

ANALYSIS LEXICAL COHESION IN WRITTEN BY BARACK OBAMA

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Abstract

In this modern era, many people use written and unwritten language communication tools. Therefore, language has various types in its use, one of which is lexicon cohesion. The purpose of this study, thus researchers and readers are more familiar with what lexicon is, the types and can understand more. In this study, the researchers analysed the type of lexicon cohesion, namely repetition, synonym, antonym, meronym, and hyponym using a data search from written text when the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama made a speech. Then, researchers used the theory of Halliday and Matthiessen. The method used is the observation technique. Where the researcher collects data by reading the entire text, then the highlighted the data in the form of text related to phenomena and analysing data according to the category. The data presented is in qualitative form. Where the data is presented in the form of sentences that are not in the form of numbers, percentage, or graph. In this study, researchers read, interpret data according to theory and calculate the results obtained. The results obtained are repetition data 2, synonym 6 data, Antonym 4 data, Meronym 5 data and Hyponym data 2. The highest data is obtained with synonyms, where the writing has many synonym meanings, and the lowest is the use of repetition.

Keyword: *Lexical Cohesion, Repetition, Synonym, Antonym, Meronym, Hyponym*

1. INTRODUCTION

The use of language in conversation involves using words, facial expressions, voice intonation and body language to convey messages and interact with others. One example of language use in daily activities is Discourse. Discourse is a concept that refers to the way language is used in real communication situations or in specific social contexts. In Discourse learning, there is writing and pronunciation. Pronunciation applied in daily activities includes the way people speak, write, or communicate by using language in daily interactions, including conversations, speeches. And writing includes reports, written texts, and so

on. In writing in discourse, the things that are considered are grammatical and spelling errors that commonly occur in the text. In this analysis, the researcher is interested in lexical cohesion.

The concept of lexical cohesion focuses on the relationship between words within a text, particularly in terms of semantic connections. It involves the examination of various linguistic devices, such as repetition, synonyms, antonym, hyponym, and metonym. That are employed by writers or speakers to create cohesion and coherence. These devices facilitate the smooth transition between sentences and paragraphs, enable the

consolidation of related ideas, and contribute to the overall clarity and effectiveness of communication.

This article aims to explore the significance of lexical cohesion in discourse analysis. Specifically, it seeks to examine the role of synonyms, connectives, repetition, and lexical referencing in establishing cohesion and coherence in different types of discourse. By analysing a range of examples from various genres, including academic writing, political speeches, and media texts, this study intends to shed light on the diverse ways in which lexical cohesion is employed to achieve communicative goals.

In general phenomena that can occur in everywhere like poetry, poem, magazine, or newspaper. For example, in poem “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. In his poem wrote:

*“The fair breeze blew; the white foam
flew.
The furrow followed free.
We were the first that ever burst.
Into that silent sea
Down dropt the breeze, the sails dropt
down
’Twas sad as sad could be.
And we did speak only to break.
The silence of the sea!”*

In poem above, word “*furrow*”, where the similarity of the meaning is “*ship traces*” by using another vocabulary but has the same meaning, as the result can be called synonym. Synonym is a relationship between two or more words that have similar or similar meanings in a certain context, but more on the similarity of meaning or the similarity of connotations in certain contexts. Synonyms can be used to enrich lexical variations in language

and give speakers expressive flexibility (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

The use of synonyms in poetry or poem can provide variety and richness of language. Poets or poem can add variety and richness to the use of words in poetry or poem. This helps to avoid repetitive word repetition and makes the poem more interesting besides, giving it different nuances and connotations. By choosing the right synonyms, the poet or poem can influence the meaning and mood of the poem. Synonyms can bring a touch of emotion, colour or even a different level of abstraction.

In addition to the general phenomena in the poem, the researchers have also attached one of the phenomena that occurs in the speech written in the script. The speech delivered by the 44th president, namely Barack Obama, where the initial opening speech was:

“I thank President Bush for his service to our nation, as well as the generosity and cooperation he has shown throughout this transition. Forty-four Americans have now taken the presidential oath. The words have been spoken during rising tides of prosperity and the still waters of peace. Yet, every so often, the oath is taken amidst gathering clouds and raging storms. At these moments, America has carried on not simply because of the skill or vision of those in high office, but because we, the people, have remained faithful to the ideals of our forebears and true to our founding documents.”

