



Move Structure Analysis of Acknowledgement Article History Received Section in Industrial Training Report

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KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
Academic Writing Acknowledgement Move Structure Report	<p>In academic writing, gratitude is expressed in acknowledgement page. The section is not obligatory but seems to be broadly presented in research articles, thesis, and dissertations. The objective of the study is to investigate generic structure of the moves in acknowledgement of industrial training report in a technical higher academic institution. The text corpus comprises of the acknowledgements from four diploma programs totaling about 5700 words. The acknowledgements were analyzed for their move structure in comparison to Hyland's move structure model for thesis and dissertation. The results show that the corpus employed six common moves found in the model. Additionally, one move that namely religious / spiritual gratitude was identified. The findings support the use of the model with additional move discovered from the study for examining move structure of industrial training report in technical higher learning institutions.</p>

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Reports, memo, minute meeting, job application letter and resume are among the most common texts written by employees for work-related purposes. Most of the written texts are written in English. Acknowledgement page is a section in which the author expresses public gratitude for essentially private gestures of assistance which contributed in some way to the research or scholarship reported. It reflects a combination of interpersonal, academic, institutional, technical, financial, and moral supports to the person or institutions for their multifarious contributions. The section is not obligatory but seems to be broadly presented in research articles, thesis, and dissertations. Hence, confirms that acknowledgements have become an institutionalized element of the scholarly communication process, reflecting the cognitive and structural complexity of contemporary research.

The way of expressing gratitude may be different from one writer to another due to factors such as religious background, cultural background, duration of the study and individual experiences endured in completing the research or writing.

Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to investigate the generic structure of the moves in acknowledgements of Industrial Training Report written by learners from Malaysian Technical Higher Education Provider.

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2.0 GENERIC STRUCTURE IN DISSERTATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Genre analysis refers to the analysis of text that occurs with a regularity of form or regularity of purpose. Table 1 below is move structure model of thesis and dissertation acknowledgements.

Table 1: Hyland's Move Structure in Theses and Dissertations

Element	Function	Example
Move 1:	Reflecting Move (Introspective comment on the writer's research experience)	
Move 2:	Thanking Move (Mapping credit to individuals and institutions)	
Step 1:	Presenting participants	Introducing those to be thanked
Step 2:	Thanking for academic assistance	Thanking for intellectual support, ideas, analyses feedback etc.
Step 3:	Thanking for providing resources	Thanking for data access & clerical, technical & financial support
Step 4:	Thanking for moral support	Thanking for the encouragement, friendship, sympathy, patience, etc.
Move 3	Announcing Move (Public statement of responsibility and inspiration)	
Step 1:	Accepting responsibility for possible shortcoming in the data	An assertion of authorial responsibility for flaws or errors
Step 2:	Dedicating the thesis	A formal dedication of the thesis to an individual(s)

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in this study was qualitative in nature as genre analysis was employed. It is important to note that the students had learned report writing in English for Technical purposes course at Diploma level. The corpus comprised of 30 acknowledgement sections taken from 15 male and female students, respectively. The documents were randomly selected from report collection of 2017/2018 session for Diploma program only. In analysing the data, the structure of each acknowledgement page was compared and categorized to further determine the common moves structure utilized by the students.

4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Certain moves employed by the samples in the study follow the structure suggested by [3] as can be seen in the presence of Move 2. This is not an alarming state because a study on Korean texts has also shown that employing less steps of the acknowledgement structure convention is common [7:188] among students. This unclassified step also tended to occur in [2] study on graduate dissertation acknowledgements by Arab non-native speakers of English. Hence, this step is suggested to be included in adapting [3] Model to further analyse the generic structure of the samples. The results of the study confirm the acknowledgement text in the report demonstrate move structure as proposed by [3]. Nevertheless, there are noticeable absences of Step 2 of Move 2 and Move 3 in the generic structure which is shown in Table 3. Given the similarity of religious background between this sample and the Arabs in [2] study, this step should be popular among writers with similar religious background. In addition, it was found that one common unclassified step employed by 37% of the samples was identified. In Table 2, the unclassified step is categorized as "Expressing religious/spiritual gratitude (Thanking God for blessings and spiritual support)".

Table 2: Proposed Move Structure for Industrial Training Report Acknowledgements Prepared by Tertiary Students Adapted from Hyland's Model

Element	Function	Example
Move 1:	Reflecting Move (Introspective comment on the writer's research experience)	
Move 2:	Thanking Move (Mapping credit to individuals and institutions)	
*Step 1:	*Expressing religious/spiritual	*Thanking God for blessings and spiritual support gratitude
Step 2:	Presenting participants	Introducing those to be thanked
Step 3:	Thanking for academic assistance	Thanking for intellectual support, ideas, analyses feedback etc.
Step 4:	Thanking for providing resources	Thanking for data access & clerical, technical & financial support
Step 5:	Thanking for moral support	Thanking for the encouragement, friendship, sympathy, patience etc.)
Move 3:	Announcing Move (Public statement of responsibility and inspiration)	
Step 1:	Accepting responsibility for possible shortcoming in the data	An assertion of authorial responsibility for flaws or errors
Step 2:	Dedicating the thesis	A formal dedication of the thesis to an individual(s)

The Diploma students were mostly technically, financially, and morally supported by TATIUC, the respective industry and their parents. Due to this factor, it is assumed the hardship that they experienced was less tense than master's and PhD students endured in completing their dissertations. Apart from that this factor might also explain why expressing gratitude in the acknowledgement section by the Diploma students were made rather short and less elaborative.

