



COHERENCE AND COHESION IN READING

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Annotation: This article discusses the importance of coherence and cohesion in reading comprehension and their role in understanding written texts effectively. The study explains the main features of coherent and cohesive texts and analyzes how logical organization and grammatical connections help readers interpret information more clearly. In addition, the article highlights the significance of coherence and cohesion in English language learning, academic reading, and the development of critical thinking skills. Various cohesive devices, reading strategies, and teaching approaches related to reading comprehension are also examined.

Key words: coherence, cohesion, reading, comprehension, cohesion devices, coherence text, language learning, discourse markers, communication, thinking.

Reading is one of the most important skills in language learning because it helps learners gain information, improve vocabulary, and develop critical thinking abilities. Effective reading is not only related to understanding individual words or sentences, but also to understanding the connection between ideas in a text. For this reason, coherence and cohesion play a significant role in reading comprehension. Coherence refers to the logical organization of ideas in a text, while cohesion refers to the grammatical and lexical connections between sentences and paragraphs. These elements help readers follow the writer's ideas clearly and understand the overall meaning of the text. Without coherence and cohesion, a text may become difficult to understand and confusing for readers. In English language learning, especially in academic reading, coherent and cohesive texts support learners in understanding information more effectively. Therefore, studying coherence and cohesion is important for improving reading comprehension skills and developing overall language proficiency.

Coherence and cohesion are considered two of the most important components of an effective text. They help readers understand how ideas are connected and how information is organized within a passage. In reading comprehension, students are expected not only to recognize words and



grammatical structures, but also to understand the relationships between sentences, paragraphs, and ideas. Therefore, coherence and cohesion play a significant role in helping readers interpret texts successfully and follow the writer's intended message. Coherence refers to the logical flow and organization of ideas in a text. A coherent text presents information in a clear and meaningful way so that readers can easily understand the main topic and supporting details. In coherent writing, each sentence contributes to the overall idea of the paragraph, and each paragraph is connected to the general purpose of the text. When ideas are presented logically, readers can follow the development of thoughts without confusion. For example, in academic articles or educational texts, information is usually arranged from general ideas to specific explanations, which makes reading easier and more understandable. If a text lacks coherence, readers may find it difficult to identify the author's main argument or understand the connection between different parts of the text.

Cohesion, on the other hand, refers to the grammatical and lexical devices that connect sentences and paragraphs together. Cohesive devices include conjunctions, pronouns, repetition, synonyms, transition signals, and reference words. These elements create links between ideas and make the text smooth and unified. For instance, conjunctions such as "however," "therefore," "moreover," and "because" show relationships like contrast, result, addition, and cause. Pronouns help avoid unnecessary repetition and connect sentences by referring to previously mentioned nouns. Synonyms and repeated key words also contribute to cohesion by maintaining the central topic throughout the text. Without cohesive devices, a text may seem disconnected and difficult to follow, even if the grammar is correct.

In reading activities, coherence and cohesion help students predict meaning and understand the structure of a text more effectively. Readers often use cohesive markers as clues to identify the direction of ideas and the relationship between different statements. For example, words such as "firstly," "next," and "finally" indicate sequence, while phrases like "for example" or "such as" introduce explanations and examples. By recognizing these markers, students can improve their comprehension skills and understand texts more quickly. This is especially important in academic reading, where texts are often longer and more complex. Moreover, coherence and cohesion are closely related to critical thinking and analytical reading skills. When students analyze how ideas are linked together, they become more active readers and develop deeper understanding of the text. They learn to identify the writer's purpose, distinguish between main and supporting ideas, and evaluate arguments more effectively. This process encourages students to think critically rather than simply translate words or





memorize information. As a result, reading becomes a meaningful and interactive activity.

In English language teaching, many learners face difficulties in reading because they focus mainly on vocabulary and grammar without paying attention to textual organization. Even when students know the meanings of individual words, they may still struggle to understand the complete message if they cannot recognize coherence and cohesion within the text. Therefore, teachers should include activities that help learners identify cohesive devices and analyze the logical structure of passages. Exercises such as finding linking words, identifying references, arranging mixed paragraphs, and summarizing main ideas can improve students' awareness of text organization and strengthen their reading abilities.

