



GENERAL AND SPECIFIC FEATURES IN REALIZING AN ESSAY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE – A CASE STUDY OF ESSAY ON ECONOMIC TOPICS

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Abstract

The present paper wants to be a systematic and not only a theoretical approach on essays. This type of writing knows several points of view connecting its form, content, specific features and types, rules to be observed in its writing, structures or styles.

As we know, it implies freedom of composition, originality, associations of surprising images and propensity for aphorism.

We try to frame all its specifications within the economic essay, as economics is a field of exact utterance, where the speaker cannot play with the words and their meaning.

Key words: *personal writing; economic essay; types of essay.*

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Issue 1/2016

Introduction and Literature Review

The essay is a short piece of writing about a certain topic, realized by a student or an author, with the purpose of being published, according to the definition in B.B.C. English Dictionary [BBC English Dictionary, 1993].

L. Avasilichioaie [Avasilichioaie, 1993] defines the literary essay as a type of notation of the personal observations on the most different themes: philosophical, religious, aesthetics, literary and so on. It is a composition on the base of a literary text where there are developed, in a personal manner, different ideas, starting from different aspects or significances of the literary work.

The characteristics of an essay are: digressive development, reflexive character, it does not belong to the fictional literature, but it can use its specific techniques, thematic diversity, freedom of composition, originality, surprising associations of images, propensity towards aphorism [Avasilichioaie, 2002].

N. Ionică considers the essay as being a free composition where the author exposes, in an attractive form, a personal point of view, on a philosophical, literary, scientific issue [Simion *et al*, 2000].

As we can notice, all the above definitions speak about the same specific features of the essay, elements that make it different from other literary species.

The philosophical or literary essay, with its specific open form, has an illustrious tradition during the last three centuries: Fr. Bacon, J. Locke, G. Leibniz, F. von Schiller, W. Goethe, M. de Montaigne, Voltaire and others. It reached its climax in the 20th century, when it is cultivated more than ever by numerous writers bent on philosophical speculation – G. Chesterton, M. de Unamuno – essay interferes with critics, literary history, novel field – M. Proust, Th. Mann, A. Huxley. Within the Romanian literature, the first erudite essay is considered *Pseudokyneghetikos* by Al. Odobescu [Simion *et al*, 2000].

1. Criteria of Essay Evaluation

The essay evaluation follows its coherence. Icy Lee presents the coherence in three ways:



- connection between sentences;
- usage of explicit connection means at the level of the paragraph;
- usage of the connection means, such as pronouns or repetitive structures [Icy Lee, 2002].

The coherence includes the following five features:

1) a macrostructure that offers a characteristic and proper pattern for the proposed scope. For example, if the aim of the writer is to narrate, the events are to be arranged in a chronological order. If he proposes a solution to a problem, the structure is the following: a situational model, a problem, a solution, a piece of evaluation. If the purpose is the debate of a controversial topic, one can arrange the ideas so that the both sides of the problem be exemplified, followed by pro and against conclusions for each part [Hoey, 1983].

2) an informational structure that guides the reader how to understand the pieces of information and the development of the topic. Other way, the coherence requires the writer offer the readers first the old and then the new pieces of information [Danes, 1974].

3) the content connection is highlighted by the sentences connections. A sentence is an assertion. The coherence of a text is established through the relations between sentences. For examples, a sentence without support or a sentence that is not explained, developed, becomes a generalisation. In order to reach coherence in writing, it is required that the content of a sentence be explained or the sentence be exemplified. A sentence of the type: *The free of charge transport is good for the commerce of a town* is a sentence without support. A support such as: *The free of charge public transport would be a good thing for the commerce of a town, because people which use it save money they can spend both for needs and luxury* [Kintsch, 1978].

4) the connection at the level of text surface is marked out by the presence of connectors. These means are words and expressions that help establish some relations between sentences and difference parts of sentences: pronouns, conjunctions, lexical connections: repetition, synonyms, antonyms and others [Halliday, 1976].



Issue 1/2016

5) proper characteristics of meta-discourse. The meta-discourse markers help readers organize, interpret and evaluate the information: *so, but, otherwise, without doubt, sure, certainly* and so on [Crismore, 1993].

2. Types of Essays

The essay evaluation requires the observing of its specific features and structure. We present the following types of essay: *narrative, descriptive, informative and expository essay*.

The structure of a *narrative essay* is the following:

- a short introductory paragraph, general observations;
- suspense: creation of a number of scenes that lead us up to the central incident, each scene sharpening our interest and impatience. Here we meet the description, delicate detail, adjective;
- the central incident: vivid descriptions, short and sharp sentences, striking detail. The reader has to see and hear what is going to happen. It is time for contrast;
- the conclusion: a general observation, like the one at the beginning.

The narrative essay presents us a story or a combination of story and descriptions.

