

VIETNAMESE LEARNERS' ATTENTION AND USE OF COHESIVE DEVICES IN ENGLISH ESSAY WRITING AT DONG THAP UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

The present study made an investigation on the attention to and the use of cohesive devices (CDs) in English essays written by fifty third-year EFL majors at Dong Thap University, located in one of the remote areas of South Vietnam. The questionnaire and the essays were the instruments in this study. The results demonstrate that the students' attention to CDs use in writing essays was not very high although they were nearing the end of their writing series classes required. Secondly, the frequency and errors in CD use were in line with other previous studies related outside Vietnamese setting. Generally, the researched students inclined to rely on certain types of CDs while underuse or ignore others. That is lexical CDs occupied the highest percentage of CD use in the assigned essays, followed by reference and conjunctive CDs. Based on the present study's findings at Dong Thap University together with those of the previous relevant ones elsewhere, it is suggested that insufficient use or making errors of CDs in English essay writing is universally a learning step for EFL learners in their course of the target language acquisition and writing skills mastered in particular.

Keywords: cohesive device, essay writing, lexical, reference, conjunction.