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Analysis of cohesive devices in greta thunberg's speech

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ABSTRACT

Cohesion devices are essential for creating a well-structured text. These devices have various functions and must be used clearly to prevent misunderstandings and ensure the text can be understood. This study analyses the cohesion devices in Greta Thunberg's speech 'Blah Blah Blah' delivered at the Pre-COP26 Youth4Climate 2021 event, using theories from Halliday and Hasan (1976), Scinto (1983), and Hartnett (1986). This study analyses the types of grammatical and lexical cohesion in Thunberg's speech, as well as the degree of cohesiveness in the speech text. Using a descriptive qualitative method research design, this study identified 55 sentences containing various cohesion devices. The results of this study are grammatical cohesion (reference, substitution, conjunction) and lexical cohesion (repetition, synonymy, superordinate, collocation). The most frequent grammatical cohesion found is personal reference, which helps avoid redundancy and build relationships in the text. The dominant lexical cohesion found is repetition, which serves to emphasise keywords to maintain topic continuity. This speech shows a very high degree of grammatical cohesiveness and a medium degree of lexical cohesiveness.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Discourse in language use exists in every particular aspect of communication. There is an approach to discourse known as discourse analysis. Paltridge (2012, p.1) states that discourse analysis is an approach to the analysis of language that considers the patterns of the language across the text as well as the s ocial and cultural contexts in which the text occurs. Hewitt (2009, p.6) explain that carry out discourse analysis in examining the relationships between language, culture, and power is needed to see how language shapes social interactions especially within the speech. McLeod and McCormack (2015, p. 4) define speech is the means by which messages are communicated orally; however, messages can also be communicated in other forms, including via written text

One of the speeches that has attracted global attention in recent years raises the topic of the increasing issue of climate change, with climate activist Greta Thunberg emerging as a powerful voice for urgent action. Through her impassioned speeches, Greta Thunberg has inspired millions young people and brought climate change to the forefront of public consciousness. As a young climate activist who is quite well known, Greta is famous for her speech entitled blah blah blah that mocks the world leaders. In September 2021, Greta was delivered her speeches in front of the world leaders by raising the topic of climate change at Pre-COP26 Youth4Climate Conference in Milan. In her speech, she

employs a persuasive language to censure the inactivity of world leaders regarding the climate crisis. Greta conveys her dissatisfaction and disapointment over the sluggish progress and lack of urgency in handling the critical environmental issues confronting the world.

In Greta's speech, she repeats certain words and for that, this raises questions about the relevance and purpose of the repetition word used by Greta, whether the repetition word indicates the cohesiveness. In this case, discourse plays an important role to build the cohesiveness within the speech. An intact discourse requires discourse-building elements, namely coherence and cohesion. Halliday and Hasan (1976, p.4) explain that cohesion occurs when one linguistic item in a text requires interpretation by another linguistic element, giving rise to a cohesive relationship. Cohesion refers to the formal elements or structure of language, the cohesiveness of discourse encompasses the grammatical and lexical aspects.

Cohesion is an important element that discourse requires for cohesiveness, whether in spoken or written form, including speech. The smooth flow of sentences and how they stick together, as recommended by Halliday and Hasan (1976), is reflected in the dynamics of spoken discourse. In a speech, a speaker's goal, as outlined by Slagell (2009, p.1), is to influence, educate, explain, encourage, and provide information. This aligns with the idea that cohesive relations, as highlighted by Halliday and Hasan, ensure that speeches are well-organized and easily comprehensible. Moreover, Halliday and Hasan (1976, p.4) distinguish two aspects of cohesion that is grammatical and lexical cohesion. Halliday and Hasan (1976, p.288) define a grammatical feature that is contained systematically in a sentence consisting of reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction; lexical cohesion is the relationship of the text consisting of reiteration (repetition, synonym), superordinate, collocation, and general word).

In addition, this study uses the Scinto Formula from Scinto (1983). This formula is to determine how well the text holds together and for that this study employs the scinto formula, as introduced by Scinto (1983) in his book "The Development of Text Production". Scinto (1983, p. 228-229) explains that there are two main types of models for understanding discourse: those based on grammar and structure, and those based on inference. These models connect the information in the text with the reader's own experiences or knowledge. Scinto also suggests that when readers understand discourse, they integrate new information from each sentence into their overall understanding. This shows the importance of organizing information and creating a clear structure when understanding discourse.

