

Analyzing Grammatical and Lexical Cohesion in A Legendary Short Story

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Abstract:

Despite the existence of many studies on cohesion in discourse, little scholarly work reports grammatical and lexical cohesion in a short story. To fill this gap, the present study investigates these two aspects of cohesion in a legendary short story entitled "After Twenty Years." Halliday and Hasan's (1976) theoretical framework of cohesion was used to guide the current study. We applied textual analysis as the appropriate approach to find out grammatical and lexical cohesion within the forms of text. The findings in the grammatical cohesions showed that reference had the highest frequency of the total cohesive devices. Also, under grammatical cohesion, conjunctions are found to exist. However, other aspects were not found within this short story, including substitution and ellipsis. On the other hand, repetition was dominantly used lexically among other aspects of lexical cohesion and sequentially followed by repetitions, hyponyms, synonyms, and antonyms. Only one aspect of lexical cohesion, the meronym, was not found. The overall results of the research indicated that the short story was a coherent discourse because both grammatical and lexical cohesion exist properly.

Keywords: *Discourse analysis; Grammatical cohesion; Lexical cohesion, Short story*

1. INTRODUCTION

Discourse is a language unit that consists of text and context (Halliday & Hasan, 2014). Discourse must pay attention to the relationship between sentences and paragraphs so that it can maintain linkage and coherence of the discourse. Cohesion is one of the most important aspects that contribute to the good discourse, along with semantics (i.e., relationships). It happens when the interpretations of some elements in discourse are interdependent of one another. There has been a multitude of works conducted by experienced writers who use their expertise to astound the readers through their use of nice and amusing word arrangement, such that their works become a meticulous discourse. Of course, this cannot be separated from the manifestation of cohesion which builds a good discourse.

Due to the important role of cohesion in building good and well-arranged discourse, some researchers have examined this field (e.g. Alacron & Morales, 2011; Ali, 2010; Dang, 2020; Hidayat, 2016; Sholah, & Yunus, 2020; Telaumbanua, 2021; Widiatmoko, 2015), such as Ali (2010), which analyzed grammatical cohesion in a short story entitled “The Killer” and found that the percentage of the reference aspect was placed the highest percentage from the overall total grammatical cohesion aspect. Fauzan (2016) conducted research on the structural analysis of “Peanut & Sparky”. The following year, Alacron and Morales (2011) also conducted research about cohesion in discourse, analyzing grammatical cohesion in argumentative essays written by students at a university in the Philippines. The findings of this research suggested that the reference aspect dominated grammatical cohesion. Meanwhile, the substitution aspect was used the least among the essays. Then, Widiatmoko (2015) analyzed cohesion in news discourse in one of the portals for online national news. The research findings also showed that grammatical cohesion was found the most often alongside reference and conjunction. Likewise, Dang (2020) analyzed the grammatical cohesion of political discourse in Vietnamese and English newspapers. The results showed that reference is the kind of grammatical cohesion that appeared most often in discourse. The previous research, conducted by some of the scholars listed above, similarly revealed that reference has always dominated the discourses.

In relation to lexical cohesion research, there have been many studies that have investigated this topic (see Malah & Rashid, 2017; Mirzapour & Ahmadi, 2011; Mandarani, 2020; Murodi et al., 2021; Pernando & Rahima, 2017; Putri, 2022; Sari et al., 2018; Sari & Anindita, 2020), such as Mirzapour and Ahmadi (2011) who analyzed lexical cohesion of the English and Persian scientific article. The findings revealed that repetition was the method of cohesion that appeared most often. Next, Pernando and Rahima (2017), analyzed lexical cohesion in the LPM Patriotik Magazine of a university in Indonesia, July-September 2016 edition. The result of the research indicated that repetition lexical cohesion dominated the most in the discourse. This result is similar to relevant research, conducted by some researchers above, which also revealed that repetition is always dominant in the discourses.

