

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the research, identification of the research problem, delimitation of the research problem, statement of the research problems, objectives of the research, and significance of the research.

1.1 Background of the Research

An interest in the research of rhetorical styles used in writing texts for a specific genre, such as a research article, has been growing lately. This is due to the fact that a research article is usually written as a report, a thesis, and a solution to a problem. In other words, a research article is a written result of conducting a certain experimental method along with the process of analyzing and associating the findings with the theories. Thus, it is necessary to notice and examine the textual style of a research article which is usually distinctive to other writing works.

In writing a research article, the introduction section is considered to be the most important section because of several factors. Firstly, it is likely to be the first section to be read by the readers (Safnil, 2001:180). Secondly, the introduction section should specifically describe the central idea of the article. Thirdly, the introduction section is also supposed to succinctly add an explanation and description pertinent to the prior research.

Above all, the introduction section is written to fulfill two main purposes (Swales and Feak, 1994:74). The first purpose is to present the logical explanations of the article. The second purpose is to persuade the readers to read

the article as a whole text. Thus, it is very important for the writers to become capable in writing the introduction section as convincingly as possible. To determine whether it is convincing enough, the rhetorical styles can be employed to create an informative introduction section.

Nowadays, writing a research article is highly required by all universities in the world. This is due to the fact that not only the educators or the scientists but also the students are required to give contributions to the world through a research. In addition, English has now become the top position language used in the research world. As a result, it causes more burdening issues for the scholars whose mother tongues are not English (Swales & Feak, 1994:18). Furthermore, English has gained the position as the language of technology, commerce, communication and science (Kumaravadivelu, 2003:240). Hence, it forces the scholars to be able to create not only an empirically contributing research but also a research article which successfully shows their English proficiency.

In writing the introduction section, the strategies used in organizing the ideas have already become an interest for many researchers. In Indonesia, a few numbers of research have been conducted in order to explore the rhetorical styles employed by the Indonesian writers. The first research was conducted by Mirahayuni (2001). She compared the structure of research article taken from three sources of data. The data included 20 English research articles written by native English writers, 19 English research articles written by Indonesian writers, and 19 Indonesian research articles written by Indonesian writers. After analyzing the data, she discovered that the research article written by Indonesian writers were likely to delay the topic introduction.

Another research pertinent to the rhetorical style employed in the introduction section was conducted by Safnil (2013). There were 30 research articles selected and taken from three fields, namely engineering science, science, and medical science. After analyzing the data using the Swales' Create a Research Space (CARS) model, the results showed that there were only 11 out of 30 research articles that the introduction sections were able to successfully establish a niche.

Responding to previous research, they tend to focus on well-established journals of a particular academic field as the main resources of data. On this account, very little attention has been paid to the very early stage of English academic writing and publication. The start of such struggles refers to the work of students in the undergraduate level (Swales, 1990:2). Writing a research article can be regarded as the crucial start to walk up the ladder as potential contributors of academic community. Thus, it would be of importance to touch the root of academic ladder and to build the rhetorical skills and awareness there.

Additionally, it is considered crucial to include several important elements into the introduction section of research articles. The first element is related to an issue caused by the limitations of human knowledge. The second element is the evidence to where the possible issue possibly occurs. The third element is related to the process of introducing the readers to several related research that have been conducted. Those elements are supposed to be clearly portrayed in the introduction section with a fascinating English writing. However, it still remains unclear whether exposure to English rhetoric as a direct consequence of learning English is a guarantee of successful manifestation of the rhetoric. This concern

calls for further investigation to examine how the English Department students manifest their rhetoric in the introduction section and provide sound arguments which can reason them out.

Therefore, the aim of the present research is to investigate the rhetorical styles used in the introduction section of research article written by the English Department students majoring in English Education at Yogyakarta State University. The Create a Research Space (CARS) model by Swales (2004) is selected to categorize as well as evaluate the rhetorical styles. In addition, a qualitative method is employed to carry out the present research and display the analysis. Above all, the pedagogical implications related to the rhetorical analysis and the data analysis are carried out as well.

1.2 Identification of the Research Problem

Pertinent to the background to the research, the researcher identified the research problems as follow:

1. Several research studies related to rhetorical styles to be employed in the introduction section have been conducted by some researchers. However, very little attention has been paid to the works of the undergraduate students pertinent to their academic writing, especially related to the introduction section of their research articles. This condition causes an uneasy situation since there is no definite proof whether the undergraduate students have already successful in writing an informative and engaging introduction section of research article.

2. Almost all universities in the world require the students to be able to write an empirically contributing research. In addition, as English has gained the number one position in the research world, the undergraduate students are supposed to display their English proficiency in writing a research article. Hence, they are supposed to show their capabilities in writing a research article in accordance with the English rhetoric style. However, it is found that the undergraduate students have a little awareness on developing the rhetorical skills.
3. It is an obligation for the undergraduate students to take an academic writing class. However, it still remains unclear whether the academic writing class taken by the undergraduate students majoring in English Education can successfully develop the rhetorical styles of the students in writing a research article. This is due to the fact that the concept of rhetoric styles in writing a research article is not incorporated within the academic writing class.

1.3 Delimitation of the Research Problem

Based on the identification of the research problems, it is noteworthy to state that a rhetorical style is necessary to be employed in the introduction section of research article. Therefore, it is crucial to conduct a research focusing on examining and analyzing the rhetorical style in the introduction section of research articles which are written by the undergraduate students. Particularly, the research articles which are written by the English Department.

1.4 Statement of the Research Problems

Related to the main points reviewed above, the research questions are spelled out as follows:

1. What are the rhetorical styles used by the English Department students majoring in English Education in writing the introduction section of research articles?
2. What are the pedagogical implications that can be revealed from the rhetorical styles used by the English Department students majoring in English Education in writing the introduction section of research articles?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

The objectives of the research are:

1. To discover the rhetorical styles used by the English Department students majoring in English Education at Yogyakarta State University in writing the introduction section of research articles.
2. To reveal the pedagogical implications of the rhetorical styles employed by the English Department students majoring in English Education at Yogyakarta State University in writing the introduction section of research articles.

1.6 Significance of the Research

The present research is carried out to investigate the rhetorical styles used by the English Department students majoring in English Education at Yogyakarta State University in writing the introduction section of research articles. Thus, the significances of the research are theoretically and practically beneficial. Theoretically, this research can provide more data and further discussions in terms

of rhetorical styles to be employed in the introduction section of research articles. Particularly, related to the rhetorical styles used by the English Department students majoring in English Education in writing the introduction section of a research article. Practically, the findings of the research are able to be the authentic source of rhetorical style research. In addition, the research findings can also contribute to the new perspective of an academic writing research. This research is also significant to provide data and insights for future researchers who carry out further research, particularly with regard to the rhetorical style of academic writing, such as such as research article, proposals, theses, and the likes.