TRANSITIONAL SIGNALS ENCOUNTERED IN THE DISCUSSION TEXTS WRITTEN BY THE 5th SEMESTER STUDENTS OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF WIDYA MANDALA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY SURABAYA

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL SHEET (1)		i
APPROVAL SHEET (2)		ii
ACKNOWLEDGMENT		iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS		vi
ABSTRACT		x
CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION		
1.1	Background of the Study	1
1.2	Statements of the Problem	4
1.3	Objectives of the Study	6
1.4	Significance of the Study	7
1.5	Scope and Limitation of the Study	9
1.6	Definition of Key Terms	10
1.7	Theoretical Framework	10
1.8	Organization of the Thesis	11
CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE		
2.1 Underlying Theories		12
2.1.1 Writing		12
2.1.2 Discussion Text		15

2.1.2.1 The Nature and Social Function 15

2.1.2.2 The Generic Structure 16

2.1.2.3 Language Features 21

2.1.3 Transitional Signals 24

2.1.4 Type of Transitional Signals 26

2.2 The Previous Related Studies 31

CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 The Nature of the Study and Its Design 36

3.2 The Data Source and Data 38

3.3 The Research Instrument 39

3.4 Parameters 39

3.5 The Procedure of Data Collection 40

3.6 The Procedure of Data Analysis Technique 40

CHAPTER IV: FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

4.1 Findings 48

4.2 Discussion of Findings 73

CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary 78

5.2 Suggestions 81

BIBLIOGRAPHY 82

APPENDICES

ABSTRACT

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Wiener (1981) states that transitional signals are connectors between statements or ideas in paragraphs. This study focuses on the use transitional signals in discussion texts. It is qualitative in nature. The writer analyzed 18 discussion texts written by the 5th semester students of the English Department of Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University of the academic year of 2008/2009 and found:

1. 75 transitional signals and 8 types of transitional signals encountered in the discussion texts.
2. The transitional signals most frequently used is *because* which appears 48 times (21,23%).
3. The type of transitional signals are used in the discussion texts are addition, conclusion, contrast, comparison, emphasis, example, reason/premise, and result.
4. The type of transitional signals which is most frequently used in the texts analyzed is reason/premise which appears 62 times (27,07%) followed by contrast which appears 47 times (20,52%) and the rest signals appear between 4,80% and 15,72%.
5. The type of transitional signals most frequently used in arguments for the issue in discussion texts is reason/premise which appears 23 times (21,49%)

followed by conclusion and result signals which appear 8 times (1,86%) and the rest signals appear between 0,93% and 5,60%.

6. The type of transitional signals most frequently used in arguments against the issue is reason/premise, it appears 25 times (23,80%) followed by contrast which appears 15 times (14,28%) and the rest signals appear between 0,95% and 7,61%.
7. The transitional signals which is mostly used as a bridge between arguments for and arguments against the issue is *On the other hand*. It appears 3 times (42.85%) followed by but, although, for some other people, they think that…, other against those arguments… which appear 1 time (14,28%).

Based on the findings above, the writer concludes that from 18 discussion essay, there are only 7 discussion essay that used transitional signals as a bridge between the arguments for and the arguments against the issue and the signals are *On the other hand, But, Although, For some other people think.., Others against those arguments*. In line with these findings, some suggestions are given:

1. The lecturers of Writing IV teach various types of transitional signals in discussion text and how to use them in organizing their ideas.
2. The fifth semester students who are taking Writing IV should read more the example of discussion texts and more creative in using transitional signals.
3. A further study about transitional signals, which is particularly concerned with the appropriateness of transitional signals in discussion texts.