A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON INDONESIAN AND ENGLISH
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT USED IN UNDERGRADUATE
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Surakarta, 16 April 2014

Pembimbing II

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A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON INDONESIAN AND ENGLISH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT USED IN UNDERGRADUATE THESSES

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The objective of the research is to analyze the Generic Structure of Acknowledgement in Indonesian and English Undergraduate Thesis Acknowledgement. The type of the research of the study is descriptive comparative. The data collecting method which the writer uses is documentation method, where the samples take 50 English acknowledgements and 50 Indonesian acknowledgements which chosen randomly and analyzed according to Hyland’s (2004) and Al-Ali’s (2006) generic structure of Acknowledgement theory. The results of this research show that in Reflecting Move, Indonesian Acknowledgement data got 2% and English data 0%, then it is also reveal that the most prevalent move in written both of English and Indonesian acknowledgements derive from Thanking Moves that is Thanking God, Presenting Participants and Thanking for Academic Assistance both Indonesian and English got 100%, in Thanking for Resources English 44% and Indonesian 28%, and thanking for Moral support English 86% while Indonesian 100%. The last move is Announcing Move which consists of Accepting Responsibility where English 68% and Indonesian 48%, and Dedicating the Thesis where both English and Indonesian got 0%. This study also discovers that there are some similarities and differences between English and Indonesian acknowledgements.

Keywords: Acknowledgements, English and Indonesian undergraduate thesis, Generic structure.

A. INTRODUCTION

Language is a human basic need. It is used to communicate with the others. Human do need language because they are considered as social being that cannot live without the others’ hands. When people communicate to the others, they have their own way in communication. Each communication was affected by each culture. Every culture has different way in communication included in how they say gratitude. Gratitude, thankfulness, gratefulness, or appreciation is a feeling or attitude in acknowledgment of a benefit that one
has received or will receive. The experience of gratitude has historically been a focus of several world religions.

Indonesia has many cultures and many religions. It also has many different ways in saying gratitude in acknowledgement. The influences of Indonesian culture in saying gratitude used in undergraduate thesis English acknowledgement.

An acknowledgement is a statement or action that recognizes person who helped the researcher. Acknowledgements constitute one of the ways to express gratitude in academic domain. Al-Ali (2006) claimed that acknowledgements in theses and dissertations are part of academic practice in that they allow students to reflect their gratitude for any kind of help received from others during the process of writing. There are some researchers who have done the research about acknowledgement and gratitude, such as Kashdan, Uswatte and Julian (2005), Johansen (2008), Farnia and Suleiman (2009), Mingwey and Yajun (2010), Pishghadam and Zarei (2011), Croxford (2011), Yang (2012), Farashaiyan and Hua (2012), Sood and Gupta (2012), Afip (2013) however most of them analyzed only English gratitude or compare English and their own mother tongue. No one has studied and compared English and Indonesian acknowledgement. This comparative study is conducted to examine the generic structure of acknowledgement and gratitude strategies expressed in Indonesian and English acknowledgements.

The objective of the study at this research include: (1)To analyze the similarities and differences of the Reflecting Move expressed in Indonesian and English undergraduate thesis acknowledgement. (2)To analyze similarities and differences of the Thanking Move(s) expressed in Indonesian and English undergraduate thesis acknowledgement. (3)To analyze the similarities and differences of the Announcing Move expressed in Indonesian and English undergraduate thesis acknowledgement.

The problems in this research are as follows: (1) What are the similarities and differences of the Reflecting Move expressed in Indonesian and English undergraduate thesis acknowledgement? (2) What are the
similarities and differences of the Thanking Move(s) expressed in Indonesian and English undergraduate thesis acknowledgement? (3) What are the similarities and differences of the Announcing Move expressed in Indonesian and English undergraduate thesis acknowledgement?

B. RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the writer uses descriptive comparative. In determining the subject to be analyzed the writer uses Hyland’s (2004) and Al-Ali’s (2006) structure of acknowledgement theories. The object of the research is element forming a discourse of acknowledgement. In this study, the data of this research are undergraduate thesis acknowledgements. The data sources of this research were taking from 100 samples of undergraduate thesis acknowledgements, which consist of 50 English acknowledgements and 50 Indonesian acknowledgements which chosen randomly. The English acknowledgements were taken from Department of English Education faculty’s thesis, and the Indonesian acknowledgements were taken from several faculties in Muammadiyah University of Surakarta. They are PBSID (Pendidikan Bahasa Sastra Indonesia dan Daerah), PKN (Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan), PGSD (Pendidikan Guru Sekolah Dasar), Komunikasi, Kedokteran, Arsitektur, Biologi, Geografi, Hukum, Farmasi, Teknik Mesin, Psikologi, Ekonomi, FAL (Fakultas Agama Islam), FIK (Fakultas Ilmu Kesehatan), PAUD (Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini), and Pendidikan Matematika. The method used for collecting data is documentation method. Meanwhile, the researcher analyzes the similarities and differences of the Reflecting Move, Thanking Move(s), and Announcing Move expressed in Indonesian and English acknowledgement based on Hyland and Al-Ali’s theory.
C. RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

1. Research findings

a. The similarities and differences of the Reflecting Move expressed in Indonesian and English undergraduate thesis acknowledgement.

Reflecting move requires the writers to reflect their experience and challenges that they have been encountered and overcome. The example of the sentences in reflecting move “Working on this dissertation has been a very enlightening, rewarding and gratifying experience for me” or “The writing of an MA thesis is not an easy task”.

But according to the samples of English acknowledgements, there is no one use this move (English 0%), the other side in Indonesian samples there is 1 (Indonesian 2%) which applied this move, its sample number 01/LI/KOM/2013.

“Menyusun skripsi bukanlah hal yang sepele. Mulai dari pengajuan outline, mencari judul yang menarik, mencari kerangka teori yang dijadikan pisau penelitian, hingga meneliti apa yang kita pertanyaikan pada rumusan masalah serta menyimpulkannya, merupakan sebuah proses runtut yang harus kita jalani dalam suatu bimbingan. Sharing dengan dosen pembimbing maupun dengan teman sangat penting dilakukan karena bisa membuat kita menjadi tahu lebih banyak dibandingkan kita hanya membaca buku. Tidak mudah. Butuh suatu kerja keras dan tekad yang luar biasa agar bisa menyelesaikannya. Butuh suatu fokus yang tidak terpecah oleh hal-hal lain. Skripsi adalah karya. Kita wajib berjuang agar karya kita menjadi sempurna dan bermanfaat. (Indonesian)”

Based on the Indonesian sample above, this move shows the writer’s experiences in the way of research. It also expressed the writer’s effort in finishing the research. Then both in Indonesian and English samples, not all samples applied greeting (Assalamualaikum.wr.wb) in the beginning of the acknowledgement. Each of the data got 68% for Indonesian and 76% for English. It means that there are 34 data of Indonesian and 38 data of English which applied greeting.
b. The similarities and differences of the Thanking Move(s) expressed in Indonesian and English undergraduate thesis acknowledgement.

1) Thanking God / Devine Appreciation

All of the English samples begin with Thanking to God (100%). For example “In the name of Alloh SWT, the most Merciful, who has guided the writer and delivers His mercy, blessing and ability. Then, peace be upon Prophet Muhammad SAW, the messenger sent by Alloh who has changed this world from darkness to the lightness (1/A/ENG/2013)”. And all of the Indonesian samples begin with Thanking to God (100%). For example “Dengan menyebut nama ALLAH SWT Yang Maha Pengasih Lagi Maha Penyayang. Salawat serta salam selalu tercurah kepada nabi dan rasul teladan bagi umat manusia baginda Muhammad SAW, beserta para sahabat sekalian (01/LI/KOM/2013)”.

According to the samples above, both English and Indonesian acknowledgements have the similarity in Thanking God Move. Both English and Indonesian show the praise to the God and Prophet expressed by using words “In the name of Alloh SWT, the most Merciful (English)” and “Dengan menyebut nama ALLAH SWT Yang Maha Pengasih Lagi Maha Penyayang (Indonesian)”. Actually both of the phrases have the same meaning and the same purpose that is to praise the God who almighty. Then the praise to the Prophet is shown by words “peace be upon Prophet Muhammad SAW (English)” and “Salawat serta salam selalu tercurah kepada nabi dan rasul teladan bagi umat manusia baginda Muhammad SAW (Indonesian)”.