In the speech above, there are other types of repetition besides synonyms, namely antonyms. Where in the sentence there is an antonym that is like “*cooperation*”, “*rising*”, “*prosperity*”. In this sentence has the opposite meaning as the word

"generosity" which has the opposite meaning "stinginess" or also word "cooperation" which has the opposite meaning "conflict" and last word "rising" the antonym is "falling". From the sentences and words that have been analysed, it can be concluded that antonyms are words that have opposite or contrasting meanings.

From first researcher is from Sidabutar (2021), with the title "An Analysis of Lexical Cohesion on the Students' Writing". In the his research is discusses lexical cohesion using the theory by Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), where the types of lexical cohesion consist of repetition, synonyms, antonyms, hyponyms, and meronyms. The data used is taken from student writing in research papers, namely the third semester of the English Department of HKBP Nommensen University Medan. For research results, the researcher use qualitative methods that use theory from (Creswell & Creswell, 2018) where he read first, compiles data, then interprets the data. As the results, show that the highest use of the lexical cohesion type is the repetition type, and the lowest use of the lexical cohesion type is hyponym.

The second researcher is Fizi (2022) with the title "Lexical Cohesion Found In The Jakarta Post". In his research was discussion about lexical cohesion and him was using theory by Halliday & Hasan (1976). In his article, analyses about types of lexical cohesion, namely reiteration and collocation. The data using is from three edition of the Jakarta post, those are 25th and 26th February 2013. Four articles are chosen within The Jakarta Post. For method, researchers using descriptive qualitative theory by (Moleong, L. J. 1991). As the result, the highest use of lexical cohesion is repetition.

From both of researchers before, there are similarity between of the article, namely research about lexical cohesion especially types of lexical cohesion are synonym, antonym, hyponym, and meronyms. For the source data taken by written. The theory to used is same from Halliday even though little bit of edition of the book. Finally, for the result show the highest using types of lexical cohesion is repetition.

Meanwhile, there are differences between both. The first researcher is Sidabutar (2021), using theory by Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) and for the second research using theory by Halliday & Hasan (1976). For the next about the data resource between of them is from written but, differences of types. The first researcher's data is coming from the third semester of the English Department of HKBP Nommensen University Medan. For the second researcher data taken by three editions of the Jakarta post. The method also difference. Both of them, using theory by (Creswell & Creswell, 2018) and (Moleong, L. J. 1991).

In this study, the researcher is interested in analysing the lexical cohesion and difference of verbal references in Barack Obama's written speech. In the speech, the president gave his speech to follow up the economic problems on the impact on the American country. With this written text speech, the researcher titled this research with "Analysis Lexical Cohesion in Written by Barack Obama".

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Lexical cohesion functions to connect phrases and words so that they can form a structured sentence that has meaning in a sentence (Halliday & Hasan, 1976). Lexical cohesion is a discussion about analysing discourse

analysis. Discourse includes discussing social practices, identity and power, community, social through language and context where the meaning of an utterance has a view of one's value from the way one styles the language that is uttered or spoken (Gee, Paul, 2002). Discourse analysis can be used to explore issues related to power, identity, and social relations, among others (Tannen et al., 2008). Discourse analysis is the study of language use beyond the sentence level. Discourse analysis can be used to study a wide variety of texts, including conversations, interviews, speeches, and written documents. The goal of discourse analysis is to uncover the underlying social and cultural assumptions that shape the way people communicate. Discourse analysis can be used to explore issues related to power, identity, and social relations, among others (Paltridge, 2006).

Halliday & Hasan (1976) stated lexical cohesion is based on the principle that words that are related in meaning often appear together and form observable patterns in the language used in the context of discourse. The concept of lexical cohesion emphasizes the importance of words that often appear together to help convey clear and coherent information in texts. This includes the use of synonyms, antonyms, or hyponyms in the text. Lexical cohesion is collocation that relates between words of fact which is achieved through the systematic association of lexical items (*Grammatical and Lexical Cohesion Analysis of Trump'S Speech Upon Soleimani Assassination*, 2020).

In addition, repetition of words, use of fixed phrases, and collocations are also included in lexical cohesion. Discourse is a unit of language above and beyond a mere accumulation of

sounds, morphemes, words, clauses, and sentences (Fasold, 2015).

Lexical cohesion, as defined by Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), refers to the way in which words and phrases are connected and related to each other within a text. It is one of the key elements of cohesion, which is the linguistic phenomenon that helps establish and maintain the coherence and flow of a discourse. There are five types of lexical cohesion namely repetition, synonym, antonym, hyponym, and meronym.

