AN ANALYSIS OF THE COHERENCE OF READER'S LETTERS
IN THE JAKARTA POST NEWSPAPER

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of the study are: 1) to find out how coherent of the texts in reader's letters of Jakarta post newspaper. 2) to find out the coherence markers found in the texts. 3) to find out the dominant coherence markers found in the texts.ance it just collected and analyzed the data then drew a conclusion based on the data without taking into general conclusion. The data analyzed were 5 texts of reader's letters of Jakarta Post newspaper which published on May 2014. The instrument of this study was documentation in the form of reader's letters texts in Jakarta Post newspaper published on May 2014.

The analysis of the texts was based on the logical order and transitional signals used. The result of the analysis showed that the reader's letter texts in the Jakarta Post newspaper have logical ideas that arranged orderly and the transitional signals used were appropriate with its function. So, it can be concluded that the texts were have good coherence. Coherence markers found in the texts were in the type of coherence relations which functioned as *temporal sequence, cause-effect, similarity, condition, contrast, elaboration, example,* and *violated expectation.* The dominant coherence markers found were the coherence markers which include in the type of *temporal sequence, cause-effect, similarity, condition* and *contrast relation*. The coherence markers make the texts more coherent because it helps to make the communication clearer for the readers. The writer has some suggestions for English lecturers and the readers. The writer suggests the English lecturers to use reader's letter texts of English newspaper as the examples in teaching writing, especially about coherence of the texts. Moreover, the readers can use this result of the study as the reference in studying writing. Thus, the readers can make the coherence writing that readable and can be understood easily by the others.

Key word: *Coherence, Reader's Letter, Jakarta Post newspaper.*

INTRODUCTION

People as human being need to communicate and socialize with others in their daily life. People cannot survive to live without other

people around them, so it is important for them to make good communication. Language is one of the communication tools which can be used to keep in touch with others. People can transmit their ideas and feeling by using the language. Through language, people also can update much useful and recent information around them from the communication they have made.

Language has many communicative functions that people have to use it everyday for their viability. It can be in oral or written form. One of the written forms of language we usually found easily around us is newspaper. We sometimes consume it to find some information or just to release our boredom in spare time. Newspaper is also hold an important role in our daily lives. It contains many factual information that useful for us, for the mainly purpose of newspaper is to provide reliable information to the readers.

Newspaper in Indonesia is not only presented by using Indonesian language, but also it is presented by using full English. It is Jakarta Post newspaper. Jakarta Post itself is an Indonesian newspaper written in full English. By reading newspaper, we can enlarge our knowledge about social, economic, politic, and culture and improve our ability in using English as well.

There are many kinds of text in the newspaper, such as article, literature, advertisement, etc. One of them is reader's letters. It usually contains critics, suggestions, complaints or opinions. Actually, the presence of readers' letters should be considered by the readers. From this forum, the readers can express their own idea or feeling such as giving critic, suggestion or just giving opinion about news that being most discussed recently.

The readers certainly expect that reader's letters contain something clear and coherent. It means that it is meaningful communication in which the words or sentences are linked to one another, in order the readers can make sense of the text and get the message from the text. Hatch said that coherent text is text that "sticks together" as a unit (1992:209). It can be said that coherent text is not sentences that arranged randomly, but it is sticked together as a unit. So, if the text has coherence the readers can enjoy the text without being confused.

According to McCarthy, cohesion is only a guide to coherence and coherence is something created by the reader in the act of reading the text (1991:26). It can be said that coherence is the basic component to interpret and understand the text. Coherence is an important aspect that the text must have. It makes the readers can easily understand the text, for the mainly purpose of the text is to make the readers can enjoy and get the message from the text.

