Excerpt 1:

[...] Matto de Turner’s Aves sin nido therefore touches only briefly on cultural structures of power, without elaborating how local ‘custom’ can work to dispossess the indigenous population [...]  

Castellanos, on the other hand, is concerned precisely with such cultural power structures [...]  

‘On the other hand’ shows that a contrast is being drawn between one writer and the next. ‘Precisely’ picks up on the previous point about ‘cultural power structures’, establishing the basis for the comparison being drawn. So the link is made on the basis of similar topic, but points to the different response of each writer.

Excerpt 2:

[...] The chapters written from the perspective of the educated Marito are interspersed with chapters ostensibly written by a radio soap opera writer in such a way that neither is given precedence in the novel [...]  

This juxtaposition of high and lowbrow culture throughout the novel forces the reader to compare and contrast the different styles and also to criticise the popular form [...]  

‘This’ suggests that the subject of the previous paragraph is still being referred to. The ‘juxtaposition of high and lowbrow culture’ in the novel is a more general description of what has just been discussed in terms of the ‘educated Marito’ and the ‘radio soap opera writer’. The second paragraph points to the effect on the reader of the contrast in styles analysed in the first paragraph, so the link is made on the basis of elaborating a previous point or showing its broader significance.

Excerpt 3:

[...] As the novel progresses we can see that the biographical events begin to share something in common with the plot of a soap opera. The events that take place in Mario’s life edge constantly towards sensationalism like those of the radio serials: both involve family scandal, elopement and violence.  

Despite these areas of blurring, the distinctions between the two parts of the novel remain clearly delineated, given the rigidity of the novel’s structure [...]  

‘Despite’ introduces a contrast with the previous point. The link is made on the basis of qualifying the point made in the previous paragraph, giving a fuller picture of the novel’s structure.