

# Classification and Textual Function of Conclusions in Text and Paragraphs

Wu Biyu\*, Fan Jiayao, and Sun Hui

**Abstract**—Text and paragraph are two forms of discourse. Their conclusions are similar in structure and semantics. There are three types of conclusion sentence in paragraphs: closing sentence, comment sentence, concluding sentence. The closing sentence is the restatement of the theme of the paragraph and generally has a discourse marker indicating a summary; The comment sentence is the remark on the topic of the paragraph; The concluding sentence is the ending of the paragraph with both summary and comment. When the conclusion sentence is in the thesis paragraph, it is also the thesis statement of the text. There are two types of paragraphs in the conclusion part of the text: the transitional paragraph and the conclusion paragraph. The latter is a summary and comment on the topic of the text. Usually, the topic sentence of the conclusion paragraph, often accompanied by discourse markers indicating the general conclusion, is the closing sentence of the text, which forms a circulation in viewpoint with the thesis statement of the text through lexical cohesion of keyword repetition. The conclusion sentence of the conclusion paragraph is the comment sentence of the text, which forms an emotional echo with the title of the text and realizes the sublimation of the theme.

**Index Terms**—Conclusion paragraph, conclusion part, conclusion sentence, text and paragraph

## I. INTRODUCTION

Text and paragraph are two forms of discourse. As a form of human language, the discourse, a kind of structure, is an intentional creative activity of coding and decoding of symbol [1]. It usually consists of three parts: introduction, body and conclusion, each of which contains several paragraphs [2]. Paragraph and text are similar in structure and logically related in semantics. Both can be divided into two

types: ABC type structure (total-divide-total structure) and AB type structure (total-divide structure), according to whether there is a conclusion or not. A text or paragraph of ABC structure is the one with a conclusion. The textual function of the conclusion (also entitled as ending or closing) of a text or a paragraph is a summary of or a comment.

The academic circles have basically reached a consensus on the textual function of the conclusion of the text [2–11]:

- (1) Restate your main point, namely to summarize the thesis statement.
- (2) Discuss the implications of your argument.
- (3) End with an anecdote, namely to finish the story above or to add a new story in order to illustrate the viewpoint.
- (4) Refer to the beginning, but sometimes adding to or even changing the original meaning of the beginning.
- (5) Propose some action.

However, although the research on the textual function of the conclusion of the text tends to be mature (see Fig. 1), the existing research fails to subdivide the structure of the conclusion of both text and paragraph, or explain the contextual conditions for various kinds of conclusion. Without the former, the latter will be impossible to be achieved, which directly affects the teaching effect.

Accordingly, this paper intends to answer three questions:

- (1) What are the forms of conclusion in a paragraph? What are the textual features of them?
- (2) What are the forms of conclusion in a text? What are the textual features of them?
- (3) What is the relationship between the conclusion of the paragraph and the conclusion of the text?

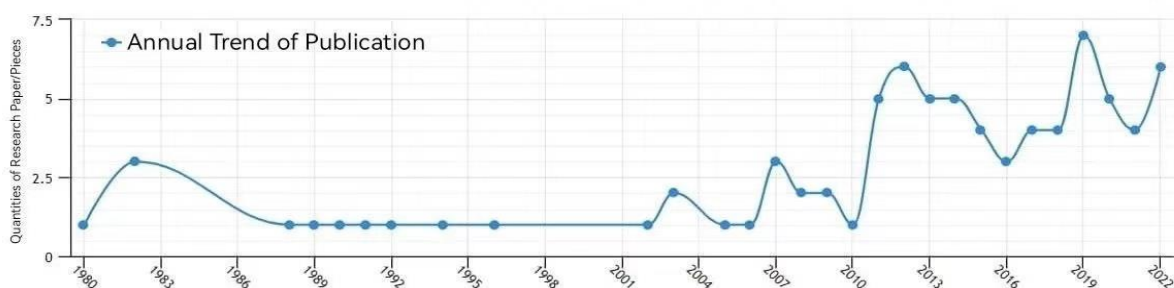


Fig. 1. Tendency of Research on *Textual Function* from 1980 to 2022.

## II. FORMS OF CONCLUSION IN A PARAGRAPH AND THEIR TEXTUAL FEATURES

A paragraph is the part between two discourses that start a new line, composed of several sentences. It is the largest structural unit of a text while the smallest kind of discourse. The paragraph, with certain structural patterns, is of unity and coherence in content [5]. According to the textual features of the sentences in the paragraph, there are 4 types of sentences

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in the paragraph: Opening Sentence(s) (abbreviated as OS (es) and simplified as Sentence O, but sometimes can be omitted), Topic Sentence (abbreviated as TS (es) and simplified as Sentence A), Supporting Sentence(s) (abbreviated as SS (es) and simplified as Sentence B) and Conclusion Sentence (abbreviated as CS (es) and simplified as Sentence C). In this way, an equation is reached: Paragraph = (OS<es>) + TS + SS (es) + CS (see Fig. 2) [2, 6, 7].

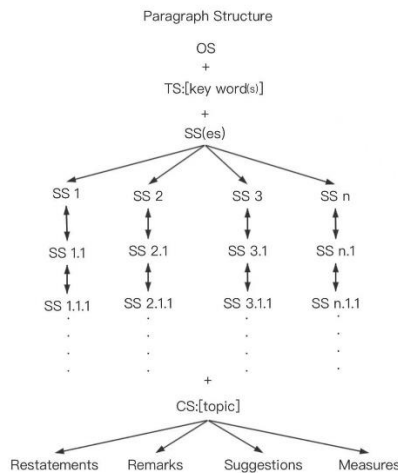


Fig. 2. The structure of the paragraph.