In education, the Jakarta post English newspaper can be good media to improve students' ability in mastering English. It can be used as reading material which can enrich the students' vocabulary. Other important thing is that, in the Jakarta post there is a column that written by the readers called Your Letter. It can

RELATED THEORIES

Definition of Coherence

Beaugrande and Dressler as cited on James, define coherent to text as the ways in which the components of the textual world i.e. the configuration of concepts and relations…are mutually accessible and connected (1998:161). The term coherence has been defined in various ways. Other researchers have defined

be great material to be analyzed especially the sentence used. The result of this study can be used as reference for English students to improve their English skill, especially in the subject dealing with writing. The students can get additional information in writing and also analyzing a good quality of text, especially coherence text. Thus, the writer did a study about it with the final project entitled "An Analysis of the Coherence of Reader's Letters in Jakarta Post Newspaper". The problems of this study are as follows; How coherent are the texts in reader's letters of Jakarta post newspaper?; What are the coherence markers found in the texts?; What are the dominant coherence markers found in the texts?

cohesion as continuity in word and sentence structure, and coherence as continuity in meaning and context.

Moreover, Murcia and Olshtain state that coherence contributes to the unity of a piece of discourse such that the individual sentences or utterances hang together and relate to each other. Each sentence and utterance is related both to the previous and the following sentences in ways to lead the reader toward an easier and more effective

interpretation of the text (2000:8). From some definitions above, the writer concludes that the text can be said "coherent" when the sentences are connected to one another, so it becomes meaningful text rather than a random sentence of unrelated sentences or clauses.

Coherence in Writing

Coherence has the important role in writing a good paragraph. Coherence itself means to hold together. Writing coherent paragraph should have the right order with the clear process and it contains smoothly-connected sentences. Boardman and Frydenberg (2008: 18) states that in addition to organization, a paragraph has coherence when the supporting sentences are ordered according to a principle. The sentences are put in order so that the reader can understand writers' ideas easily.

In order to make the readers understand the paragraphs easily; it needs some devices to achieve the coherence. According to McCloud, there are a number of ways to achieve coherence as follows :

1) Using an ordering principle

One way to achieve the flow of coherence is to decide on an ordering principle for the ideas in the paragraph. This means that there is a pattern of development that creates a logical flow between the sentences.

2) Using pronouns

The use of pronouns refers to nouns in previous sentences in the paragraph, thus "sticking" the sentences together. For example, if it refers to *people* in one sentence it can "point back" to that noun in the next sentence.

3) Using transitional words and phrases

Transitional words and phrases also help to create coherence by providing bridges between sentences within the paragraph and between paragraphs.

4) Using repetition (but not over-repetition)

Repetition of key words and phrases and synonyms throughout a paper can provide the readers with necessary signposts and strengthen the flow of the essay.

Elements of the Coherence

The elements that make the texts coherent refer to the coherence relations found in the text. The presences of coherence relations

distinguish a text from just a random set of sentences. Coherence relations can be made linguistically explicit in a text by means of coherence markers. In general, coherence markers are helpful for making the communication clear for the readers.

Wolf and Gibson (2005) define that coherence relation can also be identified through several coherence markers such as:

1) Cause–effect: because and so.

Example: There was bad weather at the airport and *so* our flight got delayed.

2) Condition: if . . . (then), as long as, and while.

Example: *If* the new software works, everyone should be happy.

3) Violated expectation: although, but, and while.

Example: -The new software worked great *but* nobody was happy.

4) Similarity: similarly, and.

Example: -The first flight to Frankfurt this morning was delayed *and* the second flight arrived late as well.

5) Contrast: by contrast, but.

Example: -The first flight to Frankfurt this morning was delayed.

-*But* the second flight arrived on time.

6) Temporal sequence: (and), then, first, second, before, after.

Example: -*First*, John went grocery shopping.

-*Then* he disappeared in a liquor store.

7) Attribution: according to, said that, claim that, stated that.

Example: John *said that* the weather would be nice tomorrow.

8) Example: for example, for instance

Example: -There have been many previous missions to Mars.

-A famous *example* is the Pathfinder mission.

9) Elaboration: also, furthermore, in addition; note (furthermore) that (for, in, on, against with), which; who (for, in, on, against, with) whom.

Example: -A story *which* is written by.

-It was funny at the time

10) Generalization: in general.

Example: -Two missions to Mars in 1999 failed.

-*In general*, there are many missions to Mars that have failed.

