

Lexical Cohesion Used in “National Column” of the Jakarta Post

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ABSTRACT

A newspaper has three main functions: informing, serving, and entertaining. From a linguistic point of view, it is interesting to analyze how the news can relate to each other and how the news has unity from one element to another. In discourse analysis, cohesion is the instrument to relate and unite from one element to another. It is a meaningful relationship between two or more elements within the text. Meanwhile, there are two kinds of cohesion: grammatical and lexical cohesion. In this study, the researcher focuses on lexical cohesion. Lexical cohesion is a linguistic device that helps create unity in the text. It occurs when two or more elements in the text are related to their meaning. Besides, it is also viewed as one of the elements that help the reader quickly understand the writer's thoughts. This study mainly analyzes lexical cohesion's types and functions in the "National Column" of The Jakarta Post. The approach of this study is descriptive qualitative. The data sources of this study are the "National Column" of The Jakarta Post which is issued from 26th to 30th March 2012. The data were analyzed based on the theories of Halliday and Hasan, Taboada, and Tanskanen. This study shows that: (1) reiteration and collocation are lexical cohesion used in the "National Column" of The Jakarta Post. Reiteration used in these columns consists of repetition, synonym, and superordinate. The sequence of lexical cohesion types used the most are collocation, repetition, superordinate, and synonym. (2) Each type of lexical cohesion has a vital function. Reiteration is used to reiterate the previous item, either in an identical or somewhat modified form. Collocation indicates the relationship between words that often occur in the same environment. In use, each cohesive lexical device has a substantial and different function. By using lexical cohesion, the sentences relate to each other, making them enjoyable to read.

Keywords: Lexical Cohesion, Reiteration, Collocation, National Column, The Jakarta Post

INTRODUCTION

Language is a communication tool that people use to express their thoughts, emotions, and desires to others by using sounds, gestures, and signals. As individuals and social creatures, human beings cannot cooperate with others without language. To send their message, the speakers can use spoken or written language. Spoken language is a means to send a message from the speaker to the hearers orally. In contrast, written language is a means to send a message from the writer to the readers by using the written form of printed media, such as newspapers, advertisements, fiction books, etcetera. English is one of the languages, and it is an international language. People cannot live without language because it is essential in communication.

Information is the act of informing or communicating knowledge or intelligence. The idea is any conception existing in mind due to mental understanding, awareness, or activity. To

communicate their idea, people create a communication style that can cause the difference in language in expressing feelings and the meaning of a word. People can express their idea with language, spoken or written. People cannot communicate with others without language. "The word text is used in linguistics to refer to any passage, spoken or written, of whatever length, that does form a unified whole" (Halliday and Hasan, 1976). Text is a unified whole of linguistic items. A text is realized in sentences and paragraphs that have to be linked to each other to develop the text's unity. Besides using the main ideas and paragraph patterns, cohesive devices can link the sentences and paragraphs to unify the text. Cohesive devices used to combine the sentence consist of lexical and grammatical cohesive devices.

Newspapers are periodicals issued frequently, containing news, advertisements, and other articles. Many columns contain much information from the newspaper. A column is an article giving opinions or perspectives in a newspaper, and the form is text. There are many kinds of newspapers. The Jakarta Post newspaper is chosen in this study because it is a national newspaper that uses the English language and has been described as being "Indonesia's leading English-language daily." Almost all campus libraries there are The Jakarta Post. The <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jakarta> Jakarta Post also features a Sunday and Online edition, which is impossible in the daily print edition. Although the middle-class Indonesian readership has increased, it is targeted at foreigners and educated Indonesians. Noted for being a training ground for local and international reporters, The Jakarta Post has won several awards and has been described as being "Indonesia's leading English-language daily."

The researcher wants to study newspapers from a linguistic point of view. A linguistic point of view, especially discourse analysis, means how the news can relate to each other and how the news has unity (from one element to another). Discourse analysis is a study of units of language in written (text) and spoken (talk) to find the features of language which make the text unity either textually or contextually. Furthermore, the instrument to relate and unite from one element to another in discourse analysis is cohesion. According to Halliday and Hasan (1976), cohesion is a semantic relation between an element and the other element in the text that is crucial to its interpretation. Cohesion is one of several parts of discourse analysis study. Cohesion is divided into grammatical and lexical cohesion. The researcher focuses on lexical cohesion in this present study.

