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Conference Abstract

A Corpus-Based Analysis of Grammatical Cohesive Devices in introduction section of research articles: case of articles published at JFAS journal

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Abstract

Writing is one of the most crucial skills in foreign language learning which requires a good mastery of linguistic, cognitive, and socio-cultural competencies. Especially, the introduction section in research articles gives the opportunity to show readers and reviewers why the research topic is worth to be studied and why the paper tags their attention. Furthermore, the introduction serves multiple purposes. It presents the background to the study, introduces the topic and the aim, and gives an overview of the paper. Since it plays such an important role in grasping the information of the whole research report, the writing of the introduction, therefore should be concise and the logical relation among sentences should be clear, coherent and cohesive. The present study aims to analyze the use of grammatical cohesive devices, the surface marking of semantic links between clauses and sentences in written discourse such as reference, ellipsis, conjunctions and substitution in introduction section of research articles. To achieve this goal, a contextual analysis of these devices is carried out on a corpus composed of 12 introduction sections taken from articles written by Algerian chemist researchers published at **Journal of Fundamental and Applied Sciences (JFAS)**. Then, the frequencies of the various types of grammatical cohesive devices across the corpus were obtained using AntConc software. The classification of targeted devices in the corpus was made according to Halliday & Hasan (1976) taxonomy as framework. The findings reveal that reference is the most used cohesive device in the corpus followed by conjunction, while substitution is least frequently used among the four types of grammatical cohesion. Henceforth, the present research recommends the integration of a genre-based approach to teaching academic writing in order to familiarize non-native Algerian researchers with some shared generic regularities and conventions and secure effective communication within the discourse community.

Key words: research article introduction, cohesion, coherence, grammatical cohesion, corpus analysis.