

## Corpus-based Study of Linking Words used in Academic Journal Articles in the ELT Journal and TESOL Quarterly

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In the context of ELT, the current study attempts to investigate which linking words are most and least frequently used in the ELT Journal and TESOL quarterly. Research articles published in journals are referred to as scholarly articles, or academic journal articles. For the purpose of this study a corpus was built with total of 50 research articles published in TESOL Quarterly and the ELT Journal. An analysis and identification of the usage of linking words in these journal articles was conducted by loading the corpus into the LancsBox corpus tool with a total of 404887 tokens. The study examined 30 linking words in total and sought to answer two research questions regarding the most and least common linking word types as well as the linking words' usage. Results showed that "and" was the most frequent, while "thirdly" was the least. Additionally, "for," "or," "but," and "as" appeared frequently, whereas "until," "unless," and "firstly" were less common. Coordinate conjunctions emerged as the most prevalent type of linking words. Among six categories, information-adding linking words were the most commonly used. These findings provide valuable insights for educators on the use of linking words in academic writing and suggest further research on their application across various contexts.

**Keywords:** *corpus-based analysis, linking words, frequency, journal articles, ELT, TESOL*