

Grammatical Cohesion in Some Selected Political Texts

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Abstract

This research intends to investigate one of the features of the text, it is about a grammatical cohesion. It will show an idea about cohesion and how it is used in the political texts, Moreover, how the politicians make use of cohesion in their political speeches. An analysis will be applied on a political text , the analysis attempts to explain the importance of a grammatical cohesion and its role in enhancing the cohesion of the text . However, the study aims at carrying an analysis of cohesion in selected political texts to find out how it integrates the texts under investigation, .

It is hypothesized that cohesion is available in the political texts through the use of the cohesive devices. The whole results reveal that that politicians use the majority of grammatical cohesive devices in their political speeches. The findings also showed that the reference especially the general reference is the most apparent in the political text understudy because politicians are very cautious in their speech. The second one is the conjunction. The last one is the abbreviation .

Key Words: Cohesion , Grammatical Cohesion , reference , Substitution

الملخص

تهدف الدراسة الحالية الى بحث واحدة من اهم مقومات النص وهي التماسك النحوي وكيفية استخدام التماسك النحوي في النص السياسي . اضافة الى كيفية استثمار و استعمال التماسك النحوي من قبل السياسيين في نصوصهم السياسية . التحليل اظهر اهمية التماسك النحوي في النصوص السياسية المختارة ودوره في تماسك النص السياسي . عل اية حال، الدراسة هدفت لتحليل التماسك في النصوص السياسية المختارة وأهميتها في انسجام وتماسك النصوص تحت الدراسة. افترضت الدراسة بان التماسك والتماسك النحوي على وجه الخصوص موجود في النصوص السياسية تحت الدراسة من خلال استخدام السياسيين ادوات التماسك في خطاباتهم السياسية . النتائج

الكلية اظهرت بان السياسيين في نصوصهم السياسية استعملوا اغلبيية ادوات الانسجام النحوية ولكن كانت الاشارة وخصوصا الاشارة العامة هي الاكثر بروز في النص السياسي موضوع الدراسة وهذا يعود لان اغلبيية السياسيين كانوا حذرين في خطابهم ، ويأتي الربط في المرتبة الثانية وبعد ذلك الاختصار.

Introduction

Cohesion, according to Crystal (2003 :54), "refers to those surface structure features of utterance or text which link different parts of sentences or larger units of discourse". Quirk et al (1985: 1423) point out that cohesion is the formal linguistic realization of semantic and pragmatic relations between clauses and sentences in a text. Some definitions of cohesion equate the concept of cohesion with that of coherence. Thus, for The New Collins Concise Dictionary of the English Language (1984: 215) coherence is "another word for cohesion".

Thompson (1994:65) presents cohesion as "a multi-layered phenomenon in which the clause relations are signaled both by lexico-grammatical cohesion and intonation choices; each of these features acting simultaneously to sign explicitly the meaning relations underlying the text."

This paper is about one of the features of the text which is cohesion more specifically it is about a grammatical cohesion. It will show an idea about cohesion by giving it a definition. Hoey says that the need to examine and analyze the stretches of linguistics materials beyond the sentence level bring the idea of cohesion into use (Hoey : 1991 :3) .

It also expresses categories of grammatical cohesion and sub division of these categories.

An analysis will be applied on a political text , the analysis attempts to explain the importance of grammatical cohesion and its role in enhancing the cohesion of the text . The data of the text is a political one because it is rich in grammatical cohesion.

Section One

1.1 Definition of cohesion

The term cohesion has been defined in various ways , according to crystal (2003 : 81) , cohesion refers to those surface structure features of an utterance which link different parts of sentence or larger unit of Discourse.

In the same way ,Beaugraude and Dressler (1981: 3) state that cohesion is the way in which the component of the surface text we hear or see are reciprocally connected within a sequence.

According to Halliday and Hassan (1976 : 12) the function of cohesion is to relate one part of a text to another part of the same text .

Some linguists say that cohesion is the use of clear linguistic devices to signal the relation between a sentence and parts of text. How words are organized and how different parts are connected to each other functionally and semantically (Conner, 1996 : 49).

Verschueren says that cohesion is generally used to designate the over marking of the Relations with in a discourse or text. (verschueren 1999 : 104).

The term cohesion sometimes confused with the coherence which has to do with sense. It is described as a semantic property which is very important in the study of the discourse.

It is created by the interpretation of the whole passage or text. This interpretation helps the reader or the listener to know the general idea of what the writer or the speaker wants to convey. (widowson , 2007 : 45)

1.2 Types Grammatical cohesion

Cohesion can be divided into two types : grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion, the first one refers to a combination of term sentences that for a grammatical aspect. The second one refers to a combination of terms between sentences that form lexical component.

Grammatical cohesion can be divided into four kinds. These kinds are: reference , substitution, ellipsis , and conjunction.

