CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the study

Gary and Robert (1993) stated abstract is a brief summary of a research article, thesis, review, or any in-depth analysis of a particular subject and is often used to help the reader quickly ascertain the paper's purpose. Academic writing is one of the most important thing for any academics or scholars to improve their knowledge. One of the way to update it is by reading research reports. Fain (1998) said an abstract is a brief, comprehensive summary of the content of an article or research proposal. This reports are shared practical knowledge that have been proven in society. Martin-Martin (2005:5) argue that "abstracts constitute, after the paper's title, the reader's first encounter with the text". However, writing research reports might be a difficult task for the writer, especially in writing others native language. Most of the researchers are able to conduct a research with valuable result, but they cannot report their research in such a way that is efficient for a reader to get the ideas of the research. Whether the researcher is capable to conduct a research, writing a research report requires a different skills from research itself. The writing skills is acquired skills which gained from learning activities. In general, abstracts tend to be written in a single paragraph without indentation and limited in length -between 100 and 250 words- (Cortés, 2013; Degelman, 2014; Marín, 2016; Prestinoni de Bellora et al., 2005; Swales, 2009) and

they should stand on their own, state what the RA or presentation is about, and attract readers to read the article (Björk, 1997; Glasman-Deal, 2010; Wallwork, 2011). As an important role in research article, the writer should sum up the whole research paper into an outline to help the reader grasp the value of the research.

Research article abstracts usually "should be placed on the first page of each abstracted item between the title and the beginning of the text (American National Standards Institute/National Information Standards Organization 239.14-1997)". As its location is in the beginning of the paper, abstract can represents how the research deduce his/her research paper and their point of view toward the research problem. This abstract have an important role for the reader to gain the whole points of the research that may sum up the information in a brief way. The content of the abstract, according to American National Standards Institute/National Information Standards Organization, there are specific elements: purpose, methodology, results and conclusion. Either providing all of the contents of the paper, the abstract restricted with the range of numbers of words within 250 words for research paper, articles and portions of monographs (Ahmed, 2015).

Recent scientific paper conducted by Abarghooeinezhad, and Simin (2015) discussed the analysis of verb tense and voice of research articles abstract in engineering journals. They attempted to analysis the rhetorical structure of the journal articles. Other research written by San and Tan (2012), Shabbir (2015), Sidek et al (2016), Ali (2016), Al-khasawneh (2017), Arsyad (2018), Amalia et al (2018), and

Amnuai (2019), have focused on the rhetorical structure of research article abstracts. They shared the similarity result of research that the each move patterns in the abstract of research articles employed and varied. Therefore, they used a different model as their methodology in analyzed the abstract. Abarghooeinezhad, and Simin (2015), and San and Tan (2012) used Five-Moves model proposed by Santos (1996), while Shabbir (2015), Ali (2016), Sidek et al (2016), and Amnuai (2019) used Five-Model by Hyland (2000) as a basic model analysis. Other research article abstract move by Swales (1990) also being used by Arsyad (2018), and Samraj's model (2002) used by Amalia et al (2018).

So far, there are no research focuses on the transitivity analysis of the research article abstract. Mostly, the previous researches commonly deal with move structure of the research article and the genre analysis. That is why this paper arise with the focus of transitivity analysis to give a different perspective of a research.

1.2 Research Question

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

1. What is the transitivity system of methodology section in abstracts in *TESOL Quarterly* and *TEFLIN Journal*?

   a. What are the functions of the methodology section in abstracts in *TESOL Quarterly* and *TEFLIN Journal*?

   b. How is each functions lexicogrammatically represented?

1.3   Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to analyze the transitivity system of methodology section in *TESOL Quarterly* and *TEFLIN Journal* abstracts by identifying the function of methodology and describing the lexicogrammatical features in each functions.

1.4   Scope of the Study

In constructing this study, there are several limitations that cannot be avoided. The first limitation is the selection of data resources which has the authority to be used, specifically the method section in the research article abstract. The limitation lies in the selection of data sources which is limited only to the Methodology Section of Abstract in *TESOL Quarterly* Research Article (published in 2018) and *TEFLIN Journal* Research Article (published in 2018). The other limitation is the lack of researcher's experience may impact the conclusion of the study.

1.5   Significance of the Study

This study is significant as a reference for the students who study English in producing research (Skripsi) especially on the research article abstract. This study may be beneficial for other researcher who want to write their research article abstract. The result of this study is expected to contribute the development of academic writing especially in writing research article abstract.