

Reading Development: Coherence and Cohesion

I. Understanding Coherence

Coherence refers to the logical connection and progression of ideas in a text. A coherent text guides the reader from point to point with clear direction. Each sentence leads naturally to the next, and each paragraph builds on the previous one.

Definition and Purpose

- **Definition:** The clear organisation of ideas in a text, resulting in a unified message.
- **Purpose:** Helps the reader follow arguments, understand relationships between ideas, and recognise the writer's intentions.

How Coherence Works

A text achieves coherence when:

1. Each paragraph deals with one main idea.
2. Sentences follow a logical sequence.
3. Ideas build through explanation, evidence, or examples.
4. Transitions between points remain smooth and consistent.

Questions that Test Coherence

- What is the main idea of the paragraph?
- How does the writer move from one idea to another?
- How do the paragraphs connect?

II. Understanding Cohesion

Cohesion refers to the linguistic devices that link sentences and ideas inside the text.

Cohesion supports coherence by creating grammatical and lexical ties.

Definition and Purpose

- **Definition:** The use of structural markers such as reference words, linking expressions, repetition, and lexical relations to connect ideas.
- **Purpose:** Ensures sentences hold together and guides the reader through the text smoothly.

Types of Cohesive Devices

1. Reference Words

Pronouns or indicators that point to previous ideas

Examples: this issue, these results, such concerns

2. Linking Expressions

Show result, addition, comparison, contrast

Examples: as a result, in addition, in contrast

3. Repetition and Lexical Cohesion

Key terms repeated to maintain unity

4. Parallel Structure

Repeated grammatical patterns that improve flow