2) Presenting Participants

All the English samples applied the second step that is Presenting participants (100%). For example “In the research paper she realizes that this research paper is impossible to be finished without the participation of all people who have encouraged and supported her with help, advice, guidance and suggestion in conducting the research paper. Her special gratitude and appreciation go to following people: (English)”
Similarly all of the Indonesian samples applied the second step that is Presenting Participants (100%). For example “Dalam proses penyusunan skripsi ini, penulis banyak mendapatkan bantuan, dorongan, bimbingan dan pengarahan dari berbagai pihak. Sehingga, perkenankan penulis menyampaikan ucapan terima kasih yang sebesar-besarnya kepada; (Indonesian)”

The samples above show that in Presenting Participants Move both Indonesian and English acknowledgement had similar content. The writers also mentioned their reasons in expressing their gratitude, such as thanking for the participation, encouragement, support, help, advice, guidance, suggestion, motivation, and other help providers. Although in some Indonesian samples found the words “berbagai pihak” which show indefinite counts of person.

Also in representing participants there are some phrases in expressing gratitude such as “deepest appreciation and gratitude” which got 22 samples (44%) in English acknowledgements. It was expressed in the sentence “The writer would like to express the deepest appreciation and gratitude to persons who have given contribution to complete the research paper, among others are: (English)”

The other hands there are some samples which only use phrase “sincere gratitude”, there are 2 samples (4%) which use this expression. It expressed in the sentence “Therefore, she would like to express her sincere gratitude to: (English)”. The other kind of expression in thanking also use phrase “great gratitude”, there are 3 samples (6%) which use this phrase. It expressed in the sentence “In this occasion, he would like to express the great gratitude to: (English)”.

Also there are 2 samples (4%) which use phrase “immeasurable gratitude” in their thanking expression. It expressed in the sentence “Thus, the researcher will give all immeasurable gratitude to: (English)”.

In Indonesian samples found 8 samples (16%) which use phrase “terima kasih yang sebesar-besarnya” in expressing gratitude. It expressed
in the sentence “Sehingga, perkenankan penulis menyampaikan ucapan terima kasih yang sebesar-besarnya kepada; (Indonesian)”. Also found 3 samples (6%) which use phrase “terima kasih yang tulus” to expressing gratitude which expressed in the sentence “…, dengan segala kerendahan hati penulis ingin mengucapkan terima kasih yang tulus kepada: (Indonesian)”.

In Indonesian sample found 1 sample (2%) which use words “terima kasih yang tulus dan mendalam” in expressing gratitude, Ii expressed in the sentence “…, dengan segala kerendahan hati penulis ingin mengucapkan terima kasih yang tulus dan mendalam kepada: (Indonesian)”. 

There was 1 sample (2%) which use phrase “terima kasih dan penghargaan” in expressing gratitude which expressed in the sentence “Untuk itu dalam kesempatan ini penulis menyampaikan terima kasih dan penghargaan kepada semua pihak yang telah membantu, (Indonesian)”. 

Also not all writers mention their research title in their Presenting Participants. There are 37 data in Indonesian (74%) and 32 data in English (64%) which mention it.

3) Thanking for Academic Assistance

All the English and Indonesian samples applied the second step which is thanking for the academic assistance (English 100%) and (Indonesian 100%). It expressed in the sentence “Therefore, on this opportunity, she would like to express her gratitude and appreciation to Drs. H. Djoko Srijono, M.Hum., as the first consultant, who has given careful guidance, suggestion, and correction during the completion of this research paper, (Thank + reason) (English)” and “Untuk itu dalam kesempatan ini penulis menyampaikan terimakasih dan penghargaan kepada semua pihak yang telah membantu, terutama kepada Rinasari Kusuma, M. I. Kom selaku Ketua Jurusan Ilmu Komunikasi Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta dan sekaligus sebagai dosen pembimbing II
According to the analysis above, both English and Indonesian acknowledgements have the same receiver in thanking for academic assistance. The person who thanked by the writer of the thesis are dean of the faculty, the head of the department, and supervisor. However not all of the researcher give the reason why they thanked; they only mention the name and the position of the person which illustrated in the samples 14/EHP/ENG/2013 and 22/AON/HUM/2013. And most of samples using “thank + reason” of expressing this move.

4) Thanking for Resources

This move is to express thanks for data access and clerical, technical or financial support. In this research found 22 data of Indonesian acknowledgement (44%) and 14 data of English acknowledgement (28%) which applied this move. It expressed in the sentences “Thus, on this occasion, the writer would like to thanks to Sarjuni, S.Pd., as Headmaster of SMK N 1 Klego, thanks for giving me opportunity to conduct observation in there, (Thank + reason) (English)” and “Maka pada kesempatan ini penulis ingin menyampaikan rasa terima kasih yang tulus kepadaPihak-pihak di RSUD Karanganyar yang telah membantu dalam proses penelitian. (Thank + reason) (Indonesian)”.

