Engagement system in the introduction sections of international journal articles

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Abstract: The present study aimed at investigating Engagement system in the introduction sections of international journal articles. The Engagement is used to analyze how the journal article writers engage the other viewpoints in constructing the idea in their introduction sections. The data of the study were 20 introduction sections of articles from international well reputed scholarly published journal. The journal articles were taken from publication year 2015 and 2016. The findings of the study showed that from 409 clauses, 104 clauses are categorized as monogloss which means the writer of the articles show no engagement with other viewpoints in their sentences. The other 305 clauses are categorized as heterogloss. The heterogloss clauses then are further analysed into engagement features. The dominant Engagement feature is acknowledged which are represented in 84 clauses or 20.5%. The dominance of acknowledge shows that dominantly the writers of the journal articles acknowledge other experts or researchers in order to support their own idea in the writing of introduction sections.

Keywords: Engagement System; appraisal; journal articles, heterogloss

Introduction

Journal articles cannot be separated from academic research recently. To get their research articles published, especially in international journal has been the focus of academics and researchers. One of the reasons to publish the writing or article to published journals is to give contribution to knowledge. Thyer (2008) states that our research and findings from journal article are valuable, especially to scientific community in the same field. By publishing the journal articles, it enables other researchers who are interested in the same field to look at our work. They can open the journals which are now offered in two forms, printed and online. The journal articles are also categorized and grouped by certain topic or field by certain journal publishers. The researcher who has interest of some topics of fields can choose the journal articles from the preferred journal publishers available.

The introduction sections of journal articles play important role in presenting the study. It is stated in Bavdekar (2015) that almost all journals prefer to have an introduction sections for the original research articles. A well-written introduction describes background and the context, goes on to state deficiencies in previous knowledge and defines what is being planned. In the study by Yang and Xiaojuan (2015) it is found that the use of introduction section is to review the past literature and presenting the position of the present study.

The study of viewpoints in text is mainly discussed in the theory of Appraisal, specifically under the Engagement system. Appraisal is one of branch of wider theory Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL) by Halliday.Appraisal with its engagement system is focused on the inter personal dimension of meaning while the other SFL branches are focused on textual dimension of meaning. As stated in Martin and White (2005) all verbal communication, whether written or spoken, is 'dialogic' in that to speak or to write always reveals the influence of, refer to, or to take up in some way, what has been said or written before, and simultaneously to anticipate the responses of actual, potential, or imagined readers or listeners(Martin and White, 2005: 92). Engagement system represents the viewpoints of researcher, who conduct a study,

with respect to others opinion or discussion in the same field.

The example of engagement system is represented in the following example which is stated in Martin and White (2005):

Table 1 Overview of Engagement System.

Monogloss	Heterogloss
	There is the argument though that thebanks have been greedy
	In my view the banks have been greedy
	Callers to talkback radio see the banks asbeing greedy
The banks have been greedy	The chairman of the consumersassociation has stated that the banks are being greedy
	There can be no denying the banks havebeen greedy
	Everyone knows the banks are greedy
	The banks haven't been greedy

The use of Engagement system as shown in the table above which is under the heading of Heterogloss is mostly found in research articles. In research articles, especially in introduction part, the writer should use the other viewpoints to support their argument or sentences. As stated in Hyland (2005), academic writers seek to present a credible representation of their work by claiming solidarity with readers, evaluating their material and acknowledging alternative views to build a convincing argument in their writing (Hyland, 2005: 173).

Recent studies of Engagement system cannot be separated from appraisal theory. The study by Yang and Xiaojuan (2015) investigated Reporting Evidentials in Generic Structure of English research articles. In this study, Engagement system from appraisal theory was used to analyse the Generic Structure of English research articles. The findings of the study showed that the most dominant feature of engagement is acknowledge. The study concludes that the use of acknowledge feature in the research articles is to review the past literature and distance the information so the writer of the articles takes no responsibility.

Martin and White (2005) believes that the writer acknowledge the prior speakers of their topics and in such a way put their positions to be engaged with them. The positions can be identified as standing with, as standing against, as undecided, or as neutral (Martin and White, 2005: 93). Hyland (2010) in his work mentioned that the most systematic system to analyse engagement is the engagement system under the appraisal theory proposed by Martin and White (2005). So, the present study chooses the engagement system by Martin and White to analyse the introduction sections of international journal articles.

In the discussion of engagement system, Martin and White (2005) divided the engagement into two, monogloss and heterogloss. Monogloss means that the writers of the journal articles show no engagement with other viewpoints in their sentences. While heterogloss means that the sentences in the journal articles show engagement with other viewpoints. If a sentence is categorized as heterogloss, then it can be analysed further into Dialogic Contraction and Dialogic Expansion.

Methodology

The research design used in this study is a content analysis. Content analysis is a technique to get portrait of the text or other meaningful materials to the context being used (Krippendorf, 2004: 18). The data used in this study were the introduction sections of international journal articles. Sources of the data were taken from journal articles which are published internationally. Ten articles were chosen randomly from the two year publication (2015-2016). Therefore, the analysis of engagement was applied on twenty research articles. Introduction sections of the articles become the focus of the study. The reason is that the discussion of viewpoints is mostly discussed in introduction section.

