



Thematic Progression Patterns in National and International Journals

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Abstract

This research aimed to find out the dominant type of thematic progression pattern employed by writers in abstract sections in accredited national, international journals, and to find out the differences or similarities of thematic progression pattern between two level journals. This study used the documentation technique and table checklist. Forty abstract articles were analyzed by using mixed-method design. The result of this study showed that the most dominant pattern found in national journal is constant theme (65%) and the dominant pattern of thematic progression in international journal was found constant theme (80%). Based on the result, there was no significance different between two journals, national and international journals. In conclusion was that only two patterns of thematic progression were used. The constant theme pattern is the most dominant in abstract section in national and international journals and there was no significance different between two journals. Finally, the researcher suggests this research for lecturers who can use this research as guidelines to teach academic writing, for supervisors to tell her/his students to applied these patterns in writing thesis, and for the next researchers who might be have the same interest about thematic progression patterns as well in different area.

Keywords: Thematic progression, Abstracts, Journal

Introduction,

Thematic progression as a theory was first introduced by Danies in 1974, who argued that 'the paragraph is the unity words, sentences, and paragraph which become a form of text'. According to Huda (2008) thematic progression patterns have an important contribution for writers in developing their ideas because in thematic progression there are theme and rheme which can develop as the new idea for starting point in write a sentence. It supported by Paltridge (2006) stated thematic progression patterns refer to how the theme of a clause may pick up, or repeat, and meaning from preceding the theme or rheme.



According to Rakhman (2013), most writers more focus on the word and sentence levels rather than the levels of the whole discourse, which is textual coherence. This is caused by the lack of idea that writers have and they do not have enough knowledge about the topic that is going to be discussed. Then, they confuse to construct the ideas effectively. They fear from writing process as it requires a good command of the language and the ability to put the ideas coherently and logically manner. According to Nunan (1999), the most difficult things in writing activity are producing coherence, fluency, and ideas of writing. In line, according to Seyabi and Tuzlukova (2014). The main problem face by writers was writing with a coherent way.

One way to create successful results in writing activity by applying thematic progression for keeping the text in the well-organized paragraph with clear sentence, information, and clear focus topic thus the writing become coherent sentences. Coherent text can be seen from available information flow in clauses or sentences within a text. It was proving by the theme in the first clause or sentence is repeated as a theme in the second clause or sentence and following by a rheme sentence to support the theme for complex information. The ideas of theme and rheme furthermore lead to an analysis of the thematic progression or method development of the text.

Besides, the function of a coherent sentence is make sure the readers can understand the meaning easily. The writers should use thematic progression patterns to make information flow in among the clause in the paragraph hence readers can understand the message in the text. However, thematic progression can be applied in all fields in academic writing such as seminar papers, thesis, dissertation, articles journals, and other types of writing results. In academic writing, thematic progression patterns are important skills (Soepriatmadji, 2009). That means these patterns can help writers to construct optimally coherent and grammatically cohesive structures of text.

There were numerous studies that related to current study such as from Rahmawati and Kurniawan (2015), the result showed that constant theme was the dominant pattern used by the students. Marfuaty and Wahyudi (2015) the result showed that the most frequent type of themes and thematic progression patterns were topical theme and linear theme. Rakhman (2013), the result showed that the students used linear theme pattern. Sujatna (2013) found that multiple



theme patterns is the most dominant in his research. Yani (2018) the result showed linear theme is the most dominant found in introduction part. Next, the researchers from Linda, Maisa & Mulatsih (2017) the result showed thematic progression pattern in writing hortatory text was effective.

Based on the related studies above, the researchers found the gap. Few researchers chosen the articles abstract section especially in national and international journals. Furthermore, the present researchers investigated abstract section as well where particularly comparing the dominant type of thematic progression patterns in national accredited and international reputable journals. Moreover, from previous studies above the present research is still has differences, such as the area of research, numbers of samples, the theory that the researcher used, and methodology that the researcher used in this study.

Thematic progression is rarely use in academic writing especially in abstract articles. Mostly writers just write whatever the ideas comes to their mind as long as it is already fulfilling the four elements that an abstract should contain. In line, the researchers interested in conducting research abstract articles by comparing two-level abstract articles journal from national and international. It aimed to find out what patterns mostly used by writers in national accredited and international reputable journals. Therefore, this research had three research questions were “what is the dominant type of thematic progression found in national accredited journals?” “What is the dominant type of thematic progression found in international reputable journals?” and “What is the differences or similarities of thematic progression found in national and international journals?”

Research Methodology,

The researchers used qualitative and quantitative or mixed-method research. According to Creswell (1994) mixed method research is an approach to inquiry combine two research method, qualitative and quantitative to collect the data, integrate the two forms data using distinct designs that may involve philosophical assumption and theoretical frameworks. This design was chosen because it is the most appropriate design related to the problem which is going to be discussed.

