



From Sentence to Discourse: Developing Writing Skill of English Language Learners

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Abstract

Coherence is crucial for writing as it establishes relationships that link the ideas in a text to create meaning for the readers. Macrostructure, Information structure, Propositional development, Cohesion and Discourse Markers form the elements of coherent writing. Pedagogical focus on coherence can help shifting the attention of English language teachers from sentence-level grammar to the whole discourse, that is, textual coherence. The major emphasis of the present study is to help students create coherence in their writing by making them understand how the elements of coherence function in developing the semantics of a text. A sample of 25 students of writing skill class of English Language from the International Islamic University, Islamabad was experimented. The research followed one group pre-test post-test design. After 12 weeks of teaching coherence through interactive activities, the students were tested for coherence in their writing. The results of the pre and the post tests were statistically compared through t-test. Six point checklist was provided to the students for assistance and help to review and self-edit their writings. Significant difference between the pre and the post test scores showed that the students developed the art of writing coherent texts. The results of the study call for the use of teaching coherence in the language classrooms to develop the writing skill of second language learners.