

## TRANSITION SIGNAL BETWEEN ARTICLES AND SHORT STORIES: *A COMPARATIVE STUDY*

Silvia Erlin Aditya, M.A.  
Ramadi Topa, S.S

### Abstract

*This study investigated the transition signals appeared in education articles Of Edarticle and short stories of O.Henry. The objectives of the study were to find out the types of transition signals, the frequency of each transition type, the differences of those that were used in education articles of edarticle and short stories of O.Henry. The population of this study are two articles and two short stories and all of them were selected as the sample. The data were collected by using primary data, the secondary data, and data analyzing technique is descriptive qualitative. The data were gathered by identifying the transition signals which inherent with Oshima and Hogue's theories. The data were classified into three classification following theory; in which transition signals classified into connectors, coordinators, and subordinator. The result of this study show coordinators frequently used (93 items in articles and 132 items in short stories), the second was subordinators (35 items in articles and 38 items in short stories), and last was connectors ( 28 items in articles and 18 items in short stories). A suggestion was transition signals in any kind of hand writing (fiction or non fiction) can help reader to understand and to follow what writer's thought.*

**Keywords:** *transition signals, article of edarticle, short story.*

### Introduction

Writing is a way in expressing one's ideas, expression and imagination (Montgomery: 2000). It could be done in to fiction or non fiction thought. Fiction (from the Latin Fictio, "a shaping, a counterfeiting") is a name for stories not entirely factual, something invected or imagined, contrasted with truth ) for example, novel and short story (Horby:1987). Non fiction, on the other hand, is a story based on the fact. For example, news, thesis, articles, journal etc.

When people read a text (fiction and non fiction), our understanding is guided by a sense of the elements which make up the text (its constituent parts) and how they fit together. McMahan and day (1980) said that mean the thing make the writing hangs together as a coherent.

According to Coffey in Communication Through Writing, transition are "special Vocabulary words that say to reader, "we're going from one idea to another" (1987). The writer investigates the use of transition signals because transition is important in article and short story.

Considering the situation above, the researcher interested in getting further to find out the using of transitional signals especially in the articles of Edarticle as the non fiction one and the short stories of O. Henry as fiction one. It will be difficult if a reader does not know the used of transitional signals that being used in articles and in the short stories to follow the writer's ideas in the text. Therefore, the researcher was interested in doing research to analyze the kinds of transitional signals used in the education articles of Edarticle and in the short story of O.Henry. The besides , the researcher hope can help English readers to improve their English skill.

### **Conceptual Theory**

There are many kinds of transitional signals by some authors. Oshima and Hogue (1995 : 44) stated that transitional can be divided into basic groups according to thier function are :

- a. Connectors join one independent clause with another to form a compound sentence. Sentence connector may also come at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of a simple sentence.
- b. Coordinators (and, but, yet, or, nor, for, so) that connect two independent clause to form a compound.
- c. Subordinators introduce a dependent clause that is joined to an independent clause to form a complex sentence..

According to Reid (1978: 70), there are some functions of transition signals. He describes functions as follow : as a cronological, as a spatial, as a comparison, as a contrast, as a exemplification, as a cause-effect, as an additional, as a counterargument, as a conclusion.

### **Methodology**

This research focus on a comparative study of transitional signals in the education articles of Edarticle and short stories by O.Henry, therefore, the method that is used the descriptive method using qualitative approach. Qualitative research is research studies which emphasize the investigation on the quality of relationships, activity, situations, or material, (Frankel and Wallen; 1993). Afterward, this research will emphasize more on the quality of material as the data of the analysis.

The primary data is the education articles written by Edarticle and short stories written by O.Henry. In primary data, the researcher read and observed the articles and short stories carefully and then critically.

The secondary data of this research is taken from other source as some books, library and also internet related with transitional signals theories and articles. short stories help the research comparative study about education articles and short stories.

### **Transitional Signals Between Articles and Short Stories: A Comparative Study**

This Section describes about the kind of transition signals that were tabulated based on Oshima and Hogue,s theories. They stated that the signals were divided into three kinds. These are connectors, coordinators and subordinators. The use of transition signals in articles and short stories were analyzed in table below. The table shows about the frequency of each transition signals.

### **The frequency of Transition signals in Articles**

In this research the writer finds a lot of transition signals used in the articles, we can see the complete finding of transition signals in the appendix. Therefore, the tables below are about the list of the transition signals used in all articles of Edarticle. Moreover, the writer does not only list those transitions but also categories those transition signals based on type of transition signals which are already discussed in the literature review.