Even though there have been some scientific studies about cohesion, little scholarly work reports grammatical and lexical cohesion in a short story. For that reason, this research tries to fill in the gap in relation to cohesion topics in the short story “After Twenty Years”. In addition, the general reason for choosing a short story as the object of the research is that the form of the short story is concise, yet still requires a high level of cohesion to keep the discourse in good coherence. Meanwhile, a more specific reason why the short story “After Twenty Years” was chosen is simply that it is the legendary and most well-known short story from O. Henry who is a famous writer.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Cohesion has been defined by experts in the semantic area of the language. It refers to “the formal links that mark various types of inter-clause and inter-sentence relationship within discourse” (Nunan, 1993, p.116). Thus, cohesion is one of the elements in discourse analysis. Halliday and Hasan (1976) stated that the concept of cohesion is essential for semantic relations between different elements on the surface of texts that allow the texts to 'hang together' as units of meaning. Thus, they emphasized that cohesion is a necessary and sufficient property for the unity of texts. In addition, Malah (2020) also argues that the absence of these relationships between the various elements in texts almost always renders them unintelligible, even after much effort by the reader/listener. Janjua (2012) also clarified that cohesion is a relationship amongst structurally standalone text elements, which function is to distinguish text from the collection of unconnected sentences. Provided by the important function of cohesion in a text, experts in the field have divided cohesion into two parts. According to the linguists, Halliday and Hasan (2014), cohesion is divided into two parts, namely grammatical cohesion, and lexical cohesion.

2.1 Grammatical Cohesion

Grammatical cohesion is established with the use of grammatical elements of the text expressing the semantic relationships within and between the sentences. It includes reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction. Halliday and Hasan (1976) categorized grammatical cohesion into four types, namely, Reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction. Each of the categories is divided into subcategories. For example, Reference which is the connection between text discourse and its preceding element is divided into three types: personal, demonstrative, and comparative. Substitution is a replacement process of an item by another one holding the text together which contains three types, namely, verbal, nominal, and causal. Ellipsis which is the omission process upon words or sentences consists of nominal, verbal, and causal. The last types, conjunctions which connect the sentences that show the consequences phrase, consist of additive, adversative, causal, and temporal.

2.2 Lexical Cohesion

Lexical cohesion refers to “the relationship in meaning between lexical items in a text, in particular, content words and the relationship between them (Paltridge, 2008, p.

133). Referring to the definition of lexical cohesion, experts in the field have classified lexical cohesion into categories. The classification of lexical cohesion has been started by Halliday and Hasan's (1976) in which they classified lexical cohesion into two broad categories: *Reiteration* and *Collocation*. Different lexical relations have also been identified under each category. First, a reiteration is a type of lexical cohesion that comprises the repetition of a lexical item, the use of the general word to reversely denote lexical items, and several kinds of stuff between synonyms, near-synonym, or superordinates. Four types of reiteration: repetition, synonym, near-synonym, and general word. The second category is collocation which revolves around the connection between the words of the fact, which is also called lexical cohesion that is achieved through lexical items association that systematically co-occurs. These cohesions are not only represented by a synonym or superordinate, yet also by opposite pairs of various kinds. Malah (2020) argues that the relations identified under the category of collocation include antonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, co-hyponym, comeronymy, ordered series, and co-occurrence tendency.

2.3 Studies on Grammatical and Lexical Cohesion

The importance of grammatical and lexical cohesion in the discourse has attracted researchers to conduct studies in these fields currently. A lot of growing studies on analyzing grammatical and lexical cohesion using Halliday and Hasan's (1976) framework either on written or spoken discourse have been available. Most studies have been focused on the analysis of grammatical and lexical cohesion in song lyrics (e.g. Murodi et al., 2021; Putri, 2022; Sari & Anindita, 2020; Sholah, & Yunus, 2020; Telaumbanua, 2021). For example, Sholah and Yunus (2020) conducted a study that focuses on the lexical and grammatical cohesion in a song by adapting Halliday and Hasan's (1976) lexical cohesion model. The findings indicated that reference: personal adverbial demonstrative, selective nominal demonstrative, and comparative reference was found in the song. However, personal reference was found to be the most frequent appearance in the song lyrics. The finding concludes that the lyrics of the song were made meaningful because of the usage of cohesive devices. Similarly, Telaumbanua (2021) in his study on grammatical and lexical cohesion in the song lyrics found that reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction of grammatical cohesion and reiteration and collocation of lexical cohesion were found in the song lyrics. Grammatical cohesion dominated the song lyrics of the song compared to lexical cohesion. In grammatical cohesion, reference was the most used in the song. While in lexical cohesion, reiteration was the most used in the song.

