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The articles in Moderna språk cover areas within linguistics, literature and culture and the main target group is language teachers and researchers at schools and universities worldwide. The publication is peer-reviewed.

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Table of Contents

Articles
Descrições portuguesas das línguas de Timor-Leste na transição dos sécs. XIX e XX
Hugo Cardoso
Die Vermittlung von Lesestrategien und ihr Einfluss auf den Strategiegebrauch
Nurcihan Sommaz Genc, Delin Cigdem Unal
Réalisme magique ou fantastique ? - Stratégies narratives dans la réappropriation des traumatismes historiques
Liviu Lutut
History, Art and Shame in von Donnersmarck's The Lives of Others
Hans Löfgren
Conjunctive Adjuncts in Undergraduate ESL Essays in Malaysian Frequency and Manner of Use
Zuraidah Mohd Don, Sridevi Srinivasan
El ingreso del absurdo al campo cultural nipoamericano a través de tres revistas periódicas dirigidas por Abelardo Castillo

PDF
PDF
PDF
PDF
PDF
Conjunctive Adjuncts in Malaysian Undergraduate ESL Essays: Frequency and Manner of Use

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Abstract
This paper applies Halliday’s systemic functional grammar to examine the ways conjunctive adjuncts are used in the written English of Malaysian undergraduates. Student essays selected from the Malaysian Corpus of Learner English were examined with a focus on cohesion in the light of a preliminary study of the texts which pointed to the insufficient or inappropriate use of cohesive devices. The aim is to find out what conjunctive adjuncts are used and how they are used in linking successive sentences in their texts. The students had difficulty in using conjunctive adjuncts effectively in paragraphs, and left sentences juxtaposed in inappropriate ways. Only a small part of the range of cohesive devices available in English was used at all, and much of what was used was incorrect or otherwise unsuitable.

Keywords: cohesion, conjunctive adjuncts, argumentative essays, SFG

1. Introduction
Writing in a second language is arguably “far more challenging than learning to listen to, speak or read a foreign language” (Crossley & McNamara 2012:115). A major problem facing Malaysian university students is to express themselves in written English in a manner readily understood by the reader and appropriate to the register. Hewings and Hewings (2001:199) argue that “academic text not only contains propositional content but also devices having textual functions”, and these include conjunctive adjuncts which are more difficult to use than other cohesive devices in English (Hartnett 1986). A preliminary study of the collected essays shows that the inappropriate use of conjunctive adjuncts, far from clarifying the relationships between parts of the text, appears to contribute to making it difficult to follow (Reid 1993; see also Abdul Hady Kadhim 2016). Although conjunctive adjuncts are used to indicate some kind of meaningful relationship, the texts are nevertheless incoherent because the content lacks logical progression and organization.

Conjunctive adjuncts indicating logical relations between clauses in a text cover apposition, addition, spatio-temporal, causal-conditional and manner (Halliday &

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