And these types of sentences have their own textual features. The opening sentence, at the beginning of the paragraph, is to introduce the background of the paragraph topic. But it doesn't need to appear in every paragraph. The topic sentence presents the topic of the paragraph. It is usually located at the beginning of the paragraph, following the opening sentence(s) of the paragraph. Supporting sentences serve for the discussion about the key words in the topic sentence. The conclusion sentence is the summary of or comment on the paragraph [2, 7].

According to the figure about the paragraph structure above, the conclusion sentence has four functions: including restating the theme, remarking, providing suggestions and measures. Obviously, it is found that the function of conclusion sentence is to summarize and commenting on the paragraph. However, there is no detailed classification of the conclusion of the paragraph. These four functions are simply

displayed regardless of the logical relationship of them.

So what are the forms of conclusion in the paragraph? What are the differences of textual functions among them? Firstly, this paper agrees to the view that the textual function of the conclusion is summary and comment. According to these two textual functions, this paper believes that there are at least 2 types of conclusions of the paragraph: closing sentence and comment sentence.

A. Closing Sentence

If the sentence at the end of the paragraph has discourse markers such as finally, ultimately, all, in a word, etc., it can be regarded as the closing sentence. It has two structural features. 1) Generally the key words in the topic sentence will be restated in the closing sentence to achieve the unity of the topic of the paragraph; 2) There will be explicit words about summary in the closing sentence. See Example 1.

[Example 1]

①Why do ordinary individuals like D'Arrigo often seem to achieve so much more than people like Jim?②To find out, I interviewed over 190 men and women in my work as a corporate consultant.③The results of this informal survey confirmed for me what Theodore Roosevelt once said: "The average man who is successful is not a genius. He is a man who has merely ordinary qualities, but who has developed those ordinary qualities to a more than ordinary degree."

(Paragraph 5, How "Average" People Excel, *New College English: Reading Course*) [12]

[Analysis]This paragraph consists of three sentences. Sentence ① is the topic sentence, "ordinary individual" as key words. Sentence ② is the supporting sentence, providing explanation for the topic sentence. Sentence ③ is the conclusion of the paragraph providing a direct answer to the question of "why" raised in the topic sentence. The synonym of the "ordinary individual", key words in the topic sentence, appeared in this sentence, which promotes the unity in paragraph topic between sentence ③ and sentence ① and forms a circulation. Therefore sentence ③ is the closing sentence of this paragraph. (See Table I.)

TABLE I: THE STRUCTURE OF PARAGRAPH 5 OF HOW "AVERAGE" PEOPLE EXCEL

Types of Sentence	Sentences	Key Words	Discourse Markers
Sentence O	/		
Sentence A	Why do ordinary individuals like D'Arrigo often seem to achieve so much more than people like Jim?	ordinary individuals	/
Sentence B	To find out, I interviewed over 190 men and women in my work as a corporate consultant.	.....	/
Sentence C Closing Sentence	The results of this informal survey confirmed for me what Theodore Roosevelt once said: "The average man who is successful is not a genius. He is a man who has merely ordinary qualities, but who has developed those ordinary qualities to a more than ordinary degree."	ordinary qualities, ordinary degree	results

To sum up, the closing sentence is at the end of the paragraph, usually the last sentence. Semantically, it is the summary of the paragraph. In terms of the form of expression, it usually contains words that represent the function of summary, such as finally, ultimately, etc. At the same time, it will restate the key words in the topic sentence. The lexical cohesion will keep the topic unified between the topic

sentence and the closing sentence; semantic coherence therefore achieved.

B. Comment Sentence

If the sentence at the end of the paragraph has adjectives or adverbs that displayed the attitude or feeling, it can be regarded as the comment sentence. See Example 2.

[Example 2]

① When spring came, it brought two floods.② First the river overflowed, covering much of our land for weeks. ③ Then the growing season began, swamping us under wave after wave of produce. ④ Our freezer filled up with cherries, raspberries, strawberries, asparagus, peas, beans and corn. ⑤ Then our canned-goods shelves and cupboards began to grow with preserves, tomato juice, grape juice, plums, jams and jellies. ⑥ Eventually, the basement floor disappeared under piles of potatoes, squash and pumpkins, and the barn began to fill with apples and pears. ⑦ It was amazing.

(Paragraph 7, Mr. Doherty Built his Dream life, Unit 1, *New College English: Integrated Course*) [13]

[Analysis]This paragraph consists of six sentences. Sentence ① is the topic sentence of the paragraph, “two floods” as key words. Sentences ②–⑥ are supporting sentences with the logical words “first” and “then” to describe the situation of the two floods in detail. The first is the real flood, and the second is the produce like flood. Sentence ⑦ is the last sentence of the paragraph. Instead of restating “two floods”, key words in the topic sentence, the adjective “amazing” is used to express the author's feeling after the two floods, especially the second. This kind of conclusion is the comment sentence, which mainly expresses the author's emotion and attitude. See Table II.