A similar study on lexical cohesion in song lyrics was done by Sari and Anindita (2020). The purpose of their study is to identify the lexical cohesion in Adele's songs and to examine the impacts on the listener. Using the Halliday and Hasan (1976) framework, the findings indicated that repetition was the most dominant lexical cohesion type appearing in the song lyrics followed by synonyms. The findings also indicated that repetition has made the song deeper and increased the emotion of the hearer. A similar finding was shown in the study by Murodi, Hidayat, and Alek (2021)

when they analyse the lexical cohesion of the song. They found that repetition was mostly used in the songs. They conclude that repetition is used to match song lyrics and the music beat, so the listener can enjoy the music.

A study analyzing the grammatical and lexical cohesion of other written discourse, such as a novel, speech scripts, short story, essay, scientific article, magazine, and newspaper have also been conducted (i.e. Alacron & Morales, 2011; Ali, 2010; Dang, 2020; Hidayat, 2016; Malah & Rashid, 2017; Mandarani, 2020; Ma'wa & Mirahayuni, 2010; Mizopour & Ahmadi, 2011; Pernando & Rahima, 2017; Sari, Ermanto, & Agustina, 2018; Sudani & Tika, 2017; Warid & Lail, 2021; Widiatmoko, 2015). For example, Ma'wa and Mirahayuni (2010) conducted a study on analyzing lexical cohesion in two short stories. This qualitative study used Haliday and Hasan (1976) framework, the result indicated that seven types of cohesion were used in the short stories and the most used lexical cohesion of the two short stories is repetition. They also argue that the relationship that is built in the stories between the sentences creates coherent text and texture. Warid and Lail (2021) analyze the type and the function of reference of grammatical cohesion in a novel. The findings of the study demonstrated that the references that include personal reference, demonstrative reference, definite article reference, and comparative reference were found in the novel. They found that the function of grammatical cohesion is to avoid redundancy, to point to designate close scale, and to compare something or a situation. This study supported the findings of the study of Sudani and Tika (2017) who found that reference was the most grammatical cohesion which is mostly used in the short story.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

We applied textual analysis as the appropriate approach to find out grammatical and lexical cohesion within the forms of tex (Fairclough, 2003) This method was used to analyze text contents objectively and systematically (Titscher et al., 2000). The data was a lingual unit in the forms of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences that support discourse coherence of the short story “After Twenty Years” by O. Henry as viewed from grammatical and lexical cohesion. The data source of the research was the short story entitled “After Twenty Years” written by O. Henry, which was published in 1906.

For the analysis, the short story as the data was divided based on the sentence fragments. Each sentence was coded “s” and added by “number” to make the data display easier. For example, when there was a datum S2 (second sentence), it means that the datum was in the second sentence of the short story. The next step was, reading the data line by line for open coding (Patton, 2002; Saldana, 2009). the purposes of open coding are to code words, phrases, clauses, and sentences in the short story that contributed to grammatical and lexical cohesion. Then, the data were grouped according to the Grammatical and lexical cohesion as the framework of the study (Paton, 2002; Yin, 2014). They were discussed and connected with any relevant references.

4. FINDINGS

The objective of this research was to analyze grammatical and lexical cohesion in the short story “After Twenty Years.” The two cohesion devices will be discussed deeper based on the smallest parts of the cohesion. The data were collected by reading line by line, and then developing codes on the word, phrase, clause, and sentence levels within the story, focusing on grammatical and lexical cohesion. Then, the data were analyzed by grouping them based on subsections of grammatical and lexical cohesion. After that, they were discussed and connected with relevant references to previous literature.

4.1. Grammatical Cohesion

In the short story “After Twenty Years,” data was found containing grammatical cohesion, which was indicated by the usage of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences that contained grammatical cohesion in the form of reference and conjunction. The following provides a detailed explanation of the results of the data analysis.

Reference

Reference is the most important element in grammatical cohesion in discourse. Reference was divided into three parts: personal reference, demonstrative reference, and comparative reference. These three methods of reference could be found in “After Twenty Years.” The following table, Table 1, illustrates more details about how reference was used.

