## МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ УКРАЇНИ СУМСЬКИЙ ДЕРЖАВНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ ФАКУЛЬТЕТ ІНОЗЕМНОЇ ФІЛОЛОГІЇ ТА СОЦІАЛЬНИХ КОМУНІКАЦІЙ



# СОЦІАЛЬНО-ГУМАНІТАРНІ АСПЕКТИ РОЗВИТКУ СУЧАСНОГО СУСПІЛЬСТВА

МАТЕРІАЛИ VII ВСЕУКРАЇНСЬКОЇ НАУКОВОЇ КОНФЕРЕНЦІЇ СТУДЕНТІВ, АСПІРАНТІВ, ВИКЛАДАЧІВ ТА СПІВРОБІТНИКІВ

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English Language Advisor: A. M. Diadechko – PhD in Philology, Associate Professor of foreign languages department, Sumy State University

### Svitlana Podolkova,

PhD of Philology, assistant professor,

Foreign Language Department, Sumy State University

### ESSAY AS A FORM OF ACADEMIC WRITING

Common information society actualizes the problem of foreign language study by students and graduate students of non-linguistic specialties. The benefit of acquiring skills to write academically gives opportunity to participate in international conferences, to publish research papers in various journals.

Actuality of the paper is determined by the importance of academic writing, particularly academic essays, for contemporary students and post-graduate students, as they are expected to write a lot of written works like dissertation, thesis writing, coursework writing, research paper writing, and essay writing, etc. Academic writing teaches students to analyze and choose useful information for further research, to look at the ideas from a different prospective and to convey concepts and obtained results best to their target readers.

The object of the paper is different types of academic essays; the subject of the research is constituent elements of academic essay structure and lexical features characteristic to the texts of this genre.

There are certain ways that are necessary to be followed in various fields for an academic essay to be effective. The purpose of the paper is to help students acquire skills of writing effective academic essays. So that, the tasks of the study are: to consider different types of essays; to analyze linguistic units peculiar to them and to examine compositional and content structure of paragraphs.

The concept "academic writing" is very close to the meaning of the English term "scientific writing". Foreign researchers describe "academic writing" as four "P": personal product, process, practice [1]. Scientific text is considered as a product, writing practice as an individual experience, and writing itself as a working process of "pen on paper" or keys on the keyboard. As a creative productive speech activity, academic writing improves effectiveness of students' training. It develops creative thinking skills and productive writing, based on motor, visual, speech motor and auditory analyzers. Due to this, academic writing performs a fixing role. It's known that academic writing develops procedural motivation and plays more important role than other types of writing in the development of speech activity [2].

There are a lot of different types of academic essay. Their particular style and characteristics are very important to convey ideas best. The most popular types of essay are the following: essay of cause and effect, classification and division, compare and contrast, exemplification, history thesis, dialectical essay, critical, narrative, descriptive ones. Students writing an academic essay have to learn to analyze theories from a number of different viewpoints and make statements based on their understanding.

Although there are different types of academic essays, the overall structure and principles tend to be the same. The structure of an essay usually consists of three parts, each of them performs its function: the introduction leads the reader into the main body of the essay, presents general overview of the content and gives background information. It must also include the thesis statement, the most important element,

which contains the idea of the work and outline essay structure. The body of essay includes arguments in favor of the thesis statement; an essay conclusion brings together all the points from the main body, states personal opinion on the question and makes a final comment to answer the question.

It's also necessary to take into consideration composition structure of paragraph. The most common paragraph structure is following: each paragraph includes the following sentences: the main sentence (topic sentence), supporting sentences, which may provide specific examples, and the final sentence (concluding sentence) [3, p. 29-30]. The topic sentence identifies the main idea of the paragraph. It tends to be rather general than a specific idea, it doesn't include examples. Usually the topic sentence is the first sentence in the paragraph, but not necessarily. The supporting sentences develop the main idea expressed in the topic sentence and provide examples, details or facts. When the topic sentence comes first, the supporting sentences give the answer to the questions the reader may have after reading the topic sentence. In this case, the last sentence (concluding sentence) can return the reader to the topic at the beginning of the paragraph or link the information with that coming up in the next paragraph.

Distinguishing features of essay texts are logical connectors that are employed to link parts of speech or even whole sentences and paragraphs to give them coherence. They are classified according to their functional purpose in the text. The most common used transition words are: listing linkers, reinforcement linkers, similarity linkers, example linkers, summary linkers, expressing-an-alternative linkers, result / consequence linkers, stating-the-obvious linkers and emphasis ones. Use of logical connectors in writing academic essays helps organize a paragraph and ensure that ideas are logically connected to one another. It teaches students to analyze and present their thoughts logically and consistently.

One of the important requirements for writing a proper essay is performance of all stages of writing process. It has several stages: 1) brainstorming: at this stage it is important to work out a sufficient number of ideas; 2) choice: only those ideas that directly relate to the theme of essays are selected from the previous notes; 3) plan of the future essay: the ideas which can be used in introduction, main body and conclusion

are taken from preliminary list; 4) draft: writing essay according to plan, using lexical and syntactic means typical to academic style of writing; 5) proofreading and a final variant: a written essay is read very carefully, errors are corrected, logical presentation of thoughts are checked [4].

The results of the research showed that graduate students who kept writing academic essays, develop different skills that help them to master a foreign language. So, academic writing plays more significant role than practical writing in the development of different types of speech activity. This comprises the importance of academic writing for learning a foreign language. Thus, an essay can be considered an effective form of different language skills control.

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