



**THE STRUCTURE OF RESEARCH ARTICLE  
ABSTRACTS ON THE ARTICLES OF  
ASIAN ENGLISH FOREIGN LANGUAGE (EFL) JOURNAL  
(A GENRE BASED ANALYSIS)**

**THESIS**

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to achieve  
a Master Degree in English Education**

**NURHAYATI  
NPM: 20117479032**

**ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
POST GRADUATE PROGRAMME  
UNIVERSITY OF INDRAPRASTA PGRI  
2014**





## APPROVAL

Name : Nurhayati  
NPM : 20117479032  
Graduate Program : Post Graduate Program  
Department : English Education  
The Title : *The Structure of Research Article Abstracts  
on the Articles of Asian EFL Journal  
(A Genre Based Analysis)*

This thesis has been checked and approved to be examined

on ..... *April 18,* ..... 2014

1<sup>st</sup> Advisor,

2<sup>nd</sup> Advisor,

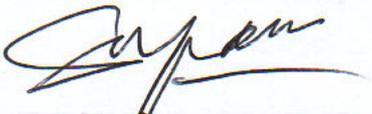
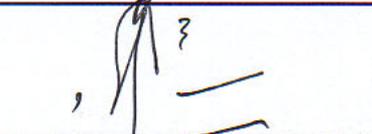
The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The signature on the left is for Prof. Dr. Mashadi Said, M. Pd., and the signature on the right is for Drs. Zulfa Hanum, MA., M.Psi. The signatures are written in a cursive style.

Prof. Dr. Mashadi Said, M. Pd.

Drs. Zulfa Hanum, MA., M.Psi.

# ACCEPTANCE

This Thesis has been examined on Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

Board of Examiners	Signature
Chairman : Prof. Dr. H. Sumaryoto	
Members :1. Dr. H. Suparman Ibrahim Abdullah, M. Sc	
2. Drs. Supeno, M. Hum	

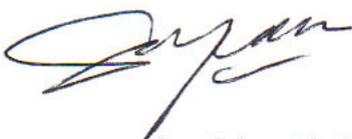
Approved by:

Chairman

  
Prof. Dr. H. Sumaryoto



Secretary

  
Dr. H. Suparman Ibrahim Abdullah, M.Sc

## ABSTRACT

- A. Nurhayati, NPM: 200117479032
- B. The Structure of Research Article Abstracts on the Articles of Asian EFL Journal ( A Genre Based Analysis )
- C. xi + 5 chapters + 80 pages
- D. Keywords: Genre, Research article abstracts, Rhetorical Structure, Linguistic Features
- E. Genre analysis is a means of studying spoken and written discourse. Genre is also as a structuring device used for scientific writing such as articles of journal. The aims of the present study are to describe rhetorical structure and linguistic features of research article abstracts. The rhetorical structure model employed as the framework for analysis of the data was Hyland's. The sources of data are abstracts of Asian EFL journal articles published between 2005-2009. The number of the article abstracts chosen as the source of the data was fifty.

The findings indicated that there were four conventional moves in the abstracts, namely Purpose Move ( M2), Method move (M3), Product move (M4), and Conclusion move (M5). It was found that M2, M3, and M4 occurred in all of the 50 abstracts or 100% while M5 occurred in 38 abstracts or 76%. Introduction move (M1) was an optional move since it was only 24 abstracts or 48%. The most frequent move structure appeared in the abstracts was M2-M3-M4-M5 whose total was 23 abstracts or 46%. The linguistic features of the abstracts showed that present simple and active voice were the most frequently used and the self-reference pronoun was barely used in the abstract. Finally, the implication of the findings is that the result of the research can be as an empirical reference for novice writers in writing abstracts.

### F. Bibliography :

1. 10 books
2. 22 articles of international journal
3. 4 internet sources.

### G. Advisors :

1. Prof. Dr. Mashadi Said, M. Pd.
2. Drs. Zulfa Hanum, MA., M. Psi.

## TABLE OF CONTENT

	Page
<b>APPROVAL</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>ACCEPTANCE</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>STATEMENT</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>MOTTO</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENT</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>LIST OF APPENDICES</b>	<b>xii</b>
<b>CHAPTER I</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> <b>1</b>
	A. Background of the Research 1
	B. The Identification of the Research 4
	C. The Scope of the Research 5
	D. The Statement of the Problem 5
	E. The Objectives of the Research 6
	F. The Significance of the Research 6
	G. The Organization of the Research 6
	H. The Criterion of Analysis 7
<b>CHAPTER II</b>	<b>THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK</b> <b>8</b>
	A. Review of Related Literature 8
	1. The Nature of Genre 8
	2. The Nature of Research Article 15
	3. The Nature of Move-Step in Genre Analysis 18
	4. The Nature of Abstracts 26
	B. Frame of Thinking 32
<b>CHAPTER III</b>	<b>RESEARCH METHOD</b> <b>34</b>
	A. Research Design 34
	B. Source of the Data 34
	C. The Technique of Collecting Data 34
	D. The Research Variable 35
	E. The Research Instrument 35
	F. The Data Analysis Procedure 36

