LINKING ADVERBIALS, A LINGUISTIC BRIDGE FOR SUCCEESFUL ACADEMIC WRITING

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Abstract: The present paper aims at emphasizing the importance of using connectors in order to enhance the clarity, coherence, and cohesion of academic writing. By using different types of connectors, the students can improve their performance in both writing and speaking. The focus of this study is the analysis of linking adverbials only with practical examples, because the interest here is to determine students to accomplish that it is vital to use these linking words effectively and appropriately when writing an essay. Mastering connectors demonstrates a higher level of language proficiency and refinement in communication.

Keywords: linking adverbials, cohesion, coherence, language proficiency

1. Introduction

Academic connectors are essential tools for textual cohesion, clarity, coherence and represent a crucial aspect of language proficiency. They can be used to perform many different functions in the sentences, such as emphasizing the main idea, defining the time, describing similarities, expanding information, showing cause and effect, providing examples, contrasting, limitations, contradictions, comparing, or making generalization. It is detrimental for students to ensure themselves that the connectors used in their writing are appropriate for the context and meaning that they intend to transmit. The proper use of linking words facilitates clarity and coherence in students' writing and it reveals essential qualities that can highlight the students 'level of English. Moreover, employing a variety of connectors demonstrates a wide range of vocabulary the students use. However, overusing the linking adverbials, instead of maintaining a natural flow in their addressing, makes their writing and speaking sound exaggerate.

2. Research questions:

Based on this purpose, this study attempts to answer the following research questions:

- Why is essential for students to use connectors in their written assignments in English?
- What are the differences of using conjunctions vs. connectors?
- What are the common types of linking adverbials?

In order to respond to these research questions, it is highly important to understand that:

- Being able to use properly the linking adverbials in an academic style is vital for students 'academic success. Hence, it helps them achieve consistency and clarity in both writing and speaking sections.
- Understanding properly the adverbial connectors is a challenging and demanding task for students. University programs have already incorporated courses for developing students' academic writing.
- The vital role that plays using the connectors in academic writing determines the students 'success in achieving a higher score.

3. Literature review

The literature on linking adverbials contains considerable research. A number of researchers in this field have heightened the need of using the academic connectors. According to a study written by Mauranen (1993), there are compared two sets of academic texts, one of them uses connectors and from the other sample, the connectors had been removed. The study found that the text which contained connectors was considered to be more coherent and cohesive than the sample with no connectors. The results of this study highlighted that the use of connectors plays a vital role in comprehending the text. However, research has constantly shown that the students do not always use clearly these connectors: "increased mastery of cohesive devices will help students to express relations more clearly" (Granger; Tyson, 1996). Likewise, Sabzevari, Haghverdi and Biria's (2016) consider that "these logical connectors, if placed appropriately, function as signposts, guiding the reader through the discourse", being helpfully in the interpretation of a text if they are used appropriately. *Oda Kayonde* (2021) concludes that "examples of connectors should be drawn from authentic language use in teaching connectors, focus should be on helping learners master a variety of connectors in all categories".

3. Conjunctions vs. connectors

Connectors and conjunctions are similar in their purpose of explaining an association of ideas. The main distinction is connectors bridge two separate sentences and paragraphs, whereas conjunctions grammatically couple two elements within a sentence. The way students choose to use them underlines their intention of expression. Here are some examples of corresponding connectors to some conjunctions.

For *and* conjunction there are more corresponding connectors: *furthermore, additionally, moreover, in addition, also.*

But has the following corresponding connectors*: nevertheless, nonetheless, however, in contrast, on the contrary, on the other hand.*

The cause-effect conjunction *because* has *therefore, consequently, hence, for this reason, as a result* as corresponding connectors.

The connectors *similarly, likewise* has the corresponding conjunction *so.*

Conjunction *or* corresponds with connectors *alternatively* and *otherwise.*

Before has the corresponding connectors *beforehand, afterwards, first, next, then.*

The corresponding connectors *meanwhile, at the same time* have the same meaning with the conjunction *while*.

