

Homework review 3

Paragraph on an aspect of development

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Emotivity in academic prose

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Language issues: WW, VB, Gr, Art, Ref, Register, T

Evaluation of structure (a non-paragraph, lacks unity of topic)

A well-formed paragraph discussing meanings of development - as an example.

1st TOPIC: The importance of development in resolving the contradiction between tremendous progress and great poverty.

The problem is related to the fact that rich countries (called "first world countries") uncontrollably exploit the few resources that poor countries (called "third or fourth world countries") have at their disposal. In this way, the former are getting richer and richer, while the latter are getting poorer and poorer. The "rich" do not just take the resources of the "poor", in fact they also use the labour force (especially children) and build their factories in these places to reduce production costs. Unfortunately, until they realize the disaster they are creating at an economic, human and environmental level, the problem will remain constant.

‘in fact’ often seems to be used to translate ‘infatti’ in Italian. While ‘infatti’ is much used in Italian discourse generally for emphasis, ‘in fact’ is much less used in English and can sound pedantic and heavy in academic prose.

Note also the two different meanings of English ‘in fact’, which can be used both to confirm and to contradict (in the sense ‘in reality’) what was said earlier:

The Prime Minister promised to reduce taxes.

In fact, he increased them. / In fact [in reality], he cut them by 2%.

Try and translate both of the above sentences with ‘in fact’ into Italian, with ‘infatti’. Does the translation work both ways?

The use of emotive language such as the adverb 'Unfortunately' is not conventional in academic English. Generally speaking, avoid adverbs like 'sadly' 'happily' 'regretfully' to give your personal, emotional perspective on topics. This is more characteristic of opinion articles in newspapers.

1st TOPIC: The importance of development in resolving the contradiction between tremendous progress and great poverty.

The problem is related to the fact that rich countries (called "first world countries") uncontrollably exploit the few resources that poor countries (called "third or fourth world countries") have at their disposal. In this way, the former are getting richer and richer, while the latter are getting poorer and poorer. The "rich" do not just take the resources of the "poor"; they also use the labour force (especially children) and build their factories in these places to reduce production costs. ~~Unfortunately,~~ Until they realize the disaster they are creating at an economic, human and environmental level, the problem will remain constant.

1st TOPIC: The importance of development in resolving the contradiction between tremendous progress and great poverty.

As a topic sentence, this does not work.

What the problem is needs to be made explicit.

Re-phrase this topic sentence so that it performs the function it is supposed to.

The starting point here is the exploitation of poor countries by rich countries, which development should address.

The problem is related to the fact that rich countries (called "first world countries") uncontrollably exploit the few resources that poor countries (called "third or fourth world countries") have at their disposal. In this way, the former are getting richer and richer, while the latter are getting poorer and poorer.

Development should address the contradiction between tremendous progress and great poverty. This problem is related to the fact that rich or "first world countries" uncontrollably exploit the few resources that poor or "third or fourth world countries" have at their disposal. In this way, the former are getting richer and richer, while the latter are getting poorer and poorer. The "rich" do not just take the resources of the "poor"; they also use the labour force (especially children) and build their factories in these places to reduce production costs. Until they realize the disaster they are creating at an economic, human and environmental level, the contradiction between progress in rich countries and lack of development in poor countries will remain in place.

Text B

Problems with language (art; vb; gr; ww; register; ref)

Problems with structure and content

What definition of development can we give? Google says «[Development is] an event constituting a new stage in a changing situation». A change in a situation can be either good or bad. Can the conflict, based on this definition, be considered a type of development? In the last decades the world has seen many big conflicts, (the professor Ian Goldin mentioned Syria and Rwanda), that have putted these countries in a disastrous situation: flow of immigrants, economic and social crisis, even genocides and the list can go on.

In fact, a conflict undermines the efforts of a country's developing. It pauses the economic cycle and it forces the country to start everything over again.

For this reason, we must prevent wars from happening and guarantee peace and security.

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What definition of development can we give? Google says «[Development is] an event constituting a new stage in a changing situation». A change in a situation can be either good or bad. Can **Art** ~~the~~ conflict, based on this definition, be considered a type of development? In the last decades the world has seen many big conflicts, (~~the~~ professor Ian Goldin mentioned Syria and Rwanda), **Ref** ~~that~~ *which* have **VB** ~~putted~~ *put / placed* these countries in a disastrous situation: flow of immigrants, economic and social crisis, even genocides and the list **T** ~~can~~ *could* **WW – R** ~~go on~~ *continue*.

In fact, a conflict undermines **Gr** ~~the efforts of a country's developing~~ *a country's development efforts*. It **WW** ~~pauses~~ *stops / interrupts / breaks* the economic cycle and it forces the country **WW** ~~to start everything over again~~ *to rebuild from scratch*.

For this reason, we must prevent wars from happening and guarantee peace and security.

Nonetheless, there are still problems with this text. They have to do with the content and with the organisational structure. Can you say what they are?

What definition of development can we give? Google says «[Development is] an event constituting a new stage in a changing situation». A change in a situation can be either good or bad. Can conflict, based on this definition, be considered a type of development? In the last decades the world has seen many big conflicts, (professor Ian Goldin mentioned Syria and Rwanda), which have *placed* these countries in a disastrous situation: flow of immigrants, economic and social crisis, even genocides and the list *could continue*.

In fact, a conflict undermines *a country's development efforts*. It *stops / interrupts / breaks* the economic cycle and it forces the country *to rebuild from scratch*.

For this reason, we must prevent wars from happening and guarantee peace and security.

Evaluation

First, the text is not organized as a single paragraph but as three. Second, the initial, topic sentence is about defining development: a very broad, general definition is quoted, which is not pertinent to the subject matter. The next sentence asks whether conflict can be considered a type of development. The next describes the negative effects of war on a country's economy. We then move to a new line where it is stated that war undermines a country's development efforts. Here a more specific meaning of development (the one we need) is used. Finally we move to a new line again, to state that peace and security must be guaranteed.

This is a logical mess: defining development is one thing; the need for peace in order to promote development is another.

On the next slide, there is a well-formed paragraph about development. What is its main idea?

A multitude of meanings is attached to the idea of development; the term is complex, contested, ambiguous, and elusive. However, in the simplest terms, development can be defined as bringing about social change that allows people to achieve their human potential. An important point to emphasise is that development is a political term: it has a range of meanings that depend on the context in which the term is used, and it may also be used to reflect and to justify a variety of different agendas held by different people or organisations. The idea of development articulated by the World Bank, for instance, is very different from that promoted by Greenpeace activists. This point has important implications for the task of understanding sustainable development, because much of the confusion about the meaning of the term 'sustainable development' arises because people hold very different ideas about the meaning of 'development' (Adams 2009). Another important point is that development is a process rather than an outcome: it is dynamic in that it involves a change from one state or condition to another. Ideally, such a change is a positive one - an improvement of some sort (for instance, an improvement in maternal health). Furthermore, development is often regarded as something that is done by one group (such as a development agency) to another (such as rural farmers in a developing country). Again, this demonstrates that development is a political process, because it raises questions about who has the power to do what to whom.

The paragraph's point seems to be that despite the different meanings attached to development by different actors in the field, development is a political process.