Based on the analysis, found some kinds of thanking for resources expressions especially in Indonesian acknowledgements. It is because the samples taken from some different faculties so the resources which providing in each research different. Most of Thanking for Resources followed by the reason why the writer thanked, it also mentioned the source that the writer got from the person who be thanked.

5) Thanking for Moral Support

This is another obligatory sub-move in which the writers thank family members for their patience, understanding and care and it also offers gratitude to friends for encouragement and friendship. Data showed
that this move was evident in 50 (English 100%) but not all in Indonesian, it is applied in 43 samples (Indonesian 86%). It expressed in the sentences “In this opportunity, the writer would like to express her gratitude and appreciation to her beloved parents, who have supported her life to finish her study, (Thank + reason) (English)” and “Sehingga, perkenankan penulis menyampaikan ucapan terima kasih yang sebesar-besarnya kepada; Ibu dan ayahku tercinta, Sumartini dan Purnomo atas kasih sayangnya dan yang telah dengan sabar menunggu anaknya lulus. (Thank + reason) (Indonesian)”.

The analysis shows that thanking to the family which has supported the writer in finishing the research. It is logical that family give moral support in finishing the study. Not only family who mention in this move, but also friends and others, there were some samples showed the thanking to the name of motorbike. Most of Thanking for Moral Support followed by the reason why the writer thanked.

c. The similarities and differences of the Announcing Move expressed in Indonesian and English undergraduate thesis acknowledgement.

In Announcing Move, both of the samples only applied Accepting Responsibility Move, it is statements delineating responsibility and inspiration, in the research found 68% Indonesian and 96% English, it show that 34 Indonesian data and 48 English data which applied this move. In English acknowledgements the author use sentences “Finally, the writer realizes that nothing in the world is perfect; this research paper is too. Therefore, she hopes any suggestion and criticism from the readers for the improvement of this research paper. (English)” and in Indonesian acknowledgements the author use sentences “Penulis menyadari atas segala kekurangan skripsi ini, oleh karena itu penulis sangat mengharapkan kritik dan saran membangun untuk kesempurnaan skripsi ini. (Indonesian)”.

According to the analysis above, both Indonesian and English writer have similarity in expressing their imperfectly in writing research.
2. Discussion of The Findings

In this part, the writer presents the discussion of the data analysis. In this research the writer analyzes the similarities and the differences of generic structure of acknowledgements also the gratitude strategies which expressed in the acknowledgements.

The first move is Reflecting Move. This move requires the writers to reflect their experience and challenges that they have been encountered and overcome (Hyland, 2004; Mingwei and Yajun, 2010). This move allows students to publicly contemplate the understandings they have gained as a result of the research experience and often recalls the struggles involved or the sense of accomplishment achieved. Here is the academic writer at his or most unguarded and able to express what could not be expressed in the thesis proper.

The next move on the generic structure of acknowledgement proposed by Hyland is Thanking Move. This main thanking move is realized by five component steps which informed the readers about the people and institutions to be thanked, when and why to be acknowledged (Al-Ali, 2006).

The first step is Thanking God. Although this step is not very common written by writers, it reflects and symbolizes writers’ attitudes towards their religious beliefs. Especially in Indonesia the country with full of religious influence, language cannot be separated from religious aspect. The praise to the God and Prophet become such kind of pray for people who believe. That why Thanking God Move in acknowledgement structure was important to study acknowledgement in Indonesia.

The next step is Presenting Participants. According to Hyland, this step has a textual function since it provided means of introducing the people to be thanked who are then specified in following steps (cited in Al-Ali, 2006). The purpose of the step is principally textual, to introduce the people to be thanked who are then often named in the following steps. In almost all cases it occurred in the initial position of a thanking move, functioning as a bridge between the moves and as a prologue to signal the purpose of the
move which is to acknowledge all those involved in the thesis. In two texts however it was positioned later in the move to set up a particular class of thanks. The step is typically short and rarely more than a sentence in length. Generally this step occurred in more lengthy acknowledgements which contained several thanking steps, often recycling academic and moral thanks. While this step provides the writer with a means of offering an inclusive thanks to those who may not be subsequently mentioned by name, it largely serves to signal that a list will follow, therefore containing none of the effusiveness or the personal flourishes sometimes seen in other steps in this move.