TABLE II: THE STRUCTURE OF PARAGRAPH 7 OF MR. DOHERTY BUILT HIS DREAM LIFE

Types of Sentence	Sentences	Key Words	Discourse Markers
Sentence O		/	
Sentence A	When spring came, it brought two floods.	two floods	/
Sentence B	.....		/
Sentence C	It was amazing	/	amazing

To sum up, the main feature of the comment sentence is to comment on the theme of the paragraph and present the author's stance and attitude. The comment sentence is usually at the end of the paragraph, generally the last sentence. Instead of restating the key words of the topic sentence, adjectives or adverbs expressing emotion of the author tend

TABLE III: THE STRUCTURE OF OVERVIEW OF CHANGES THE WAY WE LIVE

Types of Sentence	Sentences	Key Words	Discourse Marker
Sentence O		/	
Sentence A	Changes in the way we live come in many shapes and size.	Change s	/
Sentence B	.....		/
Sentence C	We trust this unit will give you the opportunity to reflect on such changes and the resources to express your own feelings about them.	Change s / /	this unit; such and

To sum up, the sentence at the end of a paragraph can also be a concluding sentence, a combination of the closing and comment sentence. The part of closing echoes with the topic of the paragraph and restates the key words of the topic sentence while the part of comment expresses the author's emotion or attitude.

It should be noticed that if a sentence is at the end of the thesis paragraph, it is the thesis statement of the text. See Example 4.

to be used in the comment sentence.

### C. Concluding Sentence

If the sentence at the end of the paragraph contains both summation and comment, it can be regarded as the concluding sentence of the paragraph. See Example 3.

[Example 3]

① Changes in the way we live come in many shapes and sizes.② Some take place in one sudden leap.③ Such was the dramatic change in the way of life experienced by the author of our first text, when he decided to quit the city and go off to start a new life in the country.④ Other changes seem to creep up on us, sometimes from a variety of directions. ⑤ Such has been the case with changes to family life over the years, as can be seen in our second text, which weighs the increased individual freedom family members now enjoy against the costs to family unity.⑥We trust this unit will give you the opportunity to reflect on such changes and the resources to express your own feelings about them.

(Overview, Changes the Way we Live, *New College English: Integrated Course*) [13]

[Analysis] This paragraph consists of six sentences. Sentence ① is the topic sentence of this paragraph, “changes” as the key word. Sentence ②–⑤ are supporting sentences, “some... other” used to present “changes the way we live” in a comparative way. Sentence ⑥ is the conclusion of the paragraph, which summarizes and comments on the topic of the paragraph. Firstly, it summarizes the topic of the paragraph through conclusive words “this unit”. Secondly, it repeats the key word “changes” in the topic sentence and uses the pronoun “such” to achieve the semantic coherence with the paragraph topic. This sentence, with summary characteristics, can be recognized as the closing sentence. But at the same time, the comment “the resources to express your own feelings about them”, following the discourse marker “and”, encourages readers to notice the changes around them. Therefore, the conclusion of this paragraph is a concluding sentence, the combination of closing and comment sentence. See Table III.

[Example 4]

①There are two things I have always wanted to do -- write and live on a farm. ②Today I'm doing both. ③I am not in E. B. White's class as a writer or in my neighbors' league as a farmer, but I'm getting by. ④And after years of frustration with city and suburban living, my wife Sandy and I have finally found contentment here in the country.

(Paragraph 1, Mr. Doherty Built his Dream life, Unit 1, *New College English: Integrated Course*) [13]

[Analysis] This paragraph serves as the thesis paragraph of the text, composed of four sentences. Sentence ① is the topic sentence, “write and live on a farm” as the key words. Sentences ②–③ are supporting sentences, which provides explanation for the key words in the topic sentence. Words including “both”, “writer” and “farmer” are used to restate the keywords of the topic sentence, which displays the semantic relationship among sentences. Sentence ④ is the last sentence of this paragraph, with the discourse marker

“finally”. At the same time, in this sentence key words “in the country” restate “live on a farm” in the topic sentence. And the new key word “contentment”, which is semantically related to “dream life” in the title, needs detailed explanation. In this way, this sentence has the textual function of connecting the preceding and the following. Therefore, sentence ④ is not only the conclusion of this paragraph, but also the thesis statement of the text [7]. See Table IV.

TABLE IV: THE STRUCTURE OF PARAGRAPH 1 OF MR. DOHERTY BUILT HIS DREAM LIFE

Types of Sentence	Sentences	Key Words	Discourse Marker
Sentence O	/	/	/
Sentence A	There are two things I have always wanted to do -- write and live on a farm.	two things, write and a farm	/
Sentence B	.....	/	/
Sentence C	And after years of frustration with city and suburban living, my wife Sandy and I have finally found contentment here in the country.	contentment, in the country	finally

To sum up, the conclusion of the thesis paragraph is also the thesis statement of the text. This sentence, with the textual function of connecting the preceding and the following, puts forward new keywords that will be explained in subsequent paragraphs.

Accordingly, this paper classifies the conclusion of the paragraph into four types: closing sentence, comment sentence, concluding sentence. Each has different textual functions, which is also the condition for the identification:

(1) The closing sentence has the textual function of summarizing the topic of the paragraph. It often restates the key words in the topic sentence, with discourse markers indicating the summary, such as finally, in a word, etc.

(2) The comment sentence is a comment on the topic of the paragraph. It mainly expresses the author's emotion and attitude towards the topic. In the comment sentence,

adjectives and adverbs of emotion and attitude are commonly used while the key words in the topic sentence are usually not restated.

(3) The concluding sentence is a combination of the closing and comment sentence, as an echo to and comment on the topic of the paragraph.

