
An Analysis of Cohesive Devices in the Article Entitled Bali 9 Executions: A ‘Deliberate, Culpable Snub’ of Australia Published By The Australian

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Abstract

The aims of this study are to find out the types of cohesive devices and to identify what type of cohesive device is mostly used in an article. It uses the types of cohesion proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976) and Renkema (2004). The writers used an article about Bali Nine which was published on the online newspaper The Australian. The results show that first, the writers find the types of grammatical cohesion which are used in the article are reference, conjunction, and substitution. Secondly, the types of lexical cohesion used in the article are repetition and synonymy and lastly reference is the most frequently used cohesive device in the article.

Keywords: article, cohesive devices, online newspaper, The Australian

Introduction

Newspapers do not only play a role as the source of information but also provide abundant linguistic data which are very useful for students studying language field (Shahnaz & Imtiaz, 2014). In order to produce a well written article, the authors use cohesion to create links between different parts of sentences. Cohesion is one of the concepts that are used in the connectedness and texture and refers to the connections which have their manifestation in the discourse itself (Renkema, 2004). If an English passage contains more than one sentence, there will be cohesive devices in that passage to help readers understand it (Halliday & Hasan, Cohesion in English, 1976). Therefore, it is clear that in order to relate the meaning of different parts of sentences, cohesive devices should be the connectors. Indeed various cohesive devices are used by online newspapers to produce good news articles.

Halliday and Hasan (1976) state that cohesion occurs where the interpretation of some elements in the discourse are dependent on that of another. When this happens, a relation of cohesion is set up and the two elements, the presupposing and the presupposed, are thereby at least potentially integrated into a text. The example of cohesive relations in *The Australian* online newspaper can be seen in the sentence “*Myuran Sukumaran and Andrew Chan wanted their executions to have a greater meaning*”. It is clear that “*their*” refers to *Myuran Sukumaran and Andrew Chan*. From this example, it can be concluded that cohesion plays an important role in the creation of texts because it expresses the continuity that exists between one part of the sentences and others. Furthermore, Halliday and Hasan (1976) divide cohesive devices into two types: grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion in which grammatical cohesion deals with reference, substitution, conjunction, and ellipsis while lexical cohesion deals with reiteration and collocation.

There are studies on the use of cohesive devices that had been done previously. The First study is conducted by Khonita (2014) which investigated the use of cohesive devices in articles about Tri Rismaharini published in Jawa Pos Newspaper. The second study is written by Fatemi, Kafi, and Shahriarpour (2014) which discussed cohesive devices in Tehran Times Newspaper. Third, Aghdam and Hadidi (2015) analyzed the occurrences of two types of lexical cohesion such as collocation and synonymy in political newspapers and academic articles.

The previous studies mentioned above have both similarities and differences with this study. The first study by Khonita (2014) in which writer identified cohesive devices that occurred frequently in the article published in Jawa Pos newspaper. The results show that all types of cohesive devices occurred except collocation, while references are the most frequently used cohesive device. In the second study, Fatemi,

Kafi, and Shahriarpour (2014) identified cohesive devices on *Tehran Times* newspaper. The results show that the referencing principle, especially demonstrative, plays a significant role in creating meaning and texture in the newspaper. In the third study, Aghdam and Hadidi (2015) analyzed the occurrences of two types of lexical cohesion. Those writers also explained the differences in the use of lexical cohesion between the two genres. The results show that in the discussion sections of academic articles, synonymy is the prominent cohesive devices which manifest itself within a large number of cohesive chains. Meanwhile, this study does not only analyze the lexical cohesion, but also the grammatical cohesion. Another difference is that this study focuses on *the Australian* Newspaper.

By looking at the previous studies and comparing their discussion, the writers decide that this present study focuses on the use of cohesive devices, grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion, and examine the mostly used cohesive device in *The Australian*. The chosen article was the one published online on the 30th of April 2015 which discussed the Bali Nine execution. *The Australian* is a well-known newspaper in Australia as it gets the runner up position out of 50 Australian top online newspapers (onlinenewspapers.com). The writers analyzed the data by using Halliday and Hasan (1976) as the main theory of cohesive devices especially in grammatical cohesion, while the supporting theory is from Renkema (2004) which was used to analyze the lexical cohesion.

Cohesion by Halliday and Hasan (1976)

Grammatical cohesion

Firstly, reference is classified into personal reference, demonstrative reference and comparative reference. As to personal reference, we often use pronouns such as *she, he, it, his, her, and their* to refer to earlier items. Demonstratives such as *the, this, that, and those* are also used for referential purposes. Comparative reference sets up a relation of contrast, involving a conception of likeness and unlikeness phenomenon. It is expressed through general comparison and particular comparison. General comparison refers to any particular feature (such as *so, as, equal, similar, different, otherwise, likewise*), whereas particular comparison means comparison that is in respect of quantity or quality (such as *more, fewer; additional, better; equally good*).

