EXTENDED ABSTRACT
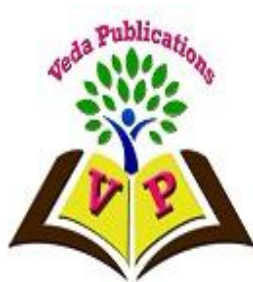
A STRUCTURAL LINGUISTICS ANALYSIS OF THE INTRODUCTION IN AN ACADEMIC DISCOURSE

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ABSTRACT

This paper aimed to analyse the moves (rhetorical structures) of the introduction part in student's master thesis. Therefore, several master theses have been chosen from the master of Applied Linguistics program to be analysed using CACA (computer-assisted corpus analysis). The objective of this study is to identify the presence of moves in the master thesis using CACA method. Besides that, an analysis on the part of speech has also been carried out in this research. The methodology applied in this study is important as it tends to study the linguistic constitutions which are applied in the genre-specific corpus of the English for academic purpose (EAP). This study intends to identify the problems that postgraduates face with their thesis writing in Malaysian public universities. This research is limited only to the field of applied linguistics. This research is quite new in the Malaysian context because up until now most genre analysis in Malaysia has focused on analysing research article's writing. Analysis of thesis writing will be a new venture that should be explored in depth. This research will shed some light on the introduction chapter in writing the thesis. By the end of this study, the researcher will introduce a writing framework that will be useful for master's students who are in the field of applied linguistics.

Preliminary study has been carried out and the results show the presence of new steps and moves which is used as the stepping stone for this research to be carried out. This research can be used as a guideline by the postgraduates who are enrolled in the applied linguistics program in order to write their thesis better. A new framework for thesis writing will be formed as an outcome of this

study. This framework can be used by the educators and also the students to write a better introduction for their thesis. Besides that, this research will also be a source of reference for future research to be carried out in different disciplines. This is because there are several conventional ways in writing thesis according to a different discipline. The style of writing for the Applied linguistics field might differ when compared to writing a science thesis. Moreover, this research will also employ a new method known as computer-assisted corpus analysis (CACA). CACA method will be used in this research to show the corpus-based study using computers is both time and energy saving compared to the conventional method which is done manually without using the computer. However, there are still very few studies on computer-based syntactical studies since they are time-consuming and the method for describing the results is complicated. The data obtained from the thesis will be analysed using CLAWS software UCREL CLAWS7 Tagset and AntConc which is a concordance software used to calculate the frequency. For supporting the quantitative data, a qualitative instrument will be used which is interviewing. Several field experts will be interviewed to validate and strengthen the data gathered. Therefore, this paper will present an unsophisticated method of analysis and also increase the genre analysis study using the present POS (part-of-speech) tagging software offered online.

Keywords: *Moves Analysis, Master's Thesis, Rhetorical Structures, CACA (Computer-Assisted Corpus Analysis), Academic Writing.*