1.2.1 Reference

MC Carthy (1991 : 35) points out that there is a certain item in every Language which has the property of reference instead of being interpretation in English, these item are (personal , Demonstrative , and comparative).

Reference can be divided into two types

Exophoric and Endophoric, those which look forward in the text (Cataphoric) and back ward in the text called (anaphoric).

1.2.1.1 Exophoric reference

In this kind of Reference, the information required for interpreting some elements in the text is not found in the text at all but in the situation(ibid :33). In other words, we can not interpret anything without relating the linguistic elements to the context of situation .

1-it needs a lot of work.

In the above example, the pronoun [it] has an exophoric reference since it refers directly to the object available in the context of situation.

1.2.1.2 Endophoric Reference

In this type of Reference, the information is found in the text , in other words , the thing that is referenced can be identified in the text.

Linguistically , thus the presupposition can be resolved within the language not outside language. (Crystal, 2003: 161).

2. A man appeared round the corner. He was carrying a large suitcase.

It can be interpreted by reference to (a man). The reference here is[Anaphoric] because [he] refers to something already mentioned.

3. I would never believe it . they've accepted the whole scheme .

In this example , [it] points forward to the content of the whole of the second sentence. This type of reference is called (Cataphoric)

However, Halliday and Hassan (1976 : 37) mention that there are three kinds of reference a-personal reference.

b-demonstrative reference.

c- comparative reference.

1.2.2 Personal Reference

This kind of reference is also sub divided into three classes :-

- 1-personal pronouns.
- 2-possessive determiners.
- 3- possessive pronouns.

These form system of person. They refer to the relevant person or thing by specifying it roles in the speech situation, (Halliday and Hassan : 1976 :44).

The pronoun (I – we – and you) have a speech role that refers to the first and the second person).

There are anaphoric as their referents are supplied by the situation except indirect speech.

The pronouns (they – he – she) have another role that refers to the third person.

The pronouns (they) is inherently cohesive as it is typically (anaphoric and secondly exophoric).

1.2.3 Demonstrative Reference

The referential form is one of the verbal pointing where the speaker identifies the reference by location and depends on the scale of proximity. It includes adverbial demonstratives such as [here – there – now – and then]which refer to the location of a process in the space and time . While [this – these – that – those] refer to the location of identity as participant in the process.

- 1- Demonstrative adjectives like [this house seems small].
- 2- Demonstrative pronouns when they come alone as ahead.
4. That is a small house.

The demonstratives function endophorically and exophorically (Bell,1991: 156).

5. Look at these gardens [exophoric] .

1.2.4 Comparative Reference

According to Ossisan (2005: 102) comparative reference is divided into two types:-

Ageneral comparison : expresses comparison in terms of likeness or unlikeness take the form of any particular property, likeness takes the form of identity.

6. Two things are the same.

And the form of similarity.

7. Two things are similar.

Also, salki explains the general comparison and claims that the two things are said to be similar or different without going into details. (Salki – 1995 – 68).

8. The small house as beautiful as the big one .

B-Particular comparison :- in particular reference there must be a standard of reference by which one thing is said to be superior in quantity and quality.

9. There are twice as many people there as the last time. (Ossisan wo , 2005:40)

Section Two

2.1 Substitution

It is another kind of grammatical cohesion , a relation in wording rather than in the meaning. In English, the substitution may function as a noun , as a verb or as a clause. However, there are three types of substitution, nominal, verbal and clausal (Halliday and Hassan 1976 : 88).

10 -Do you want to leave.

11 -I do .

Halliday and Hassan adopt a very straight word modal of co reference . They assume a simple substitution view where an expression many simply be replaced by another in the text and they are not alone in this view , there is also a general approach to the analysis of the text which is called [substitutional text].

12. Wash and core six cooking Apples. Put them into a fire proof dish.

2.1.1 Verbal Substitution.

This type of substitution realized through the use of (do) functioning as ahead in verbal group

13. He never usually succeeded in his ambition . He might have done. One felt had it not been for the restless of his nature.

Done serves as a cohesive device linking the two sentences by anaphora substituting.

The presupposed element may be the present, (Halliday and Hassan: 1976:114-116).

2.1.2 Clausal substitution

In this type of substitution , what is presupposed is not an element within the clause but entire clause can be replaced by (so) and (not).

14. Is there going to be a meeting. It says so.

Here , (so) presupposes the whole of clause .

" and " the contrastive environment is provided by (say) which is outside it. The reported clause that is substituted by (so) or (not) is always declarative whatever the mood of the presupposed clause.