#### **Connectors**

##### **a. At the Beginning**

From the figure above, there are several transition signals to show time, namely, *however, thus, generally, therefore, the first, the second, further, addition, also, next* all found in articles one and two. In other word, there are 14 times and 5 times in articles at all. Therefore, total number transition words found in all articles is 19.

For example, at beginning in the articles:

“*thus, orthographic coding to refers to ability....*” (articles: p. 1)

“*However, in her view, dyspraxia is an inability*” (articles: p. 3)

##### **b. In the Middle**

from table above, it means that there are 9 transition words to show time, namely, *that is, especially, then, such as*, all found in articles, those are in articles first and second. Thus there are 9 transition words found in all articles.

For example, in the middle in the articles:

“*The sensorimotor system, especially kinesthetic.....*” (articles: p. 2)

“*in writen form, such as teacher-prepared handouts....*” (articles: p. 5)

##### **c. At the end.**

We didn't find any transition signals on the end of both articles.

#### **Coordinators**

In the type transition signals to coordinators in the articles of the most dominant. But is found 73 times in articles first, 20 times in articles second. Therefore, the total occurrence of but found in all articles are 93 items. there are only namely, *but, and or, so* and *yet*.

For example, coordinators in the articles:

“*in the development and dissemination of research...*” (articles: p. 6)

“*of the arm so that the fingers the wrist.....*” (articles: p.3)

## 1. Subordinator

From the table above in subordinators section, there are 35 items of transition signals found all articles. Specifically, there is 32 items in articles first and 3 items in articles second, namely, *because, when, as, although, then, if, and after*.

The highest frequency in the transition to show subordinator words is *when* can see appendix, particularly 10 items in all articles. Because is used 10 times in articles but in articles second not found.

For example, Subordinators in the articles:

- a. If the dependent clause comes before the independent clause, use a comma after it.

“*although, it is the nonvisual or kinesthetic feedback ...*” (articles:p. 3)

- b. if the independent clause comes after the independent clause, do not comma.

“*more friction on the paper when writing. They complain...*” (articles: p. 4)

## The frequency of Transition signals in Short stories

In this research the writer found a lot of transition signals used in the Short stories, the readers can find the complete finding of transition signals in the appendix. The tables below show the list of the transition signals used in all Short stories of O.Henry. Moreover, the writer does not only list those transitions but also categories those transition signals based on type of transition signals which are already discussed in the literature review.

### Connectors

#### a. At the Beginning

In kind of transition to show, at the beginning. there are 5 items of transition signals found short stories, namely, *then, besides, next* all found in short story first and second. In other word, there are 5 times and 1 times in short stories at all. Therefore, total number transition words found in all short stories is only 6.

For example, at beginning in the short stories:

“*”said Sue”.*”*Besides, I don’t want you to keep looking at those...*” (short stories: p. 3)

“*the next day the doctor said to sue:.....*” (short stories: p. 11)

#### **b. In the Middle**

table above, it shows that there are 9 transition words to show time, namely, *that is, first, then, also*, all found in short stories, those are short story first and second. Moreover, it is found that are 5 items and 4 items. Therefore, total number transition words found in all short stories is 9.

For example, in the Middle in the short stories:

“*it is the weakness, then*” *said the doctor.....*” (short stories: p. 2)

“*in written form, such as teacher-prepared handouts....*” (short stories: p. 5)

#### **c. At the end.**

There are two (*the first*), one (*again*) used in all short stories. There is two items in short story first, and 1 item in short story second. While the most important is only used once in all short story, that is in short story second. There is also 1 item of the most important found in all short stories. It is found in short story second only, namely, *again*.

For example, at the end in the short stories:

“*the janitor found him in the morning of the first day in.....*” (short stories: p. 6)

“*in written form, such as teacher-prepared handouts....*” (short stories: p. 5)

### **1. Coordinators**

The writer finds out that there are 132 items used in short story 1 and short story 2. The total frequency and in all short story 101 items. Besides, *so, or, but* found in short story 1 and short story 2. there is no item in short stories is *yet*.

For example, at coordinators in the short stories:

“*the gas is here, and you see there ...*” (short stories: page 8)

“*in the theaters, but Missis Mooney she was.....*” (short stories: p. 11)

### **2. Subordinators**

From the table two above in subordinator section, there are 38 items of transition signals found all short stories. Specifically, there is 20 items in articles 1 and 18 items in articles 2.

