ANALYSES OF MOVE STRUCTURE, TENSE, AND VOICE OF PUBLISHED RESEARCH ARTICLE ABSTRACTS BETWEEN LINGUISTICS AND APPLIED LINGUISTICS

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Abstract- This paper aims at investigating move structure, tense and voice of published research article abstracts between linguistics and applied linguistics. There were two corpora of linguistics and applied linguistics randomly selected of 25 each. Swales and Feak’s (2009) five-move pattern was used to identify move structure. Verb tenses and voices were also investigated. The findings of the study revealed that 8 percent of both linguistics and applied linguistics followed Swales and Feak’s (2009) five-move pattern. In terms of the occurrence of obligatory move found that M2 and M3 tended to be obligatory in both linguistics and applied linguistics abstracts. Regarding the prefer tense and voice of research article abstracts found that present simple tense tended to occur the most frequency in both linguistics and applied linguistics. According to the results of the study, pedagogical implication in writing research article abstracts from the two discipled were discussed.

Keywords- Move Structure, Research Article Abstracts, Tense, Voice.

I. INTRODUCTION

All fields of academic papers need abstract accompanying with the manuscript in order to give the reader of brief, concise and exact information of what had been done. The readers have their right to decide whether they want to continue reading of the whole paper of the article. According to Swales and Feak (2009), in the era of “an information explosion”, there are a great number of both online and hard copy of new research papers continuing to be published each year. Selecting abstracts is a crucial step for many readers to choose their reading. Research article abstract is therefore considered as an essential part-genre. Most of university students or novice researchers who are inexperienced having limited knowledge of structuring an academic abstract, whether it be move structures, the use of verb tenses or voices and so on. These problems often make them encountering the difficulty to create an appropriate abstract. As a result, it is important to have knowledge and guideline in writing an effective and appropriate abstract in order to maintain academic paper to be interesting and also to draw the reader’s attention selecting papers for further reading, indexing, and citing. Moreover, having knowledge of writing an abstract can benefit both writers and readers, as it can help the writers to create scientific abstracts and it can also help to facilitate the readers who are interested in their works can easily find information they need. As cited by Abarghooeinezhad and Simin (2015), English non-native engineers who lack structural knowledge adopt self-teaching strategies in production technical articles, they usually have attempt of reading the report written by other engineers in order to gain some ideas about structure and information included in the articles which causes them to lack of innovations, creativity, and subjectivity. For these reasons, the considerable number of articles in English could be possibly rejected owing to their rhetorical deviations. The difficulty of knowledge production of non-native speakers of English is due to the fact that they lack the crucial information of the rhetorical features of native English writers while coping with abstract of the articles. It is undeniable that abstract is the important part in research article (RA) which makes academic community paying their significant attention to. On the contrary, having abstract to be vague, unsystematic and unconstructed can make them rejection while a well-written of abstract can attract more readers to accompany the research article being cited and indexed. Therefore, it is important for academic writers to be able to compose effective abstracts.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

In perspective of the importance of abstracts to academic community and different formats from full research articles, there are plenty of books containing guidelines how to write and structure abstracts appropriately. Weissberg and Bunker (1990) proposed a five-move model for abstracts in their textbook. The five moves consist of background, purpose, method, results, and conclusion. Whereas, Santos (1996) suggested five-move pattern for moved identification, there are move1-situating the research, move2-presenting the research, move3-describing the methodology, move4-summarizing the results, and move5-discussing the research. In addition, Hyland (2000) proposed five-move structure to analyze academic abstracts, the five moves compose of introduction, purpose, method, product, and...
conclusion. According to Swales and Feak (2009), several recent works in discourse analysis in various fields and various languages have been investigated the number of “rhetorical move”. The following are the typical order by them: M1: Background/introduction/situation, M2: Present research/purpose, M3: Methods/materials/subjects/procedures, M4: Results/findings, and M5: Discussion/conclusion/implications/recommendation. From the above guidelines, it can be seen that the suggested structure of an abstract are five-move models as the moves are entitled differently in different books.

In academic community, there were many researchers studied abstracts in many different fields such as linguistics, applied linguistics, mathematics, engineering, environment science, applied economic, mechanical engineering, and etc.