<b>CHAPTER IV</b>	<b>RESULT AND DISCUSSION</b>	<b>39</b>
	A. Research Findings	40
	1. Rhetorical Structure	40
	a. Move Structure	40
	b. Move Frequency	43
	2. Linguistic Features	45
	a. Lexis	45
	b. Verb Tense	47
	B. Discussion	51
	1. Move 1 (Introduction)	51
	2. Move 2 ( Purpose)	58
	3. Move 3 ( Method)	64
	4. Move 4 ( Product)	67
	5. Move 5 ( Conclusion)	71
<b>CHAPTER V</b>	<b>CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION</b>	<b>77</b>
	A. Conclusions	77
	B. Suggestions	80
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		<b>81</b>
<b>APPENDIX</b>		<b>84</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

	<b>Page</b>
1. Table 1 : Some Academic Genre	15
2. Table 2 : Given and a New in a Method Paragraph	24
3. Table 3 : The RA and Other Research-Process Genres	26
4. Table 4 : A framework for Abstract Analysis	33
5. Table 5 : The Frequency of the Types of Move Structure in the Asian EFL Abstracts	40
6. Table 6 : The Frequency of the Move Occurence in the Asian EFL Abstracts.	44
7. Table 7 : The Use of Lexis of each Move	45
8. Table 8 : Frequency of Verb Tense and Voice of each Move	47
9. Table 9 : Categories of Introduction	53
10. Table 10 : The abstract excerpts of Introduction Move based on 5 categories	54
11. Table 11 : Pre-dominating Formula-like Pattern employed in Purpose Move (Move 2)	59
12. Table 12 : Source of Opening Nouns and Reporting Verbs in Move 4	67
13. Table 13 : The use of the Verb tense in Move 4	70
14. Table 14 : Nominal references and Verbs in Move 5	72

## LIST OF APPENDICES

1. A-1 Move Structure of Fifty Asian EFL Abstracts from 2006-2009
2. A-2 Data Analysis of Move Structure Article Abstracts of The Asian EFL Journals 2005-2009
3. A-3 Articles of Asian EFL Journal from 2006-2009

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of Research

- a) Genre analysis is a means of studying spoken and written discourse.
- b) Research article (RA) published in a journal is one of written form in scientific discourse.
- c) The abstract is one of RAs considered as a specific genre used in specific circumstance and for specific purposes.
- d) As most abstracts present in a condensed way of the macropropositions of the accompanying article (Salager-Meyer, 1990), they have the main function of serving as a time-saving device by informing the readers about the exact content of the article, indicating in this way whether the full text merits their further attention.
- e) Hyland (2000) proposes the framework on RA abstract analyses which includes five moves : Introduction Purpose, Method, Product and Conclusion.
- f) This study is to research article abstracts of linguistic journals proposed by Hyland ( A Genre Based Analysis).

### B. The Identification of the Research

- a) What rhetorical structure or macrostructure is applied in analyzing article abstract of linguistic journals?
- b) What linguistic features are used in most of articles abstract in linguistic journals ?
- c) Is register (context of situation) used in analyzing article abstracts of linguistic journals ?

### C. The Scope of the Research

In analyzing the article abstracts, there are 2 elements which are discussed in this research. They are *rhetorical structure and linguistic features proposed by Hyland (2000)*.

### D. The Statement of the Problem

- a) What rhetorical structure or macrostructure is applied in analyzing article abstracts of linguistic journals?
- b) What linguistic features are most used in articles abstract of linguistic journals?

### E. The Objectives of the Research

- a) To know the rhetorical structure applied in research article abstracts of linguistic journals.
- b) To know the linguistic features of research article abstracts of linguistic journals.

## **F. The Significance of the Research**

- a. It gives general overview of the work and an outline that guides the readers to make representation of the whole text .
- b. Furthermore, by knowing the structure of abstract, it helps much for the reserchers how to make a well rhetorical structure of abstracts containing of Moves which are Introduction (M1), Purpose (M2), Method (M3), Product (M4), and Conclusion (M5).
- c. It also provides proper linguistic features which contains of variations of the sentence level, such as the tense and voice of the verbs, and the subjects of the reporting clause.
- d. The students know the right procedures how to make an effective abstract as it covers the content of the articles.