The highest frequency in the transition to show subordinator words is *when* can see appendix, particularly 10 items in all short stories. Because used 10 times in short stories is dominant. Next, the names of subordinator words are *because, when, as, since, although, than, if, and after*.

For example, Subordinators in the short stories:

- a. If the dependent clause comes before the independent clause, use a comma after it.

*“He left owing me a week. Before him was Missis crowder.....”*  
(short stories: p. 11)

- b. if the independent clause comes after the independent clause, do not comma.

*“He smothered his excitement as best he could...”* (short stories: p. 10)

### **The similarities**

Based on the data, the similarities of transition signals between in articles and short stories was shown by the same position of the rank of each kind of transition signals and the similar signals of coordinators that were found in.

For more information, the following t show about the similarities of transition signals that were used in articles and short stories that there were similar ranks of each kinds of transition signals in the number of frequency. Coordinators was the most dominant type both in the articles and short stories which appeared 93 times and 132 times respectively. The next rank was followed by subordinators type which appeared 35 times in articles and 38 times in short stories. while the least dominant was the use connectors type which appeared 28 times in articles and 18 times in short stories.

The clearly shows that there were similar signals of coordinators, subordinator and connectors appeared both in the articles and in the short stories. All of the signals of coordinators such as *and, but, or, and so* were used not just in articles but also in short stories. While some signals of subordinators such as *as, if, after, when, because, and than* were used both in articles and short stories. The last was the use of signals of connectors such as *then, that is, first, the next, also, and thus* also were used both in articles and in short stories.

### **The differences**

Based on the data, the differences of transition signals that were used in the articles and in the short stories were shown by the difference of the use of some transition signals of connectors and one signal of subordinator which were used in articles but not in short stories. On the other hand, some other transition signals that were used in articles and short stories.

The clearly show that some transition signals of connectors were used in the articles (9 types of signals: Generally, Therefore However, Such as, Further, For example, Additionally, Second, Especially) but not in short stories . on the other hand, some other transition signals of connectors were not used in articles but used in the short stories ( 4 types of signals: now, besides, before, again,) then, one transition signal of subordinators used in articles (one type of signal: although) but not short stories and one transition signal used in short stories (two

type of signals: before, since) in addition, there was only one transition signals of coordinators used in articles (one type of signal: yet) but not short stories.

Based on the results of the data, there are some points that can be discussed in this study. The first point is study which shows that the transition signals that are used both in articles and short stories are dominated by coordinators (coordinating conjunction). Then, Coordinators are most dominant because to connect two independent clause to form a compound. Punctuate the sentence with a comma after the first clause. Next, they are most dominant in articles (non fiction) and short stories (fiction) because articles author purpose to readers are more understood about ideas of written author. So, make articles to be good coherence. And then, O.Henry has a purpose to the readers to know about ideas related to his writing and his short stories so that the language can be used suitable. These coordinator signals are *and*, *but*, *or*, *yet* and *so* (found only in articles). from five signals, the use of *and* is the most dominant both in the articles and short stories . As stated by Reid (p 70) that the use of *and* has the function to show what is a similar additional idea or supplementary. The transition signal *and*. It is the most dominant in articles in articles, because, the articles author to wrote their ideas with add new ideas to explain ideas of its before. So, readers belief that is factual.

A third component of handwriting is praxis or the ability to plan **and** execute motor actions or behavior. (Edarticle 2)

In this quotation, behavior word is component of handwriting addition, so make readers belief more factual. Then, The transition signal *and* is the most dominant in short stories, because, O.Henry wrote short stories with add his new ideas for ideas of its before. So, to make readers know story situation is used.

"Do you have many theatrical people rooming here?" asked the young man. "They comes **and** goes.(O.Henry 8)

Old Behrman with his red eyes plainly streaming, shouted his contempt **and** derision for such idiotic imaginings.(O.Henry 6)

From this quotation, the readers can know situation in the story. The first sentence to shows many activities. Then, the second sentence to shows unhappy.

The second point is that the transition signals of subordinator are the second frequently used both in articles and short stories. Subordinators (subordinating conjunctions) are the first words dependent clauses. A dependent clause must be added with an independent clause to make a complex sentence. The subordinators are *as*, *after*, *when*, *because*, *before* (found only in the short stories). Those are found only the short stories because of *as*, *after*, *when*, *before* to signal chronological order, and then, O.Henry uses them to makes readers know manner distance frequency, reason, time are used.



