

THE IMPORTANCE OF LINKING WORDS AND COHESIVE DEVICES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

Umarxonova Rayhona

Affiliation: Bukhara University of Innovation

E-mail: rayhonaumarxonova@gmail.com

Mobile-phone: +998 50.818.61.07

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20321114>

ABSTRACT

This article discusses the significance of linking words and cohesive devices in English language learning and communication. Linking words help connect ideas, sentences, and paragraphs logically, while cohesive devices improve the flow and clarity of both spoken and written texts. The paper analyzes different types of linking words, their grammatical functions, and effective methods for teaching them in the classroom. In addition, the article highlights common learner difficulties and suggests modern approaches for developing students' writing and speaking skills through cohesive language use.

KEYWORDS

linking words, cohesive devices, English grammar, writing skills, communication, discourse markers, language learning

INTRODUCTION

English language learning requires not only vocabulary and grammar knowledge but also the ability to organize ideas clearly and logically. One of the most important elements in achieving coherence in speech and writing is the use of linking words and cohesive devices.

Linking words are expressions that connect sentences, clauses, and ideas. They help readers and listeners understand relationships between thoughts. Cohesive devices improve the unity and smoothness of communication by creating logical connections within a text.

In modern language teaching, developing coherent communication skills has become one of the major educational goals. Therefore, teaching linking words and cohesive devices effectively is essential for improving students' academic writing and speaking abilities.

MAIN PART

Definition of Linking Words and Cohesive Devices

Linking words are words or phrases used to connect ideas in a sentence or between sentences. They create logical relationships such as addition, contrast, reason, result, and sequence.

Examples of linking words include:

- and
- but
- however
- therefore
- because
- moreover
- although

Cohesive devices include not only linking words but also pronouns, repetition, synonyms, and transitional expressions that help create unity in communication.

For example:

- I was tired, so I went to bed early.

- She studied hard; therefore, she passed the exam.

In these examples, linking words show cause-and-effect relationships.

Types of Linking Words

1. Addition

These linking words add information.

Examples:

- and

- furthermore
- moreover
- also

Sentence examples:

- She speaks English and Japanese.
- Moreover, students should practice daily.

2. Contrast

These words show differences or opposite ideas.

Examples:

- but
- however
- although
- nevertheless

Sentence examples:

- He is rich, but he is unhappy.
- Although it was raining, they continued working.

3. Cause and Effect

These linking words explain reasons and results.

Examples:

- because
- therefore
- so
- as a result

Sentence examples:

- She was late because the bus arrived late.
- He studied hard; therefore, he succeeded.

4. Sequencing

These words organize ideas in order.

Examples:

- first
- next
- then
- finally

Sentence examples:

- First, mix the ingredients.
- Finally, bake the cake.

Importance in Communication

Linking words and cohesive devices are essential for effective communication. They help speakers and writers express ideas more clearly and logically. Without cohesive devices, communication may sound disconnected and confusing.

Students who use cohesive devices effectively can:

- write organized essays
- improve speaking fluency
- express ideas more clearly
- connect paragraphs logically

These skills are especially important in academic writing and presentations.

COMMON LEARNER DIFFICULTIES

Many learners face difficulties while using linking words and cohesive devices. Some common problems include:

1. Overusing simple connectors such as “and” and “but”
2. Using inappropriate linking words
3. Incorrect punctuation with connectors
4. Lack of variety in writing

For example:

- Incorrect: Because he was tired. He slept early.
- Correct: Because he was tired, he slept early.

Such mistakes affect the coherence and quality of writing.

MODERN TEACHING APPROACHES

1. Context-Based Learning

Teachers should introduce linking words through meaningful contexts and authentic texts rather than isolated grammar exercises.

2. Writing Activities

Essay writing, paragraph writing, and storytelling activities encourage students to practice cohesive devices naturally.

3. Group Discussions

Speaking activities and debates help learners use linking expressions in real communication.

4. Interactive Exercises

Matching activities, gap-filling tasks, and sentence combination exercises improve understanding and usage.

5. Multimedia Resources

Videos, online quizzes, and digital learning platforms make grammar instruction more engaging and effective.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Modern teaching methods have shown positive effects on students' communication skills. Learners who practice linking words regularly become more confident in writing and speaking.

Interactive classroom activities help students understand logical relationships between ideas and improve overall language fluency. Furthermore, combining technology with communicative teaching creates a more motivating learning environment.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, linking words and cohesive devices play a crucial role in English communication. They help organize ideas logically, improve text coherence, and strengthen speaking and writing skills.

Teachers should use modern and interactive approaches to teach cohesive devices effectively. Practical communication activities, contextual learning, and multimedia resources can significantly improve students' language competence.

Future studies may focus on digital tools and artificial intelligence technologies for teaching academic writing and discourse organization more effectively.

References:

1. Halliday, M. A. K. Cohesion in English. Longman, 2014.
2. Swan, M. Practical English Usage. Oxford University Press, 2016.
3. Murphy, R. English Grammar in Use. Cambridge University Press, 2019.
4. Harmer, J. How to Teach English. Pearson, 2015.
5. Thornbury, S. How to Teach Grammar. Longman, 2017.
6. Richards, J. Approaches and Methods in Language Teaching. Cambridge University Press, 2014.
7. Scrivener, J. Learning Teaching. Macmillan, 2018.
8. www.cambridge.org
9. www.britishcouncil.org
10. www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com