The subjects of this research were 40 article abstracts which is derived from different levels. These journals are categorized as national and international journals which had been



fulfilled the national and international main requirements. There were; Journal of Applied Linguistics and Literature (JOALL), Journal of English Education, Literature, and Culture (EDULITE), The Asian Journal of Applied Linguistics (AJAL), and Asian EFL Journal. Each journals were chosen 10 abstract articles, whereas 20 abstracts have been categorized as national and 20 were categorized as international journals. The instruments were document and table checklist.

There were some steps for data collection as follows; (1) Open access journals website national and international level journal through Google. (2) Close reading the articles' journals and download the articles into computer. It will divided into different files to make sure the researchers easy to differentiate types and level of journals. (3) Print out all of the journals for easier analysis. The researchers only print out abstracts section because this study only focused on this part. Moreover, the objective from print out of the data is to make it possible for the researchers to mark the theme and rheme of abstract research.

In analyzing the data the researchers follows some steps there were; (1) reading abstracts articles carefully. (2) Coding the clauses in the abstract articles. (3) The researchers identified thematic progression pattern found in each abstract articles in national and international journals. (4) Classifying the types of thematic progression patterns found in the abstract section. (5) Has been calculating the frequency of thematic progression found in the abstracts articles.

Findings and Discussion,

Findings

1. Thematic progression in national journal abstract articles

In this research, the researchers was chosen 20 abstract articles in national journals which came from JOALL and EDULITE. From analyzing the data, the finding showed as follows:

Table 1: Thematic progression in the articles abstract in national journal

No.	Types of thematic progression	Frequencies	Percentage
1	Constant theme pattern	13	65
2	Linear theme pattern	7	35



3	Split rheme	0	0
	Total	20	100

The table above showed that two patterns of thematic progression found in article abstracts national accredited journals, they were; constant theme (65%) and followed linear theme (35%). In contrast, there was no split rheme found by the researcher. Based on the percentage above, it can be seen that the dominant pattern of thematic progression was constant theme.

2. Thematic progression in international journal abstract articles

After analyzing twenty abstract article international journals which derived from; The Asian Journal of Applied Linguistics (AJAL) and Asian EFL Journal that had been ranking into Scopus Quartile two (Q2) and Scopus Quartile three (Q3), which means two-journals above have validity reputable. The result is present in table below:

Table 2: Thematic Progression in the Articles Abstract in International Journal

No.	Types of thematic progression	Frequencies	Percentage
1	Constant theme pattern	16	80
2	Linear theme pattern	4	20
3	Split rheme	0	0
	Total	20	100

Based on the table above, the result showed that two patterns found in international reputable journals abstract articles were; constant theme (80%) and followed by linear theme (20%). From the percentage, it can be seen that the dominant type of thematic progression pattern in abstract articles in international journals was constant theme. In the similar case, the researcher could not find split rheme in international journals abstract articles as well.

3. The differences or similarities of thematic progression found in national and international journals

Based on the findings on the two research questions above, the result of the last research question can be concluded that there was a no different pattern of thematic progression found in national and international journals. It had proven by t-test check



which got the T-test 0,567 and $P_{value} 0.574 > 0.05$, which means that there is no significance differences of thematic progression pattern employed by writers in abstract sections in national and international journal articles.

From 40 abstracts research articles which came from national and international journals, the similarities in an analyze result is the dominant pattern found in two-level journals were a constant theme patterns. For complete information, the researcher combined the two tables above into one main table below:

Table 3: Thematic progression in abstract articles of national and international journal

No	Types of thematic progression	Percentage	
		National	International
1	Constant theme	65%	80%
2	Linear theme	35%	20%
3	Split rheme	0%	0%
	Total	100	100

There were three types of thematic progression patterns; (1) constant theme, (2) linear theme, and (3) split rheme. Refer to table it can be observed that from 40 abstracts were taken between two levels, national and international. There were only two types of thematic progression patterns found based on Paltridge's theory (2006), which are; constant theme and linear theme pattern. Table 3 indicates the similarities findings of the dominant pattern of thematic progression used in two abstract articles journals which can be seen from the percentage in the table above. The percentage showed constant theme in abstract articles of national journals (65%) and followed by the abstract articles in international journal (80%).

Meanwhile, the second pattern of thematic progression found in national and international journals was linear theme pattern, it showed by total percentage in national (35%) and international journals were (20%). However, the type split rheme pattern was not found in two-level journals.