As for determining the level of cohesion, the guidelines for determining its level of cohesion are as follows: if the calculation results indicate that the text has a value of >85%, then the text is considered very high; if it falls within the range of 70-85%, it is considered high; between 55-69%, it is considered moderate; between 35-54%, it is considered low, and if it is <35%, it is considered very low. The following is an indicator of the level of text cohesiveness according to Hartnett (1986, p.140).

The 'Very High' category includes values or levels that are more than 85%. This means that if something is classified as 'Very High', the value must be more than 85%. The 'High' category includes values or levels between 70% and 85%. Something that falls into this category has a fairly high value, but does not reach the 'Very High' category. The 'Medium' category includes values or levels between 55% and 69%. This is an intermediate level that is not too high but not too low either. The 'Low' category includes values or levels between 35% and 54%. Something that falls into this category has a fairly low value. Finally, the 'Very Low' category includes values or levels that are less than 35%, which means they are very low.

This study uses Halliday and Hasan's (1976) cohesion theory, which covers grammatical and lexical cohesion, to analyze how linguistic elements such as cohesive devices contribute when constructing the speech texts to prevent confusion and misinterpretation among the readers. Furthermore, this study aims to assess the degree of cohesiveness that is created within the speech by Greta Thunberg at the Pre-COP26 Youth4Climate 2021 using theory by Scinto (1983), as well as determining the level of cohesiveness through indicators by Hartnett (1986) guidelines.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs qualitative descriptive research, which centers on providing descriptions of current speech phenomena. Leedy and Ormrod (2021, p.258-265) suggest six common types of qualitative research: case studies, ethnographies, phenomenological studies, grounded theory studies, narrative inquiry, and content analyses. Saldana (2013, p.78) state that content analysis can be applied to research that involves multiple participants and locations, as well as research that encompasses diverse types of data, such as interview transcripts, field notes, journals, documents, diaries, correspondence, artifacts, and video recordings. Hence, this study employed content analysis of speech which is content analysis can be applied to transcribed speech data to identify and analyzes patterns, themes, and meanings within spoken content. As previously mentioned, this study utilized content analysis because its subject of analysis is speech text in the form of a transcript. The method is carried out by gathering and inputting the data, observing and then classifying the data. The data is collected from the website on Carbon Independent.org which takes the form of a transcript of Greta Thunberg's speech in Milan 2021. The primary source of the data is Greta Thunberg's speech at the Pre-COP26 Youth4Climate Conference in Milan in September 2021. The speech text has been obtained from the website carbon independent.org (https://www.carbonindependent.org/119.html) with the speech is titled blah blah blah. On the Carbon Independent's website, the speech text is already present in the form of a transcript, and therefore, this study will use the transcript as the primary source.

In the process of gathering data for the qualitative research design, several methods were available, including text analysis, observing behaviour, or conducting interviews (Creswell, 2018, p.257). In this particular instance, the data collection method employed was text analysis. First, downloading the speech transcript from Carbon Independent's website. Second, printing out a hard copy of the speech transcript to simplify the marking process. Third, reading the speech transcript with full of attention and read it intensively. Fourth, reviewing the speech transcript and marking words that include cohesive devices. Sixth, separating words into categories that include data and those that are not based on grammatical and lexical cohesion as outlined by Halliday and Hasan theory (1976). The last, the data to confirm that there were no mistakes in separating them into their respective types. After gathering the data, this study employed a data analysis technique. When analyzing the data, it was systematically processed in accordance with the data analysis steps to document the study's findings.

The data analysis process comprises the following steps: Clasifying the number of types of cohesion contained in the text of Greta Thunberg's speech, Describing the types of grammatical and lexical cohesion contained in the speech text by Greta Thunberg, Explaining the grammatical and lexical cohesion and its functions in the speech text by Greta Thunberg, Examining the grammatical and lexical cohesion devices contained in the speech text, Analyzing the data using Scinto's formula to identify and calculate the cohesiveness degree in the speech text, Drawing conclusions based on the data analysis as the result of the study.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The data is examined on sentence by sentence basis and for that, this study has fifty-five data to analyze the types of cohesive devices.