In a *descriptive essay*, the descriptive elements preponderate over any others. A fact of great importance is the choosing of a central theme around which all the others effects be grouped and subordinated. Once this condition fulfilled, the element of contrast has to be introduced, in order to heighten the interest and avoid monotony. Within this type of essay, detail is an actual element. They enliven the writing. The author also has to pay attention to epithets. They have to analyze all the adjectives they are tempted to use and see if it really enables the object to be more clearly visualized. If the obtained expression was frequently met by the reader, it is common, so it passes through his mind without effect.

The descriptive essay is realized in space, the narrative one in time. In order that the reader not to be lost in endless descriptions and be lacked of suspense, the writer has to skilfully fill in the details so that the big effect not to be lost, but rather reinforced.



A possible frame for this type of essay might be the following one:

- creation of a general effect. It is a short introduction, expressed through short sentences and simple vocabulary. A unitary effect has to be created in the reader's mind;
- details arrangement: for the beginning a description with definite, concrete details; colours and shapes are to be pointed out, contrast can be used;
- conclusions: the central theme is stressed again and, if possible, presented in a new vision.

The informative essay simply proposes to present a number of actions or deeds. It is considered the less subtle type of essay. They are rare and are generally met within the scientific field.

Its scheme can be the following:

- introduction: the writer brings his personal touch strongly;
- the development of the theme: the main lines of the chosen subject, description of its types, characteristics, what they have in common, the presence of a denominator which will cover all the facts spoken about;
- such an essay has no formal conclusions. A few phrases with personal touch, similar to those in the beginning are recommended.

The globalization of trade – key lines

The keyword in present economics is globalization. The role of the new transport and communication techniques in the circulation of good and services. The market economy spreads its traditional strongholds to the world. Markets become more and more global. Personal opinion about the implications. New entrants like South East Asia countries become major players.

The official rule of the game is free trade that is introduced in regions that used to be under state-run planned economies. The fall of the Berlin Wall and the economic liberalization of China, one of the most spectacular outcomes. Company want to be global, governments are vocal in their advocacy of free trade. Behind the consensus, economic blocks are battling for supremacy. National interests are very much at play. Free and fair competition is to rule worldwide. The role of the states and agencies to



Issue 1/2016

counteract the interests of multinational corporations and to protect the consumers [Marcheteau et al, 2001].

The expository essay. Under this title, all types of essays that describe, narrate, but also try to convince, explain. This piece of prose is very touching; it is more emoting than the others mentioned above; it is the most complex type of essay and the most interesting, of course.

Structure:

- a short introduction, usually a quotation, starting the theme of the whole essay;
- statement of the first attitude: its amplification with concrete details, summing it up;
- considerations of the first attitude: approval or disapproval, reasons, defence of the writer's points of view;
- statement of the second attitude: approval or disapproval, comparison with the first attitude, amplification;

Conclusions: a recapitulation or an unexpected turn.

Are foreign direct investments an instrument of shifting the Moldavian Economy to a superior level of international specialisation? [Dumitru Moldovanu, 2008] – key lines.

A country becomes richer or poorer to a large extent depending on the character of the country international specialization. The countries have permanently changed their specialisation type in order to obtain higher incomes. Under the conditions of globalisation the countries may change their type of specialisation under the influence of foreign capital investments. In the vast majority of cases, foreign direct investments pull the host country towards progress. There are cases when they can change a formerly prosperous country into a simple exporter of raw materials. We are still expecting today, but with less enthusiasm, that the foreign direct investments make us richer. Why?

3. Style of an Essay

One recommends a simple, clear, direct, vivid style. Rhetoric is not desired, they are to be used with attention, but they may be a progression



from the laconic introduction towards the fluent style in the middle section. Exclamation can be used both in the opening and in the middle if the student considers the readers are getting tired. It brings variety. If it is skilfully placed, it offers realism, too. The colloquial note has its great importance in essay writing, as it is the least formal literary species. The reader should have the impression he is engaged in a chat about a subject of interest. The dialogue can be held between the author and a friend or an imaginary stranger. The interjection is an exclamation that consists in a single word, judiciously placed gives the maximum effect. The paradox implies contradiction, it has to be used carefully, otherwise it becomes monotonous. The juxtaposed repetition is also met. The author has to be strict with humour. Every reader has his own ideas referring to what is or is not humorous.

The hand writing has to be neat. An illegible handwriting is to be avoided; it is irritating, but forgivable in a foreign language.

Aristotle said that a piece of work must have a beginning, a middle and an end. Students aiming at writing a good English essay have to bear this in mind [Blackstone, 1965].

Conclusions

It is difficult enough for any people to write correctly in their own language. To realize this, graciously in a foreign language, it is really hard. Why does somebody need for more? could ask a student that writes grammatically correct. It is required more than that. The examiners require a form, a counter theme and its development, a theme for debate and a contrast, elements of surprise and value. The students have to organize their work and make it interesting.

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Issue 1/2016

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