

Title A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE USE OF ENGLISH DISCOURSE MARKERS IN THE ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING OF EFL INDONESIAN AND THAI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

The first objective of the present study was to investigate the kinds of DMs employed by EFL Indonesian and Thai university students in their argumentative writing. Second, this study was aimed to compare and contrast the use of DMs by both groups in terms of its nature and problems. Finally, this study was to find out whether Indonesian and Thai students used the DMs appropriately. The 46 argumentative writings composed by the Indonesian and Thai students were analyzed following Halliday and Hasan (1976) and Halliday and Matthiessen (2004). The findings of this study revealed that Thai students employed higher number of DMs than that produced by Indonesian students. In terms of the frequency of the use and types of DMs, the results revealed that Indonesian and Thai students' writings were similar and different in various aspects. In addition, it was also found that there were several similarities in problems of DMs used by both Thai and Indonesian such as the lack of the use of DMs, overuse of DMs, and repetition of the use of DMs. Finally, this study also revealed that both Indonesian and Thai students employed the DMs appropriately.