The thesis statement is in the paragraph serving as the thesis paragraph placed in the introduction part of the text. It has the function of connecting the preceding and the following, with words like “but”, “however”, “yet”, etc. as the discourse marker. And new key words closely semantically related to the topic are provided for detailed explanation in subsequent paragraphs.

And here is the structure of the paragraph (See Table V and Fig. 3).

TABLE V: STRUCTURE OF THE PARAGRAPH

Types of Sentence	Shorthand	Location in the Paragraph	Discourse Features	Discourse Markers
Opening Sentence(s)	Sentence O	Beginning	lead-in	.....
Topic Sentence	Sentence A	Beginning (Following the Opening Sentence)	topic of the paragraph	.....
Supporting Sentences	Sentence B	Middle	demonstration	.....
Sentence(s) of Conclusion	Closing Sentence	End	summation	Finally, ultimately etc.
	Comment Sentence		remark	adjectives & adverbs
	Concluding Sentence		summation & remark	.....

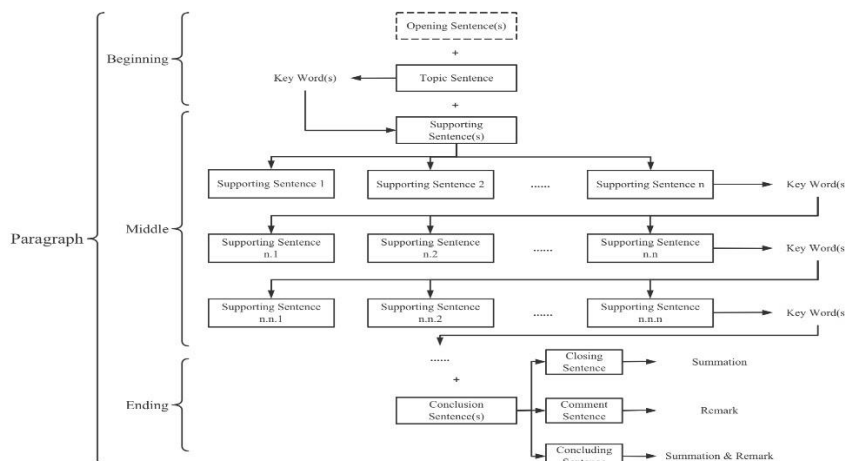


Fig. 3. Structure of the paragraph.

### III. THE CONCLUSION PART OF THE TEXT AND ITS TEXTUAL FEATURES

Text is composed of three parts: Introduction part, Body part and Conclusion part, each of which is composed of one or more paragraphs. In this way, one equation is reached: Text=Introduction + Body + Conclusion (See Fig. 4) [2].

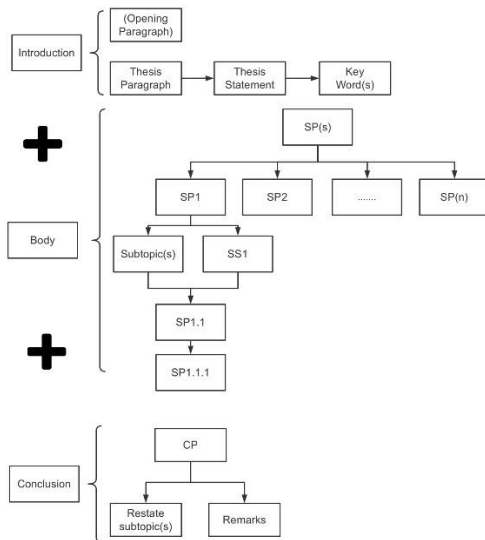


Fig. 4. Structure of the text.

The conclusion part is composed of conclusion paragraphs which includes both restatement and remark [2]. Generally speaking, this classification conforms to the semantic rules of the conclusion part. However, the type of paragraph in the conclusion part is far more than the conclusion paragraph. Sometimes, there will be a transitional paragraph about the background that leads to the conclusion paragraph.

The conclusion paragraph in the text is a summary and comment on the topic of the text, which is generally the last paragraph of the text. According to the previous classification of the conclusion in the paragraph, the conclusion in the text can be subdivided into three types: the closing paragraph, the comment paragraph, and the concluding paragraph which combines the previous two. Usually, there will be discourse markers at the beginning of the paragraph to hint at the conclusion, such as finally, ultimately, in a word, in sum, etc.

#### A. Basic Graphics of Paragraphs

Before the explanation of the conclusion of the text, it is necessary to illustrate the types of paragraphs. For convenience, this paper describes the regular paragraph as rectangle with solid line, on the basis of which are rectangle with dotted line, inverted triangle and regular triangle. Types of sentences in the paragraph remain, including Opening Sentence (Sentence O), Topic Sentence (Sentence A), Supporting Sentence (Sentence B) and Conclusion Sentence (Sentence C). See Fig. 5.

According to the semantic structure of a text, there are five types of paragraphs: Opening paragraph(s) (abbreviated as OP<s>), Thesis Paragraph(s) (abbreviated as T'P <s>), Supporting Paragraphs (abbreviated as SPs), transitional Paragraph(s) (abbreviated as tP <s>) and Conclusion Paragraph (s) (abbreviated as CP <s>).

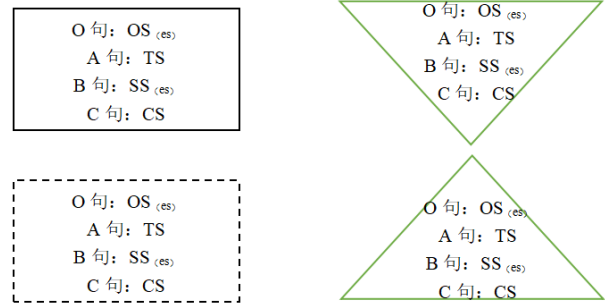


Fig. 5. Basic Graphics of paragraphs.

