

**THE ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STUDENTS' ABILITY  
IN USING TRANSITION SIGNALS AT PADANG STATE UNIVERSITY**

**THESIS**

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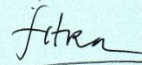
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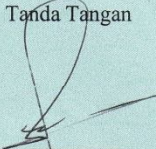
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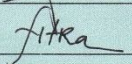
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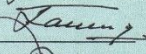
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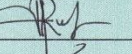
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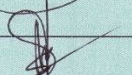
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## ABSTRAK

Yolanda, Fani Yally. 2013. *The Analysis of English Department Students' Ability in Using Transition Signals at Padang State University*. Skripsi. Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni, Universitas Negeri Padang.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan kemampuan mahasiswa tingkat II Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris tahun masuk 2011/2012 dalam menggunakan *Transition Signals*.

Penelitian ini adalah penelitian deskriptif. Populasi penelitian adalah mahasiswa tingkat II Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris tahun masuk 2011/2012 Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni, Universitas Negeri Padang. Sampel penelitian ini adalah K2 (Kelas Kependidikan/*Educational Class*) yang berjumlah 25 orang. Sampel diambil dengan menggunakan teknik *cluster sampling*. Data dikumpulkan dengan menggunakan tes *written*. Bagian pertama, mahasiswa diminta untuk melengkapi sebuah teks dengan menambahkan *transitions*; bagian kedua, mahasiswa diminta untuk menulis kalimat menggunakan *transitions* yang telah disediakan di dalam soal; bagian terakhir, mahasiswa diminta untuk menggabungkan dua kalimat dengan sebuah *transitions* sehingga membentuk sebuah kalimat baru. Waktu yang diberikan untuk mengerjakan tes adalah 60 menit.

Berdasarkan data yang diperoleh, kemampuan mahasiswa dalam menggunakan *transitions* adalah sedang/*average* (60%). Masalah-masalah yang dihadapi yaitu berupa kemampuan siswa yang masih belum bisa menggunakan dan meletakkan *transitions* dengan tepat serta penggunaan koma yang terkait dengan pemakaian *transitions*. Lebih lanjut, penulis mengharapkan siswa untuk lebih berlatih menggunakan *transitions* agar tercapai tulisan yang koheren terutama dalam ruang lingkup *academic writing*.

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Problem

Writing plays an important role in a modern society. The fact states that writing is the primary basis in which people's work, learning and intellect will be judged such as in college, in the workplace, and in the community. Through writing, people can express who they are and promotes their other ability. Besides, writing stimulates people's thinking skill to demonstrate their ideas. Therefore, it is crucial for everyone to learn and master in writing skill in order to be literate.

Being competent in writing is needed for students whose second language and foreign language is English. Nevertheless, since English is not their first language, it is most likely students would make some mistakes. In the English Department of Padang State University, writing, one of the skill courses which is divided into Writing I, Writing II, Writing III, and Paper Thesis Writing. The main aim of the skill courses especially is to enhance the students' competence in communicating ideas through written language.

Unfortunately, there are problems that students have in writing. Based on an interview with some writing lecturers of English Department on March 20, 2012, the problem is in applying transitions into their writing tasks. This interview was done to know the main problem faced by the students on transitions. First, most of

the students cannot use transitions well. Second, they sometimes use conjunctions as transitions, for example: *We live in the same building but we hardly see each other* (incorrect). *Although we live in the same building, we hardly see each other* (correct). The last is the students seem to use transition “on the other hand” for additional idea, whereas it is transitions to show contrast.

In fact, writing is not an easy activity. It needs process from putting down ideas until results a written work. Writing begins from word, phrase, sentences, paragraph and discourse. In making sentences and developing them, students need to pay attention on how to make good sentences and what kind of areas that should be noticed in writing.

There are many things that students should notice in writing. One of them is about transition. Oshima and Hogue (1983) say that transition signals are words and phrases that connect the idea in a sentence with the idea in another sentence. They add that transition signals are also used in multi-paragraphed components to make the movement from one paragraph to the next paragraph logical and smooth.