Secondly, substitution is the replacement of a word or sentence by another word. There are three types of substitution: nominal, verbal, and clausal. The substitute one always functions as the head of a nominal group, and can substitute only for an item which is Head of a nominal group. For example "These *cakes* are stale. Get some fresh *ones*." *Do* is the verbal substitute in English and the position of *do* usually in the final of sentence. Here is the example, *done* and *do* substitute *called*, "Have you *called* your parents? No, I have not *done* it, but I will *do* it later. Clausal substitution have two forms, positive and negative; the positive expresses by *so*, and the negative expresses by *not*. For example: is this banana ripe? It seems *so*.

Thirdly, ellipsis refers to "something left unsaid" There is no implication that what is unsaid is not understood. There are three types of ellipsis: nominal, verbal, and clausal. Fourthly, conjunction which means the relationship which indicates how the subsequent sentence or clause should be linked to the preceding or the following sentence. The types of conjunction are 1) Additive conjunction which consists of *and, or, besides, moreover, furthermore, likewise, similarly, in other words, for instance, for example* and *thus*. 2) Adversative conjunction whose basic meaning is "contrary to expectation". Several advertise conjunctions are *yet, however, in fact, instead, nevertheless, on the contrary*. 3) Causal conjunction which is expressed by *so, thus, hence, therefore, consequently, accordingly*, and a number of expression like *as a result (of that), in consequence (of that), and because of that*. 4) Temporal Conjunction which are *then, afterwards, at the same time, just before, soon, next time, meanwhile, until then, finally, first, second, to begin with, from now, in short, and after*.

Lexical cohesion

The explanation of lexical cohesion by Halliday and Hasan (1976) is less complete. Therefore the writers use Renkema (2004) to support the theory. The first category of lexical cohesion is Reiteration which involves repetition, synonymy, hyponym, meronymy and also antonymy.

Repetition is saying or doing same thing many times. Synonymy is the words with similar meanings. Hyponymy / Hyperonymy is a word with a particular meaning that is included in the meaning of a more

general word. Meronymy (parts Vs whole) is a word that denotes a constituent part or member of something. Antonymy is a word that means opposite of another word.

The second category is Collocation which deals with the relationship between words on the basis of the fact that these often occur in the same surroundings. There is cohesion between any pair of lexical items that stand to each other in some recognizable lexicosemantic (word meaning) relation. This would include synonyms such as *climb.....ascent, disease.....illness*, and superordinates such as *boy.....child, skip.....play*, and also pairs of opposites of various kinds such as *boy.....girl, stand up.....sit down, like.....hate, wet.....dry*, and so on. Collocation also includes pairs of words drawn from the same ordered series, for example if Tuesday occurs in one sentence and Thursday in another, the effect will be cohesive; *similarly dollar.....cent, north.....south*.

Methods

The writer chose the news of Bali Nine in the online newspaper *The Australian* as the population of study. As the sample, the researchers focus on the news about Bali Nine execution published on April 30, 2015 entitled *Bali 9 executions: a 'deliberate, culpable snub' of Australia*. The data of this study were collected in four steps. Firstly, the writers accessed the website of *The Australian* online newspaper. Secondly, the writers wrote the keywords *Bali Nine execution* in the search column. Thirdly, the writer tried to look for the article that met the criteria. Lastly, the writer downloaded the article.

After collecting the data, the writers began to analyze the data in five steps. Firstly, the writers classified the data based on the theory of the types of cohesive devices proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976) for grammatical cohesion and Renkema (2004) for lexical cohesion. Secondly, the writers began to calculate the total number of grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion, then put them in the table based on their types. Thirdly, the writers tried to analyze the cohesive devices that are mostly used in the article. Fourthly, the writers began to interpret the findings. In the last step, the writer drew a conclusion of this study.

Results and Discussions

Table 1 Occurrences of Cohesive Devices in the article.

