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Exposition

Argumentation

The Research Paper

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大学英语写作学习指要

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《大学英语写作学习指要》以在英美写作教学研究界占据重要地位的结构主义和认知理论为依据,以英语说明文和英语论说文的写作技巧为重点,以结合范文讲解进行写作训练为主要方法,按照循序渐进的原则编排。全书由三大部分组成。第一部分为英语说明文(Exposition)。该部分以段落写作为起点,由学习段落的基本结构开始,而后逐一介绍展开说明文段落的主要技巧,同时指导学生反复练习段落的写作,最后在段落写作的基础上进行各种技巧的短文写作训练。第二部分为英语论说文(Argumentation)。该部分首先介绍如何构思、准备论说文的写作,而后讲授如何运用描写、叙述和说明的技巧展开论证,然后讲解论说的技巧,并指导学生逐一运用这些技巧练习写作论说文,最后进行各种目的的论说文的写作训练。第三部分为研究论文(The Research Paper)。该部分包括论文的准备阶段、论文的写作和论文写作中引用文献资料的两种常用体例(MLA和 APA)的详尽介绍。

《大学英语写作学习指要》的编写者长期从事英语写作教学, 具有丰富的实践经验。书中内容曾在编写者所在学校试用多年, 教学效果良好。该书不仅具有科学性和系统性,而且内容新颖丰富、实用性强、应用范围广,可供高等学校英语专业与非英语专业 本科生、研究生以及英语自学者使用,并对顺利通过英语专业四、 八级全国统考的写作部分、大学英语四、六级考试的写作部分以及 托福的写作考试等均大有裨益。

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Unit One Exposition

Part I Paragraph Writing

Lecture One Transition

- ②在英文写作中,过渡词语、从属关系和平行结构的运用是必不可少的技巧。在学习段落写作之前,我们至少应当初步掌握这些技巧。本讲首先讲解过渡词语的运用。
- ②过渡词语把上下文紧密联系起来,承上启下,疏通思路,搭桥补隙,理顺语气,使文章的表达更清晰、更紧凑连贯。下面的 pretest 将帮助我们了解什么是过渡词语:

Pre-test

Complete the following paragraph by choosing transitions from the words given below the paragraph.

Mary likes traveling by bus better than by airplane for four reasons. (1), it costs less. She can ride by bus from New York to Chicago for \$ 20. (2), the air fare between the two cities is \$ 78. (3), traveling by bus gives her a closer look at the cities and countryside than she could get from a plane. (4), she enjoys

driving through the big cities of Philadelphia, Pittsburg, and Fort Wayne. __(5)__, Mary finds that the passengers on the bus are often closer to her own age. __(6)__, they are easy to talk with on the shared travel adventure. __(7)__, many airline passengers are businessmen who keep busy with their work while flying. __(8)__, riding a bus allows Mary to explore any stop along the way. __(9)__, once she got off the bus at a small town in Indiana and spent the night with a girlfriend. __(10)__, the next day she took another bus to Chicago. __(11)__, Mary usually prefers buses instead of planes unless she has to get somewhere in a hurry.

- (1) Thus, First, In fact
- (2) And, So, Yet
- (3) Nor, But, Second
- (4) Still, Next, For example
- (5) Third, Now, Indeed
- (6) Similarly, Instead, After all, So
- (7) In Contrast, Finally, Otherwise
- (8) Therefore, Fourth, Accordingly
- (9) On the other hand, Moreover, For instance
- (10) So, Then, Yet
- (11) For these reasons, At last, Now

1. Transitions—adding coherence to writing

②过渡词语能够增强上下文的连贯性,既可以运用于段落中, 又可以运用于段落之间。

(1) Transitions within a paragraph

Passage 1

To many foreigners, the American word family is confusing. Foreigners often hear an American say "My family is coming to visit". In this sentence, family means grandparents and perhaps other relatives. However, at other times, the same American might say, "I'm going to stay home with my family this weekend." In this case, he is talking about his wife and children. This is a much narrower meaning than the first one. Using family in this way makes a foreigner wonder which term really describes an American family. The answer, of course, is that there are two meanings for the word family in the United States — a narrow one and a broad one. And there is another term — immediate family — to describe something in between.

