



**EXPERIENTIAL AND LOGICAL FUNCTION IN
NOMINAL GROUP STRUCTURE OF MALE AND
FEMALE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS' THESIS TITLES**

**Siska Pratiwi
Amrin Saragih
Rahmad Husein**

**English Applied Linguistics Study Program
Postgraduate Program-Universitas Negeri Medan**

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to find out the elements of experiential and logical function in nominal group structure of male and female undergraduate student's thesis title of male and female students. This study applied qualitative research design. The data of the study was the nominal groups on undergraduate thesis title of State University of Medan students who have finished the last assignment in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, majoring in English Education. The source of the data was taken from official site Digital Repository State University of Medan (digilib.unimed.ac.id). The results revealed that based on experiential function, there were Deictic, Classifier, Thing and Qualifier with no Numerative and Epithet, Thing/Head absolutely found in every title; and based on logical function, Premodifier, Head and Postmodifier found in all titles. This result showed that there was difference in male and female titles that female dominated the quantity and used more various elements in both functions.

Keywords: *Nominal Group, Experiential Function, Logical Function, Gender, Title*

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INTRODUCTION

Every undergraduate student in Indonesia should write an academic writing as a requirement to finish the study which commonly mentioned as undergraduate

thesis or *skripsi* in Indonesian. *Skripsi* is an academic writing paper based on the results of field research and literature compiled by a student in accordance with the field of study taken as a formal study final project. An academic writing needs writing skill of composing that consists of two types of writing, namely writing as telling or retelling and writing as transforming involvement (Grabe & Kaplan, 1996). The elements of academic writing that commonly written by university students that attract the reader to read the research and have important part to give identity about a writing is title. Shah (2004, p. 1) said to tell the readers about the research, a title plays important role that should be 'simple, brief, clear and attractive'. It is also stated that to have a good title, it's better to form in group structure, specifically in nominal group structure as other groups like verbal group or adverbial group in which both groups are related to the use of verb. Same thing goes to clause structure that should be avoid in forming a title. Another statement of Shah (2004) that there's no specific reference about the length of a title that it should have 10 to 15 words or between 31 to 40 characters, but a title that formed in nominal group should be extended based on the idea that writers want to convey to the readers.

Nominal group is the grammatical unit with the most variations in the ranking of this group and this will allow the widest range of meanings to be expressed (Thompson: 2000). The statement explains that nominal group is a group formed from nouns (place, Thing and person) as head. In the clause as a representation, the nominal structure group is classified by ideational metafunction components, namely: experiential and logical. The ideational metafunction is one type of metafunction component that is needed to explain 2 types of ideational components, namely: experiential and logical. The expressing about organization of experience meaning is called as Experiential function. The elements that forming nominal group in experiential function consist of Deictic, Numerative, Epithet and Classifier as modifiers before Noun; Thing which marked by Noun as the absolute element; and Qualifier as the elements after Noun (Halliday and Matthiessen: 2004, p. 312-325). The function that concerns with the relationship among the elements is called as Logical function. The common terms that used in analyzing nominal

group based on Logical function are Premodifier, Head and Postmodifier. Head is the noun that functions as the central of a group.

The previous related study about nominal group structure has been conducted by Harthaty (2020) in which the data was taken from journal article title. She created this research to identify the elements that construct titles in journal article and to find what dominant elements that form journal article titles. She found that a title should consist of Head and Modifier based on the Logical function. According to experiential structure of nominal group, Deictic, Epithet, Classifier, Thing, and Qualifier are the elements that forming a title which Thing plays as a main word and having at least one element that functions as Modifier.

Understanding the nominal group structure that categorized into experiential and logical structure and considering both related study that discussed about nominal group, title, and gender, the writer was interested to examine the nominal structure in formal written language that in this study would focus on academic writing especially title that written by undergraduate students.