Jakarta Post Newspaper

The Jakarta post is the name of newspaper using English as the language which is published by

PT.Bina Media Tenggara since 1983 (http://www.jakarta post.com/history.html). Jakarta post newspaper is not only presented in the form of papers but it also can be accessed in its website. Like conventional newspaper, in its website there are many options to read such as

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

To get the best result, the writer should choose the right methods for this study. A study will be smooth and good if it is based on theories and some knowledge about some matters. In this study, the writer used descriptive qualitative method to analyze the Coherence of "Your Letters" texts of 2014 editions in *The Jakarta Post*. The study belongs to descriptive qualitative research since it just collects and analyzes the data taken from Jakarta post published on May 2014, drew a conclusion based on the data without taking into general conclusion.

In this study, the instrument used by the writer is documentation in the form of the reader' letter texts in Jakarta post published on May 2014.

news, advertisements, etc. One of the features that sometimes visited by the reader is reader's letter or also known as "Your letter" in the column of reader's forum in Jakarta post. It usually contains of comments or opinions of the news being published.

Object of the Study

In this study, the objects of the study are the level of coherence and coherence markers found in the readers' letter texts taken from "Your Letters" column in the Jakarta Post, published in May 2014. Since the texts in readers' letters contain large number, so the writer only took five texts to be analyzed. The reason why the writer chose the texts published on May 2014 because it contains the articles that are happening recently and it is still fresh.

Data Sources

The sources of data in this study are in "Your Letters" in reader's forum column of May 2014 editions in *The Jakarta Post*. There are five texts which are going to be analyzed.

Text 1 (Let the Ghosts Rest in Peace) May 16, 2014.

Text 2 (SBY Looks Beyond 2014) May 17, 2014.

Text 3 (The Lack of Sidewalks) May 21, 2014.

Text 4 (Age of Nutrition or Food?) May 23, 2014.

Text 5 (Honesty Contract in Exam Papers) May 24, 2014.

Techniques of Data Collection

In collecting data the writer took steps as follows:

1. Finding "Your Letters" in reader's forum column in Jakarta post website on www.thejakartapost.com which is published on May 2014.

2. Choosing five texts of "Your Letters" in readers' forum column in Jakarta post published on May 2014 randomly.

3. Copying five texts of "Your Letters" in readers' forum column in Jakarta post published on 16, 17, 21, 23, 24 May 2014.

Techniques of Data analysis

In analyzing the data, the writer did some steps and feels suitable to use:

1. Collecting the texts found in "Your Letters" of the Jakarta post.

2. Analyzing the text based on coherence by using logical order and transitional words.

3. Classifying the coherent texts.

4. Listing the coherence markers.

5. Counting the percentage.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Research Findings

The study was done by using logical order and transition words/phrases in analyzing the coherence of the reader's letter texts. The result of the study showed that the texts have logical ideas which arranged orderly. It means that the ideas are logically related to each other which the readers can follow the writer's ideas easily. Transition markers also make the texts flow smoothly. In addition, the transition markers found were appropriate with its function in order to connect the clauses within the texts. So, it can be concluded that the texts have good coherence. Coherence markers found in the texts were in the type of coherence relations which functioned as *temporal sequence, cause-effect, similarity*, *condition, contrast, elaboration, example,* and *violated expectation.* The dominant coherence markers found were the coherence markers which include in the type of *temporal sequence, cause-effect, similarity, condition* and *contrast relation*.

The result of the analysis showed that the texts have good coherence. The data were analyzed by using

logical order and transition words since the texts analyzed were in the form of letters. The content of the texts were various and it has no exact pattern, so the analysis just used two coherence devices, because those were more appropriate with the kind of the texts. Also, The coherence markers found make the texts have meaningful communication in which the readers can understand the texts and get the messages of the texts. It is important to be considered because the function of the text itself to be read and can be enjoyed by the readers.

Based on the result of the study, reader's letter texts in the Jakarta Post newspaper has good coherence. It proved by the ideas delivered in the texts has logical order. Also the use of transition words make the texts flow smoothly that the readers can follow the ideas easily and enjoy to read the whole texts. Coherence markers also help to make the communication clearer for the readers.

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