

AN ANALYSIS OF CNN NEWS ARTICLE: A LEXICAL COHESION

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Abstract

This study investigates the lexical cohesion found in a CNN News, “What’s Next in the Search for the Imploded Submersible?” As a research design, descriptive qualitative method was applied to explore how lexical items were utilized in a news article so that readers are interested in making up a deeper understanding on the content of the news. The lexical items were connected to each other in making the article worth reading. The analysis was made in accordance with Paltridge’s (2000) that was applied through several steps to gain the validity of the present study. The analysis includes several stages, namely selecting, classifying, describing the data descriptively, and analyzing them comprehensively. This study found that four kinds of lexical cohesion in CNN news are synonymy, repetition, antonymy, hyponymy, and meronymy. Repetition consists of 30 data (71.3%), synonymy consists of 5 data (11.9%), antonymy consists of 5 data (11.9%), and meronymy consists of 2 data (4.9%). Therefore, the most frequently use of lexical cohesion is repetition, and the lowest occurrence in the data is hyponymy. The investigation of lexical cohesion in a news article can enhance the understanding of how different types of text construct its own style including the utilization of lexical items in newswriting.

Keywords – *lexical cohesion, news, repetition, synonymy, antonymy*

Introduction

Language is an important tool for communication as a role model in human life. Discourse analysis is a study that focuses on analyzing the meaning of the text. Discourse analysis studies language in practice (Gee & Handford, 2012). The study examines the relationship between situations and languages in human life referred to as discourse analysis. (McCarthy, 1991). Discourse analysis explores the text structure of language and the correlations in the middle of the mother tongue, society, and ethnic situations when it is applied (Paltridge, 2012). Discourse analysis also defined as the study of advanced language, it concerns about the combining of each sentence to form a semantic bond, coherence, and can reach the goal.

Discourse analysis can be written, spoken, visual, and audio. Nevertheless, each other has differences in delivering information. Every written or spoken text is a discourse consisting of sentences (Cahyono et al., 2020). Text commonly found in written text, such as magazines, newspapers, novels, comics, etc. Written texts use a standardized language system that must follow grammatical rules and functions to transfer information from writer to reader. In addition, the written text uses "language as a reflection". Meanwhile, spoken texts maintain

relationships with others and use "language as action". Therefore, the dissimilarity in the middle of written and oral communication is the type of communication carried out in a context.

A good text must have a good structure so the reader understands the message. Cohesion refers to the relationship of sentences in a text so that the information is valid, while coherence refers to the psychic reactions of writers and readers (Thompson, 2004). Cohesion mentions the connection between non-structural texts (Halliday & Hasan, 1976). Structure refers to how linguistic properties can create a unified text that produces a coherent and cohesive text. Halliday and Hasan (1976) describe coherence as 'a unity of meaning in context'. When a sentence is related and linked with another item, it creates a semantic tie. The sentences with semantic ties will make cohesion so that the reader can understand the message in the text. Thus, coherence can be achieved if there is cohesion between sentences in a text.

There are three categories of the structure of language to reveal understanding: ideational significance, interpersonal significance, also textual interpretation (Halliday, 2014). As stated by Gerot & Wignell (1994), ideational meaning is regarding phenomena or the world's reality - about circumstances and events. This means that whatever is expressed through language comes from experiences or events that have happened. Indirectly, we use language as interpersonal meaning. Meanwhile, textual meaning explains how the messages correlate with written and spoken messages in a broader context. Textual meaning is one of the most appropriate approaches to analyzing whether the text has unity according to the context. The purpose of textual meaning is to interpret the messages conveyed by the talker and author to match the language produced, both in verbal and non-verbal form.

Grammatical and lexical are classifications from cohesion devices (Halliday and Hasan (1976). Grammatical the consolidation of sentences formed by grammatical accentuation. It has sub-categories: reference, ellipsis, substitution, also conjunction. Lexical-type cohesion is lexis selection that shows cohesiveness. Lexical-types cohesion involves repetition and collocation; Halliday and Hasan (1976) classify reiteration into common words, repetition, synonyms, near-synonyms, and superordinates. Meanwhile, collocation refers to a group of co-occurring words used by native speakers unconsciously. According to Paltridge (2000), the main types of lexical cohesion can be formed into synonymy, repetition, antonymy, meronymy, hyponymy, and collocation.

