

ABSTRACT

Mahmudah. 2023. Students' Competency on Cohesion and Coherence in Essay Writing. English Language Education Department, Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training, Antasari State Islamic University. Advisor: (I) Afifah Linda Sari, M.Pd.

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The importance of cohesion and coherence in writing cannot be overstated, as they significantly contribute to the overall quality of written work. Students faced difficulties in achieving cohesion and coherence in their writing. In response to this issue, a research study was conducted to find types of cohesion and coherence devices in students' essay and to identify the difficulties they face in producing cohesive and coherent essay writing. The research used Halliday and Hasan's theory of grammatical and lexical cohesion, as well as Oshima and Hogues' principles for achieving coherence. This study employed a qualitative research method, specifically utilizing content analysis to examine students' essay writing. There were a total 22 students participated in this study. This researcher focused on grammatical cohesion, including reference, substitution, conjunction and ellipsis as well as coherence aspect such as repetition of key noun usage, consistent pronoun, transitional signal and chronological order. Additionally, interviews were conducted with five students to gain insights into their specific challenges. The results reveal that reference, conjunction, and ellipsis are common cohesion devices in students' essays, while coherence aspects include the repetition of key nouns, consistent pronoun usage, and the use of transitional signals. Students often face challenges in avoiding repetition and organizing their ideas coherently in their essays.