Table 1: The reference data from the short story

The example of Cohesion Element	No.Data	Reference of Element	No. Data	Remarks	The Number of Data
This was the way <u>he</u> always moved	S.2	The <u>cop</u> moved along the street, looking strong and important	S.1	Personal reference	138
The city	S.10, S.84	New York	S.27, S.83	Demonstrative reference	52
...like brother	two S.27	He (Jimmy Wells) and I (Bob) grew up together here in New York	S.27	Comparative reference	6
Total					196

The data above indicated that there were 138 data points of personal reference. One of the examples was the word “he” for data S.2, referring to “cop” (data S.1), which was only one example among the 137 remainings addition; there were 52 demonstrative references in the short story. For example, the words “the city” for data S.10 and S.84 referred to “New York” (data S.27 and S.83). Next, there were 6 comparative references that built the story. An example of this reference can be seen in

the sentence "...like two brothers" for data S.27, which compared Jimmy Wells and Bob for data S.27.

Conjunction

Conjunctions are used to connect words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and even paragraphs. Therefore, conjunctions are among the important things for the cohesiveness of discourse. There are three types of conjunctions: additive conjunction, adversative conjunction, and temporal conjunction. Table 2 lists more detailed information about the conjunctions within the story.

Table 2: Conjunction data in the short story

The Example of Cohesion Element	No.Dat a	Reference of Element	No. Data	Remarks	The Number of Data
... <u>and</u> important	(S.1)	The cop moved along the street, looking strong...	(S.1)	Additive conjunction	14
... <u>but</u> it was cold	(S.5)	It was only about ten at night...	(S.5)	adversative Conjunction	9
<u>...Since</u> you went west?	(S.37)	Have you heard from your fiend...	(S.37)	temporal conjunction	5
Total					28

From the data above, it is shown that there are 14 additive conjunctions. One of the examples of this conjunction is in the data S.1 "...and important." This conjunction connects words in the data S.1 and forms sentences that have clear meanings, such as "The cop moved along the street, looking strong...." The next type is the adversative conjunction. In this short story, there are 9 adversative conjunctions, as we can see in the data S.9 "...but it was cold." The conjunction connects two clauses with the same data: "It was only about ten at night" Then, the next type is the temporal conjunction, which amounts to 5 conjunctions, such as "since you went West?" (S.37). The conjunction connects two clauses in an interrogative sentence: "Have you heard from your friend...." (S.37).

4.2. Lexical Cohesion

The findings and interpretations of the short story "After Twenty Years" in terms of lexical cohesion aspect cover: (1) repetition, (2) synonym (3) hyponym (4) antonym, and (5) meronym. The following provides detailed explanations of each aspect.

Repetition

Repetition is when a word is repeatedly mentioned in a discourse. It is one of the characteristics that the discourse uses to form relationships. In the short story "After Twenty Years," there were 34 repetitions.

Table 3: Repetition Data in the short story

No	Words	Initial Emergence Data	Repetition Data
1	<i>Cop (13)</i>	S.1	S.9,S.13,S.15,S.22,S.35, S.50, S.56, S.63, S.96, S.101, S.105, S.107
2	<i>Street (6)</i>	S.1	S.4, S.8,S.65,S.69,S.86
3	<i>Restaurant (3)</i>	S.21	S.49,S.77
4	<i>Friend (6)</i>	S.17	S.26,S.37,S.46, S.58, S.66
5	<i>Tonight (3)</i>	S.18	S.25,S.45
6	<i>Twenty years (7)</i>	S.18	S.21, S.25, S.33, S.34, S.76, S.93
7	<i>Jewel (2)</i>	S.24	S.47
8	<i>New York (5)</i>	S.27	S.31,S.54,S.83,S.96
9	<i>Jimmy (11)</i>	S.25	S.27,S.28,S.31,S.42,S.51,S.62, S.72,S.81,S.83, S.92, S.107
10	<i>World (2)</i>	S.26	S.43
11	<i>Meet (6)</i>	S.18	S.33, S.36, S.42,S.66, S.67
12	<i>West (9)</i>	S.29	S.37,S.40,S.50,S.55,S.79,S.87,S.91,S.102
13	<i>Success (3)</i>	S.30	S.50, S.53
14	<i>Come (4)</i>	S.46	S.58,S.66,S.85
15	<i>Earth (2)</i>	S.32	S.62
16	<i>Face (3)</i>	S.23	S.90,S.105
17	<i>Place (4)</i>	S.12	S.32,S.85, S.104
18	<i>Man (21)</i>	S.14	S.15,S.23, S.38, S.43, S.47, S.54, S.66, S.69, S.72, S.73, S.87, S.91, S.93, S.94, S.102, S.105
19	<i>Ten (3)</i>	S.5	S.48,S.54
20	<i>officer</i>	S.16	S.62
21	<i>Then (4)</i>	S.8	S.11,S.13,S.69
22	<i>Light (2)</i>	S.8	S.89
23	<i>People (3)</i>	S.4	S.10,S.65
24	<i>Shop (5)</i>	S.11	S.14, S.21, S.66, S.89