Table 1. Cohesive Devices Found

Grammatical Cohesion	Amount	Total
1. Reference		
a. Personal Reference	84 items	
b. Demonstrative Reference	68 items	
c. Comparative Reference	6 items	
Total of Reference		158
2. Substitution		
a. Verbal Substitution	2 items	
b. Clausal Substitution	2 items	

Total of Substitution		4
4. Conjunction		
a. Additive Conjunction	33 items	
b. Adversative Conjunction	13 items	
c. Clausal Conjunction	2 items	
Total of Conjunction		
Total of Grammatical Cohesion		210
Lexical Cohesion		
1. Reiteration		
a. Repetition	32 words	
b. Synonym	2 words	
c. Superordinate	1 words	
Total of Reiteration		35
2. Collocation	3 item	
Total of Lexical Cohesion		38
Total of Grammatical and Lexical Cohesion		248

Types of Grammatical Cohesion and Lexical Cohesion

The cohesive device plays an important role in maintaining the smoothness and connection between various parts of the text so that the text can have a clear and structured flow. There are 4 types of grammatical cohesion found in this speech text, namely reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction, as well as 2 types of lexical cohesion, namely reiteration and collocation.

a. Reference

Personal reference

Datum 2: Climate change is not only a threat, it is above all an opportunity to create a healthier, greener and cleaner planet which will benefit all of us.In this sentence, it is endophoric specifically anaphoric. It refers back to climate change, and us refers to Greta Thunberg herself as the speaker and also the audience.

Demonstrative reference

Datum 3: We must seize this opportunity - we can achieve a win-win in both ecological conservation and high quality development. Here, the word this is a selective demonstrative. It points to a specific opportunity that is presumably known or has been mentioned previously in the context of the speech or conversation. It is used to highlight a particular opportunity that Greta wants to emphasize as important and immediate.

Comparative reference

Datum 10: Build back better blah blah blah, The word better implies a comparison, suggesting that the rebuilding process should result in an outcome that surpasses the previous condition. This word is often used in the context of rebuilding after a crisis or disaster, advocating for resilience and progress.

b. Substitution

Verbal substitution

Datum 1: They obviously don't mean it, but we do - we can do this, In the sentence, the verbal substitution occurs with the phrase mean it being replaced by do in the further clause. In the subsequent clause, the verb mean is replaced by do, resulting in the phrase we do instead of mean it.

Clausal substitution

Datum 33: But they are not - they are clearly not listening to us - and they never have - just look at the numbers - look at the statistics - the emissions are still rising - the science doesn't lie, In

this sentence, the clausal substitution occurs between they are clearly not listening to us and they never have. The substitution simplifies the clause replacing it with they never have, which conveys the same idea. This substitution maintains the emphasis on the lack of responsiveness from the individuals which mentioned within the speech.

c. Conjunction

Additive conjunction

Datum 2: Climate change is not only a threat, it is above all an opportunity to create a healthier, greener and cleaner planet which will benefit all of us, Here, and is used to join two or more elements in a series. In this sentence, it connects the adjectives greener and cleaner to describe the type of planet that can be created.

Adversative conjunction

Datum 17: Of course we need constructive dialogue, but they've now had 30 years of blah bah blah and where has that led us? Here, but is used to introduce a contrast between the need for constructive dialogue and the ineffectiveness of the past 30 years of dialogue. It highlights the opposition between the positive concept of constructive dialogue and the negative outcome of ineffective discussions.