In terms of the previous studies of moved patterns in abstracts, Santos (1996) studied 94 research article abstracts in the field of applied linguistics and proposed five-move pattern in his study, there were move1-situating the research, move2-presenting the research, move3-describing the methodology, move4-summarizing the results, and move5-discussing the research. The findings apparently showed that move2 and move3 are essentially obligatory with the occurrences of 93 percent and 92 percent respectively while move4 found 75 percent, move5 found 53 percent and 43 percent in move1, to this end, it can be concluded that move1 and move5 are categorized an optional move. According to the above study, Tseng (2011) investigated move structure and verb tense of research article abstracts in applied linguistics journals. Santos’s (1996) five-move pattern for abstracts was employed to identify moves. The findings revealed that the abstracts tended to take a four-move structure instead of five move one as proposed in literature and three moves tended to be obligatory in the applied linguistics abstracts i.e. move2-presenting the research, move3-describing the methodology, and move4-summarizing the results, the occurrences were over 90 percent of the abstracts.

Regarding the investigation of abstracts by means of employing Hyland’s (2000) five-move model. There were various fields of abstracts were investigated by many researchers. Saboori and Hashemi (2013) investigated move patterns in research article abstracts across three disciplines: applied linguistics, applied economics, and mechanical engineering. Hyland’s (2000) five-move model was employed in analyzing move structures. The findings from this study illustrated that P-M-R-C was the most prevalent pattern in the three disciplines. Suntara and Usaha (2013) examined rhetorical variation in research article abstracts between linguistics and applied linguistics. Hyland’s (2000) model of five rhetorical moves was used for analyzing rhetorical structure. The results indicated that the most preferential patterns were P-M-Pr-C, P-M-Pr, I-P-M-Pr, and I-P-M-Pr-C respectively in the field of linguistics and the pattern P-M-Pr-C, I-P-M-Pr-C, I-P-M-Pr, and P-M-Pr were the most frequent patterns in the field of applied linguistics respectively. However, the most common pattern used by the two disciplines was P-M-Pr-C pattern. Moreover, the researchers also claimed that the appearances of their study in terms of move patterns were quite different from the other previous research findings. Saeeaw and Tangkiensirisin (2014) studied rhetorical variation across research article abstracts in environmental science and applied linguistics. Hyland’s (2000) five-move model of abstracts analysis was adopted for the study. It was found that I-P-M-Pr-C was the most frequent structure occurred in environmental science and P-M-Pr-C was the most prevalent pattern in applied linguistics. Benam (2014) analyzed research article abstracts of English and Iranian in applied linguistics and mathematics by using Hyland’s (2000) five-move model to identify move. The results of the investigation showed that P-M-Pr-C pattern came out as the conventional schema in the abstracts in both languages. In contrast, the mathematics research article abstracts in English found P-M as the conventional pattern and M-Pr-C pattern was found in Persian. The researcher gave the conclusion that research article abstracts were written by English native and non-native (Iranian) students in mathematics did not follow the common conventional scheme given by Hyland (2000).

Other related studied which used different models. Can, Karabacak and Qin (2016) inspected move structure in research article abstract in applied linguistics. Pho’s (2008) five-move model was adapted to their study in identifying move. The moves were labeled with the abbreviation as follow i.e. introduction (I), purpose (P), method (M), results (R), Discussion (D-a), and pseudo-discussion (D-b). The findings revealed that I-P-M-R-D pattern was the most frequent linear pattern which was followed by 18 percent of the abstracts and P-M-R-D was the second most frequent pattern which had a slightly different order. Besides, Hai-lin and Huan (2010) studied generic structure of research article abstracts which were written by native and non-native speakers of English in the field of linguistics. I-M-R-D format was employed as a framework to identify moves. Regarding model, the researchers claimed that even there were some deviation from the I-M-R-D standard but many previous studies followed I-M-R-D format.
According to this study, it was found that only one abstract by native speaker in the field of linguistics had the standard I-M-R-D pattern, in addition, the study also illustrated that move I (introduction) and move R (results) are the obligatory moves as both of move I and Move R found 100 percent in the abstracts of native speakers while only one obligatory move in non-native speaker abstracts was move I which found 100 percent and R tended to be an optional move as it was found 40 percent in the abstracts.

