**Unity and Coherence**

**Rhetorical Focus**

Unity is served when all sentences in a paragraph support a single idea (Savage and Shafiei, 2007: 12)

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| My friend, Macarena, is generous. She often lets travelers stay in her home. She has hosted many students temporarily. She sends money to her family in Chile every month to help them with their bills. She always brings flowers or food to her friends when they are sick or have a need. Macarena is one of the most generous people I know. |

**Exercise 1**

Identify the topic sentence to circle the topic and to underline the controlling idea. Determine the main idea to learn the expected supporting ideas. Find irrelevant sentence (a sentence that does not support the unity of the paragraph) and draw a line through it. Give the reason why.

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| **The Pink Sheep**  Many years ago, a special gift came to me in an interesting way. When I was a small boy, I enjoyed playing in my garden. One day, I found a hole in the wall of my garden. It was near the ground, so I could not see through the hole, but I knew that behind the wall was my neighbour’s garden. Who made that hole? I felt really interested, so I used rocks to make the hole wider. One day, when I was trying to break through the wall, I noticed a small hand appear from the hole. The hand was holding a rubber sheep. It was pink and it had wide eyes. I caught that rubber sheep. Then I pushed my favorite wooden truck through the hole to give to that child on the other side. Sometimes I bought toys with my lucky New Year money. A long time later, when I was old enough to go out, I went around the corner to find the child who gave me that special gift, but nobody was in that house. My neighbour said that a gir used to live there, and she was the same age as me. I never found her, but her gift has a special meaning for me. |

**Exercise 2 Recognizing unity in supporting sentences**

Read the following topic sentences. Note each sentence below that supports the topic sentence.

1. I am an organized person.
2. My desk is always neat and tidy.
3. I hava a system for organizing my papers and can always find what I need.
4. I feel uncomfortable when I am in a strange environment.
5. My friends always want me to help them put their closets in order.
6. Twenty questions is an easy game to play when you are travelling.
7. The person who is “it” must think of a person, place, or object.
8. Sometimes people travel by car, and sometimes by train or airplane.
9. It is very important to travel with people that you get along with.
10. The other players take turns asking questions that can only be answered with “yes” or “no”.
11. Tea and coffee are very different from each other.
12. Coffee has more caffeine than tea does.
13. Coffee and tea both have caffeine.
14. People enjoy tea and coffee during social occasions.
15. Tea is much more common around teh world than coffee is.
16. In my opinion, people spend too much money on cars.
17. Sometimes driver spend a fourth of their income for a car payment which is unnecessary.
18. Cars do not increase in value, so they are not a great investment.
19. Car companies are always looking for ways to make vehicles safer on the road.
20. People who do not pay cash much also pay interest, so they lose even more money.
21. It is easy to get a sports injury.
22. Many people enjoy sports.
23. Runners often have problems with their ankles and knees.
24. Basketball players can break their fingers or get knocked over by another player.
25. Many people make the simple mistake of joining a gym, and then they never go there to exercise.
26. My city is famous because of its architecture.
27. We have ancient red-tiled buildings around the main square.
28. The restaurants near the beach serve great seafood.
29. It has expensive tree-lined boulevards with beautiful limestone buildings and monuments.
30. A famous university is located on the side of a mountain.

**Exercise 3 Developing Unity**

Write two supporting sentences for each of the following topic sentences.

1. Computers are useful in many ways.
2. There are certain characteristics that I always look for in a good restaurant.
3. When I want to look nice for a party, I follow a few simple steps.
4. There are activities in a park for family members of all ages.
5. There are many ways to show respect to older people.
6. When you are going camping, there are some things you should always take with you.

**Rhetorical Focus**

**Coherence within a Paragraph**

Coherence means “hold together”. Oshima (1991: 40) defines that coherence may be achieved when the movement from one sentence to the next is logical and smooth; no sudden jumps and each sentence flow smoothly into the next one. One of importants coherence devices is pronoun.

There are four ways to achieve coherence: (1) repeating key nouns, (2) using consistent pronouns, (3) transitional signal, and (4) pattern of organization.

Here are transitional signals for general use.