Table 3: Analysis of the Moves in Industrial Training Report Acknowledgements

Corpus	Move 1	Move 2					Move 3	
		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 1	Step 2
F1				•	•	•		
F2				•	•	•		
F3				•	•	•		
F4				•	•	•		
F5				•	•	•		
F6				•	•	•		
F7				•	•	•		
F8				•	•	•		
F9		•		•	•	•		
F10				•	•	•		
F11	•	•		•	•	•		
F12				•	•	•		
F13				•	•	•		
F14				•	•	•		
F15		•		•	•	•		
M1		o		o	o	o		
M2				o	o	o		
M3		o		o	o	o		
M4				o	o	o		
M5				o	o	o		

M6		o		o	o	o		
M7		o		o	o	o		
M8	o			o	o	o		
M9		o		o	o	o		
M10				o	o	o		
M11				o	o	o		
M12		o		o	o	o		
M13		o		o	o	o		
M14	o			o	o	o		
M15		o		o	o	o		

Indicators:

- selected by female writer
- selected by male writer

4.1 Reflecting Move

The result analysis of Move 1 – reflecting move shows that even though this move was presence in the acknowledgements, it is not widely utilized by the students. Only three corpuses used this move, and they provide comments on their industrial training experience as well as the experience of learning new knowledge and skills:

“With this training program I can experienced real working environment and also improve my knowledge and management skills” (F11).

“During the training period I learn a lot of things in my fields as tool maker. From that I can feel as real situation of working area. It is different with what I learn before. Now with this training, I have good chance and opportunity to involve and a part of it. I will improve myself to be a good tool maker as good as possible” (M8).

“During four months in industrial placement, this training period, I have learned more about the maintenance services and repair in Maintenance Department. At Tubex, more maintenance and repair needed because more machine and component-component either component in machine, at operation system or other that damage.

From here, I can feel a real working experience” (M14).

4.2 Thanking Move

Move 2 - thanking move is a section in which the writers express their gratitude towards individuals or institutions that they believe has assisted them throughout the process of undergoing the training, gathering data and eventually writing Industrial Training Report. Hence, it can be concluded that the participants prefer not to generally introduce those they would like to thank. Their preferred approach is further elaborated in step 2 – presenting participants.

Nevertheless, none has utilized the entire steps outline under this Move.

4.3.1 Religious Gratitude

According to [2] based on his study on Arab graduate’s dissertation acknowledgements the step employed by the graduates exhibits and represents the attitude of Muslims towards their faith (38). In his acknowledgement model, [3] has included Religious gratitude in Move 2, Step 4 - Thanking for Moral support.

“First of all, I would like to thank the Almighty Allah for giving me enough time to complete my industrial training session and this report book” (M1). Hence, it could be concluded that religion plays an important value in the students’ lives as they “Thank God” first before thanking everyone else.

However, due to the elaborative thanking to God revealed in the corpus, it would be more appropriate to classify Religious gratitude as its own category. “First and foremost, we would like thanking Allah for prolonging our life to his day” (F15).

4.3.2 Presenting the Participants

As mentioned previously, the writers prefer not to generally introduce the participants. "I would like to express my deep gratitude to XUC administration and Manufacturing Engineering Department..."

This shows that the writers place high value on thanking people and institutions involved in completing the training as well as the report.

4.3.3 Thanking for Academic Assistance

As illustrated in Table 3, all the writers shared similar patterns of acknowledging people in the acknowledgement page. One of the patterns observed is the use of Move 2 – Step 3: thanking for academic assistance which appeared in all the documents analysed. Thanking for academic assistance in this context refers to the expression of gratitude towards the supervisors of whom the trainees were placed under during the industrial training. However, in this context it was received while undergoing industrial training. The success or failure of the industrial training plays a major role in the report writing process not long afterwards. The gratitude was also extended to the visiting lecturers who helped guide, advised, and provided feedback to the trainees during the training. "Thirdly, I would like to special thank my Supervisor Mr. S for his encouragements, guidance, always give to advised and for being so tolerance with me". "Thank you so much to Mr. F for the visiting during industrial placement and his wise counsel and advice".

4.3.4 Thanking for Providing Resources

Move 2 - step 4 in industrial training acknowledgement section usually refers to extending gratitude to the institutions with the resources and data collection for writing the report. In expressing the gratitude towards those who provided the resources, generally the trainees only did a general statement of what the institutions and the respective companies have contributed for their industrial placement. "First of all, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to Kuala Terengganu Municipal Council for having the confidence in taking me for the industrial training program".

4.3.5 Thanking for Moral Support

This step is a component in which the students express their gratitude in terms of encouragement, understanding and support. It was found throughout the corpus and usually addressed to supervisors, lecturers, colleagues, and friends. It is also important to state that the participants even included good wishes in the step so that God blesses these people. In the following corpus are some examples of the characteristics found:

"Lastly, I wish to acknowledge to all worker at this company who gave supporting, advices assistance along my industrial training at M&R manufacturing. Without all of you, I cannot complete my training on time and perfectly. All your co-operation and take care, I am much appreciated. May God bless all of you. Thanks once again".

4.4 Announcing Move

This move is a section in which the acceptance of responsibility to any weaknesses depicted in the final product, or the dedication of the report to any individuals are presented in the text. However, the findings show that this component is a marginal move in the acknowledgement accompanying industrial training report due to its absence in the analysed documents. Therefore, we can assume that the writers were perhaps oblivious of the significance of the move and generally understand the main function of acknowledgement as a genre is to generally thank people.

5.0 CONCLUSION & CONTRIBUTIONS

Genre analysis performed on articles, thesis and dissertation is rather common as shown in previous studies. It is fundamental to provide a guideline or a standard in writing industrial training acknowledgements as it has shown in the practices of research articles, thesis, and dissertations. Teachers may help in elaborating on the acknowledgement section of industrial training report in their English for Technical Purposes lessons so that the students shall be able to express their gratitude effectively.

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