, which is the Theme-Rheme.

Even being one of the hardest to determine and write, the study of titles in research articles are still limited. The researcher was not able to find any studies regarding the comparison of research article titles between cultures (native and non-native) or between journals using Halliday's Transitivity System in terms of its functionality. The studies aforementioned above examined titles using the SFL based on the titles' structure constructions, not the functionalities. This study was conducted to fill in the gap of the absence of knowledge about whether the stating of the titles in the sampled journals are the same and the effectiveness in the stating of the titles respective to each journal. In this case, the research articles taken as samples are from TEFLIN Journal and TESOL Quarterly.

1.2 Research Question

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

1. What is the transitivity system of the research article titles in TEFLIN Journal and TESOL Quarterly?
 - a. What are the functions in the research article titles in TEFLIN Journal and TESOL Quarterly?
 - b. How is each function lexicographically represented?
 - c. How is the method function compared statistically?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to identify the functions of titles of research articles in the stating of the sampled TESOL Quarterly and TEFLIN

Journal research article titles. Furthermore, it is to identify the lexicogrammatical features of each function in TESOL Quarterly and TEFLIN Journal. Lastly, it is to statistically compare the method functions stated in TESOL Quarterly and TEFLIN Journal.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study is aimed to identify the functions stated in TESOL Quarterly and TEFLIN Journal research article titles along with their lexicogrammatical features. This study will also include the structural examination of the titles and the statistical analysis of the stating of one of the main functions of the title. However, this study will not examine the combination of the compound titles contained in the sampled titles. This study does not represent the structural analysis similar to previous studies conducted in this topic. In that sense, this study acknowledges the lack of any sources or references required to conduct the analysis based on the functionality of the titles from previous researches.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study may be a reference for English major students, specifically English Education Study Program (ELESP) of Universitas Negeri Jakarta students, to write their skripsi by giving out models of research article titles from two different SCOPUS (Elsevier) indexed journals. The result of this study is expected to contribute to the development of knowledge about research article titles by using transitivity system.