Types of Cohesive Devices		Frequency	Total Number	Total	
Grammatical Cohesion	References	Personal	67	99	
		Demonstratives	27		
		Comparatives	5		
	Substitution	Nominal	2	2	176
	Conjunction	Additive	48	75	
		Adversative	11		
		Causal	3		
	Temporal	13			
Lexical Cohesion	Reiteration	Repetition	39	42	42
		Synonymy	3		

Table 1 shows occurrences of the use of cohesive devices in the article. The writers find three types of grammatical cohesion namely reference, substitution and conjunction. The writers also find another type of lexical cohesion, reiteration, which consists of repetition and synonymy. The order of the types of cohesive devices from the most frequently used to the least is as follows: reference (99 times), conjunctions (75 times), repetition (39 times), synonymy (3 times), and substitution (2 times). In the article, reference is used more often than any other types of cohesive devices with personal reference as the most used device. The cohesive device that is least used is substitution which occurs only 2 times in the article. There are several types of cohesive devices that are not found in the article such as ellipsis, collocation, and the subtypes of reiteration: antonymy, meronymy, and hyponymy. Furthermore, the total number of grammatical cohesions is more dominant than the number of lexical cohesions. The total

number of grammatical cohesion occurring in the article is 176 while the total number of lexical cohesions is 42.

The Use of Grammatical Cohesion

Reference

a. He

1. Ambassador Kesoema, who returned to Australia on Thursday, said it was a difficult and challenging period of Australia-Indonesia relations. **He** said good relations with Australia were very important for Indonesia and **he** trusted that they were also important for Australia.

The personal reference item *he* refers back to *Ambassador Kesoema*. Because *he* refers back to the previous sentence; *Ambassador Kesoema*, the reference item *he* has the rule as anaphora. Anaphora means the reference items referring to the preceding text.

b. The

2. In an unexpected media statement released tonight, Ambassador Nadjib Riphath Kesoema said Indonesia understands the views expressed by the people and government of Australia on the law enforcement measures taken against **the** two Bali Nine ring leaders.

The sentence above contains a demonstrative reference item, i.e. *the* to refer to specific persons: Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran. Although Bali Nine consists of nine members, *the* specifically points out the leader of the Bali Nine.

c. More perfect

3. The executions had been "**more perfect**" than the previous round in January, he declared.

In the above sentence, *more* is categorized as a particular comparison because it expresses comparability. In the sentence, the executions had been *more* perfect which means that the previous executions were not as perfect as this executions.

B. Conjunction

And

4. Indonesia's ambassador in Canberra has extended the country's sympathies to the families **and** friends of executed drug smugglers Andrew Chan **and** Myuran Sukumaran.

The additive conjunction *and* signals that there is something more to be stated, that is the author wants to add information about the families' sympathies and friends' sympathies. He also put *and* in the middle between Chan and Sukumaran to show information that there are two executors : Chan and Sukumaran.

C. Substitution

One

5. Despite always considering the relationship with Australia as a special **one** during his tenure as president, Dr Yudhoyono elected not to grant clemency to Chan and Sukumaran.

The substitution *one* replaces the word *the relationship*. The nominal substitution *one* can substitute only an item noun which is *the relationship*.

The Use of Lexical Cohesion

A. Repetition

The executions

6. **The executions** had been more perfect than the previous round in January, he declared. The attorney-general’s spokesman Tony Spontana says **the executions** will be evaluated next week and planning will begin for the next round.

The writers finds the repetition of the words *the executions*. The *executions* is repeated in the second sentence.

B. Synonymy

Drug Offender = Drug Smuggler = Drug trafficking

7. Sentence 1. **The drug smuggler’s** lawyer Julian McMahon saw the Australians house before their executions, when they were determined to be strong as they said their goodbyes to their families.
8. An argument for publication, according to Mr Spontana, is that when a well-known repeat **drug offender** like Silvester Obiekwe-executed with Chan and Sukumaran-is on the list, it gathers public support.
9. We dont have much to say on this other than we are aware that they have executed eight foreign citizens convicted of **drug trafficking**.

In the examples 7,8, and 9 the word *drug smuggler’s*, *drug offender*, and *drug traficking* have the same meaning and illustrate synonymy cohesion. In these examples, the lexical item that is in some sense synonymy with a preceding sentence.