## **CHAPTER II THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **1. The Nature of Genre**

- a) Swales ( 1990: 58) defines genre as a class of communicative events, the members of which share some set of communicative purposes.
- b) Webster's third edition defines genre as a distinctive type or category of literary composition.
- c) Swales (1990:33) stated that today genre is quite easily used to refer to a distinctive category of discourse of any type, spoken or written.
- d) Bhatia (1993) says that genres are essentially defined in terms of the use of language in conventionalised communicative settings, which give expression to a specific set of communicative goals of specialised disciplinary and social groups with relatively stable structural forms and the use of lexico-grammatical resources.
- e) As Berkenkotter and Huckin (1995) point out that genres are inherently dynamic rhetorical structures that can be manipulated according to conditions of use, and that genre knowledge is therefore best conceptualized as a form of situated cognition embedded in disciplinary cultures.
- f) Hyland (2009) states that genres are often associated with recurring rhetorical contexts as we draw on familiar resources to address routine communication needs but they also permit expert users a certain leeway and opportunities innovation. Genres are also related to each other in clusters of dependence which help construct a particular context

### **2. The Nature of Research Article**

- a) A research article (RA) is taken to be written text usually limited to a few thousand words, that reports on some investigation carried out by its author or authors. (Swales, 1990 : 93)

- b) A research article is an article in a professional journal that outlines the research an individual performed about a particular topic.
- c) A research article is a written paper that illustrates an outcome of scientific research with supporting clinical data.

### 3. The Nature of Move-Step in Genre Analysis

- a) A move in genre analysis is defined as a ‘discoursal or rhetorical unit that performs a coherent communicative function in a written or spoken discourse’ (Swales, 2004:228-229)
- b) Pho (2009:17) indicated, ‘each move has its own communicative purpose, which, together with other moves, contributes to the general communicative purpose of the text’.
- c) Each rhetorical move can be realized by one or more steps, but not all moves comprise constituent steps (Samraj, 2009).

### 4. The Nature of Abstracts

- Swales (1990:177) states that abstracts are one of five of research-process genre.
- Bhatia (1993) states that abstracts provide a summary of the research article and uses the overall organisation of the research article to arrive at the rhetorical moves found in abstracts.
- The abstract is one of RAs considered as a specific genre used in specific circumstance and for specific purposes.

### 5. Rhetorical structure of Abstracts:

- a) Swales (1993) proposes four macro-structure : *Introduction, Method, Results, Discussion and Conclusion (IMRD)*.
- b) Santos’ (1996) model of five main moves: *Situating the research (M1); Presenting the research (M2); Describing the methodology (M3); Summarizing the results (M4); Discussing the research ( M5)*
- c) Hyland’s (2000) five-move model consisting of *Introduction (M1), Purpose (M2), Method (M3), Result (M4) and Discussion (M5)*

## **CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHOD**

### **A. Research Design**

A *descriptive method* is used to describe and analyze the data set to determine the abstracts' rhetorical structure and linguistic features based on Hyland's model.

### **B. Source of the Data**

The source of the research was Research Article Abstracts of *The Asian EFL Journals* and the research samples were *50 article abstracts* taken from Asian EFL Journals which were *randomly chosen from 2005-2008 publications*.

### **C. The Technique of Collecting Data**

First, analyzing the abstracts for macro-structure based on the *five-move model* outlined by Hyland (2000) : *M1, M2, M3, M4 and M5* and it's also to find which move was *conventional (obligatory) or optional*.

Then, analyzing them for micro-structure (linguistic features) consisting of *grammar and vocabulary (lexis) analysis*.

### **D. The Research Variable**

The research variable in this paper will discuss about the use of genre analysis in analyzing RA abstracts of The ASIAN EFL Journals. It focus on the macro structure and the micro-structure (linguistic features) which are analyzed based on Hyland's.

### **E. The Research Instrument**

The research instrument in this research was taken from article abstract of Asian EFL from 2006-2009. Based on theory of Hyland (2000), the evaluation was done by analyzing the abstracts in order not only to identify the five-move which is called as rhetorical structure (macro-structure) but also linguistic features of the abstracts (micro-structure).