Yet, the ability of students in using transitions is still low. More than half students are not able to use and put transitions in sentences or paragraph correctly. Due to this, the students as the writer of the text fail to transfer meaning within the text to the readers’ minds; in the wrong interpretation of the message conveyed; sometimes, the ideas are not arranged systematically, so it does not

show the relation between ideas clearly. As a result, the readers may not seem to follow and catch the meaning of the text well.

Above all this study focused more on the use of transition signals. Hence, this research is conducted to analyze students' ability in using transition signals at English Department of Padang State University.

### **B. Identification of the Problem**

Based on the background above, there are problems found in student's writing performance at English Department of State University of Padang. The problem is in using transitions in their writing tasks. Most of them cannot be able to use transitions well and do not know how to put into sentences or paragraphs correctly. Thus, the ideas and meaning in their writing are not coherent and do not show the cohesion clearly.

### **C. Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification above, the main concern in this research is analyzed the second year English Department students' ability in using transition signals.

### **D. Formulation of the Problem**

The research conducted and guided through the following question: How is the English Department students' ability in using transition signals at Padang State University?

### **E. Research Questions**

Based on the formulation of the problem above the research questions can be formulated as follows:

1. How is the students' ability in using transition signals?
2. What types of transition signals are mostly used by the English Department students of Padang State University?

### **F. Purposes of the Research**

The purposes of the research are:

1. To describe the ability of the students in using transition signals.
2. To analyze the kinds of transition signals mostly used by the students.

### **G. Significance of the Research**

A research about students' ability in using transitions in order to get is important to be done. By conducting this research, it is expected to see how deep their understanding in using transitions. Hence, they can improve their ability about transitions and they know types and kinds of transition signals that they don't know yet.

### **H. Definition of Key Terms**

1. Transitions : words and phrases that connect the idea in a sentence with the idea in another sentence.

2. Students' writing : the art or style of literary composition which is the act a person who is enrolled for study at a college.
3. Ability : the quality of being able to do something to accomplish something

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

#### **A. Conclusion**

Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that the second year English Department students have shown average mastery in using transitions signals. More than half of the students were not able to use transitions well. The finding is indicated by the fact that the students had mistakes in putting transitions in a paragraph; write sentences using transitions given, and combine the sentences by adding transitions. The finding showed that there were 4 students that got score more than 65 or good. There was only 1 student with average category and 10 students with poor category. In brief, 15 percent of the second year English Department students who registered on 2011 got score under 55 (very poor). Besides, based on research which has been done, it can be found that most students could not use transitions well and had errors in using them. Those transitions are: transition to show cause effect, transition to show definition, transition to show classification, transitions to show concession, and transition to emphasize /clarify a point. It is five of thirteen (5 of 13) transition signals which already discussed in the chapter 2.

Above all, there are factors that caused the students do not know how to apply the transitions correctly and could not master on it. First, many students still do not know how to use transitions in a sentence; second, limited of knowing the transitions; third, they do not know where the placement of transitions is; and the last, many of

them ignore the use of commas when they put transitions. Indeed, the second year English Department students of Padang State University who registered on 2011 should be careful and learn more how to use transitions because from the data and findings, it proves that more than half students are classified into poor and very poor category.

## **B. Suggestions**

### 1. For the lecturers

The lecturers should explain in details how to put transitions well in a paragraph, how to write transitions in sentences, and how to combine sentences by adding transitions. Specifically, on the transitions to show cause effect, transition to show definition, transition to show classification, transitions to show concession, and transition to emphasize /clarify a point. The lecturers also should prepare various kinds of exercises to improve the students' ability in the use of transitions. Last, they can give time to the students to study more independently and to optimize the media as a source to get exercises.

### 2. For the next researcher

Because of limited time and limited data, this research cannot be deeper, only analyzed the students' ability in using transition signals. Thus, the next research can be focused in finding the different problem, the students' ability in using transition signals in writing essays or the errors students made in using transitions signals.

### 3. For the students

The students should learn more and have a lot of practice in using transition signals; especially put transitions in a paragraph, use transitions in sentences, and combine sentences by adding transitions. They must pay more attention to the placement of transitions in using them in sentence or paragraph.

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