Discussion

The first finding showed that the Constant Theme pattern with the total number occurrence (65%) is the dominant type of thematic progression pattern that is applied by writers



in accredited national journal abstracts articles. Eggins (2004) states using Constant Theme Pattern, writers can make their text into a clear focus, which is this pattern is considered as the easiest pattern among other patterns. In other words, using this pattern, the writers do not need to look for a new theme. The finding is in line with Rahmawati and Kurniawan (2015) which showed that Constant Theme Pattern is the most dominant pattern between other patterns. Rustipa (2010) said that the first theme is picked up and repeated at the beginning of the next clause. Which has a simple structure and is defined easy. It can indicate that the student successfully gives the reader a clear orientation to what the text is about and where the information has come from and where it is going.

This finding contradictory with Marfuaty and Wahyudi (2015) that shows Simple Linear pattern became the most applied. This probably caused differences in the genre or kind of text analyzed in the study. As Bloor (2000) state that Simple Linear Progression tends to be found in explanation and argumentation in organizing and developing information in the text because it can give an impact on the development of information in argumentation where arguments are arranged in a meaningful way to achieve its purpose.

Meanwhile, linear theme pattern became the second most applied pattern in accredited journal abstract articles with a total number of occurrence (35%). Butt (2000) stated linear theme pattern provides focus and move the topic forward. On the other side, using a linear theme can maintain and develop information in writing. Furthermore, Split Rheme is not found in national journal abstract articles. Rustipa (2010) stated this pattern is the most difficult one for the writers because they need to create new theme by taking up from the rhemes.

The second finding showed that Constant theme pattern was the dominant applied in reputable international journal abstract articles with a total number of occurrence (80%). Paltridge (2006) stated constant is expresses just one element of the theme which is the previous theme taking up as the new theme in the next clause. This pattern is one of the patterns which makes the readers enough for understanding the message of the text. The finding is in line with Sujatna (2013) which shows that Constant Theme Progression became the most applied by Sundanese writers female.

This finding contradictory with Yani (2018), Rakhman (2013), Yunita (2018) that shows linear theme pattern was the dominant type. This probably caused differences in area or



genre of text analyzed in the study as well. Arono (2018) said that it is important for researchers to use constant theme pattern in their academic research or writing because this is the way that their writing has a consistent flow of information and to provide a logical relationship between their writing.

Meanwhile, the linear pattern became the second pattern used in reputable international journal abstract articles with a total number of occurrence (20%). Besides, split rheme pattern is not found as well in reputable international journal abstract articles. Paltridge (2006) stated split rheme is elaborating information which is taken up from the first rheme while abstract section only has one paragraph which is told the big lines of the research. This is probably caused the split rheme is quite difficult applied in abstract section.

The last finding showed that there is no significant different of thematic progression patterns applied in accredited national and reputable international journals. It's proven by the result of t-test check which got the score 0.567 and Pvalue $0.574 > 0.005$. The constant theme and linear theme pattern were found in two-level journals abstract articles and the most dominant got by constant theme pattern. The constant theme is probably applied caused due to writers only repeat the theme in the first clause as the theme for the next clause. Since this pattern only expresses just one element of theme so it became the easier pattern applied in writing activity. Yang (1995) stated abstract consists of four elements, namely introduction, aims, method, and result. This is probably caused why the constant theme and linear theme are found in two-level journal abstract articles.

To sum up, based on Paltridge (2006) thematic progression refers to how the theme of a clause may pick up, or repeat, meaning from the preceding theme and rheme. From the three types of thematic progression patterns suggested by him, only two types of thematic progression were found in abstract sections in national and international journals. Further, Paltridge, in his book did not mention which one is the most better among them. He just explained that they can create good thematic progression between the clauses or sentences.

Besides, the researcher found the constant theme of thematic progression was the most dominant employed in the abstract section in national and international journals, it does not mean that the constant pattern was the best type of thematic progression. Since three patterns



can make information flow among those sentences, it does not matter which one the writers prefer to apply in writing activity, the pattern still coherence.

Conclusion and Suggestion

Based on the result from previous chapter, the researchers concluded that there were two types of thematic progression patterns found in abstract articles in national accredited and international reputable journals namely; constant theme and linear theme. However the split rheme not found when analyzing the data. Between two patterns found above, constant theme is the dominant applied in abstract articles in national and international journals.

In addition, there is no significant different of thematic progression patterns found in accredited national and reputable international journals abstract articles. It means, in national and international journals abstract articles have similarities patterns, whereas constant theme and linear theme applied in writing an abstract. So, writing an abstract section even in national journal abstract articles or international abstract articles are mostly used constant theme pattern. This is probably caused constant theme is easiest to apply and develop by writers.

In relation to the conclusions, this research is suggested to next researchers who are interested in similar study. Since this research has limitation only on analyzing thematic progression pattern. The researcher suggests the next researcher to continue this study by analyzing theme and thematic progression in different data such as literature review, and discussion part in order to make the researcher more widely. Hopefully this research can be the one reference for the next researcher to enrich their study and be able create their journey in writing a thesis becomes easier.

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