Clausal Conjunction

Datum 24: And the climate crisis is of course only a symptom of a much larger crisis - the sustainability crisis, the social crisis - a crisis of inequality that dates back to colonialism and beyond - a crisis based on the idea that some people are worth more than others and therefore have a right to exploit and steal other people's land and resources - and it is very naive to believe that we can solve this crisis without confronting the roots of it, In the sentence provided, therefore connects the clause "some people are worth more than others and have a right to exploit and steal other people's land and resources with the clause it is very naive to believe that we can solve this crisis without confronting the roots of it.

d. Repetition

There are 32 repetition found in this speech text. The use of repetition plays a crucial role in speeches as it helps maintain focus on the topic by reiterating key terms or related concepts, thereby ensuring cohesion throughout the discourse. Words that are repeated several times such as the word climate repeated for eight times on datum 2, 4, 6, 14, 24, 30, 31, 44. The word change repeated for five times on the datum 2, 4, 6, 21, 36. The word green repeated for three times on the datum 6, 9, and 11. The word leaders repeated several times on datum 15, 19, 20, 29, 48. The word blah blah blah repeated eight times on datum 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, and 40. The word action repeated seven times on the datum 15, 20, 29, 31, 42, 44, 52.

The word hope repeated seven times on the datum 16, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, and 43. The word emission repeated six times on the datum 18, 23, 26, 28, 33, and 35. The word crisis repeated three times on the datum 22, 24, and 30. The word possible repeated three times on the datum 21, 34, and 37. The word people repeated eight times on the datum 24, 30, 32, 37, 38, 43, 44, and 51. The word future repeated three times on the datum 29, 30, and 44. The word power repeated three times on the datum 30, 37, and 38. The word want repeated seven times on the datum 22, 31, 44, 46, 47, 53, and 54. Lastly, the word that repeated twice such as thank you, opportunity, planet, world, economy, net zero, words, led, solutions, numbers, solve, politically, wrong, rise, listening, longer, decide, and starts.

Based on the data above, the most repeated word in this speech is climate, blah blah blah and people. Here, Greta Thunberg as the speaker likely focuses on issues related to climate, along

with general discussions involving individuals or groups. Greta repeats the word climate up to eight times to emphasize that the topic of climate change is urgency of her speech.

e. Synonym

Datum 16: Our hopes and dreams drown in their empty words and promises, In this sentence, the synonym is hopes and dreams are used interchangeably to refer to positive expectations or aspirations that individuals may have for their future. Both terms convey a sense of optimism and desire for something better. While hopes may represent more immediate desires or goals, dreams often conveys a sense of larger, long-term aspirations or ambitions. However, in this sentence, they are used synonymously to emphasize the collective optimistic desires of individuals.

f. Superordinate

Datum 6: When I say 'climate change', what do you think of? I think of jobs - green jobs - green jobs, In the sentence provided, the superordinate term is climate change. It is the broader category that encompasses the more specific topic discussed which are jobs and specifically green jobs.

g. Collocation

Datum 7: We must find a smooth transition towards a low-carbon economy, In this sentence, smooth transition is a collocation that refers to the process of moving from one state or condition to another in a seamless and efficient manner.

The Cohesiveness Degree

a. The dominant cohesive devices found

The analysis reveals that reference is the most frequently used grammatical cohesive device in this speech text with 158 items out of 248 data of cohesive devices. Reference becomes the most frequently encountered cohesive device in this speech, it underscores the significance of cohesion in Greta's discourse. Cohesion, the linguistic feature that ensures clarity and coherence in a text, is achieved through various cohesive devices like reference. By frequently referring back to earlier points or ideas, Greta Thunberg strengthens the logical flow of her speech, allowing her audience to follow her argument more effectively.

The most dominant lexical cohesive device is repetition with 32 items found within 248 data of cohesive devices. Based on this data it shows that the significance of repetition as a cohesive device within the analysis of cohesive devices in the speech. It points out that repetition plays a role in maintaining cohesion by reinforcing key ideas throughout the discourse such as the word climate which repeated for eight times to highlight the key point of the speech about climate change issue.

b. Scinto Formula

Cohesiveness is the degree of integration or unity within a text. It is not about whether the text has cohesive devices or not, but about how strong the relationship between elements in the text is. To assess the degree of cohesiveness of each text, cohesiveness can be described using formulas adapted from Scinto (1983); $\lambda = \Sigma W(A) / V$, λ = degree of cohesiveness, $\Sigma W(A)$ = the number of cohesive ties, V = the number of sentences.

