CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents 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

Nowadays, academic publications have become the communication of knowledge among academic community members (Kanafani et al., 2022; Yoon & Casal, 2020). As a result, researchers need to conduct, promote, and publish their research articles (hereafter RA). In RA, one part continues to get attention, namely the abstract. The purpose of the abstract in RA is to provide readers with an overview of the article and help readers decide whether the article is relevant or not (Zibalas & Šinkūnienė, 2019). The abstract is commonly located after the title and before the introduction. This particular position is related to the important function of the abstract to briefly present the contents of the text (Suryani & Rismiyanto, 2019). Most readers usually read the abstract first before deciding whether to continue or stop reading the content (Ghasempour & Farnia, 2017).

At the undergraduate level of university, a student must complete a thesis. In Indonesia, an abstract of a thesis is written in Indonesian and English. Ideally, the writing of thesis abstract should follow the features of abstract genre. However, the thesis abstracts written by the students do not always comply with the existing format considering that they are novice researchers. Most of them only read abstracts written by other researchers to get ideas about good structures and the way to write them (Al-Khasawneh, 2017). This will cause to lack of innovation, critical thinking, and creativity (Abarghooeinezhad & Simin, 2015).

A large number of researchers have investigated the move analysis of abstracts. For instance, El-Dakhs (2018) revealed that abstracts from less reputable journals usually contain longer introductions, purposes, and methods, while reputable journals focus on findings. Another research by Utomo et al. (2022)

investigated the move structures of the final project report abstracts written by Indonesians and Filipinos. The results showed that Indonesians tend to apply Hyland's model. Meanwhile, Filipinos tend to apply Bhatia's model. More research was conducted to find out the comparison of abstract research from cross-disciplinary studies (Bhatti et al., 2019; Darabad, 2016; Kaya & Yağiz, 2020; Nikpei, 2016). Also, to investigate the comparison of abstract research written by native and non-native English writers (Al-Khasawneh, 2017; Amnuai, 2019; Majeed & Al-Jabbawi, 2021).

The previous studies show a large amount of research about move analysis on abstracts. However, there are a few studies on thesis abstracts written by bachelor students. In addition, this research focused on comparisons between thesis abstracts written by bachelor students from English and non-English Programs of Universitas Muria Kudus, which will be the gap between this research and previous research.

The results of this study are expected to add to the detailed analysis of the abstracts as a guideline for novice writers to construct proper bachelor thesis abstracts. In addition, it is hoped that this research will help both English Program and non-English Program students to get benefit from a thorough understanding of a particular text and guide them to produce academic publications according to the required standards.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the statements of the problem can be formulated as follow: "How is the rhetorical move of the bachelor thesis abstracts written by English Program and non-English Program students of Universitas Muria Kudus?"

1.3 Objectives of the Research

Based on the statements of the problems above, the objectives of the research is to find out how the rhetorical moves of bachelor thesis abstracts written

by English Program and non-English Program students of Universitas Muria Kudus.

1.4 Significance of the Research

By conducting this research, the researcher hopes that this research will be beneficial theoretically and practically.

Theoretically, this study is expected to be one of the references and sources for future researchers who want to conduct and explore the same research related to the rhetorical move of the thesis abstract.

Practically, this study is hoped to inform the lecturers about the thesis abstracts written by students. It can be great information for them when assisting the thesis writing. Lecturers can guide and direct their students to write proper thesis abstracts with clear guidelines.

1.5 Scope of the Research

This study focused on the rhetorical move of the bachelor thesis abstracts. The selected abstracts were written by English program and non-English Program students of Universitas Muria Kudus. There were 30 abstracts from the last three years (2020-2022) that were analyzed. 15 abstracts were selected from English Program (English Education) and 15 abstracts from non-English Program (Guidance and Counseling, Management, and Psychology; 5 each). Those particular majors were chosen because it was under the same area of English Education, the social field. Hyland's (2000) framework of the five-move structure was used to analyze the bachelor thesis abstracts.

1.6 Operational Definition

Based on the title of the research, there are five terms that can be defined in the operational definitions as follows:

1. Move Analysis

   A move analysis is a textual analysis of communicative purposes and its components to understand how discourse patterns appear in writing being.

2. Bachelor Thesis

A bachelor thesis is scientific writing written by undergraduate students in the last year of study to get a bachelor's degree.

3. Abstract

An abstract is a factual description or summary of a lengthy report intended to provide the reader with accurate and concise information about the entire article.

4. English Program Students

English program students are students who are pursuing undergraduate education in the field of English. In this study, the English program students referred to English Education Department students of Universitas Muria Kudus.

5. Non-English Program Students

Non-English program students are students who are taking undergraduate education outside the field of English. In this study, the non-English program students referred to Guidance and Counseling, Management, and Psychology students of Universitas Muria Kudus.