

**COHESIVE DEVICES IN RICHARD B. PELZER'S MEMOIR:
*A BROTHER'S JOURNEY***

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ABSTRACT

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The study deals with the types of cohesive devices in Richard B. Pelzer's memoir, *A Brother's Journey*. The objectives of this research were to find out the types of cohesive devices, the dominant type of cohesive devices and to describe the implication of the dominant type of cohesive devices of it. This research was conducted by using descriptive qualitative design. The data were 538 sentences taken from 18 chapters and first 2 pages from the each page which were collected by applying documentary technique. The five types of cohesive devices occurred in a text of *A Brother's Journey*, namely reference (62, 29%), substitution (0, 94%), ellipsis (2, 07%), conjunction (34, 32%), and lexical cohesion (0, 36 %). The dominant type of cohesive devices was reference. The implication of using reference dominantly in this text was to help the writers to keep the identity of the participants, ideas and things in the story and keep track them through the story. By using reference, the writer had the ability to avoid unnecessary repetition so that the readers easily get the information about an item that indicates the identity of what is being talked about from the text. From those findings, it is concluded that cohesive devices plays an important roles in written.

Key words: *Cohesive devices, A Brother's Journey*

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INTRODUCTION

Background of the study

In ordinary living, language cannot be separated from the human being. No one can deny that language plays an important role in all aspect of life. In fact, there is a gap between the languages itself with the people as the user. The gap occurs when the people that using one language arrange the context in different ways. They added, changed, connected, omitted, or replaced parts of linguistic structures, which should understand by the readers even though they are not expressed in literal, such as in literary works.

A Brother's Journey memoir is a kind of literary work that explain the sense, value, and message from the author to the readers which express their feelings or thought about something that related to the social life. However, the reality is contrary to the theories. So many people find difficulties in comprehending literary works. The writer assumes it can be caused by lacking the knowledge to comprehend the text as a unity, how the texts are linked together and the function of the component in a text.

In line with the problems, cohesive devices that proposed by Halliday and Hassan (1976:4) are chosen by the writer to contribute to the quality of the text in literary works. There are five types of cohesive devices in it; they are reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction and lexical cohesion. Refers to the function of each type of cohesive devices itself, a text will have a good relationship between one sentence to another, or from one paragraph to another.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In theoretical framework, the researcher focuses on interrelated theories and concept that consisted of text, cohesion, cohesive devices and its types, and A Brother's Journey memoir.

Text

According to Halliday (1976: 1-2), text is used in linguistics which refers to any passage, in spoken or written; of whatever length, that does from a unified whole. McCarthy (2001) also asserted that it is very necessary to contribute to forming a text because the text is not a container full of meaning which the reader simply downloads. It means that how the sentences relate to one another or how the units of meaning combine to create a coherent are the results of the interaction between the readers' comprehension and the text.

Cohesion

Michael Hoey (1991: 3) asserted that theory of cohesion defined as the way certain words or grammatical features of a sentence can connect that sentence its predecessors (and successors) in a text. Renkema (1993:35) also give more explanation about cohesion with states that cohesion is the connections which result when the interpretation of textual element is dependent on another element in the text. It means that there is no part in a text which doesn't have a relationship with another. They have connected.

Cohesive Devices and Its types

Cohesive Devices

Cohesive devices are the tool of cohesion to create the unity of the meaning within a text. The aim is to help the readers understand the items referred to, the ones replaced, the ones connected, and even the items omitted (Harmer: 2004). In the same line with Harmer, Connor (1984) asserted that cohesion as the use of explicit cohesive devices that signal relations among sentences and part of the text. It means that the function of cohesive devices enables readers or listeners to understand between what precedes and what follows.

Types of Cohesive Devices

Halliday and Hasan (1976:5-6) has divided cohesive devices into five; references, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction and lexical cohesion.

1. Reference

Reference occurs whenever an item indicates the referential meaning, identity of what is being talked, or the class of things that is being referred can be retrieved from the immediate context. Halliday and Hasan Both, (1976: 37) also divided references into three parts, such as personal reference or pronominal reference, demonstrative reference and comparative reference.

