Critical reflection on teaching of poster to Japanese Technical University Students

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Introduction

In the technical English program, as a part of the curriculum, one of the main tasks is poster presentation by individual students. This is done to empower the students with poster presentation skills which are required during the final semesters when students would engage in real presentations in real conferences.

We reported earlier teaching of poster as an extension of teaching abstracts which involves introducing students to texts of different genres such as descriptive and procedure apart from expository genre (Maheswari, 2014).

Research Purpose

Here, some of the issues involved in teaching and the logistics in organizing such sessions are looked back with focus on teacher-student interests.

Table 1. Basic Genres and Sub-Genres
(Adapted from Derewianka, 2003)

Social Purpose	Genre	Sub-Genre
Providing information about person/place/thing	Description	Objective; Literary
Providing information about class of things	Information; Report	Descriptive; Taxonomic ; Compare/contrast; Historical
Telling how to do something	Procedure	Instructions; Experiment; Directions; Regulations
Telling experience	Recount	Personal; Factual; Biographical; Autobiographical; Historical
Explaining how or why	Explanation	Sequential; Causal; Factorial; Consequential Exploration
Responding to a literary text or artistic work	Response genre	Personal response Review; Interpretation
Argument	Exposition	Critical response; Persuasion; Discussion/Debate

Methodology

Target Students:
Around thirty 3rd-year undergraduate Computer science (security) students engaged in a Technical English Program (TEP) at UEC Tokyo.

TEP curriculum requirements:
Practice in drafting of research abstracts and posters.

Research topics:
Students make individual posters with the topics either from different computer programs generated in their media analysis and other classes or projects or based on research articles.

Teaching Procedure:
Refer to Figure 1.

Questionnaire :
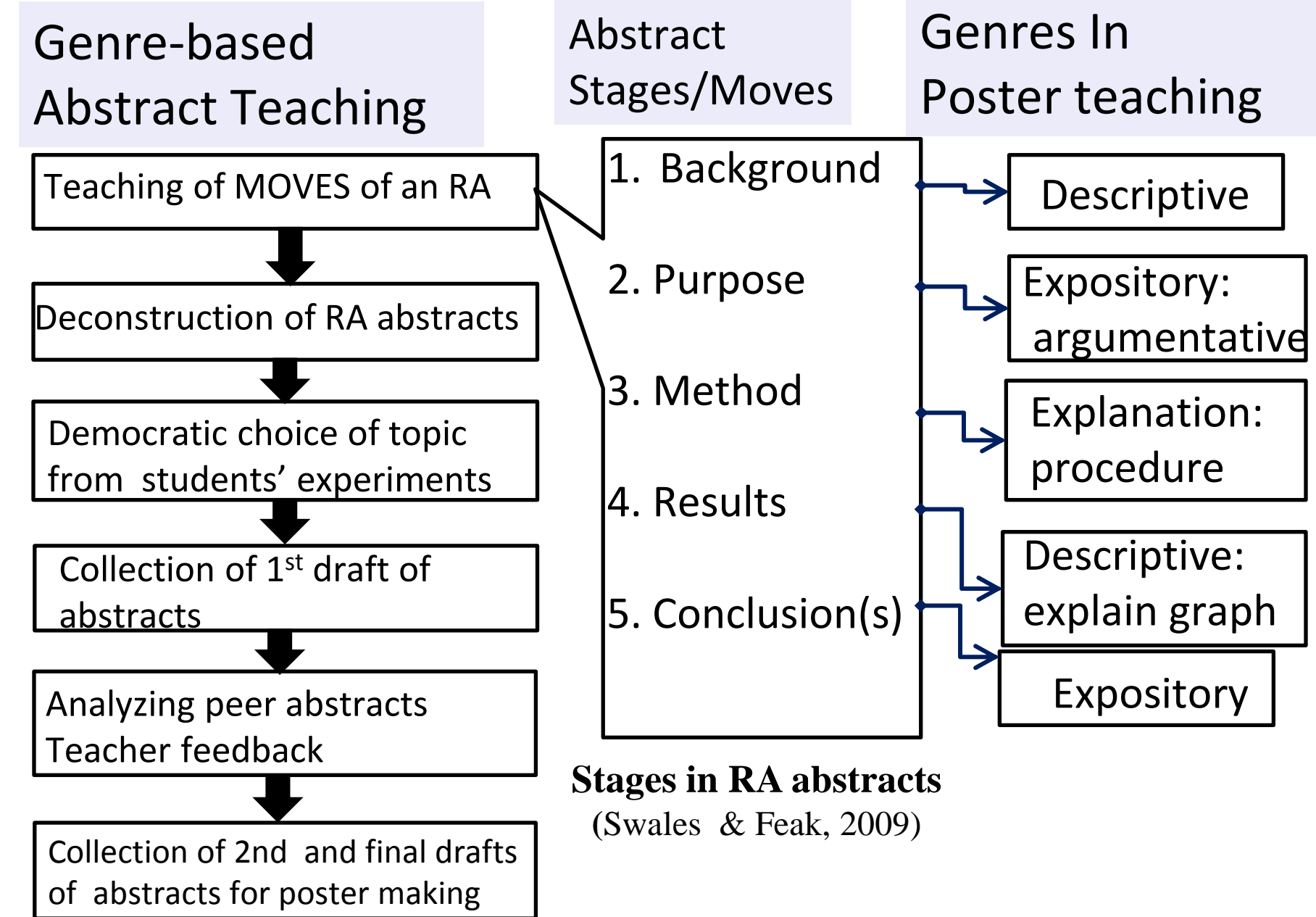Conducted at the end to assess students' perspectives.

Genre-based Abstract Teaching

- Teaching of MOVES of an RA
- Deconstruction of RA abstracts
- Democratic choice of topic from students' experiments
- Collection of 1st draft of abstracts
- Analyzing peer abstracts Teacher feedback
- Collection of 2nd and final drafts of abstracts for poster making

Abstract Stages/Moves

1. Background
2. Purpose
3. Method
4. Results
5. Conclusion(s)

Stages in RA abstracts
(Swales & Feak, 2009)

Genres In Poster teaching

- Descriptive
- Expository: argumentative
- Explanation: procedure
- Descriptive: explain graph
- Expository

Figure 1. Multiple Stages in Poster Teaching

Timeline of teaching

Class Content	Required class time
Abstract deconstruction	90 min
Abstract construction teaching & peer checking	120 min
Poster layout and other format related teaching	60 min
Genres of poster : procedure/description & graph/diagram explanation	120 min
Poster topic decision, presentation order, content writing & poster making	three to four weeks
Poster presentation	over three weeks

Sample Student Posters

Publication based

Evening use of light-emitting eReaders negatively affects sleep, circadian timing, and next-morning alertness

Anne-Marie Chang, Daniel Aeschbach, Jeanne F. Duffy, and Charles A. Czeisler
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Student's project

Similar image retrieval by using Python

1210072 Koya Sato
University Of Electro-Communications

Issues

- Teacher: duty part of curriculum
- Problems: applying uniformly
- Developing expressing skills
- Choice of topic
- Time constraints
- Institution: To foster students with sound academic skills
- Poster presentation
- Student: task
- Problems: lack of understanding
- Giving up totally
- Willing to fail
- Motivated student : Entertaining and enjoying
- Reluctant Student: Disastrous

Making of poster in class

References

Derewianka, B. (2003) Trends and Issues in Genre-Based Approaches. *RELC Journal.* 34: 133-154.

Uma Maheswari Rajagopalan, Shi Jie (2014) 'Genre-based teaching of poster', JALT 2014