Repetition is a word or phrase that is usually said more than once. This repetition usually occurs in everyday conversation or in poetry. In addition, repetition also occurs in daily conversations in English dialogs. For example, "I saw a dog. The dog was bigger". This sentence shows the repetition of "dog" which is said twice with different articles. According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), stated the use of the article "the" already explains that the "dog" in question has been clarified and is already known to the recipient of the information.

Synonyms are a well-known linguistic concept that refers to words or phrases with similar meanings. Synonyms are often used to provide variation in language and avoid repetition. In the context of cohesion, synonyms can contribute to lexical cohesion by creating connections between different parts of a text (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

Antonyms are a well-known linguistic concept that refers to words or phrases with opposite meanings. Antonyms are often used to contrast ideas, create emphasis, or highlight differences within a discourse. In terms of cohesion, antonyms can contribute to the establishment of connections between different parts of a text by

providing a sense of balance or tension (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

Meronymy is a linguistic relationship that involves the part-whole relationship between words or concepts. A meronym refers to a word or phrase that represents a part or component of a larger whole. Example, “leaf” is the meronym from twig.

Hyponym refers to a word or phrase that represents a subclass or specific example of a general category. For example, in the category "colour," namely, "red," "blue," and "purple" are hyponyms because they are specific examples of fruits. The term "fruit" acts as the hypernym or the more general category.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

The research design is qualitative research. Which part of the data source is the Barck Obama’s speech (Thewhitehouse.archives.com, 2016). According Creswell & Creswell (2018) stated qualitative research is a method that does not present numbers, percentages, or graphs but instead presents data in the form of words, sentences or paragraphs then, the results show descriptive is qualitative.

For technic, the researchers were observation. The researchers were reading text, dialog, script until end. The analysis of this research is taken from a written speech delivered by the 44th former president of America, Barack Obama, where he was sworn in as president in 2010. The view of Flick (2013), state for analyses observation from the visual or audio can be video or written that notes with heightened. For the easily, write what the research read.

There are some steps for collecting the data according to (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). First, researchers read the dialog or script until the end by digitizing phrases,

words, and sentences, so that researchers can get data. Second, the researchers classify the data to relate the phenomenon, then the researchers analyse the data that relate to the phenomenon. Third, the researcher interprets the data and selects based on the type of cohesion related to the theory that has been studied. And the last step is, researchers present the data in qualitative form in the form of phrases, words, and sentences.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Result

The text of a speech made by the 44th president, Barack Obama, was scrutinized by researchers. Their analysis found that there were 19 lexical cohesion data. The most frequently used lexical cohesion is repetition, with 6 examples. Repetition is used 2 times, Antonym 4 times, meronym 5 times and finally hyponym 5 times.

Types	Frequency
Repetition	2
Synonym	6
Antonym	4
Meronym	5
Hyponym	2
Total	19

4.2. Discussion

The researchers took 23 data out of 69 data and used (Creswell & Creswell, 2018) data reduction method. The data consisted of repetition, synonym, antonym, meronym and hyponym. Due to the scope of the study, not all data were analysed. Specifically, Repetition 2 data, synonym 30 data, antonym 20 data, meronym 15 data and hyponym 2 data.

Data 1

“They”

"Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real. They are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America - they will be met."

"They are real. They are serious and they are many." - Repeats the word "they" to refer to the challenges faced.

Repetition is the repetition of words, phrases, or sentences in a conversation or writing (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). In the dialogue above, there is a repetition of the word "they" which emphasizes the reality, seriousness, and many challenges faced. The use of repetition in the speech aims to create a strong rhetorical effect. By repeating the word "they," the speaker (I'm assuming a leader or important figure) wants to emphasize his or her important point so that it is better absorbed by the listener or reader. Here, "they" refers to the challenges faced by the country or society, reflecting a real and complex struggle.

Data 2

“Our”

"Our nation is at war, against a far-reaching network of violence and hatred. Our economy is badly weakened”.

In this quote, the speaker highlights the severity of the situation by using strong and emotional language. The mention that we are battling a "vast web of violence and hatred" implies that the threat is not limited to a single isolated incident, but rather a complex and widespread problem that requires immediate attention.

