ABSTRACT

This is a study of Thai students' senior year English argumentative essays focusing on their coherence expressions. It aims to identify and categorize coherence expressions in Thai students' senior year English argumentative essays at Assumption University. The data of this study consists of 30 Thai students' senior year English argumentative essays. The coherence expressions are judged on the basis of *Cohesion in English* (Halliday and Hasan, 1976) and *A Dictionary of Link Words in English Discourse* (Ball, 1986).

The findings indicate that, based on the data, six types of coherence expressions could be identified. The results show there are significant differences in those six types among the 30 Thai students in their senior year English argumentative essays. For example, the students tend to express their substitution and ellipsis less than other types of coherence expressions in their compositions. All 6 types of coherence expressions are found in the advanced level students' compositions. Substitution and ellipsis are not found in the intermediate level students' compositions. In terms of substitution and ellipsis, neither of them is found in the elementary level students' compositions.

In order to provide useful information for English teachers and students, examples of their English argumentative essays and possible reasons for their choice of those expressions are given. Coherence problems of the students, for example, using excessive repetition, making extensive use of lists, not making conclusions etc, are also provided along with suggestions for teaching coherence.