25	<i>Fight (2)</i>	S.3	S.55
26	<i>Chicago (2)</i>	S.96,	S.105
27	<i>New York (5)</i>	S.27	S.31,S.54,S.83,S.96
28	<i>Tonight (3)</i>	s.18	s.25,s.45
30	<i>Right (4)</i>	s.16	S. 20S.23, S.58
31	<i>Job (2)</i>	s.30	S.107
32	<i>Trying (3)</i>	S.7	S.63,S.65
33	<i>Hurrying (2)</i>	S.65	S.69
34	<i>Change (4)</i>	s.54	s.81,S.93,S.94

The data above showed that the most repeated word in the short story was “man” (S.14, S.15, S.23, S.38, S.43, S.47, S.54, S.66, S.69, S.72, S.73, S.87, S.91, S.93, S.94, S.102, S.105), with 21 occurrences. The least repeated words in the short story were “jewel” (S.24, S.47), “world” (S.26, S.43), and “earth” (S.32, S.62). This was because the main characters in this short story were all men. The words “light” (S.8, S.89), “fight” (S.3, S.55), “Chicago” (S.96, S.105), “job” (S.30, S.107), and “hurrying” (S.65, S.69) were all repeated twice.

Synonym

A synonym is a word that has the same meaning, or a close meaning, to another word. In writing, there have been word variations that show the same meaning. The more word variation used in writing, the more beautiful the writing will often be. In addition, synonyms will also establish the forming of a relationship in a discourse, such as in “After Twenty Years,” which is discussed as follows:

Table 4: Synonym data in the short story

No	Word	No.Data	Synonym	No. Data
1	The cop	S.1.,S.9,S.13,S.15,S.22,S.35, S.50, S.56, S.63, S.96, S.101, S.105, S.107	The officer	S.16,S.62
2	The west	S.29, S.37,S.40,S.50,S.55,S.79,S.87,S.91 S.102	Chicago	S.96,S.105

The data above indicated that the synonyms of words closest in meaning can be seen from the words “the cop” (S.1, S.9, S.13, S.15, S.22, S.35, S.50, S.56, S.63, S.96, S.101, S.105, S.107) and the words “the officer” (S.16, S.62). In addition, it was found that the words “the west” from the data (S.29, S.37, S.40, S.50, S.55, S.79, S.87, S.91S.102), corresponded with a similar meaning with “Chicago” (S.96, S.105).

Hyponym

A hyponym is a connection between specific and generic groups or between taxonomy and taxonomy names. The following was the data of the lexical cohesion aspect of the hyponym from “After Twenty Years”:

Table 4: The Data of Hyponym in the Short Story

No	Cohesion Element	No.Data	Reference Element
1	necktie	S.24	clothes
2	coat	S.69	
3	eyes	S.23	body
4	ears	S.88	
5	Face	S.90	
6	nose	S.93	
7	Chicago	S.96,S.105	city
8	New York	S.27,S.31,S.54,S.83,S.96	

The data above indicated that there were eight specific words that had three generic words after being grouped. The word “necktie” (S.24) and the word “coat” (S.69) are parts of clothes. Then, the word “eyes” (S.23), “ears” (S.88), “face” (S.90), and “nose” (S.93) are parts of the body. The last one, the words “Chicago” (S.96, S.105) and “New York” (S.27, S.31, S.54, S.83, S.96) were the specific forms of the more generic word “city.”