The third step in Thanking Move is Thanking for Academic Assistance. It comprises thanks for a range of support, from providing feedback and critical comments, discussing approaches, assisting with analyses, and inspiring ideas, to granting approval for study, inviting conference papers, and so on.

Generally such acknowledgements are offered to senior academics, people who had mentored or believed in the writer, taught him or her, provided intellectual guidance, or contributed in other ways, although some writers recognized the help of fellow students, colleagues and peers. It is meant to show that the writers are grateful for any kind of intellectual help they received from members in the academic community such as advisors and lecturers, who have been influential in stimulating and nurturing the research by giving ideas, insights, feedbacks or critical analysis (Al-Ali, 2006).

The fourth step is Thanking for Resources. This step collates acknowledgements for support received from colleagues, institutions from which data were collected, clerical support and financial supports. We can see from the analysis, that thanking for resources are expressed to the official institutes or company out of university, like school, hospital, factory, government official, etc. this move necessary to express gratitude to the party which provide sources and knowledge in finishing the research.
Finally the last step of Thanking Move is Thanking for Moral Support. This step is another obligatory sub-move, in which the writers thank family members for their patience, understanding and care and it also offers gratitude to friends for encouragement and friendship. According to Al-Ali (2006), this step carries interpersonal considerations and social interactions with different audience other than academic and demonstrates how the acknowledgers present themselves as active participant not only in the same discourse community but also in the wider social community.

This Move offers gratitude for encouragement, friendship, sympathy, patience, and care and the fact that two thirds of all papers contained this step suggests that acknowledgements were more than simply an opportunity for political strategizing. They also provided students with the chance to extend thanks beyond the public worlds of the academy to the private forces which shaped their research experience. Referring to family and friends by full names lends almost ceremonial connotations to these acknowledgements and may suggest that writers’ have rather formal perceptions of the genre. But more importantly, it once again reflects the public nature of this discourse and underlines the writers’ intention that the recipients are clearly identifiable to readers.

According to the samples, not only family member and friendship relation who expressed thanking, but also all things which support in the process of writing research also mentioned such as the name of motorbike, etc.

Thanking is realized when the speaker feels that the hearer (or someone else) has done something good, valuable, and helpful for the speaker (Searle, 1969). Thanking expressions varies in range of formality and politeness depending on the social distance of the speakers. Most languages have varieties of responses to thanks.

This study found that in Thanking Move there are some names that do not relate in finishing the research but still mentioned. Such as deans, department heads, rectors, etc. This happened because the writer is
Indonesian where always affected by several factors in expressing gratitude, such as cultural, ethnic, religious, and politeness. The ethnicity factor has been reveal as factor which influenced in expressing gratitude by Afip (2013). He analyzed the differences of Chinese and Malay Dissertation Acknowledgement. The way of expressing gratitude in Indonesian culture usually influenced by age and occupation. People who have high positions and older age usually take precedence in the delivery of gratitude.

The last move on the generic structure of acknowledgement proposed by Hyland is Announcing Move. This move is considered as marginal move as it has a low frequency of occurrence. This move includes two constituent steps which are accepting responsibility and dedicating the thesis. For the writers who employed it, this move provided a means of publicly making a declaration of their authorial accountability for the dissertation’s contents or dedicating the work to an esteemed individual, although the two steps never occurred together.

The first step of Announcing Move is Accepting Responsibility, in this move the writers asserted their authorial responsibility for the research imperfection and contents. Accepting responsibility therefore clearly redresses the impression of dispersed responsibility or uncertain authorship which may have been given in the Thanking move and functions to re-establish the student’s rights to be regarded as an independent researcher.

The last step of Announcing Move is Dedicating the Thesis. According to Al-Ali (2006), the writers who included this step in this genre feel they have something of great value to offer. Here writers borrow a device they have seen in books, although virtually unknown in academic papers, to offer a tribute to people who have made a special contribution to their lives beyond the confines of the research context. But in this study there is no one sample from Indonesian of English which applied this move.

Actually English acknowledgement should be shorter than Indonesian acknowledgement. However, because of the author is Indonesian
so it affected by some factors in expressing gratitude such as politeness, culture, religion and environment.

D. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, both of the structures of acknowledgement in English and Indonesian have little differences. The most prevalent moves in English and Indonesian acknowledgements is of Thanking Moves that are Presenting Participants, Thanking God, and Thanking for Academic Assistance, that yield significantly with 100% for each move. This study also discovered that both English and Indonesian students have many similarities in writing acknowledgements.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


