The Implementation of Effective Method for Writing Research Articles.pdf

by Sri Wuli Fitriati

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Abstract: Writing research articles especially for publication purpose must be scientific, informative and attractive. The objective of this research was to formulate the effective method to write research articles by following the IMRAD model that was added with conclusion. The object was ten articles in English language teaching that were chosen by using purposive sampling. The research design was qualitative whose instrument of criteria of scientific paper. The finding proposed that the effective method of writing introduction comprised giving ideas and argumentation, reviewing previous studies and theories, positioning the research problem appropriately. The effective method of writing research method was explaining the schema of working without reviewing theories or previous studies. The effective method of writing finding and discussion was exploring the correlation of the research problems and novelty, stating the research design definitely, and evaluating the finding by using previous studies. The effective method of writing conclusion was summarizing the previous materials, proposing the benefit and short implication, and never copying the previous materials. It could be concluded the research article publication is not only about the content truthfulness, but also the informative and attractive value.

Key words: Effective, Method, Writing, Articles, English Language Teaching

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1 INTRODUCTION

Writing research articles for communication and publication purpose requires high skill, endeavor, experience, and process. The authors or writers must conquer two basic skills which are the formal and academic writing and the communication through written text. Commonly, written text could be assumed more difficult to be constructed than spoken text or interaction. In the written text, the authors almost have no change to clarify and confirm for the mistakes and unclear materials because it is indirect interaction with the readers. One of writing skills that supports the good research article is the academic writing skill. It could be argued that academic writing skill demands authors to study, recognize, and follow the certain rules. It was not free writing based on the imagination. The technique and materials were limited by the scientific characters and rules. The ability to write in the learning and academic context is not natural skill and it practices the formal instruction settings [1]. The academic writing skill is not obtained by natural talent which means the quality and frequency of practice influence the skill level. The other study proved that the linguistic skill was a necessary for students to practice their academic writing very well [2]. The component of linguistic skill especially the grammar and vocabulary mastery influences the skill. In the high level, academic writing practice requires the correlation of novelty and correctness [3]. Academic writing as the supporting skill for writing research article requires serious learning and practice.

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The skill of academic writing is usually parallel with the quality of writing research article for publication. The result of the main research could be communicated totally through the application of the high skill of writing. Academic writing was a developing skill for giving content information [4]. The clearness and correctness of the information was determined by the writing skill too. In writing the sensitive issues, it will be very fragile to write the article for publication through the low skill of writing. On the other definition, language skill including writing practice was the transformation from private to public communication [5]. Of course, writing for publication was about the skill of writing for communication. As discussed in the previous part, it could be difficult because the communication is indirect communication through the written paper or article. The characteristic of the research articles or papers must be recognized and understood by authors in order to get the maximum result. In this case, every publisher of journal or proceeding could have different and special rule, but it has general similar characteristic. In one study, the general schema of a research article was the general motivation in the introduction and the article body contained the thematic scope and description of the method, result, and discussion [6]. It represented that the limitation of the study scope was vital because the length was limited in the research article that authors cannot write as long as they want to write. The other concept of the research article was to retell the scientific story through the formula of explaining the issue and research question in the introduction, hypothesis in the method, and answer the question by proposing the result in the next part [7]. It could be understood that the concept of writing research articles is to report the scientific process. The process could be both finished or still in the process. In addition, the priority of modern scientific researchers was to construct the scientific knowledge through scientific paper [8]. The benefit and contribution to the study field was one of the research article orientations. Through publishing the article, the researchers would like to share their research contribution for the knowledge and skill renewal. The schema of research paper that was mostly used is IMRAD. IMRAD is a schema of writing which comprises introduction, method, result, and discussion [9]. The schema was mostly used by the publishers of journal and proceeding. The schema of writing which was familiar to be

called as a template or guideline must be followed and obeyed when an author would like to submit to a publisher. Usually, a publisher is consistent to use the template that had been determined. In this research, the researchers formulated the effective method to write research article though the schema of IMRAD which was added with conclusion. It was because the IMRAD does not contain the conclusion, meanwhile conclusion must present in a research article. The title and abstract were not included because it was considered that every publisher must determine different scope of article, title, and abstract rule. It is very fragile to include both of them. Based on the background and the literature review, researchers proposed one question which is "*how is the effective method to write research article by using the schema of IMRAD that was added with conclusion?*". The objective of this research was "*to formulate the effective method to write research article through the schema of IMRAD that was added with conclusion*".

2   METHOD

The design of this research was the qualitative design. This research represents the research article authors' perspective in applying the method of writing their journal articles [10]. The object was ten articles in the study field of English language teaching that were published in journals. They were selected by using the purposive sampling. The instruments were the criteria of scientific paper [8] and the development criteria of IMRAD [9]. Researchers applied the content collecting technique [10] to take the unit of data analysis which comprised the written words of the text from phrases till paragraph. The work schema of analysis was the disassembling and interpreting [10]. In analyzing the data, this research was begun with disassembling phase in which the key points of finding were recorded. The material and main topic of every paragraph were collected in a stratified schema. Then, it was continued to be interpreted by emphasizing the completeness of the text from the beginning till the end. The technique of writing was analyzed for every part of introduction, method, findings and discussion, and conclusion. In the last step, researchers formulated the effective method of writing research articles from the result of ten article analysis.

