

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of The Study

We have all heard the word *paragraph*, and we all have in our mind some definition of what this word means. A *paragraph* is a unit of thought. It is a group of sentences that logically develops one idea. The single idea that all the sentences of the paragraph develop is called the *main idea* of the paragraph. All the information included in the paragraph serves to illustrate, explain, or describe the main idea.

In most academic writing, the main idea of the paragraph is usually stated directly in a *topic sentence*. The topic sentence can appear anywhere in the paragraph, but generally it comes at or near the beginning of the paragraph. In literary writing, however, the main idea of a paragraph is often not stated directly in a topic sentence but is disguised. The reader can still understand what it is by reading the paragraph.

A paragraph can form a complete passage all by itself. More commonly, however; a paragraph is part of a larger text (such an essay, an article, or a book) and present one smaller, more specific idea of a larger, more general idea.

The whole paragraph must be unified on its structure and all the sentences within the paragraph should focus on the topic sentence. A good paragraph has the characteristic of unity, coherence and emphasis. Ideas within paragraph should flow smoothly from one to the next, and subordinate ideas should be connected to the main idea presented in the

topic sentence. If this smooth transition does not occur, however, and if ideas are not related to the topic sentence, a paragraph is considered “lacking in unity” and when paragraphs lack unity, it becomes difficult, if not impossible for readers to follow a writer’s line of thought.

Basically, a paragraph is unified by mutually supported sentences. The word ‘unity’ is synonymous with ‘onenesses’. All sentences in a paragraph should focus on the one thing expressed in the topic sentence; all of the sentences stick together. Unity can be achieved as long as the paragraph has a good, clear topic sentence. If not, we will find it very difficult to control the flowing-in of information. As a result, we might include irrelevant pieces of information into the paragraph we are writing. Once again, it would be wiser for us to place the topic sentence at the very beginning of the paragraph.

In a unified paragraph, the subject and the attitude in the topic sentence must be explained thoroughly. The ‘problem’ stated in the sentence has to be settled. All supporting sentences function to clarify the ‘problem’, that is, the topic. The paragraph should answer or explain what it should. It is the writer’s main job to do this. The writer ought to present something understandable, interesting to read. The readers should not spend extra time and energy in trying to comprehend the message well. The writer needs to bear in his or her mind that he or she has the right to make everything written as clear as possible.

In addition to unity, coherence plays a crucial role in making a paragraph read well. Every coherent paragraph contains smoothly-

connected ideas. Each sentence moves on naturally. The paragraph is like a well-built high-way; vehicles run smoothly on it without encountering too many obstacles. On the contrary, the incoherent paragraph might be like a zigzag, bumpy mountain road; vehicles cannot move fast or easily on it.

To achieve coherence, the writer needs to use the transitions, such as, *however*, *although*, *finally* and *nevertheless*. As the word implies, a *transition* is similar to change from one item of idea to another. A coherence paragraph consists of interrelated sentences which move in such a way that they smooth the way, one for the other. Without transition, it is difficult for (beginning) writers to produce a coherence paragraph.

Unity and coherence can be found at newspaper, magazine, academic journal, or even your own professional correspondence will probably reveal most of those “rules” being broken quite often. For this reason the researcher chooses the Jakarta Post as the media to be analyzed, because the Jakarta Post is the only newspaper that uses English language.

The Jakarta Post is a newspaper that uses English language as its language and differentiates it from others. Jakarta post established on April 1983, which has goal to improve the standard of English language media in Indonesia and to compete media publisher producing a quality newspaper with an Indonesia perspective. Jakarta post was to present to the public a newspaper with highest quality to provide its readers about all

information that happen in our national or what is happening in abroad (international), but more importantly are that would be able to provide an Indonesian perspective to counter the highly unbalanced western-dominated global traffic of news and views. Not only published hot issue but also archipelago headline, its people and government with valuable mark.

The researcher chooses the title that is related to reading skill. The Jakarta Post is the proper newspaper to be analyzed because the language used is English. That is why unity and coherence can be found in newspaper, because a newspaper must have articles that are not only good enough to read but also has deeper meaning so the readers can follow the plot of the newspaper or its articles. Unity and coherence have important role to support the writer to give information and interesting to be read by reader.