The rectangle with solid line, which means Supporting Paragraph located in the Body Part of the text, provides explanation and demonstration for the topic of the text.

When the rectangle with solid line serves as the introduction in the text, it changes into the rectangle with dotted line. If it serves as the introduction for the Thesis Paragraph in the Introduction Part, it means the Opening Paragraph. And if it serves as the introduction for the Conclusion Paragraph in the Conclusion Part, it means the transitional Paragraph.

When the rectangle with solid line serves as the Thesis Paragraph in the Introduction Part, it is transformed into an inverted triangle, responsible for the theme of the text, namely Thesis Statement (abbreviated as T'S'). The thesis statement, usually at the end of the thesis paragraph, leads the direction of following paragraphs.

When the rectangle with solid line is serves as the Conclusion Paragraph, it is transformed into a regular triangle, with the function of summary and comment. Its topic sentence in the paragraph forms a circulation in viewpoint with the thesis statement of the Thesis Paragraph (in the graphic of inverted triangle) while its conclusion sentence forms a circulation in emotion with the title of the text.

Here are the reasons why this paper uses geometric figures to metaphor paragraphs (see Fig. 6):

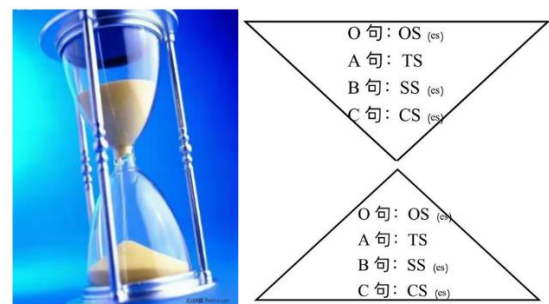


Fig. 6. Hourglass & inverted triangle VS regular triangle.

(1) The area ratio between rectangle and triangle shows the length ratio among the Introduction Part, Body Part and Conclusion Part. A rectangle can be divided into two triangles. In other words, the length of the Body Part, should be greater than or at least equal to, the length of the Introduction Part or the sum of the introduction and the end, namely,  $\blacksquare \geq \blacktriangledown$  or  $\blacksquare \geq \blacktriangledown + \blacktriangle$ .

(2) The vertices of inverted triangle and regular triangle need to be accurately aligned to form a rectangle. In other words, there should be echo between thesis paragraph and conclusion paragraph, semantic connection in the text

therefore realized. This pattern of semantic connection is similar to that of hourglass.

(3) The thesis paragraph and the conclusion paragraph are respectively illustrated with inverted triangle and regular triangle, which displays the logical relationship between the two paragraphs. That is, Sentence A in the regular triangle should echo to Sentence C in the inverted triangle. In other

words, from the semantic point of view, Sentence C in the inverted triangle = Sentence A in the regular triangle, through the restatement of key words.

*B. The Conclusion Part & The Conclusion Paragraph*

And here is the figure and table about paragraph structure (See Fig. 7 & Table VI).

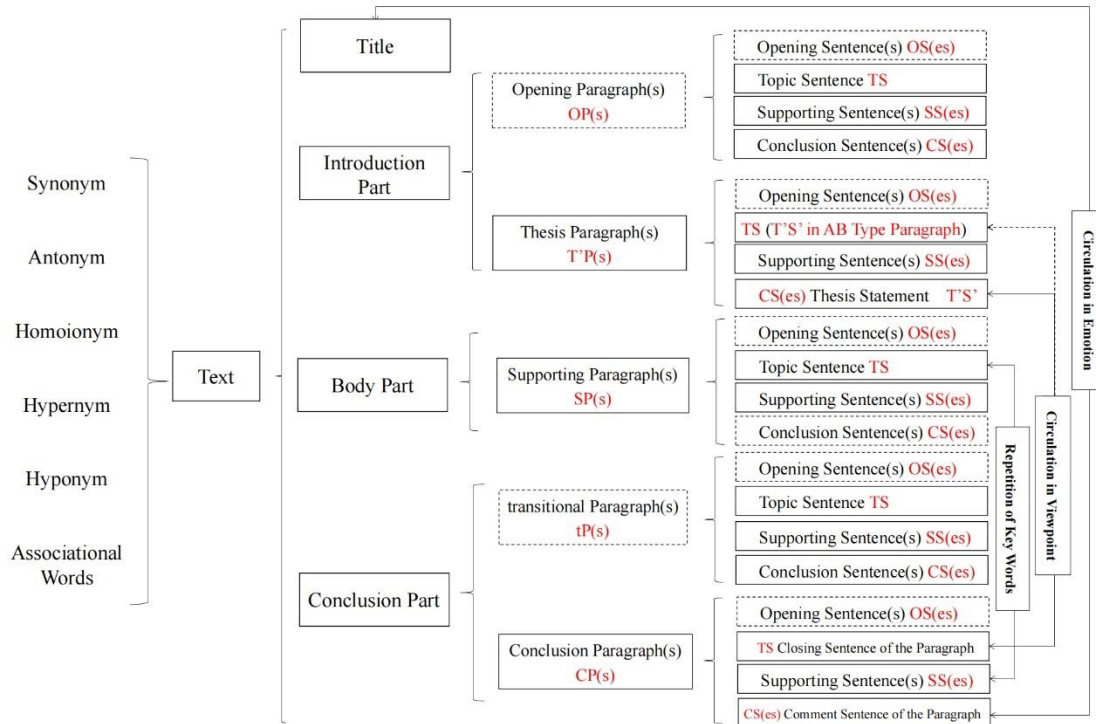


Fig. 7. Structure of the text.