3   FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the finding of writing implication in the ten articles, researchers formulated the effective method to write the articles in the every session or sub-chapter. The sub-chapters comprise introduction, method, finding and discussion, and conclusion. The elaboration of every session was presented comprehensively below.

3.1   Effective Method of Writing Introduction

Introduction in the research article has some important basic functions because it was the beginning of the text. The most crucial functions were to propose the authors' ideas, argumentation, review of related literature, and the research problem and objective. All of them need to be presented communicatively. It was called as crucial because introduction was the starting point to attract readers to continue reading to the next sub-chapter especially the findings and discussion.

In proposing the ideas and argumentation, authors have to give sense of comprehensive and joyful to readers. It was not only the matter of how high our ideas, but also how our ideas could reach the readers' mind. In the proposing comprehensive sense, authors have to place their ideas in every paragraph in the certain position whether in the beginning, middle, or end. It helps readers to identify the main idea and argumentation of every paragraph. The text does not let the readers to search for ideas for more than ten seconds. Most readers just would like to recognize what the authors' issues are. The content of the introduction could be explored and applied as the media for the promotion for authors [11]. The formula of comprehensive sense could also support the authors who would like to promote their identity or the research benefits to readers. The establishment of the comprehensive sense was parallel with the concept of constructing the discourse in introduction [12]. In constructing joyful sense, the use of appropriate vocabulary and authors' position were the key point of the successfulness. The vocabulary class must be parallel with the readers' level of competence. The readers had to be identified for their character first. Authors should avoid using vocabularies which are not familiar with the readers. In placing position, researchers recommended authors to place themselves as the partners for the readers. In the simple term, the position of authors and readers were equal. Most mistakes of authors were to place themselves as superior as possible above the readers. On the other hand, the readers tend to have passion to be free readers in interpreting the text. The shared knowledge in the background without justifying attracted the readers' interest [13]. It means the authors need to make readers to be curious in positive sense. On the other hand, giving positive justification rather than negative critique made the text to be more conformable [14]. The character of emotion also influences the joyful. In addition, the coherence level also influenced the sense of comprehensive and joyful in the introduction.

Reviewing the related literature and previous studies requires the boarder of originality as the basic method. We never use ambiguity statement. The presentation of the previous studies must clear for their identity and content. Then, it needs to separate the result of review writing clearly. In this part, readers would like to view which ones were the original theories and previous studies, the authors' ideas, and the review result. It does not mean to separate them directly in the whole text, but the boarder must be clear enough. The other benefit was to eliminate the impression of direct or simultaneous plagiarism. The other important thing was to consider the length of the text and writing result. The length of writing of the authors' ideas, the content of theories and previous studies, and the review result should be balance or in equal portion. The 80% of references or previous studies must be no more 10 years ago. In one study, the advantages of reviewing literature were to find out the latest studies, to make ourselves get more knowledge and skill, to find the answer of our research key question, to recognize the method that was applied by the previous researcher in the similar study field, to give assistance in building hypothesis, and to identify the gap between the literature and the research finding [15]. The necessary for the authors was to review the previous studies as deep as possible in order to support the ideas in the introduction.

The research problem and objective should be placed in the end of the introduction part. The impression of logic was a must in proposing the research problem and objective. The method was to place them as the conclusion of the basic ideas and result of review of literature and previous studies in the previous part. It would give the sense of coherence material and work schema to readers. The result was that readers could understand why the authors proposed the research problem

and objective. The problem area of constructing and proposing the research problem comprised the expression of claim, the research gap existence, the raising the question from previous studies [16]. The convenient and successful construction of the research problem in introduction would give impression that the research problem and objective are the authors' best choice. The other thing that needs to be remembered was that problem statement contained the specific condition that needs priority and urgent possible solution [17]. It reminded us that we cannot create the research problem by accident. It must be prepared before in the logic and empiric construction e.g. the author never use the question that would be impossible to be answered.

3.2 Effective Method of Writing Research Method

The research method concerned on giving the information what had been being doing by the researchers in order to finish the research and the supporting materials. It was very important to underline the term of "giving information" because it was not recommended to review the theory or reference in the method. On the other hand, authors still could include the reference as the information of their research basic. The first material was the information of the research design that must be stated explicitly and firmly. The information of subject, object, and sampling technique should be explained in the short sentence. It must be also adapted with the research design. In presenting the instrument, the source must be clear whether it was taken from a theory or reference, or constructed by authors. In this case, it must be avoided practicing simultaneous plagiarism. The implication of the research method was the authentic ways to obtain the useful data [18]. The study proposed the concept that although the research design is similar, every author will develop and apply it in the different terms and style. Other study proved that the research method was the alternative way to promote the replicability and longitudinal research that was related with the study field [19]. The rule of method was not only "passive material", but it could be explored as large as possible. The other important attention was the construction of the technique of collecting data focused on answering the research questions. The most important thing was the stratification and order of action in collecting the data. It should reflect a circle of working system. The technique of analyzing data was also to focus on answering the research questions and informing the order of working. The additional matter was to ensure the validity and reliability, but it could be explained explicitly and implicitly.