Interpretation of Findings

Figure 1 Frequency of the Use of Cohesive Devices

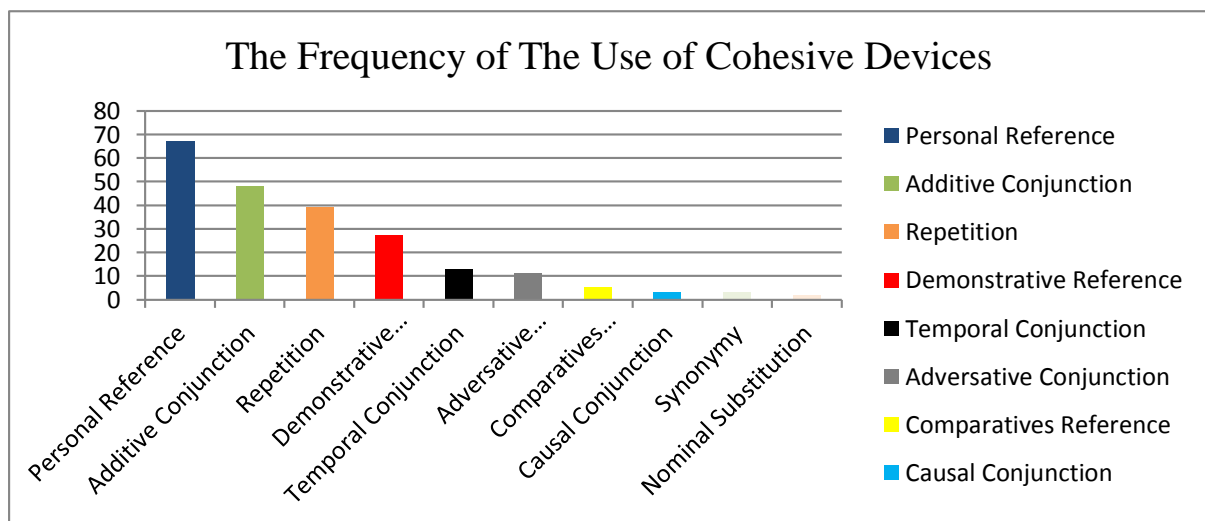


Figure 1 shows that reference is the cohesive device with the highest number of use. The total use of reference is 99 times which consists of personal reference 67 times, demonstrative reference 27 times, and comparative reference once. There are two ways of interpreting the reference. The first way is by identifying the reference, such as in personal and demonstrative reference.

The second one is by comparing the reference, such as in comparative reference (Halliday & Hasan, 1976). In the data, the most frequently used references are interpreted through being identified with the referents. It means that the reference items have a role as deictic and is always specific. Deictic appears in the nominal group with the function as the identifier. Deictic is required to be specific when it is used for cohesive purposes (Halliday & Hasan, 1976). The set of reference items that are categorized as deictic are pronouns and determiners reference or personal and demonstrative reference. The items that categorized as specific pronouns are *he, she, it, I, you, they, we, his, her, them, their, and our*, while the items of specific determiners are *the, this, that, those, and these*. These deictic expressins are specific because their interpretation depends on identity of reference.

The most frequently used cohesive device is reference because it shows the specificity. The article uses the deictic reference to make this article understandable for the readers and to avoid ambiguity. It is related with the function of cohesive devices that occur in this article which is as the interactive resources. Interactive resources refer to the role of the writers to guide the readers to comprehend the content of the information in the text through their several types, such as transitions, frame markers, and endophoric markers. These types of interactive resources also show the specificity.

In contrast to reference as the highest number of the use of the cohesive devices, substitution is the least used device. Specificity is not required in substitution. The nominal substitute *one* is considered to be countability. It is also supported by the fact that the plural form of the substitute *one* is *ones*. Therefore it can be concluded that there is a big distinction between substitution and reference. In substitution, there is no items to show the specificness but in reference there is a typical identity of referent. The identity can be realized through personal and demonstrative references. In the data, substitution is used twice. Both of them are nominal substitutions. Nominal substitution *one* is considered to be countability, not specificity.

Conclusion

The purposes of this study are to identify the types of cohesive devices that occur in the article and to identify the types of cohesive devices that are mostly used. The writer uses the types of cohesive devices proposed by Halliday and Hasan to identify the types of cohesive devices that occur in the article that is analyzed in this study, especially in grammatical cohesion. While for lexical cohesion, the writer uses the theory of Renkema (2004) to complete the brief explanation of lexical cohesion of Halliday and Hasan (1976). The data of this study is an article about Bali Nine published by online newspaper *The Australian* entitled *Bali 9 executions: a deliberate, culpable snub of Australia*.

Based on the analysis, this study produces several main findings. Firstly, the writers find that the types of grammatical cohesion that are used in the article are reference, conjunction, and substitution. The order of the types of grammatical cohesion from the most to the least is as follows: reference 99 times, conjunction 75 times and substitution which only occurs twice. Secondly, the type of lexical cohesion that is used in the article is reiteration which consists of repetition and synonymy in which repetition is used 39 times, while for synonymy is 3 times. Finally, the writers conclude that reference has the highest number of occurrence in the article.

There are two ways to interpret the reference: by identifying the reference such as in personal and demonstrative reference and by comparing the reference such as in comparative reference. Indeed reference is considered to be the mostly used cohesive device. It is interpreted through the identification toward the referents which means that references have a role as deictic references and show specificity. It is clear that the article uses deictic references to make this article understandable and avoid ambiguity for the readers.

Lastly, the writers expect that this study might enrich the knowledge of the students in the field of linguistics especially in discourse analysis. For further research, the writers suggest the next researchers to analyze the use of cohesive devices and coherence in the academic paper.

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