2. Substitution

Halliday and Hasan (1976:88) define substitution in simplest terms as the replacement of one item by another. A term of substitution which is called “dummy” word, proposed by Renkema (2004:103) is the replacement of word (group) or sentence segment. Dummy word is another word that still has the same meaning with the previous. The reader or listener can choose the appropriate word based on the word in the previous because they have same function. There three types of substitution; they are nominal substitution (replacement of a noun by “one, ones), verbal substitution (replacement of a verb by “do”) and clausal substitution (replacement of a clause by “so, not”) .

3. Ellipsis

Ellipsis is closely related to substitution. It is the omission of a word or part of a sentence. The starting point of discussion of ellipsis can be the familiar notion that it is “something left unsaid”. In the other words, there is no implication about something that is not understood; on the contrary ‘unsaid’ implies ‘but understood nevertheless’.

Halliday and Hasan (1976:146) state that there are three types off ellipsis; nominal, verbal and clause.

4. Conjunction

Conjunction (also known as connectives) is a part of speech used as a ‘joiner’ which indicates the relationship between word, clause, and sentences is linked together. According to Halliday and Ruqaiya in *Cohesion in English* (1976: 238), conjunction is classified into four categories; Additive conjunction, Adversative conjunction, Causal conjunction and Temporal conjunction.

5. Lexical Cohesion

Lexical cohesion refers to the selection of words that are chosen to link elements of a text. It tends to link much larger parts of the text. Lexical cohesion can be divided into two types; reiteration and collocation. Reiteration can occur through the use of a word that is systematically linked to a previous one. In general, reiteration is divided into five following types: Repetition (often involving reference), synonym (often involving reference), hyponym/ hyperonymy, meronymy (part vs whole), antonymy.

Collocation deals with the relationship between words on the basis of the fact that these often occur in the same surroundings. Some examples are sheep and wool, congress and politician, or college and study

A Memoir

A memoir (from French: *mémoire*: *memoriam* meaning memory or reminiscence) is a collection of memories tells about their history of life that an individual writes about moments or events, both public or private through their life.

A Brother's Journey is a memoir that tells about how the writer survives from an alcoholic mother. While they were aware that Mrs. Pelzer, who suffered from depression and abused alcohol, had tried to kill Dave. He had been placed in foster care and that Richard had become the target of her abuse, they did nothing to intercede on the boys' behalf. Although the other brothers did not receive the physical and mental abuse of Dave and Richard, they were aware of the abuse and left the home as soon as possible.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Methodology

In conducting this research, the researcher used a descriptive qualitative method. It is used in the literal sense of describing the situation, phenomenon, and events and the processes are going to trends that are evident. By using

descriptive method, the data was analyzed by describing and identifying the types of cohesive devices in A Brother's Journey memoir.

The source of the data was taken from a memoir of Richard. B. Pelzer's, A Brother's Journey. The novel is consists of 18 chapters, 260 pages. Related to that point, the writer took the first 2 pages which indicated the types of cohesive devices from the each chapter as the representatives, thus there were 36 pages as the data. Then, the writer used to analyze the each sentences from the each page.

DATA AND DATA ANALYSIS

As in the previous chapter explained that this study deals with the data of this research that were collected from the types of cohesive devices in an autobiographical account, A Brother's Journey. There are five types of cohesive devices that proposed by Halliday and Hassan (1976). The data in this study consists of 538 sentences which collected from 18 chapters and first 2 pages from the each page.

The data were analyzed by the researcher by using the note taking technique. There were 538 sentences providing cohesive devices. The writer analyzed every sentence and all the texts relating to the research questions are identified and underlined with the focus on types of cohesive devices. The researcher also used Miles & Huberman and Saldana (2014) to analyze the data. According to those experts, they elaborate several steps of analyzing data; they are data collection, data reduction, data display, and data verification/ conclusion.

a. Data Collection

These data were collected through reading attentively and accurately the text A Brother's Journey memoir from certain pages that have been chosen by the writer as the samples. All the texts relating to the research

questions are identified and underlined with the focus on types of cohesive device.

b. Data Reduction

Data reduction is one way to make the data looks sharpens sorts, focuses, and organized data in such a way that “final” conclusions can be interpreted and verified. During the note taking technique, the data gained grow much and complex. The data need to be reduced. Selecting, classifying, tabulating and calculating those data by referring to the formulation of research problems.