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| Meaning/Function | Sentence Connectors | | Clause Connectors | | Others |
|  | Transition phrases | Conjunctive adverb | Coordinative conjunctions | Subordinative conjunctions |  |
| To introduce additional idea | In addition | Furthermore  Moreover  Besides  Also  Too | And |  | Another (+ noun)  An additional (+ noun) |
| To intorduce an opposite idea | On the other hand  In contrast | However  Nevertheless  Instead  Still  Nonetheless | But  Yet | Although  Though  Even though  Whereas  While | In spite of (+ noun)  Despite (+ noun) |
| To introduce a choice or alternative |  | Otherwise | or | If  unless |  |
| To introduce a restatement or explanation | In fact  Indeed | That is |  |  |  |
| To introduce an example | For example  For instance |  |  |  | An example of (+ noun)  Such as (+ noun) |
| To introduce a conclusion or summary | In conclusion  In summary  In brief  In short  Indeed |  |  |  |  |
| To introduce a result | Accordingly  As a result  As a consequence | Therefore  Consequently  Hence  this | So |  |  |

**Exercise 4 Coherence devices**

Identify the errors on coherence device and correct them.

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| **Dolphins**  Dolphins are interesting because it displays almost human behaviour at times. For example, they display the human emotions of joy and sadness. During training, when they do something correctly, they squeal excitedly and race toward their trainer. When they make a mistake, however, they droop noticeablly and mope around their pool. However, they help each other when they are in trouble. If one is sick, it sends out a message, and others in the area swim to help them. It pushes it to the surface of the water so that it can breathe. They stay with it for days or weeks – until they recover or die. They have also helped trapped or lost whales, navigate their way safely out to the open sea. They are so intelligent and helpful, in fact, that the U.S. Navy is training them to become underwater bomb disposal experts. |

**Rhetorical Focus**

**Pattern of Organization**

An additional device for cohesion is pattern of organization. The pattern of organization – showing **time, space,** and **order of importance** – illustrates that the supporting sentences are organized so that information goes together appears together (Savage and Shafiei, 2007: 16).

**Exercise 5 Identify pattern of organization**

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| My favourite restaurant is in an old house. It is very convenient because it is in my neighbourhood. We can drive, or if the evening is pleasant, we can walk. It has a nice atmosphere and friendly service. We know some of the waiters and waitresses so we enjoy talking to them because they ask us about our children. We especially like the decorations. The walls are soft yellow, and candles and fresh flowers are on the tables inside and outside. Finally, the food is excellent. The cook is the owner and he makes delicious dishes with fresh ingredients. We always enjoy our meals. |
| Time Space Order of Importance |
| My favourite restaurant is in an old house. My husband and I enjoy eating there on summer evenings. We usually walk from our house so we can enjoy our neighbours’ gardens and get a little bit of exercise. The afternoon sun shines through the trees but it is not too bright. We arrive at dusk, and if we are lucky, we can sit outside. The waiter brings a basket of warm bread and a cold drink. We have an appetizer or a salad while the sun goes down. Then the waiter lights the candles while we enjoy the main course. By the time we finish desert, it is right time. We walk home slowly, feeling full but happy in the moonlight. |
| Time Space Order of Importance |

**Exercise 6 Evaluating coherence within a paragraph**

Read the following paragraphs. Which one has better coherence? What is the pattern of organization?

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| **Paragraph 1**  Soccer brings the world together in many ways. During the World Cup, people from all over the world are tuned in. If they cannot see it in person, they watch it on television. Many countries participate in the world cup. People learn about the teams from different countries, and they learn something about those countries. When people are watching teh World Cup, they do not care if the game is on at four a.m. in their country. They will stay up to watch it. They learn about the flags from different countries because they will see the fans. |
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| **Paragraph 2**  The best way to meet new friends is to take a class. First, all the people in a class have something in common. They all want to learn about the subject, so there is something to talk about. Second, everyone sees each other every time the class meets, so there are many opportunities to get to know others. Third, there are often activities and group projects so students can work together, and this is the best way to get to know people. By the end of the class, it is hard not to know your classmates. |