

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background of the research, the statement of the problem, the objective of the research, the significance of the research, the scope of the research, and the operational definition.

1.1 Background of the Research

Writing an academic article still poses challenges for Indonesian EFL learners. In writing academic articles, Indonesian EFL learners especially struggle with the rhetorical application of scientific article writing techniques (Ariyanti & Fitriana, 2017). Furthermore, writing with the rhetorical move application becomes a common problem faced by students who are working on writing academic proposals or theses (Husin & Nurbayani, 2017). However, writing a thesis is a must for Indonesian undergraduate students to finish their studies. Thus, they need to write a thesis that conveys a clear, purposeful, comprehensive scientific written discourse, including the Introduction section.

The introduction plays an important role in demonstrating the novelty of the research. The introduction is defined as a place for the author to explain the research background, gap statements, and the purpose of this research (Setiawati et al., 2021). The introduction is the first passage in an academic written project that provides readers with the background of the research. Its objective is to establish a framework so that readers can understand how it is related to the other research. The research introductions are challenging to write and understand. Many researchers do not identify the background of the research clearly. When the background of the research is not clear, it would be difficult to understand the other topic of the study (Cresswell, 2007).

An overview of all the introductions in each research approach shows that they have a common pattern that states the problem and justifies why it needs to be studied. However, the type of problem presented in the research introduction will vary depending on the approach the researcher used (Cresswell, 2007).

In qualitative research, the researcher explains the research problem by exploring a concept or phenomenon. Qualitative introductions may be less inductive but still, rely on the participant's perspective by describing a phenomenon in greater depth. Compared to the qualitative introduction, the quantitative introduction has fewer variations. In quantitative research, the problem is best addressed by understanding what factors or variables influence the results. Additionally, in a quantitative introduction, researchers sometimes present a theory to test, and they combine this with a substantial literature review to identify research questions that need to be answered. Quantitative introductions can be written from an impersonal and past perspective to convey objectivity (Cresswell, 2007).

Muria Kudus University has guidelines for writing qualitative research. However, the writing system is determined by the university in general. Researchers can adjust to the conditions and needs of research. The systematic writing of the introductory chapter contains the background of the research, statements of the problem, objectives of the research, and significance of the research. In writing the background of the research, the researcher describes the situation that underlies the emergence of the phenomenon or problem that is the focus of the research. Then, researchers can also include statistical data to show the actuality or development of the phenomenon that is the background of the research. In the final part, the researcher concludes the main ideas to lead the researcher to the research focus to be studied as well as to show the importance and interest of the research to be carried out. (Universitas Muria Kudus, 2019)

The Previous research discussed the comparison of rhetorical moves structure of Applied Linguistics research articles published in national and international Thailand Journal. Wannaruk & Amnuai, (2016) found that the frequency of the emergence of rhetorical movements of the two corpora between articles published in national and international journals is quite similar, but there were some differences in how the credibility of the data was gained and how the gaps of the research were established. Moreover, Mahardika et al., (2020) discussed the rhetorical moves in the research article introduction in the field of linguistic programs. It was found that the seven research article introductions published in

Indonesian Journal have different rhetorical moves. Those seven articles found no statement that represents a step of the rhetorical move.

However, most of the previous studies focus on analyzing rhetorical moves in published research article introductions. The previous research only intended to find the comparison of several research articles' introductions. There is no previous research that analyzed the research article introduction written by undergraduate students. Undergraduate students still need help moving on from general writing practice to academic writing such as thesis writing (Xu et al., 2016). In fact, analyzing research article introduction of undergraduate students is important since it can help them to publish their research in national or international publications. Therefore, the researcher needs to find out how the research article introduction was written by English Education Students at Universitas Muria Kudus.

The purpose of this study is to analyze rhetorical moves in the skripsi introduction of English Education students at Universitas Muria Kudus. In this study, the researcher intends to identify the rhetorical move in university students' theses so that the students can have better preparation in writing thesis introductions and the lecturers can provide the best solution for the university students who still have difficulty in writing a thesis, especially a skripsi introduction. Thus students can develop their skills in writing a thesis with appropriate rhetorical moves. This research consists of five chapters namely; introduction, review of related literature, methodology, finding and discussion, also conclusion.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the statements of the problem of the research are:

1. How are the rhetorical moves in the introduction section of the qualitative research *skripsi* written by English Education Students at Universitas Muria Kudus?
2. How is the John Swales (1990) theory applied in the introduction section of the qualitative research *skripsi* written by English Education Students at Universitas Muria Kudus?

1.3 Objectives of the Research

Based on the statements of the problems written above, this research aims to:

1. Find out how the rhetorical moves in the introduction section of the qualitative research *skripsi* written by English Education Students at Universitas Muria Kudus.
2. Find out how the Johon Swales (1990) is applied in the introduction section of the qualitative research *skripsi* written by English Education Students at Universitas Muria Kudus.

1.4 Significance of the Research

By doing this research, the researcher hopes that this research will have a beneficial impact on theory and practice

Theoretically, this research is expected to be used as a reference by future researchers to conduct similar research related to rhetorical move analysis in the *skripsi* introduction of English education students at the University of Muria Kudus.

Practically, this research is expected to provide information about the *skripsi* introduction of English Education Students that can be used by educators as a support so that in the future the lecturers and educators can help students to increase their knowledge and understanding of moves in the Introduction section in writing scientific papers.

1.5 Scope of the Research

The focus of this research is to analyze the rhetorical move in the introductory section, especially in the background of the research in the qualitative research of English Education students at Muria Kudus University in the last three years, 2020-2022.

1.6 Operational Definitions

Based on the title of the research, four terms can be defined in the operational definitions as follows:

1. rhetorical move are series of scientific works that have pattern that must be arranged in sequence and complete to make scientific work more organized and informative.

2. Skripsi is a kind of research in a descriptive form and does not use numerical data in collecting the data that is done by minimally seventh-semester of undergraduate students.
3. The introduction section is a part of the thesis that states the general topic and background of the research.
4. English Education students are undergraduate students who study in the English Education Department at the University of Muria Kudus and have completed their thesis in the academic year 2020-2022.