(2) Transitions between paragraphs

Passage 2

When an American today says "my family is coming to visit", he or she is using family in the broad sense to include cousins, uncles, grandparents, or any other relatives who do not live with him or her. That is, this person is using family the way it was used one hundred and fifty years ago when the majority of Americans were farmers. In that earlier time, of course, three or more generations lived under one roof — grandparents, their children, their children's spouses, and their children's children.

But family is a very vague word. It can mean, for example, the speaker's parents, who do not live with him or her. Or it can mean uncles and aunts, nieces and nephews, first and second cousins, or even in-laws. As a result, the expression *immediate*

family has come into use. It means something between the narrowest use of family and the broadest one: usually the grandparents, their children, and their children's children.

2. Different kinds of transitions

- 英语的过渡词语种类繁多,按其不同用途,大致可以分类如下:
- (1) Transitions that explain
 - A. Now, follow the directions carefully.
 - B. For the President did not want to sign the bill.
 - C. The problem, in this case, is hard to solve.
 - D. The meeting went on for six hours, in fact.
- (2) Transitions that emphasize
 - A. Certainly the vacation was fun.
 - B. Indeed, a dessert is always enjoyable.
 - C. Above all, do not build an open fire in a forest.
 - D. Surely you agree that she won the debate.
 - E. Most importantly, the form has to be mailed by June 1.
- (3) Transitions that qualify
 - A. But the clerk refused to answer.
 - B. The letter came two days too late, however.
 - C. We hope, though, that she would change her mind.
 - D. Yet there was still a chance that he would win.
 - E. Except for one girl, all the hikers returned.
- (4) Transitions that illustrate
 - A. That experiment, for example, was a total failure.
 - B. For instance, a telegram often costs more than a telephone call.
 - C. Thus the trip finally began.

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- D. Such an earthquake happened last year in China.
- E. Next, think of the courses you want to take.
- (5) Transitions that add
 - A. In addition, the tour stops in London.
 - B. Furthermore, the time for registration has been extended.
 - C. She also asked for a recent magazine.
 - D. They expected, moreover, to remodel their house.
 - E. First, you mail in an application. Second, you ask for an appointment. Third, you send them three personal references.
 - F. Then you come to a traffic light and turn right.
- (6) Transitions that compare
 - A. Like the owl, the fox hunts at night.
 - B. In the same way, we look for a good doctor.
 - C. Similarly, the Thais enjoy spicy foods.
 - D. Equally important, the car drives thirty miles on a gallon of gas.
- (7) Transitions that contrast
 - A. Unlike the Ford, the Cadillac is a large car.
 - B. In contrast, the red fluid does not lose its color.
 - C. The husband wanted a boy, whereas the wife wanted a girl.
 - D. On the other hand, a student needs time to relax.
 - E. Instead, the new law caused many problems.
- (8) Transitions that concede
 - A. Although she ran after the train, it left without her.
 - B. He planned, nevertheless, to ask for a promotion.
 - C. It may rain tomorrow, of course.
 - D. After all, you learn to cook many foods in this job.
 - E. Clearly, a garden needs a lot of attention.
 - F. Still, a winter vacation can be pleasant.

- (9) Transitions that state a consequence
 - A. They hoped, therefore, to pass the test.
 - B. As a result, the hospital hired three nurses.
 - C. Consequently, we opened an account at the bank.
 - D. Accordingly, she telephoned three different companies.
 - E. So the journey ended in Pittsburg.
 - F. Otherwise, the train may leave without us.
- (10) Transitions that sum up
 - A. To sum up, Christmas is the most important holiday.
 - B. Finally, the country agreed to issue more work permits.
 - C. In conclusion, a consulate offers more services.
 - D. At last, a treaty was signed.
 - E. In summary, recreation is a big business.

3. Other words as transitions

- 英语中的过渡词语大都为副词或副词短语,但代词等其他词性的词也可以起到过渡作用。
- (1) Pronouns as transitions
 - Within a sentence:

He asked what that meant.

Linking sentences:

We watched the hikers. They climbed slowly.

Passage 3

It is the most talked-of subject in town. Every family in the community discusses it half a dozen times a day. You mention it to at least one of your friends before you come into the room today.

You think about it at least once during every class. Its passage is steady. It touches everyone. What is it? It is time!