2.1.3 Nominal Substitution

It is identified by the use of [one , ones] which always function as ahead of a nominal group. This can be identified in the following examples:

15. I shoot the hippopotamus.

16. With bullets made of platinum.

17. Because if I use leaden ones.

18. His hide is sure to flatten.

Here, bullets is a head of the nominal group. Pullets made of platinum and ones is the head of the nominal group leaden ones. (Halliday and Hassan 1976:90-92).

Section Three

3.1 Ellipsis

Is one of the categories of grammatical cohesion. It refer to the omission of something under stood. It helps in creating cohesion in text . (Halliday and Hassan (1976 -196) said that the effect of Ellipsis is to create cohesion by leaving out under definite rules what can be taken over from the preceding discourse.

Hoey (1983 : 190) refer to Ellipsis as a deletion that occurs when the structure of one sentence in complete and missing element can be recoverable from the previous sentence.

Another definition to Ellipsis is the process by which an expression is omitted to leave out words or phrase without repeating them . what is essential in Ellipsis is that some sentences are omitted from the surface of text but they are still under stood . (Hamar : 2004 27) .

According to Crystal (2003 : 159) , Ellipsis refers to a sentence where , for reasons of economy , emphasis or style . Apart of structure has been omitted , which is recoverable from scrutiny of the context.

3.1.1 Nominal Ellipsis-

Halliday and Hassan (1976 : 150) say that Ellipsis involves the omission of the head of the noun phrase with some modifiers.

19. Four men came out of room and then another four.

In the second line the word [four] which is enumerative and therefor normally acts as modifier is up graded to fiction as ahead . An Elliptical nominal from quotes that there should be available from some source or other the information is a preceding nominal group.

3.1.2 Verbal Ellipsis

By verbal Ellipsis, we mean Ellipsis with the verbal group

20 -Have you been swimming? Yes I have.

21-what have you been doing ? (swimming).

The two verbal groups in answers here (in yes – I have).

And [swimming] are both instances of verbal Ellipsis (Halliday and Hassan :167).

Also verbal Ellipsis divided into two kinds:-

A-lexical verbal Ellipsis :- it is involve the omission of so the verbal group consist only of the operator expressing modality [can – will – may – might – could]. Or [do – be – have].

22. He will not be back to day ? will he?

B-operator verbal Ellipsis :- it's involves the omission of the operator so that the lexical verb is always clear. The subject is also omitted from the clause.

23. What is she doing ? writing.

3.1.3 Clausal Ellipsis

According to Halliday and Hassan (1976 ; 205) mention Clausal Ellipsis is not be the omission of just one element from the structure of a clause whether that Element is otherwise obligatory of the subject for example or a complement following the verb. Also clausal Ellipsis refer to the omission of all clause

24 -will you call me ? No.

3.2 Additive Conjunction

Additive conjunction means add more information to what has already been said. Brown and rule (1983 :191)] divided conjunction into four types [and – or – furthermore – in addition].

The additive relationship happen with a sentence or across sentences and the additive relationship may be happen between two or more than two

25. Mary and my brother are present.

3.3 Causal Conjunction

This type of conjunction relates new information to what has been mentioned in terms of cause. There is ideas like result , cause , and purpose. These ideas are expressed by causal relation. Causal relation are [hence – for this – reason – as a result – so – therefore – consequently – in consequently]. (Cook , 1989 : 21).

26 -He came here because he wanted to learn .

3.4 Temper Oral Conjunction.

Halliday and Hassan (1976: 252) view that this kind of conjunction represents the relations between a sentence or sentences in a particular text. Temporal conjunction are either simple [before that – then – previously – earlieretc.].

Or sequence [firstthen , first Second , first..... next].

Or critical like [finally , at last , in the end , etc].

27-Nada went to her friend , then she came back to her house.

Section Four

4.1 Result and Analysis of The Text

The sample is a political text which has been taken from one of the sites of the internet(www.Obama.com).

The text is about sixty sentences. However, . the result of analysis shows the following findings:-

1-the rate of reference is 83%, and this is the highest rate of the grammatical cohesion in the political text understudy. Politicians normally want to elaborate in their speech.

2-the second rate of reference as it is found the text is the use of conjunctions . conjunctions normally have many functions . The political text is rich in the conjunctions because politicians use various ways in their speech to enhance their ideas.

They may add new ideas or contrast or relate their opinions to the situations by using causal conjunction . In other words, politicians want to persuade their audience , so they use various conjunctions to achieve this target.

3- the third rate of grammatical cohesion is Ellipsis . it is about 165 % . This shows that the abbreviation in political speech is not favored because politicians need to elaborate in their speech to convince their audience.

4- the last rate of grammatical cohesion is the substitutions. It is about 5 %, and this is because the substitution is a kind of abbreviation and this is not flavored in political text .