To conduct the present research, some previous studies are related to this study. To begin with, Cahyono, Suryaningtyas, and Nugroho (2020) entitled "Analysis of Cohesion used in TIME Magazine Article "How COVID-19 Will Shape the Class of 2020 for the Rest of their Life". This study aims to investigate the variety and the correlations of cohesion which are contained in Time Magazine with the headline "How covid-19 will shape the class of 2020 for the rest of their life". As a result, the researcher found four kinds of grammatical cohesion which are, ellipsis, reference, conjunction, and substitution; four kinds of lexical cohesion consist of repetition, synonym, antonym, and hyponym. Then, Pratiwi, Jayanti, & Syathroh (2019) entitled "An Analysis of Lexical Cohesion Found in 'Never Say Never' Song Lyrics". This study focused on finding lexical cohesion used in the song lyrics. The result of the study was that the researcher found three kinds of lexical cohesion, such as repetitions, antonyms, and synonyms. The common type of data is repetition. The last research comes from Sidabutar (2021), entitled

"An Analysis of Lexical Cohesion on the Students' Writing". This study aims to explore lexical cohesion in high and low-graded lexical cohesion kinds on the student's narrative writing. The outcome show that the highest circumstance found in student's narrative writing is repetition, consisting of 240 occurrences. However, the lowest occurrence is hyponymy, consisting of 20 occurrences. Additionally, this research explores lexical cohesion in CNN news entitled "What's Next in The Search For The Imploded Submersible?".

Methods

A descriptive qualitative method is applied in this research as a research design. According to Gay (2006), qualitative research is a method that concentrates in collecting, analyzing, and also interpreting data that are comprehensive, narrative, and visual. Qualitative research describes the subject and object of the research based on reality. Qualitative research aims to get details of the subject in this research. This study aims to explore and find lexical cohesion in CNN News. In addition, Paltridge's (2000) theory was implemented in this research to analyze the data.

The data come from a CNN News article entitled "What is Next in the Search for the Imploded Submersible?" that was taken and downloaded from <http://www.cnnphilippines.com/world/2023/6/25/whats-next-search-imploded-submersible.html> on 20th July 2023. The researcher chose news as a data source because news texts have many words that indicate lexical cohesion. In addition, there were three steps to collecting and analyzing the data, as explained below.

First, the researcher find out and downloaded the news article on the CNN News website. Second, the researcher selecting the data that indicates lexical cohesion. Third, the researcher classifying the data based on Paltridge's theory, including repetition, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, and meronymy. Lastly, the researcher described the data descriptively in the scope of one approach. This study was conducted by formulating the problem, collecting data, and analyzing the data.

Finding and Discussion

As a result of this study, the researcher found lexical cohesion of four types in CNN news: synonym, repetition, meronymy, and antonym. The table below represents all kinds of lexical cohesion found in CNN News.

Table 1. Number of Lexical Cohesion found in CNN news

No	Lexical Cohesion Types	Quantity	Percentage(%)
1.	Repetition	30	71.3%
2.	Synonymy	5	11.9%
3.	Antonymy	5	11.9%
4.	Meronymy	2	4.9%
TOTAL		42	100%

Table 1 shows that 42 data contain lexical cohesion. Repetition is the most frequent kind found in the text. The frequency of repetition consists of 30 data (71.3%), synonymy consists of 5 data (11.9%), antonymy consists of 5 data (11.9%), and meronymy consists of 2 data (4.9%). The analysis of each type of lexical cohesion will be explained below:

1. Repetition

The writer uses some repetition words while writing the news article. These examples are explained below:

Excerpt 1

“The remotely **operated** vehicle **found** a total of “five different major pieces of **debris**” from the Titan, [according to Paul Hankins](http://www.cnnphilippines.com/world/2023/6/25/whats-next-search-imploded-submersible.html), the US Navy’s director of salvage **operations** and ocean engineering. **Officials** located the submersible’s nose cone and one end of its **pressure hulls** in a large **debris field**. The other end of the **pressure hull** was **found** in a second, smaller debris **field**. **Officials** are working to map out the **debris field**.” Source: <http://www.cnnphilippines.com/world/2023/6/25/whats-next-search-imploded-submersible.html>

In excerpt 1, some words are repeated, such as *operated*, *hull*, *pressure*, *field*, *found*, *debris*, and *officials*. The writer used these words repeatedly to describe and give information to the readers about the Titan submarine salvage operations that exploded near the wreck of the Titanic. He used the words "operated" twice, "found" twice, "officials" twice, "field" and "debris" three times, "pressure" and "hull" twice. First, the word "operated" indicates the vehicles operated to recover submersible debris and activities undertaken to salvage Titan submersible. Second, the word "found" refers to the discovery of five major wreckage from the Titan submersible. Next, the word "officials" refers to the rescue team from the US Navy who is investigations the existence of the Titan submersible. Then, the word "field" mentions where submersible wreckage was found. Next, the word "pressure" mentions underwater pressure, and "hull" mentions that titan submersible hull. Lastly, the word “debris” indicated wreckage of a submarine that exploded while exploring wreck of the Titanic. These words are written repeatedly because they describe the same thing in the same context. In conclusion, this repetition connects one clause to another clause and builds cohesiveness.

Excerpt 2

“The *Odysseus 6* began a second **mission** to the site on Friday, [according to Pelagic Research Services](http://www.cnnphilippines.com/world/2023/6/25/whats-next-search-imploded-submersible.html). A spokesperson for the company told CNN the vehicle will continue to search for debris and map out the debris sites. The debris from the sub is likely too heavy for Pelagic’s ROV to lift by itself, so any recovery **mission** will be made alongside Deep Energy, another company assisting with the **mission**, which will use rigged cabling to pull up any pieces of the destroyed vessel.” Source: <http://www.cnnphilippines.com/world/2023/6/25/whats-next-search-imploded-submersible.html>

It shows that there is a word element that contains lexical cohesion, namely "mission". This word means a group of people who are sent to another place to do specialized occupations to represent their country, company, or organization. According to Cambridge Dictionary Online, mission is an important job, especially a military one, that someone is sent somewhere to do. In this case, mission is a company called Pelagic Research Services that carries out the task of finding a sunken Titan submersible while exploring the wreckage of the Titanic. This task is called a mission. This word is written repeatedly because it describes the same thing in the same context. In conclusion, this repetition connects one clause to another clause and builds cohesiveness.

Excerpt 3

“On Saturday, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) also announced it would conduct its own **investigation** separately from the Transportation Safety Board. The police superintendent Kent Osmond said the RCMP **investigates** all reportable deaths off shore.” Source: <http://www.cnnphilippines.com/world/2023/6/25/whats-next-search-imploded-submersible.html>

The word “investigation” and “investigates” in the excerpt above shows the existence of lexical cohesion. According to Oxford Dictionary Online, investigate is to carefully examine the facts of a situation, an event, a crime, etc. The word “investigation” come from word “investigate” (verb) + suffix -ion which converts verbs into nouns. So, the word “investigation” refer to the examination into the disappearance of the Titan submarine conducted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and “investigates” refer to the people or group who involved in submarine search missions which is the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) team. Thus, this word express the same thing in the same context and create cohesiveness.

2. Synonym

Excerpt 4

“He added the debris **pieces** could still be “slightly buoyant” and might be carried further away by ocean currents. “So the big project right now is going to be trying to collect those **parts**,” he said.” Source: <http://www.cnnphilippines.com/world/2023/6/25/whats-next-search-imploded-submersible.html>

The data indicates the existence of synonyms in the words “pieces” and “parts”. According to Oxford Dictionary Online, definition of piece is one of the bits or parts that something breaks into, meanwhile the definition of part is a section, piece or feature of something. It can be concluded that these word have same meaning as a components of of things and can be used in sentences that have the same connotation as one another as in the data above. These two words refer to Titan submersible debris that exploded during an Ocean Gate’s

expedition. The writer of this news would like to share more details about the parts of the submarine that will be evacuated to the surface.