The writer found the most dominant types of cohesive devices by using a formula:

$$X = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

Where:

X = the percentage of the types of cohesive devices

F = the number each type of cohesive devices

N = the total number of the types of cohesive devices

The application of the percentage formula can be seen as follow:

Reference, $X = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$

Substitution, $X = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$

Ellipsis, $X = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$

Conjunction, $X = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$

Lexical Cohesion, $X = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$

c. Data Display

Data display means an organized assembly of information that permits conclusion drawing and action taking. Data that have been analyzed through data reduction will be displayed by showing them on the table.

d. Data Verification/ Drawing Conclusion

The writer drawing a conclusion based on the findings to answer the research problems, namely the types of cohesive devices, the dominant, and the implication of the dominant type of cohesive devices are used in A Brother's Journey memoir.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

Having analyzed the data and determining the types of cohesive devices, the results are presented as follow.

**The percentage of cohesive devices used in Richard B. Pelzer's memoir:
A Brother's Journey.**

No	Types of Cohesive Devices	Frequency (F)	Percentage(X)
1	Reference	1383	62.29%
2	Substitution	21	0.94%
3	Ellipsis	46	2.07%
4	Conjunction	762	34.32%
5	Lexical Cohesion	8	0.36%
TOTAL (N)		2220	100%

This tables shows that the five types of cohesive devices occur in 2220 numbers of cohesive devices in 538 sentences which collected from 18 chapters and first 2 pages from the each page of A Brother's Journey memoir with the detail as follows: reference (62,29%), substitution (0,94%), ellipsis (2,07%), conjunction (34,32%), and lexical cohesion (0,36 %).

Based on the data collected, it was found that reference and conjunction were dominantly used in the text of Brother's Journey. References and conjunction can be found in every chapter. If the writer arranged them into the rank from the highest into the lowest, they are Reference, conjunction, ellipsis, substitution and lexical cohesion.

Discussion

The result of this research shows that there were five types of cohesive devices that proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976) occurs in A Brother's Journey memoir; they are reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction and lexical cohesion with a different number of percentage. The different number in each type of cohesive devices occurs because the author has his own way to present the conflict. By using the types of cohesive in this text, the writer is easy to present the idea and easy to connect every sequence of events and vice versa. The readers can follow the author's thoughts in every part of the story and it is more understandable.

The dominant types of cohesive devices appear in this research was reference. It caused by the kind of genre that writer used while writing the text. A memoir is a kind of an autobiographical account that tells about the writer himself/herself narrates the details of a particular event occurred in his/her lifetime. He or she is in the story and the writer commonly uses I, you, they, us, the, that, the, and so on. This is called as Reference. It can be interpreted that the author would like to introduce and to keep the track of the identity of participants through text. If the writers decide to write something,

it means he or she wants to make sure that the idea is accepted by the readers. It can be done by using cohesive devices in his/her writing. By using reference the reader easily to get the author's thought.

Example: **Our^(1P) house was bright pink.**

(Chapter 1, That was then..., page 7, sentence 9).

In this sample, there is a word (our) which is included in the personal reference. It refers back to the previous statement that explains about the author's family pastel houses of San Francisco's Rainbow Row.

After reference, conjunction also occurs in this text. The writer use conjunction to keep the logical one idea into the other idea, or between one sentences into the other sentence. The writer use *and, also, or, similarly and* so on to make the text relate to each other logical way. Conjunctions that enable the text transition from one part of a sentence to another part of the sentence. The transitional words have meaning and were not just used at the beginning of the sentences. It can also be used to show the relationship between different parts of the same sentence. Conjunction can be found in all of the chapters.