TABLE VI: STRUCTURE OF THE TEXT

Part and Paragraph	Abbreviation	Location in the Text	Note
Introduction Part	Opening Paragraph(s) OP <sub>(s)</sub>	Beginning	As the background introduction for T'P, OP(s) can be in the form of one or more paragraphs. It can even be in the form of a sentence.
	Thesis Paragraph(s) T'P <sub>(s)</sub>	Beginning	As the headquarter of a text, T'P(s), in the form of one or more paragraphs, includes the text theme which is in the form of this statement. The thesis statement is usually the last sentence of T'P, and should provide new key words that will be demonstrated in SPs.
Body Part	Supporting Paragraph(s) SP <sub>s</sub>	Middle	SPs run according to the new key words (Supporting ideas) in the thesis statement. Usually, the topic sentence of each supporting paragraph will restate the key words in the thesis statement. If necessary, transitional paragraphs can be inserted between paragraphs, which can be used for topic-shift.
Conclusion Part	Transitional Paragraph(s) tP <sub>(s)</sub>	End	As the background introduction for CP, tP(s) plays the transitional function of connecting the preceding and the following, in the form of one or more paragraphs, or even missing.
	Conclusion Paragraph(s) CP <sub>(s)</sub>		As the summary and comment in the text, CP(s) is usually the last paragraph of the text.

In Fig. 6, there are two types of paragraphs in the Conclusion Part of the text, transitional Paragraph and Conclusion Paragraph. The former, as the background introduction for the latter, plays the transitional function of connecting the preceding and the following. It is in the form of one or more paragraphs, sometimes even missing. Therefore, not every Conclusion Part needs it. The latter, as the summary and comment in the text, is usually the last paragraph in the text, with discourse markers like “in a word”,

“all in all” etc. It is indispensable in the Conclusion Part.

The topic sentence of the Conclusion Paragraph is a summary and echo in viewpoint to the thesis statement in the Thesis Paragraph, usually with the restatement of key words in the thesis statement. Therefore, the topic sentence in the Conclusion Paragraph is actually the closing sentence of the whole text, forming a circulation in viewpoint with the thesis statement in the Thesis Paragraph. And the conclusion sentence in the Conclusion Paragraph is the comment

sentence of the whole text, forming a circulation in emotion with the title of the text. Both realize the function of consistency.

It should be pointed out that if there is only one paragraph in the Conclusion Part, it must be the Paragraph of Conclusion (in the graphic of regular triangle).

See Example 5 & Example 6.

[Example 5]

(1) In 1812, Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of the French, led his Grand Army into Russia. He was prepared for the fierce resistance of the Russian people defending their homeland. He was prepared for the long march across Russian soil to Moscow, the capital city. But he was not prepared for the devastating enemy that met him in Moscow—the raw, bitter, bleak Russian winter.

(2) In 1941, Adolf Hitler, leader of Nazi Germany, launched an attack against the Soviet Union, as Russia then was called. Hitler’s military might was unequalled. His war

machine had mowed down resistance in most of Europe. Hitler expected a short campaign but, like Napoleon before him, was taught a painful lesson. The Russian winter again came to the aid of the Soviet soldiers.

**Napoleon’s Campaign**

(3).....(11)

**Hitler’s Invasion**

(12).....(20)

**Russia’s Icy Defender**

(21) The elements of nature must be reckoned with in any military campaign. Napoleon and Hitler both underestimated the severity of the Russian winter. Snow, ice, and freezing temperatures took their toll on both invading armies. For the Russian people, the winter was an icy defender.

(The Icy Defender, Unit 1, *New College English: Integrated Course*) [13]

The text is composed of 21 paragraphs, with 3 subtitles for division. On Page 17 of the textbook is the structure of *The Icy Defender* (See Fig. 8).

1. The text falls into four parts, as can be easily seen from the subtitles provided by the author. Now go over the text and write down the main idea of each part.

Parts	Paragraphs	Main Ideas
Part One	Paras. 1–2	<u>Introduction — Both Napoleon’s and Hitler’s military campaigns failed because of the severity of the Russian winter.</u>
Part Two	Paras. 3–11	<u>Napoleon’s military campaign against Russia.</u>
Part Three	Paras. 12–20	<u>Hitler’s military campaign against the Soviet Union.</u>
Part Four	Para. 21	<u>Conclusion — The elements of nature must be reckoned with in any military campaign.</u>

Fig. 8. The Structure of *The Icy Defender* (textbook’s version).

According to the textbook, Part 1 of the text, namely the Introduction Part, is composed of two paragraphs: Paragraph (1) and (2). The word “again” in the last sentence of Paragraph (2) is a hint that both the last sentence in Paragraph (1), namely “But he was not prepared for the devastating enemy that met him in Moscow—the raw, bitter, bleak Russian winter.”, and the last sentence in Paragraph (2), namely “The Russian winter again came to the aid of the Soviet soldiers.” are the thesis statement of the text, “Russian winter”, “the devastating enemy”, “the Soviet soldiers” as key words.

The Body Part is composed of paragraphs from Paragraph (3) to Paragraph (20).