III. METHODOLOGY

Data collection
The two corpora were employed in this study, there were 25 published research article abstracts in the field of linguistics and 25 published research article abstracts in the field of applied linguistics between the years of 2013 to 2017. These two corpora were randomly selected from several journals. According to the new revision of writing an abstract which was proposed by Swales and Feak (2009) draw my attention to use their framework in analyzing the rhetorical move of abstracts. In consequence, Swales and Feak (2009)’s five-move pattern was therefore used to identify moves. According to this mode, the five moves are (M1) Background/Introduction/Situation, (M2) Present research/Purpose, (M3) Methods/Materials/Subjects/Procedures, (M4) Results/Findings, (M5) Discussion/Conclusion/Implications/Recommendation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Move</th>
<th>Typical Labels</th>
<th>Implied questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Move1</td>
<td>Background/Introduction/situation</td>
<td>What do we know about the topic? Why is the topic important?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Move2</td>
<td>Present research/purpose</td>
<td>What is this study about?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Move3</td>
<td>Methods/materials/subjects/procedures</td>
<td>How was it done?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Move4</td>
<td>Results/findings</td>
<td>What was discovered?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Move5</td>
<td>Discussion/conclusion/implications/recommendation</td>
<td>What do the findings mean?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1

regarding the investigation of the four types of opening sentence which suggested by Swales and Feak (2009), i.e. Type A: Starting with a Real-World Phenomenon or with Standard Practice, Type B: Starting with Purpose or Objective, Type C: Starting with Present Researcher Action, and Type D: Starting with a Problem or an Uncertainty. The adaptation of using the suggestion which was used in economics field in their study to investigate the abstracts in the field of linguistics and applied linguistics whether it would be accordance with Swales & Feak’s (2009). According to these four types, it can be categorized as follow, Type A and Type D were considered to be move1, Type B is consider to be move2, and Type C is consider to be move3.

Analysis of verb tenses of the move
The use of verb tense in writing an abstract, the authors have their own way in reporting their works. Each scholars give the definition of the use of verb tense differently. According to Graetz (1985) gave the second conclusion of the specification of abstract in terms of the use of tense that past tense is only referred, however, Swales and Feak (1994) argued that it is moderately complicated about tense usage as firstly, the present tense is nearly always occurred in conclusions, secondly, the present or the present perfect are often used in report summary abstracts for their opening statements, lastly, there are some important disciplines and individual tense variation in creating sentence in the result section. However, in exploring the use of verb tense of the moves, I focused on 5 verb tenses, i.e. the present simple tense, the simple past tense, the present perfect tense, the present perfect continuous tense, and the future tense. The purpose of the investigation was to find out the prefer tenses used in each move in the abstracts between the two disciplines: linguistics and applied linguistics.

Analysis of voices of the move
The study had analyzed the use of voices in each move, i.e. active voice and passive voice. Active voice can be described that the subject acts or performs by means of verb in the sentence. Passive voice can be described that the subject is acted or performed by someone or something. The purpose of the examination is to find out which form of voice used by the writer is preferred in writing the research article abstracts.

Analysis procedure
At the beginning of the analysis, 50 published research article abstract were randomly chosen from several journals of which 25 abstracts from linguistics and 25 abstracts from applied linguistics. All the abstracts in each discipline were used in counting number of words and sentences in order to see the average number which occupied in the two disciplines. In terms of analyzing rhetorical move in the abstracts, Swales and Feak (2009)’s five-move pattern was used to identify moves. In addition, the four types of opening sentence proposed by Swales and Feak (2009) was also employed in the analyzing process. Besides, verb tense formats were then used to analyze each move in the abstracts. Then, voice of the move formats were lastly investigated. The four processes of the analyzing, i.e. rhetorical moves, four types of opening sentence, verb tenses, and voices, had the inter coders to give agreements in order to avoid subjectivity.

