

TEACHING COHERENCE AND COHESION IN ESSAYS

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Abstract. *This article emphasizes the role of coherence and cohesion in essay writing and the importance of teaching these skills to students. It illustrates how coherence helps writers present ideas in a logical order, while cohesion creates connections between sentences and paragraphs through various linguistic devices. Developing these skills can improve the overall quality of students' writing and make their essays easier to understand. The article also discusses several teaching techniques that can help learners build more organized and effective written texts. Special attention is given to the contribution of coherence and cohesion to academic writing.*

Key words: *coherence, cohesion, essay writing, academic writing, writing skills, logical organization, linking devices, language learning.*

Annotatsiya. *Ushbu maqolada insho yozishda koherensiya va koheziyaning o'rni hamda ushbu ko'nikmalarni talabalarga o'rgatishning ahamiyati ko'rib chiqiladi. Koherensiya fikrlarning mantiqiy va izchil bayon etilishiga yordam bersa, koheziya gap va paragraflar o'rtasidagi bog'liqlikni turli til vositalari orqali ta'minlaydi. Ushbu ko'nikmalarni rivojlantirish talabalar yozuvining sifatini oshirib, matnni o'quvchi uchun yanada tushunarli qiladi. Maqolada koherensiya va koheziyani shakllantirishga yordam beradigan ayrim o'qitish usullari tahlil qilinadi hamda ularning akademik yozuvdagi ahamiyati yoritiladi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *koherensiya, koheziya, insho yozish, akademik yozuv, yozish ko'nikmalari, mantiqiy tuzilish, bog'lovchi vositalar, til o'rganish.*

Аннотация. *В статье рассматривается роль когерентности и когезии в написании эссе, а также важность обучения этим навыкам студентов. Показано, что когерентность способствует логичному изложению мыслей, тогда как когезия обеспечивает связь между предложениями и абзацами с помощью различных языковых средств. Развитие данных навыков помогает повысить качество письменных работ и сделать их более понятными для читателя. В статье также рассматриваются некоторые методы обучения, направленные на формирование организованного и эффективного письменного текста. Особое внимание уделяется значению когерентности и когезии в академическом письме.*

Ключевые слова: *когерентность, когезия, написание эссе, академическое письмо, навыки письма, логическая организация, связующие средства, изучение языка.*

Introduction. Writing is an important skill in language learning because it helps people communicate ideas effectively. Coherence and cohesion are widely recognized as fundamental components of effective academic writing. Coherence refers to the logical organization of ideas, while cohesion refers to the language devices that connect sentences and paragraphs. Researchers such as Michael Halliday and Ruqaiya Hasan (1976), Teun A. van Dijk (1977), and Robert-Alain de Beaugrande and Wolfgang Dressler (1981) have contributed significantly to the study of these concepts. Their theoretical frameworks provide valuable guidance for improving students' written communication skills.

Today, coherence and cohesion are considered essential features of academic writing. They help readers follow ideas easily and understand the writer's message. Therefore, developing these skills remains an important objective in language education.

Methodology. This study adopts a qualitative literature-review approach. Relevant academic sources on coherence, cohesion, discourse analysis, and text linguistics were examined to explore their contribution to essay writing instruction. Particular attention was given to the theories of Halliday and Hasan, van Dijk, and Beaugrande and Dressler. The analysis focuses on how these theoretical perspectives can support the development of students' writing skills and improve the teaching of academic writing.

Main body. Michael Halliday and Ruqaiya Hasan made an important contribution to the study of writing through their book *Cohesion in English* (1976). They explained that a text becomes meaningful and connected through different cohesive devices such as reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction, and lexical cohesion. These elements help link sentences and ideas together, making a text easier to follow and understand. Their framework is still widely used in language teaching because it provides practical ways to improve the flow and organization of writing.

Another influential scholar, Teun A. van Dijk (1977), focused on how readers understand texts. He emphasized that meaning is not created from individual sentences alone but from the relationships between ideas across the entire text. According to van Dijk, effective writing requires a clear structure and logical progression of information so that readers can easily follow the writer's message.

Similarly, Robert-Alain de Beaugrande and Wolfgang Dressler (1981) highlighted the importance of cohesion and coherence in their theory of textuality. They argued that a successful text should contain ideas that are logically connected and supported by appropriate linguistic links. Their work helped establish the field of text linguistics and continues to influence modern approaches to writing and discourse analysis.