The Conclusion part contains only the Paragraph of Conclusion (Paragraph <21>), transitional Paragraph missing. The Conclusion Paragraph is composed of three sentences. The first sentence, namely “The elements of nature must be

reckoned with in any military campaign.” is the topic sentence, which forms a circulation in viewpoint with the thesis statements (respectively the last sentence in Paragraph <1> and Paragraph <2>). “Russian winter” in the thesis statement is restated with its hypernym “nature” while “the devastating enemy” and “Russian winter” in the thesis statement are restated with their hypernym “military campaign”. The third sentence, namely “For the Russian people, the winter was an icy defender.”, is the conclusion sentence because it is the comment on the title, with restatement of key words in the title instead of in the thesis statement. It is the comment sentence of both the paragraph and the text. In this way, in the conclusion paragraph, the closing sentence echoes to the thesis statement of the text in viewpoint while the comment sentence echoes to the title of the text in emotion (See Fig. 9 and Table VII).

TABLE VII: THE STRUCTURE OF *THE ICY DEFENDER*

Parts	Types	Paragraphs	Key Words	Means of Restatement
	Title	The Icy Defender	icy, defender	/
	OP(s)	/		
Introduction Part	T'P1	In 1812, Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of the French, led his Grand Army into Russia. ....But he was not prepared for the devastating enemy that met him in Moscow ---the raw, bitter, bleak Russian winter.	the devastating enemy; the Russian winter	.....
	T'P2	In 1941, Adolf Hitler, leader of Nazi Germany, launched an attack against the Soviet Union, as Russia then was called..... The Russian winter again came to the aid of the Soviet soldiers.	the Russian winter; the Soviet soldiers	.....
Body Part	SP(s)	Napoleon's Campaign Hitler's Invasion	..... .....	
	tP(s)	/		
Conclusion Part	CP	The elements of nature must be reckoned with in any military campaign. Napoleon and Hitler both underestimated the severity of the Russian winter. Snow, ice, and freezing temperatures took their toll on both invading armies. For the Russian people, the winter was an icy defender.	The elements of nature; the Russian people, the winter ; an icy defender	Circulation with Thesis Paragraph through hypernym, hyponym etc.

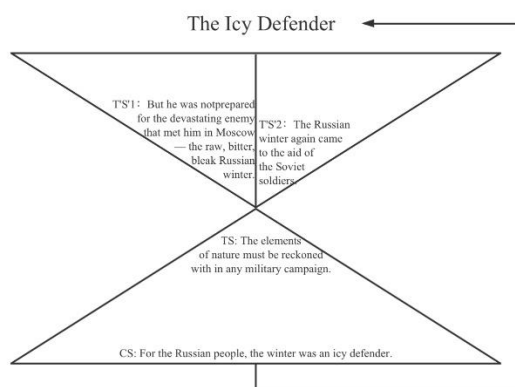


Fig. 9. The Circulation Between Thesis Paragraphs and Conclusion Paragraph in *The Icy Defender*.

[Example 6] Get the Job you want

(1) I run a manufacturing company with about 350 employees, and I often do the interviewing and hiring myself. I like talking to potential salespeople, because they're our link to customers.

.....

(6) The answer to every question was the same: no. That left me with only one other question: How well prepared would this person be if he were to call on a prospective customer for us? I already knew the answer.

(7) As I see it, there are four keys to getting hired:

(8) 1. *Prepare to win*. "If you miss one day of practice, you notice the difference," the saying goes among musicians. "If you miss two days of practice, the critics notice the difference. If you miss three days of practice, the audience notices the difference."

.....

(13) 2. *Never stop learning*. Recently I played a doubles tennis match paired with a 90-year-old. I wondered how things would work out; I shouldn't have. We hammered our opponents 6-1, 6-1!

.....

(17) *Believe in yourself, even when no one else does*. Do you remember the four-minute mile? Athletes had been trying to do it for hundreds of years and finally decided it was physically impossible for humans. Our bone structure was all wrong, our lung power inadequate.

.....

(21) *Find a way to make a difference*. In my opinion, the

majority of New York cabdrivers are unfriendly, *if not* downright rude. Most of the cabs are filthy, and almost all of them sport an impenetrable, bulletproof partition. But recently I jumped into a cab at LaGuardia Airport and guess what? It was clean. There was beautiful music playing and no partition.

.....

(28) My mentor, Curt Carlson, is the wealthiest man in Minnesota, owner of a hotel and travel company with sales in the neighborhood of \$9 billion. I had to get to a meeting in New York one day, and Curt generously offered me a ride in his jet. It happened to be a day Minnesota was hit with one of the worst snowstorms in year S. Minneapolis -St. Paul International Airport was closed for the first time in decades.

(29) Then, though the storm continued to pound us, the airport opened a runway for small craft only. As we were taxiing down it to take off, Curt turned to me and said gleefully, "Look, Harvey, no tracks in the snow!"

(30) Curt Carlson, 70 years old at the time, rich beyond anyone's dreams, could still sparkle with excitement about being first.

(31) From my standpoint, that's what it's all about. Prepare to win. Never stop learning. Believe in yourself, even when no one else does. Find a way to make a difference. Then go out and make your own tracks in the snow.

(Get the Job You Want, Unit 3, *New College English: Integrated Course*) [13]

The text is composed of 31 paragraphs, in the structure of ABC (namely total-divide-total) (See Table 8).