Grammatical cohesion

To assess the degree of cohesiveness using the formula $\lambda = \Sigma W(A) / V$, where λ represents the degree of cohesiveness, $\Sigma W(A)$ represents the total number of cohesive ties, and V represents

the total number of sentences, This is the given values integrated, with 210 cohesive ties of grammatical cohesion and 55 sentences.

The degree of cohesiveness is approximately 3,81. This result indicates that, on average, there are about 3,81 cohesive ties per sentence in the text. Higher values of λ suggest stronger cohesion, indicating that the elements within the text are more closely connected, contributing to its overall unity and clarity. Conversely, lower values of λ would indicate weaker cohesion, suggesting that the elements within the text are less closely connected, potentially leading to a less cohesive text. Therefore, based on the cohesiveness level indicator by Hartnett (1986), the result 3,81 is considered very high. Since the calculation in the indicator level table are in the form of percentages, the result found are converted by multiplying by 100%. Here is the calculation; 3,81 x 100% = 381%, So, 381% is considered very high level of cohesion.

Lexical Cohesion

With 38 cohesive ties of lexical cohesion and 55 sentences, here is the result; λ = 38 / 55 = 0.69. The degree of cohesiveness is approximately 0,69. This result indicates that, on average, there are about 0.69 cohesive ties per sentence in the text. Therefore, based on the cohesiveness level indicator by Hartnett (1986) the result 0,69 is considered medium. Since the calculation in the indicator level table is in the form of percentages, the result found is converted by multiplying by 100%. Here is the calculation; ,69 x 100% = 69%.

Table 3. Cohesiveness Degree

Cohesive Device	Number Cohesive Devices	Number of Sentences	Percentage	Categories
Grammatical Cohesion	210	55	381%	Very High
Lexical Cohesion	38	55	69%	Medium

4. CONCLUSION

In Greta Thunberg's speech at the Pre-COP26 Youth4Climate 2021 event, various cohesive devices are found. This study highlights reference as the most frequently used cohesive device, occurring 158 times out of 248 cohesive devices including grammatical and lexical cohesion. This underscores the significance of cohesion in Greta's discourse, as reference strengthens the logical flow of her speech by linking back to earlier points or ideas.

Additionally, conjunction emerges as another frequently used cohesive device, appearing 48 times. Conjunctions serve multiple functions in enhancing cohesion, such as linking ideas and facilitating smooth transitions between different parts of the speech. Repetition is also notable, with 32 instances found. This repetition reinforces key ideas throughout the discourse, with the word climate being the most repeated, highlighting it as a central theme regarding climate change issue. Substitution occurs less frequently, only 4 times, indicating a deliberate stylistic choice by the speaker to rely less on substituting words or phrases. Furthermore, synonyms are sparingly used, with only 2 instances found. This suggests the speaker's preference for linguistic precision and clarity. Collocation is relatively rare, appearing only 3 times, suggesting that Greta Thunberg does not heavily rely on these word combinations for cohesion. Lastly, superordinate is found only once, indicating its minimal role in shaping the structure and flow of the speech text.

Regarding the Scinto Formula, the degree of cohesiveness is approximately 381% for grammatical cohesion, suggesting very high cohesiveness level. However, lexical cohesion scores lower at approximately 69%, indicating a medium cohesiveness level. This implies that while the grammatical cohesion is satisfactory, the improvement in connecting the elements within the text more effectively for lexical cohesion is needed. In a nutshell, enhancing lexical cohesion through careful word selection, repetition, synonymy, and consistency in terminology can improve the clarity of the text, making it more cohesive and effective in conveying its message to the audience. Even

though there are limitations, this study is useful for student or future researchers who analyze speech text. The implication of this research provides insights into the strategic use of cohesive devices in Greta Thunberg's speech , emphasizing their crucial role in enchancing the logical flow of her message. The significant frequency of reference and conjunctions underscores their effectiveness in linking ideas and facilitating smooth transition within the speech. This highlight the importance of teaching cohesive devices in educational contexts, particularly in promoting clarity and cohesion in written or oral communication on critical issues such as climate change in public space.

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