Table 1. Contributions of Key Scholars

Scholar	Contribution to Coherence and Cohesion
Halliday & Hasan	Introduced cohesive devices and explained how they create textual unity
van Dijk	Developed the concept of discourse coherence and macrostructure
Beaugrande & Dressler	Proposed standards of textuality, including cohesion and coherence

Table 1 highlights the specific contributions of major scholars to the study of coherence and cohesion. Although their approaches differ, all of them emphasize the importance of creating meaningful and well-organized texts. Halliday and Hasan focused on linguistic devices that connect ideas, van Dijk examined the role of discourse structure in meaning construction, while Beaugrande and Dressler expanded these concepts through the theory of textuality. Together, their work provides a comprehensive framework for understanding effective academic writing.

Although these scholars share a common interest in text organization, their perspectives differ. Halliday and Hasan focused primarily on linguistic devices that connect parts of a text, whereas van Dijk emphasized the overall structure and coherence of discourse. Beaugrande and Dressler expanded these approaches through the concept of textuality, demonstrating that successful communication depends on several interconnected standards. For essay-writing instruction, Halliday and Hasan's model is especially practical because it provides specific tools that students can apply directly in their writing.

Teaching coherence and cohesion helps students write clearer and more organized essays. Coherence refers to the logical arrangement of ideas, while cohesion involves the use of linguistic devices that connect sentences and paragraphs. Together, these skills make a text easier to read and help readers follow the writer's message smoothly.

Many students tend to focus mainly on grammar and vocabulary, often ignoring how ideas are structured. Because of this, their essays may be grammatically correct but still confusing or weak in meaning. Teachers can address this issue through activities such as essay analysis, paragraph reordering, outlining, and guided revision tasks.

The use of transitional expressions such as "however," "therefore," and "for example" plays an important role in improving flow and linking ideas clearly. Repetition of key terms, pronoun reference, and topic sentences also help maintain unity across paragraphs. Additionally, giving students feedback on structure rather than only language accuracy can significantly improve their writing development. In practice, regular writing exercises and peer review activities further strengthen these skills over time.

Research shows that students who receive explicit instruction in coherence and cohesion usually produce more organized, effective, and academically strong writing.

Table 2. Examples of Cohesive Devices

Device	Example	Function
Reference	he, she, it	Refers to previously mentioned items
Conjunction	however, therefore	Connects ideas logically
Substitution	one, do, so	Replaces repeated words
Ellipsis	omission of repeated words	Avoids unnecessary repetition
Lexical Cohesion	repetition, synonyms	Maintains topic continuity

As shown in Table 2, cohesive devices perform different functions in establishing relationships between ideas within a text. Reference, conjunction, substitution, ellipsis, and lexical cohesion each contribute to the overall unity and readability of writing. The appropriate use of these devices helps writers create logical connections between sentences and paragraphs, making their texts more coherent and easier for readers to follow.

Furthermore, coherence and cohesion are important not only in essay writing but also in other forms of communication. Academic papers, reports, presentations, and professional documents all require clear organization and meaningful connections between ideas. Therefore, developing these skills can benefit students throughout their academic and professional lives.

The combination of coherence and cohesion allows readers to follow ideas easily and understand the writer's message. Therefore, teachers should include activities that develop both skills in essay-writing classes and encourage students to apply them consistently in their written work.

Conclusion. Coherence and cohesion play a key role in making essay writing clear and effective. The theories proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976), van Dijk (1977), and de Beaugrande and Dressler (1981) demonstrate that good writing is not just about correct grammar or a wide vocabulary, but also about how well ideas are structured and connected across a text.

When these concepts are taught in the classroom, students usually start to write in a more organized and logical way. They become better at linking their ideas, building stronger arguments, and making their essays easier to follow. With regular practice and the right teaching methods, learners can gradually improve how they express their thoughts in writing and communicate more clearly overall.

Because of this, coherence and cohesion should remain an essential component of writing instruction in language education. Teachers are encouraged to integrate activities that promote logical organization and effective use of cohesive devices in the classroom. Future research may further explore which teaching methods are most effective in developing these skills among learners from different educational backgrounds.

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