

## Cohesion devices

*Read the following paragraphs describing aspects of leprosy and underline or circle all devices (connectors, conjunctions, etc.) used that make this passage cohesive.*

Leprosy, an ancient disease, is soon going to be eliminated if ongoing efforts are continued. However, some health officials are concerned that government health organizations have forgotten about leprosy because they have so many other new diseases to worry about. Additionally, treatment is not available to all lepers, or people who have leprosy, due to inability to pay for the medical costs. Some 600,000 people per year are diagnosed with leprosy, which seems to be found mostly in humid, tropical, and subtropical countries. The countries with the most reported cases are India, Brazil, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Burma, and Nigeria. These six countries account for 85% of the diseased individuals worldwide.

There are two types of leprosy, the tuberculoid type and the lepromatous type. The most common of the two is the lepromatous, or cutaneous type. The highly visible symptoms of this leprosy are caused by nerve-attacking bacteria called *microbacterium leprae bacillus*, which result in nerve and skin decay; the disease may also involve inflammation of the eyes, testes, and the mucous membranes of the nose and pharynx. The complications of the disease eventually cause the nerves to be completely destroyed, lack of sensation in the extremities, and loss of flesh. In severe cases, people lose their fingers, toes, hands, and even their legs. They also develop lesions in the upper respiratory tract.

If untreated, the prognosis is poor, but leprosy is treatable and has been treatable for many years. The treatment, similar to chemotherapy for cancer, utilizes a multi-drug therapy, which can cure a patient within 2 years. However, in the past, people were put into isolation, cast out from society. They often found that their families did not want to take them into their homes, even after being cured. This ignorance may have been due to the fact that the method of transmission of the disease was unclear. It is now known that one method of transmission is via long-term contact with a diseased individual although physical closeness or contact does not always transmit the disease. Another possible method of transmission is from infectious needles. Interestingly enough, children born to lepers are not infected at birth and will not get the disease if they are taken away from the parent immediately.

Only 20 years ago, there were 20 million cases of leprosy. Today, however, 3.1 million cases are recorded; as a result, more attention is being given to serious diseases that are not curable, such as AIDS. Nevertheless, leprosy remains a major health problem. It could be eliminated by the end of the decade, but it needs the resources of health agencies and financial donors to completely eliminate it.