Inter-coder agreement (reliability)
In subjectivity avoidance, in terms of moved identification, the researcher provided a model of five-move pattern which contained the box for the
inter coder giving their agreements (agree or disagree) to each abstracts. In terms of the four types of opening sentence, as stated early that the four types can be categorized into move, after the moved identification process was accomplished, the reporting results were enclosed with the table for receiving agreements from the coders. For the process of coding verb tenses of the moves, the researcher provided the analyzed abstracts with a verb tense formats i.e. the present simple tense, the simple past tense, the present perfect tense, the present perfect continuous tense, and the future tense. And the voice formats, i.e. active voice and passive voice, attached with the table for coding. In order to maintain the reliable work, two-thirds of the coder’s agreement would be satisfactory.

IV. FINDINGS

The findings are presented in 5 areas. First, the comparison of the move structure between linguistics and applied linguistics abstract is reported. Then, the findings on the obligatory move pattern is presented followed by the frequencies of words and sentences of the two types of abstract. The last two tables presented the use of tenses and voices in the abstracts writing. According to the research question “what are the obligatory move used by linguistics and applied linguistics in terms of Swales & Feak’s (2009) five-move pattern?” As shown in table 4, it was found that M2 and M3 tended to be obligatory move in the abstracts of linguistics and applied linguistics as found 92 percent and 84 percent in linguistics while applied linguistics found 96 percent and 92 percent respectively. Regarding the examination of the least move frequency was M1 in applied linguistics which found merely 36 percent whereas linguistics found 60 percent. Interestingly, M4 has a slight difference from M2 and M3 which found 80 percent in linguistics and 76 percent in applied linguistics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Move Patterns</th>
<th>Linguistics (N=25)</th>
<th>Applied Linguistics (N=25)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M1-M2-M3-M4-M5</td>
<td>2 (8%)</td>
<td>2 (8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M1-M2-M3-M4-M5</td>
<td>6 (24%)</td>
<td>6 (24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M2-M3-M4-M5</td>
<td>4 (16%)</td>
<td>4 (16%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M2-M3-M4-M5</td>
<td>2 (8%)</td>
<td>5 (20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M2-M2-M5</td>
<td>1 (4%)</td>
<td>1 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M2-M3-M4-M5</td>
<td>1 (4%)</td>
<td>1 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M1-M2-M3-M5-M5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2 (8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: The comparison of move structure

Regarding the investigation of move structures from linguistics and applied linguistics. The findings demonstrated that there were 8 percent of linguistics and 8 percent of applied linguistics that followed Swales & Feak’s (2009) five-move pattern. Moreover, there were other move orders occurred in linguistics and applied linguistics. The most frequent move pattern occupied in Linguistics was M2-M3-M4-M5 while applied linguistics was M2-M3-M4 as found 16 percent and 20 percent respectively. Regarding the recurrent move features found three abstracts in linguistics, there were M2-M3-M4-M5-M4, M1-M3-M2-M3-M4-M5, and M1-M2-M3-M4-M3-M4-M5 whereas applied linguistics found two abstracts; there were M2-M3-M4-M3-M5, and M2-M3-M4-M5-M4. However, there were other similar moved patterns having the same frequency between these two disciplines, there were M1-M2-M3-M4 found 12 percent, M2-M3-M4-M5 found 16 percent, M2-M3-M5 found 4 percent, and M2-M4-M5 found 4 percent.

Table 3: The obligatory move pattern

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Move Patterns</th>
<th>Linguistics</th>
<th>Applied Linguistics</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>M1-M3-M4-M5-M4-M5</td>
<td>2 (8%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>M1-M2-M3-M4-M5-M5</td>
<td>6 (24%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>M2-M3-M4-M5-M5</td>
<td>4 (16%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>M2-M3-M4-M5-M5</td>
<td>2 (8%)</td>
<td>5 (20%)</td>
</tr>
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<td>M2-M2-M5</td>
<td>1 (4%)</td>
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<td>M2-M3-M4-M5</td>
<td>1 (4%)</td>
<td>1 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M1-M2-M3-M5-M5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2 (8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: The frequency of each move in abstract

In terms of the investigation of the four types of opening sentences which were suggested by Swales and Feak (2009). In order to answer the research question “do the published research article abstracts written by linguistics and applied linguistics followed Swales & Feak’s (2009) opening sentence suggestion?” The exploration of the abstracts from the two disciplines revealed that both of published research article abstracts in the field of linguistics and applied linguistics were accordance with the opening sentence suggestion which proposed by Swales and Feak (2009). However, not every move has been found in the same number. The move with the highest frequency was move 2, followed by move 3 and while
move 1 was the least percentage found in applied linguistics abstract.