Example: **She worked very hard at making elaborate dinners and^(4ADD) setting the table with Hawaiian tablecloths or^(4ADD) Chinese dishes, stemware, and^(4ADD) tableware, depending on what she created for dinner.**

(Chapter 1, That was then..., page 7, sentence 34)

In this sample, there are words " **and** and **or**". And, or in this sample is included in additive conjunction. Additive conjunctions are the most frequently used in this research. It will help the authors to give information and additional information to what is already there which is similar.

On the other hand, there are ellipsis and substitution which are found in the text. ‘Substitution and ellipsis are both devices of cohesive devices for avoiding the unnecessary repetition of words or phrases in speech or writing.

Example: **Each one^(2N) was painted differently and yet there was a pattern on the street that reminds me of the famous pastel houses of San Francisco’s Rainbow Row.**

(Chapter 1, “That was then.../ page 7, sentence 8)

In this sample, the word “one” is a kind of nominal substitution. One, in this case, substitutes the entire house of San Francisco’s Rainbow, which has a different color and pattern. One shows the author’s house and it is more specific.

The author uses an ellipsis to omit the word that has already stated or expressed. The author prefers to use reference rather than use substitution and ellipsis. This is because the author wants to explain every sequence in the text more details.

Example: **Children can be very cruel to each other^(3N) in an ignorant and often uncivilized manner.**

(Chapter 2, “Good-Boy”, page 13, sentence 1)

The word “other” in this sample refers to the children (plural) that have been mentioned before. This sample is classified as nominal ellipsis. The starting point of discussion of ellipsis can be a familiar notion that is “something left unsaid”. But it still can be understood by the reader because it is already stated.

The last type of cohesive devices that occur in the text is lexical cohesion. In this text, there are some words that are repeated. This happens because the author wanted to clarify the part in the text as clear as possible.

Example: **I used to look at Mom’s wedding picture, and I^(5R) remember looking at her like she was the most beautiful girl I had ever seen.**

(Chapter 2, Good Boy, page 13, sentence 14)

In this sample, the word (I) which is included in one of reiteration’s types is called by repetition. This word is repeated the same word as has been mentioned before. The function of repetition is to indicate a thing that repeats another and to stress the word. The word “I” in the first, repeat it again in the next after conjunction.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

After analyzing the cohesive devices in A Brother’s Journey based on the theories, the conclusion can be drawn as follows:

1. There are five types of cohesive devices that are found in a text of A Brother’s Journey, namely reference (62,29%), substitution (0,94%), ellipsis (2,07%), conjunction (34,32%), and lexical cohesion (0,36 %).
2. Reference is the most dominant types of cohesive devices found in A Brother’s Journey memoir because the kinds of genre the writer used is autobiographical genre. The writer uses I, you, they, us, she, he it, the, then, and they are able to indicate how the writer introduces all of the participants that involve in the story and keeps track of them through the text.
3. There are several implications of using reference dominantly in a text of a Brother’s Journey memoir, namely:

- Referring expressions help to unify the text and make the text more effective because they save writers from unnecessary repetition so that the readers easily get the information that is signaled for retrieval or an item that indicates the identity of what is being talked about from the context.
- Because this text is a kind of an autobiographical account the writer makes sure the readers understand what the author wants, what the author structure, and the identity of the participants in the story and keep track them through the story by using reference. It makes the ideas more understandable to the reader because the writer uses a personal pronoun to present the story, so that the readers felt that they also involve in it and make it enjoyable.

SUGGESTION

Having seen the result of this research, the suggestions that are given by the researcher related to this topic, namely:

1. The writer hopes that the students in English Literature Department can gain the knowledge from many sources whether they are textbooks or research article. So, in writing subject they can make a good paragraph by using cohesive device of it.
2. The writer suggests that the readers should do a deeper study or research in cohesive devices in order to get a better understanding of it.
3. The writer hopes the journalist (authors) can use the appropriate cohesive devices in their writing so that the readers easy to understand what the author's wanted to say. The result shows that there is a big contribution and the existences of cohesive devices to make a text have a good cohesion.

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