"Sue has one chance in --- let us say, ten," Johnsny said; **as** he shook down the mercury in his clinical thermometer. (O.Henry 2)

The quotation above, explains about in the one time, he can do two activities. Those are "speaking and shaking". So, transition signal, as can be two functions. The first function show time and the second function as compare.

**After** the doctor had gone Sue went into the work-room..... (O.Henry 2)

From quotation above, shows two activities are done with chronology. So, the readers to understand author purpose.

"Tell me as soon as you have finished," said Johnsny, closing her eyes, and lying white and still as a fallen statue, "**because** I want to see the last one fall. I'm tired of waiting. I'm tired of thinking....(O.Henry 4).

The quotation explains reasons that he want be cure soon but he feels difficult. Then, the author want make readers to be patience in life.

They left a week ago Tuesday." "And **before** they occupied it?".....(O.Henry 9)

The quotation above, shows activity at last but is not done again now. So, the author purpose activity at last are a motivation of future. Next, The kinds of transition signal, *although* (found only the articles) shows concession (unexpected result). Just found in the articles (non fiction), because, the articles author guides readers to introduce opposite idea, and to contrast idea.

The ability to match motor output with visual input. **Although** it is The nonvisual or kinesthetic feedback (Edarticle 2)

The sentences above, tell about opposite idea are they are all important to developed. To make readers understand similiar of meaning but different of function. thats all show activities is done. The *since* word is found only the short stories to signal shows time, because, O.Henry purpose to readers about influence of time to be good plot.

I have the third-floor-back, vacant **since** a week back. Should you wish to look at it?".....(O.Henry 7)

From quotation above, shows a activity is done until now. So, the readers know plot in the short stories. And then, transition signals, *than* are found both in articles and short stories. It shows compare ideas.

Prefer writing in cursive rather **than** print..... (edarticle 4)

Dank savor rather **than** a smell - a cold,.....(O.Henry 9)



From two quotations above, the sentences in short stories and articles explain first sentences are main sentences and the second sentences are previous. So, the readers know main sentences and sentences supporting. Then, among these subordinators, the use of *when* is the most frequently used. It is because in the articles and short stories, most of the sentences or ideas are telling about time or occasion. The articles and short stories which are occasion may bring coherent. The coherent of being occasion can make the readers feel easy in finding the relation of ideas in the text. This reason may result in the true interpretation of the message conveyed, and, finally, they may find the core of the text. In this case, the writer of the text luck to transfer the concepts in their minds to the reader minds, as the readers may seem to follow what the writers thought. Next, the signals of *when* is used to show relationship in time (Reid 70).

The room's marooned **when** a lucky sail had borne...., (O.Henry 9).

**When** required to write, children with written production problems frequently engage in numerous avoidance behaviors.....(Edarticle 1).

In these quotations above, show the second sentences give relation the first sentences to support explanation and the activities is done at same time. So, to make readers are more understood about transition signals using.

The third point is the uses of connectors. These connectors are the least used in the articles and short stories. Some other connectors such as *then, that is, the next, thus, also, such as, first of all, especially, however, further, additionally, generally, therefore* and *second* are employed articles. While in the short stories, the connector are *then, that is, now, besides, the first, the next, also, thus, and again* are used. The use of *then* is the most dominantly udes both in articles (non fiction) and short stories (fiction). It happens because most of the texts tell about relationship (chronological situation).

He/she would **then** list his/her most frequent errors in a workbook .....(Edarticle 5)

Dutch attics and low rents. **Then** they imported some pewter mugs.....(O.Henry 1).

In the two quotations above, show chronological situation are especially important in articles and short stories, because to be very clear about sequence of events: one event happen before, at same time as, or after another event. It means that ideas are arranged according to time or order of importance. In addition, *then* is also used for chronological ideas and to convince readers of the validity of the writer's point of view on a particular object.

The fourth point can be discussed is there are some similiar transition signals of coordinators, subordinators and connectors which appeared both in the articles and short stories. The coordinators are *and, but, or, and so*. From the four signals, and is the most dominant both articles and short stories. The subordinators are *when, because, as, than, after and if*. Among these subordinators, the use of *when*

is the dominantly appeared both in articles and short stories. The connectors are *then, that is, first, next, also, and thus*. The signals of *then* is dominantly used also both in articles and short stories because it deals with linking of ideas put in the text and how the ideas are linked together.