Excerpt 5

“The expedition set out from Newfoundland, Canada, on June 16 on the Polar Prince, the Titan’s support ship. The ship took **participants** to the site of the Titanic wreck, about 350 miles off Newfoundland’s coast. On Sunday, June 18, the five **passengers** began their descent to the Titanic in the submersible, launched from the support ship, which remained on the surface.”

Source: <http://www.cnnphilippines.com/world/2023/6/25/whats-next-search-imploded-submersible.html>

The data indicates that it has an element of lexical cohesion. It can be found in the words "participants" and "passengers". According to the Oxford Dictionary Online, participant is a person who is taking part in an activity or event, and passenger is a person who travels by transportation such as train, bus, car, caravan, ship or plane without driving or working on it. Both of explanation mention that the people who join in an event or vehicle and not working on its event. These two words have the same meaning, showing people exploring the Titanic wreckage and those who were in the Titan submersible. The news writer uses synonyms so that readers can better understand the context of the text.

3. Antonym

Excerpt 6

“Officials located the submersible’s nose cone and one end of its pressure hulls in a **large** debris field. The other end of the pressure hull was found in a second, **smaller** debris field. Officials are working to map out the debris field.”

Source: <http://www.cnnphilippines.com/world/2023/6/25/whats-next-search-imploded-submersible.html>

According to the previous data, words containing antonyms were found. According to Oxford Dictionary Online, large is big in size or quantity, and smaller is not large in size, number, degree, amount, etc. The word “large” in the data mentions that the pressure hulls in the large debris field of the Titan submersible were found. Instead, the other debris is furthermore found in smaller debris fields. Thus, of the two statements, something has an opposite meaning. These opposite meanings are called antonyms.

Excerpt 7

“At some point, safety just is pure waste,” Rush told journalist David Pogue in an interview last year. “I mean, if you just want to be safe, don’t **get out** of bed. Don’t **get in** your car. Don’t do anything.” Source: <http://www.cnnphilippines.com/world/2023/6/25/whats-next-search-imploded-submersible.html>

The data has an element of lexical cohesion namely antonym which is indicated by the word “get out” and “get in”. according to Cambridge Dictionary Online, get in is to succeed in entering a place, especially by using force or a trick, and get out is to leave a closed vehicle, building, etc. In this case, get out express meaning don't step out of your room if you want to stay safe and get in means that ‘don't get” into your car if you do not want to be in danger. Therefore, these word have opposite meaning that the sentence have semantic tie and cohesiveness.

4. Meronymy

Excerpt 9

“A Coast Guard official said Thursday that authorities are discussing how an investigation would unfold since the **implosion** took place in international waters. Experts have suggested that any probe would consider the submersible's design, the materials used to build it, and Rush and Ocean Gate's role in the deathly **disaster**.”

Source: <http://www.cnnphilippines.com/world/2023/6/25/whats-next-search-imploded-submersible.html>

The previous data shows there is a meronymy in the news data. It is indicated by the words “implosion” and “disaster”. The Titan submersible explosion is categorized as a disaster caused by human negligence. The explosion was caused by water pressure so strong that the submarine was unable to handle it. It can be said that implosion is a part of disaster. The writer describes that the implosion of the Titan submersible was one of the deathly disasters. These two words are used to build cohesive ties Therefore, the sentences in the paragraph above have a cohesion relationship, and they make the semantic links among clauses.

Conclusions

Cohesion can build a semantic tie within the text in the middle of sentences and paragraphs. According to the previous discussion, the researchers found 42 data with four types of lexical cohesion: synonym, repetition, meronymy, and antonym,. The most dominant type found is repetition, which consists of 30 data (71.3%), synonymy consists of 5 data (11.9%), antonymy consists of 5 data (11.9%), and meronymy consists of 2 data (4.9%). These types of lexical cohesion are important aspects of building grammatical cohesion in the text.

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