

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

To convey a message well, a writer should organize the words to be efficient. The organization is based on the choice of words. If writers are explaining something, they instinctively try to arrange what they write to make the readers understand easily. Then, to be a good writer, organizing the theme and rheme in a text is a compulsion.

Theme and rheme in a clause are complementing each other (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014). Theme leads the idea which indicates where the message start while rheme is explaining the theme. Thus, when the theme recognized, it will be easier to identified the rheme.

The connections among theme and rheme can be called thematic progression (Paltridge, 2012). It can be seen as a way of how the writer creates a flow in a text. Moreover, the researcher is interested in doing something to arrange, connect, and match which is related to the thematic progression in the language field. The unity and connectedness between each sentence are needed to make the coherence of a text. Also, thematic progression can help writers to develop cohesion and coherence in the text. It can be used by the writers as a strategy for linking the theme and rheme in a clause or sentence. Therefore, thematic progression can be one of the essential things in writing a good text.

An abstract is a summary at the beginning of an academic text. It usually consists of 300 words or less. Commonly, it has two primary purposes: to know the relevance of the paper to the readers' and to show the key findings of the paper concisely to the readers. By this study, knowing thematic progression in abstracts will be helpful to the researcher to make a good abstract for further needs.

Before this era, there is only printed journals. The first printed journal was published in 1665. It had four primary purposes: checking newly published major European books, publishing well-known people's necrologies, and new information about arts and science. Academic journal publishing has been improved because it transforms from the printed one to the electronic version. It can be seen that there are not only printed journals now, but online ones also exist.

From the early 1990s, online journals have been emerged adagio in the free and paid versions. The free ones can be accessed without any payment for all on the web by the publisher. However, the paid ones are made to make an income by charging subscriptions to individuals and libraries. Researchers can choose whether they want to pay for the journal or find the other ones.

This study used the online source of a journal, SAGE Journals website. It is an international publishing company. It publishes several successful journals with a good quality of articles. It presents a simple display and easy to use the advance search to restrict the articles shown. Additionally, the abstracts are picked from Language Teaching Research.

Previous studies about Thematic Progression had been done by some researchers: Susilowati and Akmilia (2019), Rahman, Arrafi'i, and Imansyah (2017), Dewi, Hernawan, and Apsari (2019), and Yunita (2018). They aim to know the thematic progression pattern, the distributions in the text, how those patterns are realized in the text, and the dominant thematic progression. The complete information can be seen in the next chapter. Additionally, this study can add more references about the thematic progression from English Education students of Jambi University.

Hence, this study arose from the researcher's curiosity in how coherent and cohesive an abstract in an international journal by seeing the thematic progression patterns. The researcher wants to know the types of theme and thematic progression patterns used in the abstracts. In this study, the researcher chooses online journals because it is easier to gather them than offline journals. The international journal is taken from Language Teaching Research in the SAGE Journals website which is known for the good quality of the document. It has published research articles in the topic of programme, syllabus, materials design, methodology, and the teaching of specific skills and language for specific purposes which similar to the topic the researcher learn about since she is in English education department.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

This study attempts to answer these questions:

1. What are the types of theme found in Language Teaching Research article abstracts?
2. What are the types of thematic progression patterns found in Language Teaching Research article abstracts?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

This study wants to know the types of theme and thematic progression patterns used in International Journal Abstracts in SAGE Journals website.

## **1.4 Limitations of the Study**

This study used purposive sampling to get the data in this research. There are 3 criteria used. The first criterion is using 'Teaching' and 'English' as the keywords of the abstract. Second, the articles should be published by Language Teaching Research. Third, the articles should be published around 2019-2021.

Link to the journal: <https://journals.sagepub.com/home/ltr>

## **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The result of this study is expected to add relevant information about the patterns of Thematic Progression in academic text, especially on International Journal Abstracts to help students learn how to compose their text because Thematic Progression also plays a role in improving writing skills. Additionally, this study is supposed to contribute as a reference for other researchers who want to conduct studies related to Thematic Progression.

## **1.6 Definition of the Key Terms**

- Theme is a head of a clause realized by a subject as the content of the clause (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014).
- Rheme is an explanation of a theme that can create new information and has not been mentioned before in a text (Eggins, 2004).
- Thematic Progression is a pattern in which theme and rheme are connected to make a flow in the text (Paltridge, 2012).
- International Journal is an online academic publication containing articles that can be accessed globally with certain criteria (Khumaeni, 2017).
- An abstract is a summary at the beginning of an academic article (Soepriatmadji, 2009).