Lexical cohesion is the cohesive effect achieved by selecting vocabulary (Halliday and Hasan, 1976). Lexical cohesion contributes to a text's cohesion through vocabulary selection. Reiteration of a lexical item and some items in related semantic fields in the text produces a cohesive effect. (Taboada, 2004). Lexical cohesion is a cohesive relation where one element refers back to another, or one element relates to another element in the text. Lexical cohesion is a linguistic device that helps create unity in the text. Lexical cohesion is divided into reiteration and collocation, and it has an important function. Generally, reiteration is used to reiterate the previous item in an identical or somewhat modified form. Collocation indicates the relationship between words that often occur in the same environment. In use, each cohesive lexical device has a substantial and different function.

The researcher wants to analyze lexical cohesion. In The Jakarta Post, there are some columns, and one is National Column. The form of the column is text. Lexical cohesion always appears in the text. The researcher needs to conduct this research focused on lexical cohesion used in the "National Column" of The Jakarta Post. By analyzing lexical cohesion, the researcher will know the types and the functions of lexical cohesion used in "National Column" of The Jakarta Post. In this case, the researcher took "National Column" of The Jakarta Post newspaper, which is issued from 26th to 30th March 2012, to analyze the use of lexical cohesion. The writer chose the title for her research, "Lexical Cohesion Used in "National

Column" of The Jakarta Post. The objectives of this study are: (1) to identify the types of lexical cohesion in the "National Column" of The Jakarta Post and (2) to describe the functions of lexical cohesion in the "National Column" of The Jakarta Post.

COHESION

Cohesion refers to relations of meaning within the text (Halliday and Hasan, 1976). Cohesion refers to the grammatical and lexical elements on the surface of a text which can form connections between parts of the text (Tanskanen, 2006). Cohesion is part of the linguistic system's text-forming component and a part of the language system. Cohesion is a meaningful relationship between two or more elements within a text. The meaning of one element depends on the other elements. All the semantic system cohesion components are realized through grammar and vocabulary. Cohesion which is realized through grammar, is called grammatical cohesion, while cohesion which is realized through vocabulary, is called lexical cohesion. Grammatical cohesion includes reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction. Lexical cohesion includes reiteration and collocation.

Cohesion consists of some devices. The devices are used to create the semantic relation between one element and the other element within the text to create unity of meaning. Those devices are called cohesive devices. According to Tanskanen (2006), "Cohesion can be regarded as a property of the text. Cohesive devices, being on the surface of the text, can be observed, counted, and analyzed and are therefore more objective." Cohesive devices are usually in the form of words, phrases, or utterances in the text, tie pieces together in a specific way, and are divided into two kinds. The cohesive device through grammar is called a cohesive grammatical device, while through vocabulary is called cohesive lexical device.

LEXICAL COHESION

Lexical cohesion is cohesion through vocabulary, an essential part of the text. According to Halliday and Hasan (1976), lexical cohesion is the cohesive effect achieved by selecting vocabulary. Lexical cohesion contributes to a text's cohesion through vocabulary selection. Reiteration of a lexical item in the text produces a cohesive effect, and some items in related semantic fields can also enter into a cohesive tie (Taboada, 2004). It is almost the same as Baker (1992), who states that lexical cohesion refers to the role of vocabulary selection in organizing relations within a text. It can be stated that lexical cohesion is cohesive relation where one element refers back to another or one element has a relationship with another element in the text. Lexical cohesion is a linguistic device that helps create unity in the text, and it occurs when two or more elements in the text are related in terms of their meaning.

Halliday and Hasan (1976) divide lexical cohesion into reiteration and collocation. Reiteration includes repetition, synonyms, superordinate, and general words. It is similar to Halliday and Hasan (in Tanskanen, 2006), who state that lexical cohesion divides the various lexical cohesive devices into two main categories, they are reiteration and collocation. Reiteration includes the repetition of the same word (*mushroom – mushroom*), the use of a synonym (*sword – brand*), the use of a superordinate (*Jaguar – car*), and the use of a general word (*We all kept quiet. That seemed the best move.*).

REITERATION

A reiteration is a form of lexical cohesion that involves: repeating a lexical item, using a general word to refer back to a lexical item, and using synonym or superordinate (Halliday and Hasan, 1976). According to Halliday and Hasan (in Carter, 1998), reiteration is not only the repetition of the same word but also the occurrence of a related item. Reiteration includes repetition, synonyms, superordinate, and general words.