3.3 Effective Method of Writing Findings and Discussion

Findings and discussion were usually the biggest part in a research article and supposed to reflect the previous part of the article. It proposes the result of the research work. It must be parallel and able to answer the research questions and objectives. The issue in the background should be revealed in the finding and discussion. The proposition of the findings and discussion also reflects the research method. Readers would like to recognize the result of collecting and analyzing data. Although it tends to be the biggest portion, it was recommended 70% of the length of the whole article pages for the maximum portion of the findings and discussion.

The most crucial was the correlation with the research question and objective that it demands the novelty. At the present day, readers become more critical that they tend to search the novelty contribution of a research article to the related study

field. The authors must propose something that new or never exist before. It does not mean the novelty must be a new discovery or invention, but it could be also a development. One of techniques to propose new concept was directive statement that was found in the Persian English students' discussion of research articles [20]. The directive statement should be managed in the soft manner so that readers could still be conformable with the statement. The other study found that narrative writing style was effective and recommended to explain the finding and discussion in the research articles [21]. In this research, it was not recommended to repeat the previous concept totally. It must bring renewal. Authors should propose the research finding and discussion in line with the research questions. It means they need to finish answering the first question, then moving to the next questions.

The presentation of findings and discussion must be presented in the firm concept of design whether quantitative, qualitative, or the mixed method in convenient grammar and writing rules. It helps readers to understand the information quickly and avoid getting the misunderstanding. The table for the quantitative data was not a must, but it must still propose the scoring number. Long description of the score should be avoided because the readers could understand it directly by looking at the quantitative score. It also needs to consider not presenting the unnecessary formula and other quantitative score. The key point was that authors just need to present what they would like to explain. In the qualitative design, the presentation is always expected by the readers. They would like to recognize what something behind the scene that had been revealed by the authors. The interpretation must be based on the theories or previous studies so that it has strong basis. For the presentation of the mixed method, the quantitative data should be placed as the first material, then, it was followed by the qualitative description. The length portion should be balance between the quantitative and qualitative for the mixed method. The certainty of the research method must be stated directly so that readers will not think that the authors were unconfident with their research [22]. The authors must be sure to present their findings and discussion, but it must also have scientific and empiric basis.

One important thing to propose the discussion was the use of references or previous studies. The reference or previous studies have function as the comparison of the analysis result, the basis, or the consideration. Writing the analysis result without correlating with the references or previous studies will be the personal narrative text. It will be fragile for its credibility because readers could justify it as the authors' intuition. The function of the references or previous studies also keeps the scientific basis of the analysis. Their position could be placed in the first, middle, or beginning of the paragraph, but it must still be coherence. The position and function of the previous studies or references could enlarge the knowledge for both authors and readers, and be the basis of evaluation to the findings. One research found that the use of previous studies provide instructional strategies to EFL/ESL learners to acquire pragmatic and rhetorical structure [23]. In addition, the evaluation of the finding was proven as an effective technique to present material in the discussion of research articles [24]. Through evaluation technique to answer the research question or objective, authors could ensure the readers about the scientific value of the findings and discussion. It could avoid the impression of unfounded personal claim.

3.4 Effective Method of Writing Conclusion

The important key point in writing conclusion was never copy the material in the previous chapters to be placed in the conclusion. It would not be effective. Moreover, it decreases the writing quality. The authors must write new material and formula for conclusion. The content was the relationship between the whole previous part which were the introduction, method, and findings and discussion. Readers could be satisfied if the authors give full summary of full information in a text [25]. The additional for creative writing was to give personal judgment about how the successfulness of the research, but it must be objective by giving the empiric evident. Researchers could also conclude the benefit contribution of the research to the future study development. The important writing form was that never write in the numerical format, but still in the paragraph of description. The length of the conclusion should be one paragraph or no longer than the method chapter. Tips of writing efficient conclusion were explaining the material clearly and understandable, explicating the research problem, showing the proven hypothesis, discussing the research significances, and never forget to be concise and precise [26]. The other study proposed that the structure of conclusion should not only present the outline of the article, but also states the important components such as recommendation, implication, and statement of the possibility of the future research [27]. It could be concluded that no matter the style of writing conclusion, author must provide the clear, short, understandable, interesting, and scientific writing.

4   CONCLUSIONS

The method of writing research article especially for publication purpose was very various, but they have similar character of the scientific work result. The method will still able to be developed in the future by the researchers. All of the methods still concern on the scientific process and result. Writing research articles means reporting the research that had been finished or still in process. It was prohibited to write the article based on intuition. The writing of research article must represent the scientific material, method, theories, previous studies, finding and analysis result. The other important thing was that researchers or authors do not have to write the whole finding and information in the basic research, but they could inform some of the findings. One basic research such as a thesis could be broken down into some or more than one research article.

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