SYNTACTIC CHOICES AND TEXT ORGANIZATION

IN MEDICAL RESEARCH ARTICLES

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ABSTRACT

This study was undertaken to investigate the organizational features and occurrence of grammatical and lexical forms in the sections found in medical research articles and to provide a description for them in order to distinguish medical research articles from other text types. This approach is a combination of Swales' theoretical framework which offers a model which is descriptively powerful and applicable to practical situations and Halliday's systemic functional grammar in which language is seen as a social system of meaning.

Twenty-four medical articles taken from two journals, The British Journal of Surgery and Annals of Surgery were analyzed for the organizational features that are present in each section of an article and ten of these articles were selected for the lexicogrammatical analysis of Mood, Transitivity and Theme.

The major findings are as follows: (1) Each of the Abstracts, Introductions, Methods, Results and Discus-
sion sections follows certain conventions in the order of presentation of content, and (2) each unit of information or 'move' is made up of language particular to that move, and that linguistic features vary from one move to another depending on the writer's communicative purpose. A model containing the moves has been developed for each section and descriptions of the moves that are found and the linguistic features present are given.

The organization of medical research articles and the language used characterize the medical research articles as a genre which follows certain conventions about layout and form and demonstrate that they can be distinguished from other types of writing. The relationship between text and context is also explored. Since English is the world's major language for the communication of research findings, the findings in this thesis will also be of pedagogic value for those interested in the teaching and writing of research articles, and a contribution to the bank of material that will inform materials writers.
ABSTRAK

Penyelidikan ini dijalankan untuk mengkaji ciri-ciri organisasi dan nahu di dalam bahagian-bahagian yang terdapat di dalam makalah perubatan dan memberi huraian kepada ciri-ciri tersebut supaya wacana perubatan boleh dibezakan daripada wacana yang lain. Cara penyelidikan yang digunakan ialah kombinasi kerangka teori Swales yang mempunyai model yang sesuai digunakan di dalam situasi praktikal serta nahu sistemik fungsional Halliday yang melihat bahasa sebagai sistem sosial yang mempunyai makna.

Dua puluh empat makalah perubatan yang diambil dari dua jurnal, iaitu The British Journal of Surgery dan Annals of Surgery, dikaji untuk melihat ciri-ciri organisasi yang terdapat di dalam tiap-tiap bahagian makalah, dan sepuluh daripada makalah-makalah itu dipilih untuk dijalankan kajian nahu dari segi Mood Transitivity dan Theme.

Hasil utama dari kajian ini adalah seperti berikut: (1) Tiap-tiap bahagian, iaitu Abstrak, Pengenalan,
Kaedah, Hasil dan Perbincangan mempunyai kandungan yang mengikut susunan yang lebih kurang sama, dan (2) tiap-tiap unit maklumat atau 'move' terdiri daripada nahu dan leksikal yang biasa digunakan untuk sesuatu 'move', dan ciri-ciri nahu dan leksikal berbeza di antara satu 'move' dengan 'move' yang lain mengikut tujuan penulis. Sebuah model direka untuk setiap bahagian dan huraian mengenai 'move' dan ciri-ciri linguistik dipaparkan.

Organisasi makalah perubatan dan nahu yang digunakan dapat membezakan makalah perubatan daripada wacana yang lain dan menunjukkan bahawa ia mempunyai susunan dan bentuk nahu yang khusus. Hubungan teks dan konteks juga diselidiki. Oleh kerana bahasa Inggeris adalah bahasa dunia yang utama yang digunakan untuk menyampaikan hasil penyelidikan, tesis ini mempunyai nilai pedagogik untuk mereka yang mempunyai minat di dalam pengajaran atau penulisan makalah akademik dan merupakan sumbangan kepada penulis bahan pengajaran.
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ABBREVIATIONS

BJS  The British Journal of Surgery
AS  Annals of Surgery