REPETITION

Repetition is the act of repeating the same word as has been mentioned before. There is no alteration of the word repeated. For example, a *boy* is climbing that tree. The *boy* is going to fall. The lexical item “*boy*” is reiterated in the same form. It is the repetition of the same word or item. Another example of repetition: My Father goes to the *office*. The *office* is far from my house. The lexical item “*office*” is reiterated in the same form. This is repetition.

SYNONYM

A synonym is a lexical relation in which two or more words have the same or very closely related meaning. "A synonym is a word with the same meaning as another word." (Salkie, 1995). It is possible to define the different words to the intended meaning. For example, there is a *boy* climbing that tree. The *lad* is going to fall. The lexical item “*boy*” is reiterated in a different form. It is reiterated by the word “*lad*,” but the meaning of *boy* and *lad* is the same. *The lad* is a synonym for the *boy*. The other example of a synonym: She heard a *sound* but could not figure out where that *noise* came from. The lexical item “*sound*” is reiterated in a different form. It is reiterated by the word “*noise*,” but the meaning of *sound* and *noise* is the same.

SUPERORDINATE

Superordinate is the higher-level term (Yule, 2010). Superordinate is a word that contains other words. Superordinate is a term for words that refer to the upper class itself, and the term for words that refer to the lower class itself are subordinate. For example: There is a *boy* climbing that tree. The *child* is going to fall. The lexical item “*boy*” is reiterated in the different form. It is reiterated by word “*child*”. *Child* is superordinate of *boy*. And *boy* is subordinate of *child*. Another example of superordinate: His mother buys a one-kilogram *carrot* in the market. She puts that *vegetable* in the refrigerator. The lexical item “*carrot*” is reiterated in the different form. It is reiterated by word “*vegetable*”. *Vegetable* is superordinate of *carrot*. And *carrot* is subordinate of *vegetable*.

GENERAL WORD

The general word is a higher level superordinate that can almost cover everything. For example, There is a *boy* climbing that tree. The *idiot* is going to fall. The lexical item “*boy*” is reiterated in the different form. It is reiterated by the word “*idiot*.” *Idiot* is a general word that refers to *boy*. The example of the general word: The *ascent* is *straightforward*. *Ascent* can be reiterated by the *thing* (Meyer, 2009). Another example of the general word: She buys a *book* and a *pen*. She puts those *things* on the table. “*Book*” and “*pen*” are reiterated in a different forms. They are reiterated by the word “*things*.” *Things* are general word that refers to *book* and *pen*.

COLLOCATION

Collocation is the other type of lexical cohesion besides reiteration. According to Halliday and Hasan (in Tanskanen, 2006), "Collocation is a cohesion that is achieved through the association of lexical items that regularly co-occur." The association is achieved when the lexical items appear in similar lexical environments. For example, *laugh* and *joke*. It is typically associated with one another. Collocation is some words that commonly occur together. Collocation deals with the relationship between words. Based on the fact that these often occur in the same environment. Lewin, Fine, and Young (2001) give an example of *bread* and *butter* as collocation. Other examples: *hospital* and *doctor*, *study* and *college*, *pen* and *paper*.

THE FUNCTION OF LEXICAL COHESION

There are some functions of lexical cohesion/ lexical cohesive devices. All these devices of reiteration have the function of reiterating the previous item, either in an identical or somewhat modified form, which is the basis for the creation of a cohesive tie between the items (Tanskanen, 2006). Lexical items create a set of expectations which readers (and hearers) of a text seek to fulfill; but accounting for such associations and mutual expectancies in any replicable way is no easy task (Carter, 1998). Generally, the functions of lexical cohesion are as follows. 1) Reiteration (repetition, synonym, superordinate, and general words) is used to reiterate the previous item, either identical or modified. 2) Collocation indicates the relationship between words that often occur in the same environment. In use, each cohesive lexical device has a substantial and different function.

TEXT

Some people say that text and discourse are the same. Another says that text and discourse are different. "The word text is used in linguistics to refer to any passage, spoken or written, of whatever length, that does form a unified whole" (Halliday and Hasan, 1976). According to Tanskanen (2006), "when the term text is used in the present study to refer to spoken or written language, it should consequently refer to a dynamic communicative event while discourse is the umbrella term for interconnected sets; of texts." It can be stated that text is any passage, spoken or written, that does form a unified whole. A text is a semantic unit, and sentences realize it. Text can be in forms, either spoken or written. A text is a sequence of units.