One sentence can contain multiple types of conjunctions: coordinating conjunctions, correlative conjunction and subordinating conjunction. Joining the statement with a conjunction implies that they are part of the same idea, while using a connector, the relationship between two statements is more clearly defined.

Conjunction: *Video games are sometimes violent and they influence children's attitude.*

Connectors: *Video games are sometimes violent. Moreover, they can influence children's attitude.*

Conjunction: *The students wrote the test on time, but the results were not those expected.*

Connectors: *The student wrote the test on time. However, the results were not those expected.*

4. Common types of connecting words

Using a variety of connectors demonstrates a wide range of vocabulary. There are several types of connectors that serve different functions in a sentence. Choosing the proper connectors depends on the relationship the students want to convey between ideas.

Understanding the function of each connector and the context, can help students to make the appropriate selection. Here are the main types of connectors that can help students to master their usage:

a. Levels of significance

Their purpose is to identify which are the most important aspects or indicate something as being obvious: *most importantly, essentially, primordially, significantly, above all, clearly, obviously, naturally, it is evident that, it is apparent that, undoubtedly, needles to say, it is self-evident that.*

Most importantly, the students should use correctly the linking words in their essays. Above all, students have to understand the importance of using the linking words appropriately.

b. Describing similarity

Comparison connectors show similarities between ideas, serve as linguistic bridges that link two similar concepts and articulate relationships between different elements of language: *likewise, similarly, simultaneous, moreover, conversely, unlike, whereas, equally, correspondingly, similarly* or common phrase such as*: in the same way, in a similar way, by the same token, in comparison, by contrast, differ from.*

Likewise, the rule was applied to everybody.

c. Sequence

Sequence connectors organize ideas, add information or cronologise events: *firstly, secondly, thirdly, additionally, finally, furthermore, moreover, lastly, previously, formerly, thereafter, subsequently, consequently, previously, afterward, simultaneously, concurrently, hence, or* common phrases*: as well as, as a matter of fact, following this.*

Firstly, the importance of ecological balance cannot be overstated.

Secondly, the educational system places too much emphasis on curricula and examinations, causing students to view learning solely to achieve high test scores.

d. Providing examples

These connectors are used to provide specific examples in a way that helps to increase understanding and interest in sentences, to demonstrate the validity of a certain perspective: *for example, to cite an example, for instance, on this occasion, in this situation, take the case of, to demonstrate, as an illustration, namely, in particular, specifically, as an illustration, for instance, such as, to illustrate, including,*

For instance, some countries may appear idealized online, but upon visiting, the reality might differ significantly.

For example, E-Mag is one of the most successful e-commerce businesses.

e. Expanding information

These linking words help to provide further information on a certain point in order to underline the mentioned argument: *in addition, additionally, moreover, furthermore.* There are also differences among these connectors. For example, furthermore is used to strengthen a point more than the adverbial *in addition. Moreover,* is always used to strengthen a point or argument. You add new information, but do this to emphasize something you wrote before. There is a slight difference in meaning between *therefore* (for that reason or because of that) and *thereby* (means by that means, through that). *Therefore* is used for giving a reason for something while *thereby* explains how something happened thanks to something else.

Additionally, the decreasing cost of international trip has made this option more accessible.

Moreover, I believe that non-academic subjects, are essential for fostering creativity, critical thinking, and decision making

f. Cause and effect

These connectors clarify the reasons for a certain point to the reader or indicate a cause-and-effect link between ideas: *given that, owing to, as a result of, because, due to, since, as, therefore, consequently, thus, hence, accordingly, this suggests that, it allows that, for this reason*

As a result, some people argue that non-academic subjects should be removed from school curriculum to allow students to focus solely on their academic studies.