METHODOLOGY

The qualitative research design was used in this study. Qualitative research is included ethnography, grounded theory, narrative, phenomenology, and case studies are included in qualitative research. The data of the study was the nominal groups on undergraduate thesis title of State University of Medan students who have finished the last assignment in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, majoring in English Education. The source of the data was taken from official site Digital Repository State University of Medan (digilib.unimed.ac.id). There were totally 465 titles of undergraduate thesis then the selected titles were 62 male's thesis titles and 62 female's thesis titles.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Experiential Function

Experiential structure is concerned with how meaning is expressed in the group as the organization of experiences which consists of several elements forming it. The elements are Deictic, Numerative, Epithet, Classifier, Thing, and Qualifier

which the absolute element is Thing while other elements are modification (Halliday and Matthiessen: 2004, p. 312-325). The result of the analysis showed that Deictic, Classifier, Thing and Qualifier were found while Numerative and Epithet were not found in both genders. That could be mentioned as similarities in this study while the difference could be seen in quantity or number that female's thesis titles dominated the analysis as Table below.

Table 1. Experiential Structure

No	Elements		Male		Female	
			N	%	N	%
1	Deictic	Specific Deictic	24	38.71	21	33.87
		Non-Specific Deictic	0	0.00	1	1.61
2	Numerative		0	0.00	0	0.00
3	Epithet	Experiential	0	0.00	0	0.00
		Interpersonal	0	0.00	0	0.00
4	Classifier		20	32.26	31	50.00
5	Thing		62	100.00	64	103.23
6	Qualifier	Noun	19	30.65	18	29.03
		-ed Participle	4	6.45	3	4.84
		to Infinites	0	0.00	2	3.23
		Prepositional Phrase	182	293.55	189	304.84
		Adverb	1	1.61	0	0.00

1. Deictic

Deictic element indicates whether or not some specific subset of the Thing is intended which classified as Specific and Non-Specific Deictic. This analysis found that there were 24 Deictics of male's thesis titles (38.71%) that all Deictic classified as Specific Deictics and 22 Deictics (35.48%) that consisted of 21 Specific Deictics (33.87%) and 1 Non-Specific Deictic (1.61%).

2. Numerative

Numerative can be identified by numerical feature of particular subset of the Thing like one, first, several, many and etc. From all male and female's thesis titles, there was no Numerative (0.00%) found in the analysis.

3. Epithet

The indicator of an Epithet can be an Adjective which show the quality of the subset. Epithet is specified into Experiential Epithet that describes an objective quality of the Thing and Interpersonal Epithet describes speakers' or writers'

attitudes to the Thing. In this study, it is found no Epithet (0.00%) in both genders as an academic writing that the title is part of it should have objective value which Epithet or the use of adjective is the subjective marker in language.

4. Classifier

A Classifier can be obtained from Adjective, Noun, or Verb that indicates a particular subclass of the Thing in question. As an adjective is also a marker of classifier, the way to differ adjective as Epithet and adjective as Classifier is that Classifiers do not accept degrees in comparison. In this study, there were 20 Classifier (32.26%) in male's thesis titles and 31 Classifiers (50.00%) in female's titles.

5. Thing

Thing may be a material inanimate thing, an animal, a person, a substance or even an abstract concept which Thing is the head in nominal group. In this analysis, it is found that there were 62 Things (100.00%) in male's thesis titles which means every title has one Thing, and 64 Things (103.23%) which means that a title could have more than one Thing.

6. Qualifier

The element which follows the Thing called as Qualifier. In this analysis, the qualifier found in form of prepositional phrase, Noun Phrase, -ed participle, to Infinitive and Adverb. This study found 418 qualifiers which were divided into 206 Qualifiers of male's thesis titles (332.26%) and 212 Qualifiers of female's thesis titles (341.94%). Male's thesis titles consisted of 182 Prepositional Phrases (293.55%), 19 Noun Phrases (20.65%), 4 -ed Participles (6.45%) and 1 Adverb (1.61%). Female's thesis titles consisted of 189 Prepositional Phrases (304.84%), 18 Noun Phrase (29.03%), 3 -ed Participles (4.84%), and 2 to Infinitives (3.23%).