METHOD

The approach of this study is descriptive qualitative, in which the researcher explains the reality of using cohesive lexical devices. The data sources of this study are the "National Column" of The Jakarta Post which is issued from 26th to 30th March 2012. The document's titles are: Govt pledges to pay subsidies for workers, RI still lacks formal jobs despite growth, Former antigraft staffer gets 4.5 years for embezzlement, Parties still at odds over election system, and Muhaimin's subordinates get three-year jail sentences. The data were analyzed based on the theory of Halliday and Hasan (1976), Taboada (2004), and Tanskanen (2006). Halliday and Hasan (1976) regard the two main categories of lexical cohesion are reiteration and collocation. In analyzing the data, the researcher reads paragraph by paragraph while highlighting words regarded as lexical cohesion. Then, the researcher classifies lexical cohesion into appropriate types: reiteration and collocation. Reiteration itself includes repetition, synonyms, superordinate, and general words. Next, the researcher determines their functions. The last, the researcher discusses the findings and concludes.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher finds that there are some types of lexical cohesion: reiteration and collocation. Reiteration itself, which is used, includes repetition, synonyms, and superordinate. Each type of lexical cohesion has a function, so it is used in the newspaper column.

TYPES OF LEXICAL COHESION

There are three types of lexical cohesion in the document entitled "Govt Pledges to Pay Subsidies for Workers." They are repetitions in twice, superordinate at once, and collocation up to ten times. There are four types of lexical cohesion in the document entitled "RI Still Lacks Formal Jobs despite Growth." They are repetition in five times, synonyms at once, superordinate twice, and collocation up to seven times. There are three types of lexical cohesion in the document entitled "Former Antigraft Staffer Gets 4.5 Years for Embezzlement". They are repetition in five times, synonyms at once, and collocation up to ten times. There are two types of lexical cohesion in the document entitled "Parties Still at Odds over Election System." They are repetition that occurs five times and collocation up to seven times. There are two types of lexical cohesion in the document entitled "Muhaimin's Subordinates Get Three-Year Jail Sentences." They are repetition that occurs five times and collocation up to eleven times. There are four types of lexical cohesion in the "National Column" of *the Jakarta Post* issued on 26th-30th March, 2012. They are, repetition occurs twenty-two times, synonym which occurs twice, superordinate occurs three times, and collocation up to forty-five times. In each document, collocation is mostly used. The sequence types of lexical cohesion used the most are collocation, repetition, superordinate, and synonym. It is shown in Table 1.

Table. 1. Types of lexical cohesion are used in National Column of The Jakarta Post

Type of Lexical Cohesion	Rep	Syn	Sup	Gen	Color	Total
Govt pledges to pay subsidies for workers	2		1	-	10	13
RI still lacks formal jobs despite growth	5	1	2	-	7	15
Former antigraft staffer gets 4.5 years for embezzlement	5	1		-	10	16
Parties still at odds over election system	5			-	7	12
Muhaimin's subordinates get three-year jail sentences	5			-	11	16
Total	22	2	3	-	45	72

REPETITION

Repetition is the act of repeating exactly the same word/ item as has been mentioned before. Based on the research, there are some words which are repeated by the same word that occurs twice or more times. They are: *rallies, workers, reports, employment, rapid, Indonesia, business, money, state, assets, demanded, prison, parties, system, constituents, candidates, threshold, possible, investigations, pay, years, and evidence.*

SYNONYM

A synonym is a lexical relation in which two or more words have the same or closely related meaning. Based on the research, some words have the same or very closely related meanings to other words: *progress* by *growth* and *prison* by *jail*.

SUPERORDINATE

Superordinate is a word that contains other words. Superordinate is a term for words that refer to the upper class itself, and the term for words that refer to the lower class itself is subordinate. Based on the research, some words that contain other words, "transportation" is superordinate to "buses" and "trains". "Indonesia" is superordinate to "Java". "Countries" is superordinate to "Indonesia", "Thailand", and "Singapore".