### **F. The Data Analysis Procedure**

In this research, the writer will do some ways, they are:

1. Read the all the sources relating to the topic.
2. Prepare the abstract as the main data which will be analyzed.
3. Analyze the data to identify the five-moves (macro structure) and determine obligatory and optional moves based on Hyland's (2000) model. Then, linguistic features (micro structure) is also analyzed.
4. Use the sources in the bibliography as the guidance for analyzing all the the data.
5. Make conclusion based on the analyzed data.

## CHAPTER IV FINDINGS

Some research findings of the research are including :

### A. Rhetorical Structure

1. Move structure :
  - a. M2-M3-M4-M5 : 46%
  - b. M1 –M2-M3-M4-M5 : 34%
  - c. M1-M2-M3-M4-M5 : 10%
  - d. M2-M3-M4 : 10 %
2. Move-reordering, move-deletion, move-embedding and move-repetition patterns were discussed in this study.
3. Details of Variations of Move Pattern
  - a. Move-reordering pattern is caused by the post-posing of M2 and M3. Ten abstract having this pattern are : 2005- (3,4,6,7,8), 2006-17, 2007-28, 2008-(36, 38, 39)
  - b. 12 abstracts possessing move deletion pattern : 2005- ( 3, 7, 10 ), 2006-(15-17), 2007-26, 2008- (34, 39, 43), 2009-49
  - c. 20 abstracts having move embedding are : 2005- (2, 3), 2005-(6, 7), 2005-11, 2006-14, 2006-17, 2006-19, 2006- (20, 21, 22, 25), 2008-( 28, 30, 35, 36, 38, 39 , 40, 42), and 2009 (46).

### B. Move Frequency

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Introduction (M1) | : 24 abstracts (48%)  |
| 2. Purpose (M2)      | : 50 abstracts (100%) |
| 3. Method (M3)       | : 50 abstracts (100%) |
| 4. Product (M4)      | : 50 abstracts (100%) |
| 5. Conclusion (M5)   | : 38 abstracts (76%)  |

- Obligatory move : M2, M3, M4, and M5
- Optional move : M1
- The appearance of Introduction move and Conclusion move in abstracts were different from the previous study (e.g. Santos, 1996; Pho, 2008), yet according to Hyland's (2004) suggestion that there was an increasing trend of the appearance of M1 and M3 in the abstracts.

### C. Linguistic Features

- a. Lexis of M1, M2, M3, M4, M5 ( *p.45-47*) including of :
  - Nominal references/ opening nouns
  - Typical verbs
  - Self –reference pronoun
  - Modal
  - That-complement

- a) Verb Tense and Voice : Present simple and active voice were the most frequent (p. 47-48). The analysis of micro structure ( Linguistic Features) was carried out by expounding lexis and verb tense. The findings in verb tense was in line with Malcolm's (1987) suggestion mentioning that the most frequent tense in M1, M2, M4, M5 and Past tense used in M3 which was in line with James' (1984b) suggestion that the Past tense needs emphasizing or whenever a cautious approach to applications and extensions seem warranted.

## CHAPTER V

### A. Conclusions

- b) The preference patterns of the macro structures in the article abstracts are *M1-M2-M3-M4-M5*, *M1-M2-M3-M4*, *M2-M3-M4-M5*, and *M2-M3-M* and the third one was the most frequent pattern.
- c) The appearance of Introduction move and Conclusion move in abstracts were different from the previous study (e.g. Santos, 1996; Pho, 2008), yet according to Hyland's (2004) suggestion that there was an increasing trend of the appearance of M1 and M3 in the abstracts.
- d) The analysis of micro structure ( Linguistic Features) was carried out by expounding lexis and verb tense. The findings in verb tense was in line with Malcolm's (1987) suggestion mentioning that the most frequent tense in M1, M2, M4, M5 and Past tense used in M3 which was in line with James' (1984b) suggestion that the Past tense needs emphasizing or whenever a cautious approach to applications and extensions seem warranted.