The data was analysed by using Engagement system based on Martin and White engagement analysis. There are two categories of engagement, monogloss and heterogloss. If the sentence is heterogloss then it further being categorized into dialogic contraction and dialogic expansion. Dialogic contraction is divided into disclaim and proclaim. Disclaim is further divided into deny and counter while

proclaim is divided into concur, pronounce and endorse. Dialogic expansion is divided into entertain and attribute. Entertain has no further category while attribute is further divided into acknowledge and distance. Overall there are 409 clauses from introduction section of 20 journal articles. 104 clauses are categorized as Monogloss, while the other 305 clauses are categorized as Heterogloss. The Monogloss clauses mean that the clauses have no engagement with other viewpoints in constructing the idea.

The writer's background of the journal articles can be divided into two from the perspective of native and non-native speakers of English. From all 20 articles, there are 27 writers. From 27 writers, two are native speakers from UK, one is native from United States of America. The other 24 writers are Asian.

The example of Monogloss clauses found in the journal articles can be seen as follows.

i. Therefore, the focus of the current study is on SMT integration, with specific focus on the discipline of ELT in the Indonesian context.

ii. The overall aim of the study was therefore to investigate teacher trainees" beliefs in relation to technology in teaching and learning in order to develop a framework to address this issue.

The sentences above show no engagement with other viewpoints in constructing the idea in the writing. The sentences are made just in the point of view of the writer. The purpose of the sentences is to give information about the study, in the context here, to give information about the focus and the aim of the study. It is in a line with the findings of previous study by Eric (2015). The findings showed that the monogloss sentence found in the research articles serve as indicating the structure, the purpose and the methods of the paper. Besides, the monogloss sentences are also found with function as reflecting the writer's own experience and demonstrating shared knowledge or fact

The Heterogloss clauses then are categorized into Engagement features. All categories of Engagement features can be found in those articles. The engagement features found in the articles are represented in 305 clauses. There are 3 dominant features in the articles. The first dominant feature is acknowledge with 84 clauses or 20.5% percentage. The second is counter with 69 clauses which are shared in 16.8% from overall percentage. The third is concur with 52 clauses or 12.7% percentage.

Compared to previous study by Yang and Xiaojuan (2015), it is similar in terms of the most dominant engagement features found in the research articles. Yang and Xiaujuan (2015) in their study found that in the all generic structures and introduction sections of research articles, the most dominant feature is acknowledge. While in another study by Eric (2015), acknowledge is found as the second dominant features in postgraduate written discourse. It is also in a line with the study conducted by Pascual and Unger (2010) where the acknowledge feature is also found as the second dominant features in research proposals. From the perspective of writer's background, the dominant engagement feature from native writer is concur and acknowledge. From the other non-native writer the dominant engagement feature is acknowledge.

Acknowledge.

The first dominant Engagement Feature found in the journal articles is acknowledge. The example of acknowledge found in the articles can be seen in the following sentences.

i. Ng &Rao (2013) reported the results of a recent survey showing that 100% of the 256 sampled kindergartens offered English teaching at the K2 and K3 levels (ages 4 and 5).

ii. It has been reported by Nguyen (2013), T.M.H .Nguyen (2008), Phan (2008), and Ton and Pham (2010) that the majority of Vietnamese students lacked international competence.

The sentences above are categorized as Acknowledge. Acknowledge is found as dominant Engagement features in the 20 journal articles. It has function as a feature in the writing to associate the writer position with external positions or voices and present them as engaging interactively. It is usually represented by the use of reporting verbs such as say, report, state, declare, announce, believe and think.

iii. They <u>believed that</u> incidental learning is both possible and effective if the nature of the task calls for attention to what is being learned.

The use of <u>believe</u> as Acknowledge feature of Engagement can be seen in the sentence above. The writer use that feature to engage their argument with other point of view interactively. The writer usually put the experts name or the name of the study while acknowledging them in the arguments.

Besides <u>report</u> and <u>believe</u>, the Acknowledge features found in the articles are usually represented by the use of verbs which are synonym with **say** such as <u>explain</u>. The example can be seen in the following sentence.

iv. Similarly, Hirstand Sinclair (1989) <u>explained</u> that when students or tutees seek out peer help, they receive individualized instruction and more focused teaching.

Conclusion.

From the findings, it can be concluded that the introduction sections of international journal articles dominantly represent the heterogloss sentence. In the other words, the sentences in the introduction sections dominantly engage with other viewpoints. The most dominant engagement feature, which is acknowledge, serves function to present viewpoints without stating them as true or false. Beside, acknowledge also serves as a means to review the past literature to be included in the introduction sections.

Considering the findings and discussion of the study, it is recommended for academic researchers or EFL/ESL students who are taking academic writing or in the process of writing the research articles to give focus on the introduction sections. Engagement system focuses on how the writer employs other viewpoints in constructing their idea in the sentence. Furthermore, engagement system can be an additional aspect to be considered in the process of writing a good introduction section of research articles.

Theoretically, the findings and discussion of the study can enrich the study of engagement system, especially under appraisal theory. Another possible suggestion for researcher is conducting the engagement features in the other part of the research articles, such as literature review or discussion sections.

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