Antonym

Antonym is a lexical cohesion device that shows the word with the opposite meaning. In this short story, there is only one datum that shows the opposite meaning, namely in the data S.95 for the word “good” as the opposite of the word “bad,” which can also be found in the same data. (S.94).

5. DISCUSSION

The finding of this study indicated that reference is the type of grammatical cohesion which is mostly used in the short story. These findings are similar to most of the findings of the previous studies i.e (Sholah & Yunus, 2020; Sudani & Tika 2017; Telaumbanua, 2021; Warid & Lail 2021) who also found that reference was the type of grammatical cohesion which is mostly used in the written discourse. For example, Sholah and Yunus (2020) who conducted a study analyzing grammatical and lexical cohesion on songs found that references including personal, adverbial demonstrative, selective nominal demonstrative, and comparative references were dominantly used in

the song lyrics. The dominant use of the reference in the written discourse is not arguable because the reference is used for several reasons such as “to avoid repeating the same words”, “to point out a scale of proximity”, and “to compare something or situation” (Warid & Lail, 2021). References also enhance the cohesiveness of the sentences in the short story and make the text can be read and interpreted easily.

Another important finding related to grammatical cohesion is the dominant use of a conjunction. The second dominance of conjunction use was also shown in the previous studies (i.e. Mandarani, 2020; Sudani & Tika, 2017). Sundani and Tika (2017) found that conjunctions including additive, adversative, causal and temporal conjunction were mostly used in the Short Stories Entitled “The Twelve Dancing Princesses” by Brothers Grimm And “The Whale Sound” by Roger Dean. The second dominance used of conjunction is related to the importance and the function of the conjunction which is to join or link words, phrases, or clauses to each other. the use of conjunction in the short story of this study provides coherence by connecting elements between or within sentences and from one paragraph to the next which make it easy for the reader to understand the ideas in the short story.

In the discussion part of lexical cohesion in this research, repetition is the lexical cohesion aspect that appears the most. It was in line with the previous research findings, such as those conducted by Mirzapour and Ahmadi (2011), Pernando and Rahima (2017). However, there had been researching that was not in line with the research previously mentioned, such as the research done by Ali (2010), who analyzed a short story entitled “The Killer,” in which his research indicated that lexical cohesion in the form of antonym had the highest percentage of the whole aspect of lexical cohesion, namely 32.5%. Whereas, in “After Twenty Years,” only one datum which had the opposite meaning with another word in another datum was found. The highest frequency of repetition found in the short story “After twenty years” indicated that the writer considered it important to put an emphasis on an appropriate context and emphasize the function of lexical cohesion in general which is to get the effect of the intensity of language meaning and the clarity of information.

6. CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings and discussion, it can be concluded that the discourse entitled “After Twenty Years” is a solid discourse because it is supported by grammatical and lexical cohesion markers. There were two grammatical cohesion aspects found in this discourse, namely reference, and conjunction. The grammatical cohesion was dominated by the usage of the reference aspect (n=196) and then by the conjunction aspect (n=28). Meanwhile, other aspects like substitution and ellipsis were not found in the short story. Furthermore, there were lexical cohesion aspects present, namely repetition (n=34), synonym (n=2), hyponym (n=8), and antonym (n=1). Whereas meronym, which was part of lexical cohesion, was not found in the short story. From the finding, it can be concluded that the short story “After Twenty Years”

achieve coherence which makes the reader easy to interpret and understand the message delivered by the writer.

Hopefully, the result of this research can make a significant contribution, especially in language teaching generally and English language particularly, namely for school students, college students, and teachers as well as readers in general. The purpose of the research was to support language users to understand and use language well. Therefore, the result of this research can be used alongside the previous literature as a knowledge source about cohesive discourse. The recommendation from the grammatical cohesion analysis and lexical cohesion is that the writers should pay attention to the two cohesions. It is recommended that further research be conducted about the cohesion of the short story entitled “After Twenty Years.”

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