The Jakarta Post consists of twenty eight pages in which it has several sub headlines. There are *Headline, Business Headline, National, Archipelago, Opinion, Reader's Forum, World, Sport, Life Line, Environment, Features and Entertainment Guide.*

Headline can be found in page one and page two of The Jakarta Post newspaper, while *Business Headline* is on page three. On page four there is *National* sub headlines, it contains several topics on this page and each week the topic is changed but the most consistent is *National Scene* column that always exists each week. Continuing with *Archipelago* in page five. While in page six and seven there is *Opinion* sub headlines. On

page eight and nine there is *Reader's Forum*. Next, *World* sub headline has three pages start from ten to twelve. *Business headline* starts on page thirteen to eighteen. On the next pages, there is *Sport* which placed on page nineteen and twenty. The last but not the least there is different page separate from the previous. It contains *Life Line*, we can find it on page twenty one; *Environment* is on page twenty two; *Features* on page twenty three through twenty six; on page twenty seven there is *Entertainment Guide* and the last is *People* on page twenty eight.

Headline contains primary issue around the world which includes politics, finance and also column for weather forecast. *Business headline* tells about business issue around Indonesia. *National* has several columns like National Scene, Politic and Policy. *Archipelago*; news from island in Indonesia such as from Nusa Tenggara, Denpasar and etc. *Opinion* contains opinions from writers that come from national or even international, also there are two columns inside it; *Letter to Editor* and *Other Opinion*.

Next there is *Readers' Forum* mainly contains about comments from society who read this article, the readers who give their comments come from national and international. It has new topic every day and readers can participate by sending sms for comments on the topic and to be displayed in *Reader's Forum*. *City* tells the reader about what is happening in Jakarta and cities near Jakarta. *World* has many articles, it tells the readers about hot issue that happen around the world, like in Asia, Africa, and Europe. While in *World Business* it tells about business

around the world and it explains in details. *Sport* gives the readers news mainly about sports around the world. The last is *Features*; it contains much news around the world with different topic.

There are several reasons why the researcher chooses *National Scene* column to be studied. The first is because *National Scene* column consists of hot issue that happens in Indonesia, it can be Politic, Cultural, Human Right and so on. Second, hot issue from *National Scene* is related to the lesson of Senior High School students which does not focus only for authentic material and it can avoid senior high school student being bored. Third, *National Scene* is the most consistent column in the Jakarta Post newspaper because it has several articles (mostly consists of two up to three articles) and the articles itself are short so it can be understood by Senior High School students.

1.2. Problem Statement

As it is mentioned in the previous background, the researcher wants to state that her research question is “How are unity and coherence at “National Scene” column of the Jakarta Post on 20th March to 2nd April 2012?”

1.3. Purpose of The Study

The purpose of this study is to describe the unity and coherence at National Scene column of the Jakarta Post on 20th March to 2nd April 2012.

1.4. Significance of the Study

Through doing the analysis, the researcher wishes this thesis has useful information theoretically and practically. Therefore, the significances of the research are stated as follow:

Theoretically, the significances of the research are:

1. To find out that unity and coherence can be found not only in full paragraph of narrative but it can be found in the article especially at Jakarta newspaper.
2. To be a reference study for the next researcher.

Practically, the significance of the research is divided into three:

1. For researcher; this study will be useful to present unity and coherence and may this study become further point to expand unity and coherence deeper.
2. For students; to introduce that unity and coherence can be learnt not only from authentic material but it can be found in the media such as the Jakarta Post.
3. For reader; to increase the interest of reading in the newspaper especially newspapers that use English language as its way to communicate with the readers.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

This research is analyzed the unity and coherence at the “National Scene” column of “The Jakarta Post” daily edition published on the 20th

March to the 2nd April 2012. Through this study, the researcher uses the “National Scene” column as a subject of the research.

The scope of this research is only at “National Scene Column” in The Jakarta Post. Therefore, the researcher limits the study in writing the research paper only on; the use of coherence and unity in the Jakarta Post newspaper in edition 20th March until 2nd April 2012.

1.6. Definition of Key Term

The researcher needs to give definition in the term of this study to avoid mistranslating among the readers.

Unity is an idea of a sentence that can be developed by some sentences and unity can be found in the first paragraph or in the last.

Coherence has same function like conjunction which connected between paragraphs in order to make the plot is run smoothly.

National Scene is one of the sub headlines in the Jakarta Post that can be found in the page number four. It can be called with group of articles consist of three articles in a column which has recent issue about national life in Indonesia.