

## 8.2 Transition Words

1. The first excerpt is from a Politics essay on the contested concept of freedom. The paragraph comes from the main body of the essay.

### **Excerpt 1: Transition words removed**

An examination of the right to self-determination shows how these contested issues can influence arguments. A fundamental question is: under what circumstances does a group have the right to secede from a state, exercising a right to self-determination? Most democratic theorists would argue that the majority should decide, but that raises questions of its own, such as: the majority of whom – the people in the area claiming the right to secede, or all the people in the state which will be affected? What majority is required? Would secession bring similar such rights to other communities to exercise too (Saward, 2005)? To take an argument of positive freedom to its extreme conclusion would be to allow *everyone* the freedom to secede and form their own private state, a solution that is unworkable in practice. Robert A. Dahl (cited in Saward, 2005) notes that this extreme form of democracy – the one-person state – ‘would be absurd’. Those who advocate the benefits of negative freedom would wish to protect the freedom of people from interference; they would require that a ‘super-majority’ was necessary to pass any vote in favour of secession.

***Transition and link words: thereby, in addition, furthermore, however.***

### **Excerpt 1: Transition words reinstated**

An examination of the right to self-determination shows how these contested issues can influence arguments. A fundamental question is: under what circumstances does a

group have the right to secede from a state, thereby exercising a right to self-determination? Most democratic theorists would argue that the majority should decide, but that raises questions of its own such as: the majority of whom – the people in the area claiming the right to secede, or all the people in the state which will be affected? In addition, what majority is required? Furthermore, would secession bring similar such rights to other communities to exercise too (Saward, 2005)? To take an argument of positive freedom to its extreme conclusion would be to allow everyone the freedom to secede and form their own private state, a solution that is unworkable in practice. Robert A. Dahl (cited in Saward, 2005) notes that this extreme form of democracy – the one- person state – ‘would be absurd’. Those who advocate the benefits of negative freedom, however, would wish to protect the freedom of people from interference; they would require that a ‘supermajority’ was necessary to pass any vote in favour of secession.

Phil Ellis

2. The second excerpt is also from a Politics essay, this time on the role of elites in democratic electoral systems. The paragraph comes towards the end of the essay, and continues a discussion about problems with voter participation.

**Excerpt 2: Transition words removed**

The issue of voter participation, and the government having legitimacy by reflecting the will of the masses, could be tackled with the use of compulsion. In Australia it is a legal requirement for those able to vote to do so. Turnout in Australian elections is

usually about 95%. In a representative system elites will always form, at least the people can see that it is they who put them there – and they can also remove them.

***Transition words: next, therefore, for example, consequently, although.***

### **Excerpt 2: Transition words reinstated**

Next, the issue of voter participation, and therefore the government having legitimacy by reflecting the will of the masses, could be tackled with the use of compulsion. In Australia, for example, it is a legal requirement for those able to vote to do so. Consequently turnout in Australian elections is usually about 95%. Although in a representative system elites will always form, at least the people can see that it is they who put them there – and they can also remove them.

David Purcell

3. Excerpt 3 is taken from an education essay that discusses the concept of ‘inclusion’ in higher education.

### **Excerpt 3: Transition words removed**

The Green Paper cites evidence that most of the differences in attainment between non-traditional groups (e.g. BME students) and traditional (e.g. white students) ‘are reduced or even disappear if prior educational attainment is taken into account’ (*ibid*, p. 31), it ‘recognise[s] students from some disadvantaged backgrounds tend not to perform as well as other students across many outcome measures’, even when prior educational attainment *is* taken into account (*ibid*, p. 31). BIS proposes rewarding

HEIs that implement active programmes for promoting higher achievement with groups identified as disadvantaged, implicitly widening participation, progression and attainment across under-represented or disadvantaged demographic groups.

***Transition words: while, nevertheless, on the basis of this, thereby***

### **Excerpt 3: Transition words reinstated**

While the Green Paper cites evidence that most of the differences in attainment between non-traditional groups (e.g. BME students) and traditional (e.g. white students) ‘are reduced or even disappear if prior educational attainment is taken into account’ (*ibid*, p. 31), they nevertheless ‘recognise students from some disadvantaged backgrounds tend not to perform as well as other students across many outcome measures’, even when prior educational attainment *is* taken into account (*ibid*, p. 31). On the basis of this, BIS proposes rewarding HEIs that implement active programmes for promoting higher achievement with groups identified as disadvantaged, thereby implicitly widening participation, progression and attainment across under-represented or disadvantaged demographic groups.

4. Here is one more example. This is taken from near the beginning of a short Health and Social Care essay, dealing with the strengths and weaknesses of behaviour change models.

### **Excerpt 4: Transition words removed**

Behaviour change models are popular because they can usually be applied to a variety of behaviours. SCM is used in smoking, weight control, alcohol mis-use, HIV risk

behaviour and other areas (NHS Scotland, 1997). There are concerns about applying the models so broadly, especially to behaviours which they were not originally intended for. West (2005) is highly critical of the use of SCM in relation to addiction, and my own brief analysis of SCM, HBM and the HAM showed that HBM was far more relevant than the others when applied to cervical screening behaviour. Some of the models work better in certain circumstances than others. I would argue that no behaviour change theory should be expected to be universally applicable, because of the complexities of human behaviour, diversity of populations and range of health conditions and determinants. This means that practitioners need to have the skills to recognise when and how to apply a variety of models.

*Transition words: for example, however, for instance, clearly, therefore, though*

#### **Excerpt 4: Transition words reinstated**

Behaviour change models are popular because they can usually be applied to a variety of behaviours. For example, SCM is used in smoking, weight control, alcohol misuse, HIV risk behaviour and other areas (NHS Scotland, 1997). There are concerns about applying the models so broadly, however, especially to behaviours which they were not originally intended for. West (2005), for instance, is highly critical of the use of SCM in relation to addiction, and my own brief analysis of SCM, HBM and the HAM showed that HBM was far more relevant than the others when applied to cervical screening behaviour. Clearly, some of the models work better in certain circumstances than others.

I would argue, therefore, that no behaviour change theory should be expected to be universally applicable, because of the complexities of human behaviour, diversity of

populations and range of health conditions and determinants. This means though that practitioners need to have the skills to recognise when and how to apply a variety of models.

Teresa Garrard