### B . Suggestions

The research has Some pedagogical implication which are used for academic writing courses pointed to graduate and postgraduate students in preparing doing a research and it can be used as an empirical reference for novice writing abstracts.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bhatia, V.K. A generic view of academic discourse : In J. Flowerdew (Ed.), *Academic Discourse* (pp. 21-39). Harlow: Longman. 2002.
- Bhatia, V.K. *Analyzing genre: language use in professional settings*. London: Longman. 1993.
- Bhatia, V.K. Genre Mixing in Academic Introductions. *English for English Purposes*, 16(3), 181-195.1997.
- Bhatia, V.K. Introduction: Genre Analysis and World Englishes, *World Englishes*. 16(3), 313-319. 1997.
- Holmes, R. Variation and text structure: The discussion section in economics research articles. *ITL Review of Applied Linguistic*, 131-132,107-135. 2001.
- Hornby, AS., *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1974.
- Hyland, K. & Tse, P. Hooking the reader: A corpus study of Evaluative That in abstracts. *English for Specific Purposes*, 24(2), 123-139. 2005.
- Hyland, K. (2009). *Academic Discourse: English in a global context*. London: Continuum.
- Hyland, K. *Disciplinary Discourse: Social interaction in academy writing*. London, UK: Longman. 2000.
- Hyland, K. Options of Identity in Academic Writing, *ELT Journal*, 56 (4), 351-358.2002
- Hyland, K. Self-citation and self reference: Credibility and Promotion in Academic Publication. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, 54(3) ,251-259.2003.
- Hyland, K., *Teaching and researching writing*. Harlow, England: Pearson Education. 2002.
- Hyland, K., & Bondi, M. (Eds). *Academic Discourse across Disciplines*. New York, NY: Peter Lang AG. 2006
- Lores, R. On RA Abstracts : From rhetorical structure to thematic organization. *English for Specific Purposes*, 23(3), 280-302. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.esp.2003.06.001>
- Martin, P.M. A genre analysis of English and Spanish research paper abstracts in experimental social sciences. *English for English Purposes*, 23. 25-43. 2001
- Pho, P. D.Research article abstracts in applied linguistics and educational technology : a study of linguistic realizations of rhetorical structure and authorial stance. *Discourse Studies*, 10(2), 231- 250. 2008. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.esp2003.06.001>
- Ren, H. & Li. Y. A comparison study on the rhetorical moves of abstracts in published research article and master's foreign-language theses. *English Language Teaching*, 4(1), 162-166.2011. [http// www.ccsenet.org/elt](http://www.ccsenet.org/elt)
- Ruiying,Y. & Allison, D. Research articles in applied linguistics: moving from results to conclusions. *English for Specific Purposes*, 22(4), 365-386. 2003.

- Salager-Meyer, F. Corder, A text-type and move analysis study of verb tense and modality distribution in medical English abstracts. *English for Specific Purposes*, 11(2), 93-113.1992
- Samraj, B. An exploration of a genre set: Research article abstracts and introduction in two disciplines. *English for Specific Purposes*, 24(2), 141-156. 2005.
- Samraj, B. Disciplinary variation in abstracts: The case of wildlife behavior and conservation biology. In J. Flowerdew (Ed.), *Academic Discourse* (pp. 20-56). Harlow : Longman.2002.
- Samraj, B. Discursive practices in graduate-level content courses: The case of environmental science, *Text*, 20(3), 347-371. 2000.
- Samraj, B. *Move Structure*. Manuscript submitted for publication.
- Santos, M.B.D. The textual organization of research paper abstracts in applied linguistic. *Text*, 16(4), 481-499.
- Santos, V.B.M.P.D. Genre analysis of business letters of negotiation. *English for Specific Purposes*, 21(2), 124-144. 2002.
- Stotesbury, H. Evolution in research article abstracts in the narrative and hard sciences. *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, 2,327-341. 2003.
- Stotesbury, H. Gaps and False Conclusions: Criticism in Research Article Abstracts across the Disciplines. In Ken Hyland, & Marina Bondi (eds), *Academic Discourse Across Disciplines* (42, 123-148). New York: Peter Lang.
- Stubbs, Michael. English in today's research world: A writing guide, by John M., Swales and Christine B. Feak. *English for Specific Purposes*, 22(4), 419-421. 2003.
- Swales, J.M. *Genre Analysis: English in academic and research setting*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.1990.
- Swales, J.M. *Research Genres: Explorations and Applications*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.2004.
- Tseng, F.p. Analyses of move structure and verb tense of research article abstracts in applied linguistic journals. *International Journal of English Linguistics*, 1(2), 27-39. 2011.
- Usaha. S. & Suntara, W. Research article abstracts in two related disciplines: Rhetorical variation between linguistics and applied linguistics. *English Language Teaching*, 6(2), 84-99. 2013.
- Instrumen Penelitian*, <http://www.infoskripsi.com/Tip-Trik/Instrumen-dan-Teknik-Pengumpulan-Data.html>, Retrieved and downloaded on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.
- Move Structure and Verb Tense*, <http://www.ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/elt/article>, Retrieved and downloaded on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.
- Research Articles*, <http://www.answerbag.com>, Retrieved and downloaded on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.
- Research Articles*, <http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-research-article.htm>, Retrieved and downloaded on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