The modern community is full of violence such as wars, fights and offences, consequently, most channels and newspapers provide aggressive information.

g. Making generalisation

Generalizing connectors put forward a general or overall opinion, present opinions that apply to a wide range of situations: *all things considered, in general, broadly speaking, generally, typically, on the whole, universally, by and large, in most cases, as a rule, for the most part.*

Broadly speaking, globalization promotes a more homogenized culture.

All things considered, young people, may lose the motivation to study after graduation unless parents, teachers, and society at large work together to foster a positive learning environment.

h. Emphasis

Emphasis connectors stress the importance of a particular point to a reader, highlight to what extent agree or disagree with a statement: *absolutely, undoubtedly, certainly, needless to say, beyond any doubt, particularly, especially, notably, importantly, specifically, most importantly, definitely, extremely, obviously, in fact, indeed, in any case, absolutely, positively, naturally, surprisingly, perennially, externally, empathically, unquestionably, without a doubt, certainly, undeniably, without reservation,*

Undoubtedly, the teachers play an important role in students 'development.

Unquestionably, parents have a crucial responsibility to set a good example for their children.

i. Contrasting, limitations, contradictions or comparing

Alternative connectors underline differences, introduce opposing opinions, and indicate different possibilities or choices. To compare two things or ideas: *however, instead, despite, in spite of, otherwise, whereas***,** *although, while, on the contrary, in contrast, conversely, alternatively, instead of, rather than, in lieu of, nonetheless, although, admittedly*

The company is allowing workers to receive money in lieu of free days.

Conversely, travelling allows people to engage directly with new environment.

j. Opinion

These connectors help to demonstrate a personal viewpoints and judgments: *I believe, I think, in my opinion, I believe, personally, from my perspective, according to me, it seems to me, as far as I am concerned, in my view, I concur.*

Despite the benefits of accessing information through digital platforms, from my perspective, experiencing everything in person is far more effective.

I strongly agree that longer vacations can contribute to higher productivity and better job performance.

k. Dismissal

Dismissive connectors help to create a more persuasive argument presented in an assertive way, sometimes, reject a certain point of view: *anyway, at any rate, moving on, in spite of this, however, in any event, in any manner, nevertheless,*

Well, at any rate, let me thank you for all what you did for me.

With the progress of science, many professions are replacing by robots and technical devices. Nevertheless, it is escalating the number of workless persons in the community.

l. Concentrating

Emphasizing connectors highlight certain ideas and arguments and signal the reader how different parts of the essay are related or shed light on something: *regarding, as far as, when it comes, concerning, in regard to, with respect to, in the interest of, in contemplation of, to counterbalance*

I have written them regarding the new contract.

There is a plethora of reasons why deforestation for construction, good-producing factories generate toxic fumes and pollute water into the rivers, but nevertheless, there are some considerable solutions of this misfortune like.

m. Summarizing

Conclusion connectors announce the end of an analyze, summarize key points, draw the essay to a close and they are essential for maintaining clarity; *in summary, to summarize, in conclusion, overall, to sum up, ultimately, to conclude, finally, in a nutshell, given the above, as described, in brief, on the whole, summing up, hence, therefore, accordingly, consequently, as a result.*

Therefore, I firmly believe that exploring the world in person is the superior approach.

Finally, instead of minimizing tax payment by using accounting loopholes, I think that company owners should contribute to society through the tax systems.

5. Conclusion

Mastering connectors is crucial for increasing vocabulary, understanding complex texts, and achieving success in academic writing. Using proper connectors can help students to simplify those long sentences, organize their ideas and arguments. In this way, they can add not only clarity, cohesion and coherence of expressing but also prevent misunderstandings. Using a range of connectors indicates students' vocabulary skills and their ability to use English flexibly and improve their performance in writing and speaking. Moreover, connectors contribute to the coherence and cohesion and enhance the quality of their responses. It helps them to achieve a clear approach and make them rediscover the power of academic writing. Finally, their message is revealed effectively and the students maximize their chances of achieving a higher score.

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