

Linguistic Features of Indonesian Graduate Students' L2 English Academic Texts: A Comparative Study

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Abstract

This conference paper looks at the language features of L2 English academic texts written by Indonesian graduate students enrolled in Hungarian higher education. More specifically, it focuses on the level of abstraction and information density in student assignments. The study aims to investigate the differences between the language features used by students with higher (C1) and lower (B2) proficiency levels. There are two proposed research questions for this study. 1) *Are Indonesian higher proficiency students' levels of abstraction and information density more complex as opposed to lower proficiency students?* 2) *In regard to abstraction and information density, is there a difference between essays written by students at C1 and B2 levels of English?*

In order to answer the research questions, seven high stakes essays were collected from seven Indonesian graduate students registered under the faculty of Social Sciences in three Hungarian universities. This research applies Coh-Metrix, a corpus-based computational tool, and looks at indices of word types, phrases, content and function words. To compare the results of higher and lower proficiency level students, parametric statistics will be applied using T-test to conduct a quantitative comparative analysis of the selected linguistic features. Preliminary results suggest that the language used by C1 level students is more complex in the assignments both in terms of abstraction and information density.

Keyword: *abstraction, corpus-based study, linguistic features in academic writing, lexical density, L2 English academic writing,*