Paragraph (1) to Paragraph (7) make up the Introduction Part of the text. Among them, Paragraph (1) to Paragraph (5) are the Opening Paragraphs while Paragraph (6) to Paragraph (7) are the Thesis Paragraphs. "As I see it, there are four keys to getting hired." is the thesis statement.

Paragraph (8) to Paragraph (27) make up the Body Part of the text, with 4 subtitles, mainly about the methods of getting hired.

Paragraph (28) to Paragraph (31) make up the Conclusion Part of the text. Among them, Paragraph (28) to Paragraph (30) are the transitional paragraphs, introducing the Paragraph of Conclusion (Paragraph <31>) in the form of stories. Paragraph (31) is composed of 7 sentences. Its topic sentence, namely the first sentence "From my standpoint, that's what it's all about.", is the echo to the thesis statement.



The discourse marker “From my standpoint” and the conclusive word “all” indicate that this sentence is the closing sentence of the text. The conclusion sentence, namely the last sentence of the paragraph “Then go out and make your own tracks in the snow.” is the emotional response to the title “Get the Job You Want”, which is also the comment sentence of

the text.

This is a typical conclusion sentence, with the topic sentence of the paragraph as the closing sentence of the text while the conclusion sentence in the paragraph as the comment sentence of the text. Therefore, circulation in both viewpoint and emotion is achieved.

TABLE VIII: THE STRUCTURE OF *GET THE JOB YOU WANT*

Part	Types of Paragraph	Paragraph	Points for Analysis	Sentence	Key Words	Discourse Marker
Title				Get the Job You Want	the Job You Want	/
Introduction Part	OP(s)	1-5		.....		
	T'P(s)	6-7	Sentence C	As I see it, there are four keys to getting hired:	four keys, getting hired	as I see it
Body Part	SPs	8-27	Sub-topic1	Prepare to win.	/	/
			Sub-topic2	Never stop learning.	/	/
			Sub-topic3	Believe in yourself, even when no one else does.	/	/
			Sub-topic4	Find a way to make a difference.	/	/
	tP(s)	28-30		/		
Conclusion Part	CP	31	Sentence A	From my standpoint, that's what it's all about.	all	From my standpoint
			Sentence B	Prepare to win. Never stop learning. Believe in yourself, even when no one else does. Find a way to make a difference.	/	/
			Sentence C	Then go out and make your own tracks in the snow.	/	/

Above all, there are both similarities and differences between Conclusion Paragraph and Conclusion Sentence (See Table IX). Both have the features of summation and comment. The relation between them is that the topic

sentence of the Conclusion Paragraph is the echo in viewpoint to the thesis statement while the conclusion sentence in the Conclusion Paragraph is the echo in emotion to the title.

TABLE IX: SENTENCE OF CONCLUSION VS PARAGRAPH OF CONCLUSION

Name	Type	Location	Discourse Marker	Linguistic Features	Discourse Features
Conclusion Paragraph	Closing Paragraph		but, however, yet, and...	Restate key words in thesis statement.	Summation
	Comment Paragraph	End of the Text	/	Comment on the text theme.	Comment
	Concluding Paragraph		/	In Sentence A, key words in thesis statement is restated. In Sentence C, the author's attitude and emotion are displayed. Sublimation of the theme.	Summation & Comment
Conclusion Sentence	Closing Sentence	End of the Paragraph	finally, ultimately, in a word...	Restatement of the key words in the topic sentence.	Summation
	Comment Sentence		/	Comment on the topic of the paragraph.	Comment
	Concluding Sentence		/	Summary of and comment on the topic of the paragraph.	Summation & Comment

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The conclusion can reach the circulation in structure and emotion in both text and paragraph so as to realize the unity and consistency of the meaning and the sublimation of the theme.

(1) According to the semantic characteristics, the conclusion sentence, at the end of the paragraph, can be divided into three types: closing sentence, comment sentence, concluding sentence. The closing sentence is the echo in viewpoint to the topic sentence of the paragraph through lexical cohesion of key word repetition. In this way, the semantic continuity of the topic and circulation of viewpoint will be realized. The comment sentence is the remark on the

topic of the paragraph. Instead of the restatement of the key words of the topic sentence, the author's attitude towards the topic of the paragraph tends to be presented for the sublimation of the paragraph theme. The concluding sentence, the combination of closing and comment sentence. It not only echoes to the paragraph topic but also sublimates the paragraph theme. The thesis statement is only in the thesis paragraph of the introduction part in the text. It not only has the textual function of connecting the preceding sentence with the following sentence, but also has discourse markers indicating the topic shift such as “however”, “but”, “yet” etc. At the same time, it contains new keywords closely related to the topic of the text for further explanation and discussion in the following paragraphs.

(2) There are two types of paragraphs in the conclusion part of the text: transitional paragraph and paragraph of conclusion. And the latter can be divided into three types: closing paragraph, comment paragraph and concluding paragraph (which is the combination of closing paragraph and comment paragraph). If there is only one paragraph in the conclusion part, it must be the conclusion paragraph. Its topic sentence is also the closing sentence of the text with discourse markers indicating the summary, and forms a circulation in viewpoint with the thesis statement through the restatement of key words of it. Its conclusion sentence is also the comment sentence of the text with remark on and sublimation of the text theme. Therefore, the semantic consistency between the thesis paragraph and the conclusion paragraph is realized in the pattern of hourglass.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

#### AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Wu Biyu is the author, providing theoretical basis for the study; Fan Jiayao is the co-author, analyzing examples based on the theory; Sun Hui is the corresponding author, preparing relevant diagrams and pictures; all authors had approved the final version.

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