

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of The Study

Communication can be done orally or written. Written text is the way the writer and the reader engage communication. In a written text, the writer changes his ideas into words, while the reader does the opposite way. In order to make the readers understand the ideas of the text, the writer has to construct a coherent and cohesive composition. A composition will be considered good when it is coherent. Willis (1966:46) said that the word *coherence* comes from Latin; *co* means together, and *haerere*, means to stick. Literally, the word *coherence* then means holding or sticking together. In writing, it means consistent, integrated, and intelligible combination of ideas. Kiefer (1983: 23) then says that paragraph coherence refers to the way ideas hold on together in a paragraph. Based on this understanding, Simon (2003:55) states that a great paragraph has coherence. It means the paragraph's ideas are presented in a logical order and are linked together in such a way that makes it easy for the reader to follow the writer's train of thought.

Coherence refers to the tight organization and logical structure of a paragraph. It means that the sentences in the paragraphs should be well arranged, so that the reader could understand the flow of thought and the relationships among ideas. Willis (1964:98) states that coherence is achieved when there is a clear transition or link between its major parts. The clear transition or link is

usually shown by transitional markers, which will make the ideas and other parts of an essay joined together, so that the essay becomes readable. Transitional markers are words or phrases used to connect sentences in order to build coherence (Lefcowitz 1976:81).

There are several types of compositions in writing, one of which is argumentative composition. Argument is a form of thinking where certain reasons are given in order to support a conclusion. It is a way to settle disputes and discover truth. Arguing doesn't mean angry, yet it is important to show and examine someone or others' ideas. In academic writing, argument is important since through it, the students try to convince their teachers and classmates to accept their ideas or points of views, for example in a thesis.

In this study, the writer is interested in observing the coherence, particularly in the use of transitional markers found in the Writing three students' argumentative compositions of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya. She chooses to observe this type of writing because she realizes that argumentation happens everywhere –in family, at the shopping center, in the office, millions of essays, reports, and dissertations written at colleges and universities- throughout the world ([www.powa.org/argument/index.html](http://www.powa.org/argument/index.html)). Moreover, argumentative writing is considered as the most advanced one among other types of writing.

Considering that the Writing 3 students of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya have learnt how to write a good argumentative composition, the writer then decides to observe them. Since

argument deals with reasons and conclusions, in this study the writer focuses only on the transitional markers in argumentative compositions, which signaling reason and conclusion.

## **1.2. Statements of The Problem**

In line with the background of the study, the writer formulates the major problems of this study as follow:

2. What transitional markers are found in the argumentative compositions under study?
3. Are those transitional markers appropriately used?

## **1.3. Objectives of The Study**

In accordance with the problem statements above, the objectives of this study are:

1. To find out the types of transitional markers used in the argumentative compositions under study.
2. To know the uses of the transitional markers signaling reason and conclusion, whether they are appropriately used or not.

## **1.4. Theoretical Framework**

Coherence is one factor that influences a good writing. Coherence means holding or sticking together (Kiefer 1983:23). In this case are the ideas within and between paragraphs. To achieve a coherent writing, a composition must be

logically related, where the ideas are connected to each other and well arranged, so that it is easily to be understood (Dagher 1976:1). Similar to Dagher's statement, Willis (1964:98) claims, "coherence is achieved when there is clear transition, or link, between its major parts, the paragraphs". Realizing that an argumentative essay is the type of writing which needs certain reasons to support a conclusion, the transitional markers signaling reason and conclusion are absolutely needed in connecting ideas.

### **1.5. Scope and Limitation of the Study**

Due to the writer's limited time and energy, the subjects under study are only limited to students who belong to group B of the Writing three of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya.

The study under report is only limited in to the argumentative composition because the writer considers that argument happens everywhere, and it is not only in the form of spoken but also written. Moreover, she considers that argumentative writing has the highest level among others.

The writer analyzed only to the coherence, specifically in the use of transitional markers signaling reason and conclusions because they are very important in making readable argumentative composition. Besides, she realizes that in fact, there are many writers who ignore the coherence, especially reason and conclusion transitions.

## **1.6. Significance of the Study**

The findings of this study are expected to provide useful contribution for the Reading and Writing teachers of The English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya to improve and develop their teaching ability, especially when they explain about the types of logical transitions in argumentative writing.

## **1.7. Definition of Key Terms**

To avoid misunderstanding, the writer feels it is important to define some key terms that are used in this study. They are defines as follows.

### **1. Argumentative Composition**

- Argumentative composition is a type of essay which goal is to convince the readers that a statement is true or right” (Cobb 1985:115).

### **2. Coherence**

- Coherence means “the tight organization and logical structure of a paragraph” (Lefcowitz 1976:81).

### **3. Transitional Markers**

- Transitional markers are words, phrases, or clauses used to connect ideas and supporting information in order to make the reader move easily and follow the writer’s train of thought (Simon 2003:60).

#### **4. Transitional Markers Signaling Reason**

- Transitional markers are words, phrases, or clauses that signal for reason. They are used when the writer wants to show the reason of something (Dufe 1967:66).

#### **5. Transitional Markers Signaling Conclusion**

- Transitional markers are words, phrases, or clauses that explain the previous statements, which are called as reasons (Brandon 2001:394).

### **1.8 Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter one tells about background of the study, problem statements, objectives of the study, theoretical framework, assumption, scope and limitation of the study, significance of the study, definition of key terms, and organization of thesis. Chapter two shows theories and the previous related study. Chapter three tells about type of the study, design, subjects, instrument, source of the data, data, and data analysis. Chapter four presents findings and discussion of the findings. Finally, chapter five closes this study by giving conclusion of the study and some suggestions for the writing teachers, students, and the further research.