(2) Synonyms as transitions

Passage 4

Community colleges are like the two-year colleges called junior colleges, or "j.c.'s". Both schools prepare students for four-year colleges. J.c.'s offer all the courses most four-year colleges ask their freshmen and sophomores to take. Community colleges also give such required courses. But community colleges are also like other institutions called trade schools. Both schools offer technical training. Trade schools give courses in such areas as carpentry, nursing, television repairing, or photography. Community colleges have complete technical courses for students who do not plan to go on to a university.

(3) Coordinating conjunctions as transitions

Passage 5

On Thursday I had to decide what I wanted to do over the weekend, for school was starting in two weeks, and I would soon be studying full time. I wanted to go skiing, but I had spent most of my money, so I couldn't travel out of town. I might go to a movie, or I might just listen to music. And that is what I ended up doing — listening to music.

Assignment

1. Choose from the following transitions to fill in the blanks in the paragraph.

But, Consequently, Yet, In contrast, First, Fourth, Third, Finally,

Instead, Similarly, Although, Second

European universities and universities in the United States are					
different in many ways, European students enrol in fewer					
courses each term than United States students do, Euro-					
pean students seldom live at a university, they live at					
home and travel to classes, most European courses are					
given by professors who lecture to their classes, United					
States professors often ask their students questions or allow their stu-					
dents to form discussion groups, European professors ask					
students to write fewer papers than United States professors do.					
, European students' final examinations are usually oral,					
whereas American students take written final examinations.					
, a European university is mainly a place to study.					
at most United States universities, social activities take up					
a large part of the students' time.					
Add Transitions that correctly move the idea forward.					
Foreign cars are often more expensive to own in the United					
States than American-made cars, there are reasons for					
this, foreign cars cost more to buy since the quality of					
workmanship that goes into making them is very high.					
high tariffs on many foreign models have raised prices,					
foreign cars often cost more to register insurance rates can					
be higher, parts and repair costs are much greater than					
they are for American cars, there are some financial ad-					
vantages to owning a foreign car, many of them get bet-					
ter gas mileage, and they need new tires less often than American cars					
do, their resale value is higher. The price of a year-old					
foreign car may be only \$ 300 less than what it costs new.					
the price for a year-old American car will be around \$1,000 less.					

3. Write out the following paragraph, adding transitions where they will improve the flow of ideas. Underline the transitions you add.

Luis and Mario are different in three ways. Luis studies a lot. He wants to get all A's. He wouldn't be admitted to medical school when he graduates. Mario rarely studies. He doesn't care about grades. He just wants a B. A. Luis never has time for sports. He doesn't have time to play. He sometimes watches a game. Mario spends most of his time playing soccer or basketball. Luis doesn't like parties. They usually last until two. He needs a lot of sleep. Mario loves parties. He gets to bed very late. He doesn't seem to need as much sleep as Luis does. In spite of their differences, Luis and Mario are good friends.

Lecture Two Subordination

○ 从属关系是非常重要的写作技巧之一。当我们要表明一个句子的内容比另一个句子的重要时,应当借助主从复合句式把次要的内容置于从属位置。

Pre-Test

Complete each sentence by adding a subordinate clause. The first one is
done as an example.
(1) The man was missing.
The man who escaped from the prison was missing.
(2) Nobody ever tells me
(3) Pay close attention to
(4) The lie cost Paul his job.
(5) He is an example

(6)	The woman	_ writes mystery	novels.
(7)	, she wept	with joy.	
(8)	The sports car driver	is my	friend.
(9)	This year he worked	harder	
(10	The science fiction i	novie	was entertaining.

1. Subordinating the secondary idea to the main idea

②在写作中,有时需要把两个关系紧密、但重要程度又不相同的内容放在一起,通过从属关系表明孰轻孰重。

Example 1

IDEA 1: He drove home. (main idea)

IDEA 2: He was tired. (Secondary idea)

Subordinative word: because

Because he was tired, he drove home.

OR: He drove home because he was tired.

Example 2

IDEA 1: Eve washed the dishes. (main idea)

IDEA 2: Her mother slept. (secondary idea)

Subordinative word: while

Eve washed dishes while her mother slept.

OR: While her mother slept, Eve washed dishes.

一从以上两个例证我们可以看出,从属关系有助于突出主要内容,并避免行文不连贯和夸式单调重复等现象。

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