

CHAPTER I
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1.1 Background of the Study

The English word *research* comes from a prefix and a root word that means “to seek out again” (Roth 1986: 1). On the whole meaning, research means a study to discover new facts. Most college research is, indeed, a matter of seeking out ideas and materials already found or developed by others. In this case, most college students do research to discover or to develop the research already found by others by applying the knowledge they get from their study.

There are many kinds of research based on the purpose. Even though the purpose of the research varies, the method of each is essentially the same. In all of them, information is gathered and interpreted so that conclusions can be drawn. Nunan (1992) said that research is a systematic process of inquiring, consisting of three elements or components: 1) a question, problem, or hypothesis, 2) data, and 3) analysis and interpretation of data.

The process of gathering the data, interpreting the data and making conclusion is poured out in a report called academic paper. Academic paper is a paper involving thoughtful analysis and some research on a particular topic, either as a response to specific assignments or as a more extensive independent project (Hashimoto et al. 1982: ix).

Academic paper is the result of academic writing. According to Murray (2005:10), academic writing is a set of conventions seen in a thesis or a published

paper in every discipline. The above statement implied that thesis is one of the products of academic writing.

The whole part of the thesis is gathered and summarized in a very simple composition called *abstract*.

Abstract gives us information about a study. According to Weissberg and Buker (1990: 185), many readers depend on the abstract to give them enough information about the study to decide if they will read the entire report or not. Since abstract is important to give information about a study, it should be organized well.

However, the writer observed that although there are so many students of English Department in Widya Mandala Catholic University who made theses, there have been no studies about thesis abstract especially about the composition of the thesis abstracts written by the students, whereas, abstract is an important part of a study to give information for the readers to read the entire report, moreover to develop the research.

Therefore, the writer conducts this study to find out the types and structures of abstracts used by the English Department students of Widya Mandala Catholic University. This study focuses only on the thesis abstracts of the English Department students of Widya Mandala Catholic University.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Based on the background, this study is intended to analyze thesis abstract with the following general questions:

1. What types of abstract are found in the thesis written by the English Department students of Widya Manadala Catholic University?
2. What structures of abstract are found in the thesis written by the English Department students of Widya Manadala Catholic University?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Concerning the above problems, the objectives of this study are stated as follows:

1. To investigate the types of abstract in the thesis written by English Department students of Widya Mandala Catholic University.
2. To find out the structures of abstract in the thesis written by the English Department students of Widya Mandala Catholic University.

1.4 Significance of the Study

In relation with the objectives above, the findings of this study are expected to be useful for the English Department students. This study, hopefully, will be a good input for the English Department students so that they could improve the ability in composing good abstract in writing a thesis. Besides that, this study is expected to give a good and useful contribution for the English

Department teachers for developing materials in teaching academic writing in terms of abstract structure.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

Due to the limitation of time, the ability, and equipment, the analysis focuses only on the types of abstract and the generic structures of thesis abstracts written by English Department students of Widya Mandala Catholic University. There are twenty students used as the subjects.

This study deals with the important part of a thesis that is abstract since there have been no studies about thesis abstract especially about the composition of the thesis abstracts written by the students. This is in consequence of making a good abstract in order to help the readers to get enough information about a study.

This study discusses only about thesis. The reason is that students always need to make thesis and they need to read the previous study made to develop it or to get the idea in making their thesis.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

There are three terms needed to be explained in this study. They are:

1. Abstract: A self-contained, short, and powerful statement that describes a larger work (St. Cloud University: 2008).
2. Generic Structure: The way in which a text is constructed to suit its purpose (Tiscali: 2009).

3. Discourse: The latter kind of language- language in use, for communication (Cook 1989:6).
4. Discourse Analysis: The search for what gives discourse coherence (Cook 1989:6).

1.8 Organization of the Thesis

The thesis is divided into three chapters. Chapter I is introduction which consists of Background of the Study, Statements of the Problem, Objectives of the Study, Significance of the Study, Scope and Limitation of the Study, Definition of Key Terms, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter II deals with Review of Related Literature that discusses the theories of Academic Writing, Generic Structure, Thesis Abstract and Discourse Analysis. Chapter III is the research method. It is divided into the Research design, Subjects, Source of the Data, Data Collection Procedure, and Data Analysis Technique.