The importance of coherence and cohesion can also be seen in international language examinations such as IELTS and TOEFL. In these exams, students are required to understand complex academic texts within a limited time. Readers who can recognize cohesive markers and follow coherent arguments are usually more successful in answering comprehension questions. In addition, coherence and cohesion are essential not only for reading but also for writing tasks in these examinations. This demonstrates that the ability to understand textual connections is a key aspect of overall language proficiency.

Modern educational technologies also support the development of reading comprehension through coherent and cohesive materials. Digital textbooks, online articles, and interactive reading platforms provide students with opportunities to analyze texts independently. Multimedia resources and hypertext systems can visually demonstrate the relationships between ideas, helping learners understand complex texts more easily. Such technological tools encourage active learning and improve students' motivation to read and analyze information.

Furthermore, coherence and cohesion are highly important in developing fluent and independent readers. Skilled readers usually understand texts more successfully because they can recognize how sentences are connected and how ideas progress throughout a passage. They pay attention to transition signals, repeated concepts, and paragraph organization while reading. This ability allows them to predict upcoming information and understand the text more efficiently. In contrast, weak readers often focus only on translating individual words and may lose the general meaning of the text. Therefore, teaching students how to identify coherent and cohesive patterns can greatly improve their reading fluency and confidence.

Another important aspect of coherence in reading is paragraph unity. Each paragraph in a well-organized text usually focuses on one central idea that is supported by explanations, facts, or examples. Topic sentences play a major role in





helping readers understand the purpose of a paragraph. Supporting sentences then provide additional details that develop the main point logically. When paragraphs are organized coherently, readers can easily follow the flow of information from one idea to another. This organization becomes especially important in academic reading materials such as research articles, textbooks, and essays, where information is often detailed and conceptually complex.

Cohesion also contributes to the readability of a text by reducing repetition and creating smooth connections between ideas. Writers often use substitution, ellipsis, and referencing techniques to avoid repeating the same words unnecessarily. For example, instead of repeating a noun several times, a writer may replace it with pronouns such as “it,” “they,” or “this.” These cohesive strategies make texts more natural and easier to read. However, readers must be able to identify what these reference words refer to in order to understand the text correctly. This process improves students’ concentration and analytical reading skills.

In addition, coherence and cohesion are essential in different genres of reading materials. In narrative texts, coherence helps readers follow the sequence of events and understand character relationships, while cohesion connects actions and descriptions smoothly. In argumentative or persuasive texts, coherence allows readers to understand claims, evidence, and conclusions logically. Similarly, in scientific and technical texts, cohesive devices help explain processes, comparisons, and cause-effect relationships clearly. Therefore, the role of coherence and cohesion extends across all forms of reading and communication. Teachers can improve students’ understanding of coherence and cohesion through various classroom strategies. Group discussions, text analysis activities, and paragraph reconstruction tasks encourage learners to focus on textual organization. Reading exercises that require students to identify transition words, determine reference meanings, or arrange ideas in logical order can strengthen comprehension skills. Additionally, comparing coherent and incoherent texts can help students recognize the importance of logical organization in successful communication. Such activities not only improve reading comprehension but also support writing development and academic literacy.

In conclusion, coherence and cohesion are essential elements in the process of reading comprehension. They help readers understand the logical organization of ideas and recognize the grammatical and lexical connections within a text. A coherent text presents ideas in a clear and meaningful sequence, while cohesive devices create smooth relationships between sentences and paragraphs. Together, these elements make texts more understandable, organized, and effective for readers. The study of coherence and cohesion is especially important in English



language learning because students often face difficulties in understanding complex texts. By identifying transition signals, references, linking words, and paragraph structures, learners can improve their ability to interpret information and follow the writer's message more accurately. In addition, coherence and cohesion support the development of critical thinking, analytical reading, and academic literacy skills.

Moreover, teaching coherence and cohesion through different reading activities and modern educational technologies can significantly improve students' reading performance and language proficiency. Learners who understand textual organization become more confident readers and are better prepared for academic and professional communication. Therefore, coherence and cohesion should be given special attention in reading instruction, as they play a major role in successful comprehension and effective language learning.

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