According to the table 5, it showed that the least frequency number of words between linguistics and applied linguistics were equal to each other as found 109 words in the abstracts of the two disciplines. But, the most frequency number of words found a slight difference as found 296 words in linguistics and 256 words in applied linguistics. Even though, the word frequency in linguistics were found more number than applied linguistics, however, the average of word frequency in linguistics was slightly less than applied linguistics which was 174 words and 181 words respectively. The findings indicated that applied linguistics tended to be more descriptive abstract than linguistics. Regarding the frequency of sentences, it was found that the least frequency of sentences in the abstracts of linguistics and applied linguistics were equal, interestingly, the most frequency of sentences were still found the same number between them. But when examined the average number of sentences, it was almost the same as found 7 sentences in linguistics and 8 sentences in applied linguistics.

In terms of use of verb tense and voice in published research article abstracts in the field of linguistics and applied linguistics. According to the table 6, the findings revealed that the past simple tense found 48 times in linguistics and 46 times in applied linguistics, the present simple tense found 52 time in applied linguistics and 48 times in applied linguistics, the present perfect tense found 10 times in linguistics and 2 times in applied linguistics, the present perfect continuous tense found 1 time in linguistics and it was absent in applied linguistics, the future tense found 2 time in linguistics and 1 time in applied linguistics. In order to find the answer of the research question “What are the prefer tenses and voices of the research
article abstracts in the field of linguistics and applied linguistics?" the findings of the investigation illustrated that the most frequency of verb tense tended to be the present simple tense as found 52 times in linguistics but in applied linguistics found 48 times. The second most frequency was the past simple tense as found 48 times in linguistics and 46 times in applies linguistics. Moreover, the exploration in more details, the present simple tense tended to occupied in M2 as found 14 times and 15 times in linguistics and applied linguistics respectively and the past tense tended to occupied in M3 as found 18 times equally in both linguistics and applied linguistics. In terms of the preference of using voices in research article abstracts of linguistics and applied linguistics. According to the table 7, it was found that both linguistics and applied linguistics tended to use active voice in reporting their abstracts more than passive voice. In addition, when investigated the most frequency of active voice, it revealed that M2 was the most occurrence both linguistics and applied linguistics. On the contrary, the use of passive voice tended to occupied in M3 in both Linguistics and applied linguistics.

CONCLUSION

The objective of the current study was to analyze move structure, verb tense and voice of published research article abstracts in linguistics and applied linguistics. In order to summarize the findings of move structure, it can be concluded that there were various move patterns written by the researchers from the field of linguistics and applied linguistics. In the diversity of the move patterns, there were both similarities and differences between them. Regarding the similarities, the pattern of M1-M2-M3-M4-M5 found 8 percent, M1-M2-M3-M4 found 12 percent, M2-M3-M4-M5 found 16 percent, M2-M3-M5 found 4 percent, and M2-M4-M5 found 4 percent respectively in both of linguistics and applied linguistics, however, there was a slight difference between them i.e. M2-M3-M4 found 8 percent in linguistics while 20 percent found in applied linguistics. In terms of the different move patterns, linguistics tended to have more moved patterns than applied linguistics.

As proposed by Swales and Feak (2009) in terms of the four types of opening sentences in their text book, the findings confirmed that the abstracts written by the researchers in the fields of linguistics and applied linguistics were accordance with their proposal. Regarding the choice of verb tense and voice in the abstracts in the field of linguistics and applied linguistics, it can be concluded that the present simple tense was the most frequent tense in linguistics, and the past simple tense was nearly the same number of the present simple tense. And the present perfect tense found the third most frequent tense in linguistics but rarely found in applied linguistics.

The findings of the study can benefit the instructors to teach and suggest guidelines to their students on how to write a research article abstract appropriately which can help the students or the novice writers construct an abstract effectively.

REFERENCES