COLLOCATION

Collocation is some words that commonly occur together. Collocation deals with the relationship between words based on the fact that these words often occur in the same environment. Based on the research, some words often occur in the same environment. They are *fuel, price, transport, subsidies, economic, burden, household, budgets, solution, impact, hike, government, low income, workers, poor, impact, policy, plan, rallies, protest, minister, and tariffs*. It is presented in d26.1 until d26.10. *Workers, work, hours, week, job, employment, economical, rapid, growth, investment, opportunity, growth, enterprises, capital, hire, elementary, education*. It appears in d27.1 until 27.15. *Years, months, million, money, prosecutors, trial, transfers, bank, account, panel, judges, guilty, defendant, prison, restitution, losses, court, jail, responsible, boss, stealing, crime*. It is presented in d28.1 until d28.20. *Parties, electoral, legislative, election, officials, fair, healthy, open, political, ballot, paper, names, logos, vote, buying, race, voters, factions, and general*. It appears in d29.1 until d29.13. *Bribes, connection, project, pivotal, role, judges, actors, scandal, court, complicity, suspect, case, guilty, defendant, prison, trial, fine, prosecutors, sentence, jail, law, imprisonment, term, years, evidence, documents, laptops, blackberry, smartphone*. It is presented in d30.1 until d30.22.

THE FUNCTION OF LEXICAL COHESION

Each type of lexical cohesion has a function, so it is used in the newspaper column. The data analysis shows a function of each cohesive lexical device used in the "National Column" of *The Jakarta Post*. The functions are as follows:

REPETITION

Some words indicate repetition because the same word repeats them. It is used to reiterate the previous item in an identical form. It links between one element and another element in the text. Lexical cohesive devices in these columns show the explanation or emphasis of the same word before. For example, The word "rallies," which is repeated in d26.7, shows the explanation of the word "rallies" before that after "rallies" is discussed in the meeting, "rallies" will be realized until May Day. There is the word "rapid," which is repeated in d27.5. The word "rapid" shows the emphasizing of the same word before that Indonesia experienced not only "rapid" economic growth over the past decade but also saw "rapid" growth in investment.

SYNONYM

Some words indicate synonyms because they are repeated by the word with the same or very closely related meaning. It is possible to define the different word as the intended meaning. It is used to reiterate the previous item in modified form. It links between one element and another element in the text. Lexical cohesive devices in these columns show the different terms used to state the same thing because of different conditions. For example, The words "prison" and "jail" indicate synonyms because those words have the same meaning. It appears in d28.17 that "... prosecutors demanded the court sentence him to seven years in "prison" under an

embezzlement charge of the 2001 Anticorruption Law, which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in "jail"" The sense of the words "prison" and "jail" is the same; it is brig.

SUPERORDINATE

Some words indicate superordinate because they contain the other words. Superordinate is a term for words that refer to the upper class itself, and the term for words that refer to the lower class itself is subordinate. It is used to reiterate the previous item in modified form. It links between one element and another element in the text. Lexical cohesive devices in these columns show the words containing the other words. For example, "transportation" indicates superordinate because it contains the other words. It contains the subordinate "buses" and "trains." It is presented in d26.10 that "... the government could set lower tariffs for workers and students after channeling transport subsidies to all public "transportation," including passenger "buses" and "trains."

COLLOCATION

Some words indicate the relationship of those words, which often occur in the same environment, so they are classified as collocation. The words are related to each other. Lexical cohesive devices in these columns show the words which commonly occur together. For example, "responsible" and "boss" show that bosses must have responsible feelings toward their subordinates. It is presented in d28.12 that "Eko said he did it because he felt responsible as he was Endro's boss."

CONCLUSION

The lexical cohesion types used in these columns are reiteration and collocation. Reiteration, which is used in these columns, consists of repetition, synonyms, and superordinate. In each document, collocation is mostly used. Collocation is mostly used in the "National Column" of The Jakarta Post, issued from 26th to 30th March 2012. It is presented up to forty-five times. The second type of lexical cohesion mainly used is repetition. It appears up to twenty-two times. The third sequence is superordinate. It is presented three times. The last sequence is a synonym. It appears twice.

Lexical cohesion in the "National Column" of The Jakarta Post has an important function. Generally, Reiteration is used to reiterate the previous item, either in an identical or somewhat modified form. It links between one element and another element in the text. Collocation indicates the relationship between words that often occur in the same environment. In use, each cohesive lexical device has essential and different functions. Each cohesive lexical device is essential in making a good relationship within the text. Their presence cannot be separated from each other. They must collaborate to give results in cohesive relations in the text. It can make the text unity so the reader can understand the purpose of the text.

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