Conclusion

. The results in the previous section yield the following conclusions:

1. Everyday English conversations are highly cohesive texts.
2. Cohesive ties contribute to the overall cohesion which speakers create and maintain interactively as they build each others contributions.
3. Cohesion provides the main thread of a conversation by showing that some entity or circumstance, some relevant feature or argument persists from one moment to another in the semantic process as the meaning unfolds.
4. Cohesion creates the characteristic feel of a text . The continuity expressed by cohesion makes a text interpretable and provides it with its effective power.
5. A characteristic of spoken language is that speakers avoid placing an excessive burden on each others' working memories. Thus, they tend to repeat exactly the same items. On the other hand, speakers do not favour substitution and ellipsis because these devices place a heavy burden on the speakers' minds. It takes extra effort to resolve elliptical references, and, to a certain extent substitution as well. However, ellipsis is used more often. That is, speakers prefer to leave something unsaid than to use a substitute item for it. Ellipsis extends over speaker turns. It contributes to the contingency of the speech of the conversations, i.e., the effect that talk is jointly constructed through successive borrowings from, and additions to, other speakers' previous utterances and their use therefore serves an important cohesive purpose.
6. Reference and lexical cohesion are typical cohesive devices of conversation. Thus, they distinguish conversations as text types.
7. The findings also showed that the reference especially the general reference is the most apparent in the political text understudy because politicians are very cautious in their speech. The second one is the conjunction. The last one is the abbreviation which is not favored in any political texts since politicians in their political speeches want to convince their audiences . They need to show themselves in positive-orientation and their opponents in negative – other orientation .

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- www.obama.speech.Com

Appendix (1)

Political Text For Analysis.

Forty four Americans have now taken the presidential oath . the word have been spoken during rising tides of prosperity. And the still waters of Pease . yet , every so often the oath is taken amidst gathering clouds and raging storms. At these movement , America , has carried on not simply because of skill or vision of those in high office , but because we the people have remind faithful to the ideal of our for bearers , and true to our founding. Documents.

So it has been . so it must be with generation of Americans. That we are in the midst of crisis is now well under stood.

Under stood our nation is war against a far- reaching network of violence and hatred . our economy is badly weakened , a consequence of great and irres possibility on the part of some but , also our collective failure to make a hard choices and prepare the nation for new age .

Homes have been lost ; jobs shed ; business shuttered. Our health car is too costly . our school fail too many ; and each day brings further evidence that the ways we use energy strong then our adversaries and threaten our planet.

These are indications of crisis , subject to data and statistics , less measurable but no less profaned is a sapping of confidence across our land – a nagging fear that American's decline is inevitable , and that the next generation must lower its sight.

Today I say to you that the challenges we face are red . they are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short a pan of time. But now this Mercia- they will be met.

On this day we gather because we have chosen hope over conflict and discord.

On this day , we come to proclaim an end to the petty grievances and false promises the recrimination and worn out dogmas , that far too have strangled our politics.

We remain a young ration , but in the words scripture, the time has come to set aside childish things. The time has come to reaffirm our enduring sprit, to choose our better history ; to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea passed on from generation to generation the God- given promise that all equal, all are free , and deserve a chance to pursuer their full measure of happiness.

In reaffirming the greatness of our nation, we understand that greatness is near a given. It must be earned . our journey has never been one of short cutes or setting for less. It has not been the path for the faint. Hearted for those who prefer leisure over work or seek only the pleasure of riches and fame. Rather , it has been the risk , take , the doers , the markers of things. Some celebrated but more often men and women obscure in their labor , who towards prosperity and freedom.

For us , they toiled in sweat shops and settled the west endured the lash for the whip and plowed the hard earth.

For us they packed up their few wordily possessions and travel led across oceans in search of new life.

For us they fought and died , in places like concord and traveled across oceans in search of new life.

For us they fought and died , in places. Like concord and Getty's; Normandy.

Time and again those men and women struggled and sacrificed and worked till their hands were ram so that we might live a better life.

They saw the America as bigger than the sum of our individual ambitions; greater than all the differences of birth or wealth or faction.

This is the journey we continue today. We remain the most prosperous powerful nation on earth. Our workers are noels productive than when this crisis began . our minds are no less inventive , our goods and services no less needs than they were last week or last month or last year.

Our capacity remains undiminished but our time of standing pat , of protecting narrow interests of putting off unpleasant decisions – that has surely passed starting today , we must pick ourselves up , dust ourselves off , and begin again the work of remaking America.

For everywhere we look , there is work to be done. The state of economy calls for action. Bold and swift and we will act not only to overate new jobs, but to lay anew foundation for growth , we will build and bridges , the electric grids and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together , we will restore science to its right full place , and wield technology's wonder to raise health care's quality and lower its cost.

We will harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and runs our factories . And we will transform our school and colleges and universities to meet the demands of new age . all this we can do . and all this we do.
(www.Obama.speech.com)