The next point of this study is there are some signals of connectors which are only found in the articles but not in the short stories such as *for example, generally, therefore, however, such as, further, additionally, especially, and second*. Besides, there is one signal of subordinators that is only found in the articles but not in the short stories such as *although* and one signal of coordinators that is only found in the articles but not in the short stories such as *yet*. The use of *such as* is the most dominantly used in articles. It is because articles as the one kind of non fiction subjects which mean most of the ideas written based on fact of what is happening at the time. So, to make it clearer, the discription of the issue should be added with an example or illustration. The next signals is used to signal that what follows .

Electronic devices, **such as** the Franklin Speaking Spelling Ace may be helpful for students with handwriting problems, (Edarticle 6).

Based on quotation above, shows the arguments telling to be real arguments if support another argument or example. Then, the readers know that is sentences is really fact. Besides, there is one signal of subordinator that is only found in the short stories but not in the articles such as *Before*. On the other hand, there are also some signals of connectors; *now, besides, before* and *again* which are only found in the short stories but not in the articles. The use of *first* is the most dominantly used in short stories because most of the ideas show signals what follows chronological order of what precedes (Reid 71).

The Huguenot Lovers, **The First** Quarrel, The Wedding Breakfast, Psyche at the Fountain,(O.Henry 9).

From quotation above, explains to readers about steps of must be done. In addition, this signals enables a writer to pull a line of reasoning together into a single focus or projecting into a new line of though.

The last point of this analysis as concluding statement. The tendency of transition signals used in articles is chronological order such as: *first, second, addition, generally, such as*. Furthermore, chronological order, because, to be very clear about sequency of event and additional ideas are coming. Whereas, the tendency of transition signals used in short stories is using cause & effect order such as: *but, yet, because, since, as*. Because in the short stories to discuss the reasons or causes for something, and then to discuss the result.

## Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the data gathered during this study, four conclusion were drawn. First, the transition signals were used in the articles included all kinds based on Oshima and Hogue's theory. The coordinators 93 items were the most

dominantly used. The next type was the use connectors 38 items and the least was the use of subordinators 35 items

Second, the transition signals were used in the short stories included all kinds based on Oshima and Hogue's theory. The coordinators 132 items were the most dominantly used. The next kind was the use Subordinators 38 items and the least was the use of connectors 17 items.

Third, the transition signals that were used both in the articles and short stories included all kinds of transition signals based on Oshima and Hogue's theory in similiar ranks of each kind numbers. The coordinators were the most dominantly used. The next type was the use of subordinators and the least was the use of connectors. In addition, there were similiar signals of coordinators, subordinators, and connectors used both in articles and short stories. In other words, we may say that the uses of transition signals both in articles and short stories were relatively similiar in pattern.

The last, there were just a little differences in using transition signals that were used in articles but not in short stories. Some transition signals (connectors, coordinators, subordinators) were founded in articles but not in short stories and the uses of *such as* were dominantly used. While the other such as *generally, therefore, however, further, for example, additionally, second, especially, yet, although* were accidently used. On the other hand, some of them were founded in short stories but not articles and the use of *before* was the dominant. While the other signals such as *now, besides, again, since* were also accidently used.

Considering the result obtained in the previous chapter, since transition signals are quite important, it is expected that the writers and the readers of english texts to need learn more about the use of transition signals. The writer should be more careful in using transition signals in appropriate position, right punctuation, and clear texts in order to make the texts easier to be understood.

## References

- Coffey, Margaret Pogemiller. (1987). *Communication through Writing*. New Jersey : Prentice-Hall.
- Fraenkel, Jack R. (1993). *How to Design and and Evaluate Research*. New York : Mc Graw Hill.
- Horby, A.S. (1987). *Oxford Advanced Learner,s Dictionary Of Current English*. London: Oxford University Press.
- Mcmahan, E and Day, S.(1980). *The Writer's Rhetoric And Handbook*. Illinois State University: Mc Graw Hill Book Company.
- Montgomery, Martin.(2000). *Ways of Reading Second Edition*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Oshima, A & Hogue, A .(1995). *Writing Academic English*, Addison-Wesley.
- Reid, J. M.(1998) *The Process Of Composition Second Edition*. New Jersey. Prentice Hall Regent.