Logical Function

Logical structure is concerned with the relationship among the elements forming the nominal group which consists of head and. Other linguists, Downing and Locke (2002, p. 477), stated that in Logical function, there should be a basic logical relationship between Head of a nominal Group and the other elements. The elements of logical function are Premodifier, Head and Postmodifier which all

elements were found in both gender as similarities while the quantity or number of each element showed significant difference as drawn in Table 2.

Table 2. Logical function

No	Elements		Male		Female	
			N	%	N	%
1	Premodifier	Noun	13	20.97	22	35.48
		Adjective	7	11.29	9	14.52
		Article	17	27.42	17	27.42
		Possessive Adjective	7	11.29	5	8.06
2	Head		62	100.00	64	103.23
3	Postmodifier	Extent- Duration	1	1.61	0	0.00
		Location- Place	47	75.81	38	61.29
		Manner- Means	1	1.61	6	9.68
		Manner- Quality	19	30.65	17	27.42
		Cause- Purpose	11	17.74	13	20.97
		Cause Behalf	40	64.52	48	77.42
		Role- Guise	6	9.68	5	8.06
		Role- Product	25	40.32	25	40.32
		Matter	67	108.06	64	103.23
		Angle-Source	5	8.06	13	20.97

1. Premodifier

The elements that placed before Head call as Premodifier that could be a word, phrase or clause that function to modify the Noun. This study found that female used more Premodifier than male with detail 44 Premodifier (70.97%) from male's thesis titles and 53 Premodifiers (85.48%) from female's thesis titles. The elements that mostly used in this study as Premodifiers were Noun, Article, Adjective and 's Possessive Adjective. The dominant element used by male in forming titles was Article (27.42%) while female tended to use Noun (35.48%) as the Premodifier.

2. Head

Head is the absolute element in a nominal group. It is in form of Noun which could be said that Head in Logical Function is the having same analysis like Thing in Experiential Function. This study showed that there were 62 Heads (100.00%) in male's thesis titles and 64 Heads (103.23%).

3. Postmodifier

The modifier which comes after the words it modifies is called as Postmodifier which allows getting expansion of information. It could be in word, phrases or even clause which having position as circumstance which have been divided into some sub-elements that categorized based on the function (see Table 2.4) In this study, the researcher used circumstantial elements as analysis tool for Postmodifier that purpose by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004: 313-314). There were 10 sub-elements that found in male and female undergraduate student's thesis titles, namely Extent-Duration, Location-Place, Manner-Means, Cause- Purpose, Cause-Behalf, Role-Guise, Role-Product, Matter and Angle-Source. The three dominant elements used in male and female students' thesis titles were same items, the difference could be seen in number or quantity and percentage namely Matter, Location-Place and Cause-Behalf. In male's thesis titles, Matter were 67 (108.06%), Location-Place were 47 (75.81%) and Cause-Behalf were 40 (64.52%). In female's thesis titles, the Postmodifiers were 64 Matter (103.23%), 48 Cause-Behalf (77.42%), and 38 Location-Place (61.29%).

CONCLUSIONS

This study found similarities and differences in both functions. Deictic, Classifier, Thing, and Qualifier were the elements of experiential function in both genders that could be marked as similarities. The differences came from the specification and the quantity or numbers, namely Male used more Deictic than Classifier as the elements before Thing, female dominated using Classifier than Deictic, Female could form more than one Thing in a title, and the numbers of using Prepositional Phrases was dominated by female than male. In logical function, the similarity was on the elements found in this study namely Premodifier, Head and Postmodifier. Similar with experiential function, logical function had difference in specification and quantity or numbers, namely Premodifier that mostly used by male was Article while Noun as the dominant element used in Premodifier, Heads were found in every title, and Postmodifier was dominated used by female in numbers.

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