Data 3

“Grateful”

Synonyms are two or more words that have the same or very similar meaning in a particular context (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The word "grateful" is used in the speech to express a feeling of appreciation or thankfulness. It signifies being thankful for the trust bestowed upon the speaker and acknowledging the sacrifices made by their ancestors. Synonyms for "grateful" include Thankful, Appreciative, Oblige, Gracious, Thanking

Data 4

"faithful"

The word "faithful" refers to someone who is loyal, reliable, and steadfast in their commitments, beliefs, or actions. In the context of the speech, the word is used to emphasize the importance of remaining faithful to the ideals of the country and staying true to the principles and values that have guided it throughout history. Synonyms for "faithful" include Steadfast, Dedicated, True.

Data 5

“Hope”

The word "hope" refers to a feeling of expectation, desire, or optimism for something positive to happen or for a favourable outcome in the future. It is a positive emotion that drives individuals to believe in the possibility of better circumstances or results. Synonyms for "hope" include Optimism, Faith, True, Confidence, Wish and Belief.

Data 6

"flourish"

The word "flourish" has multiple meanings, but in the context of the provided text, it refers to the idea of thriving, growing, or prospering. Here, "flourish" suggests the successful development and abundant growth of certain aspects, such as farms, which implies the idea of achieving prosperity and productivity. As for synonyms for "flourish" in this context, you could use: Bloom, Grow, Develop, Advance.

Data 7

"nourish"

The term "nourish" means to provide sustenance, support, or nurture. In the context of the provided text, "nourish" is used metaphorically to imply the act of providing essential resources, care, and support to feed starving bodies and feed hungry minds. It suggests the idea of promoting growth, development, and well-being. Here are some synonyms for "nourish" in this context: Foster, Support, Cherish, Strengthen

Data 8:

"liberty"

The term "liberty" refers to the state of being free from oppressive restrictions or limitations on one's actions, thoughts, or choices. It encompasses the idea of individual freedom and autonomy. In the provided text, "liberty" is used to highlight the significance and meaning behind the principles and values that the United States holds dear. Here are some synonyms for "liberty": Freedom, Independence, Free will, Emancipation.

Data 9

"Fear"

Antonyms are two words or phrases that have opposite meanings or are the opposite of each other. When we compare two antonyms, they usually describe a contrast or difference in meaning or significance (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). "Fear" refers to an unpleasant emotional state characterized by a perceived threat or danger. It is a natural response to potential harm or adversity, often accompanied by feelings of unease, anxiety, or apprehension. Fear can arise from various sources, such as physical threats, psychological distress, uncertainty, or past traumatic experiences. Antonym of "fear":

- 1) Fearlessness: Fearlessness is the state of being free from fear, having a lack of fear or apprehension.
- 2) Confidence: Confidence is the belief in oneself and one's abilities, which can counteract feelings of fear and insecurity.
- 3) Trust: Trust implies having confidence and reliance on someone or something, which can alleviate fear and uncertainty.

Data 10:

"Bigger"

"Bigger" is an adjective that describes something of larger size or greater magnitude. It refers to the comparative form of the adjective "big." When used in a context, it indicates that something is larger or more significant in size, extent, importance, or impact compared to something else. Antonyms of "bigger":

- 1) Smaller: Smaller is the opposite of bigger, indicating a reduced size or lesser magnitude.
- 2) Tiny: Tiny refers to something extremely small or minuscule,

contrasting with the concept of being bigger.

Data 11:

"short"

"Short" is an adjective that describes something of limited length, height, or duration. It indicates a lack of length or height compared to what is considered average or expected. Antonyms of "short":

- 1) Long: Long is the opposite of short, indicating a greater length or duration.
- 2) Tall: Tall refers to a greater height, contrasting with the concept of being short.
- 3) Tallish: Tallish is a less common term that means tall or of moderate height, contrasting with the concept of being short.
- 4) Heightened: Heightened indicates an increased height or intensity, contrasting with the idea of being short.

Data 12

"understand"

"Understand" is a verb that means to comprehend or grasp the meaning or significance of something. It involves gaining knowledge or awareness about a particular subject or concept. Antonyms of "understand":

- 1) Misunderstand: Misunderstand means to interpret or comprehend something incorrectly or inaccurately.
- 2) Confuse: Confuse refers to a state of being puzzled or disoriented, lacking understanding or clarity.
- 3) Ignore: Ignore means to intentionally disregard or not pay attention to something, implying a lack of understanding or acknowledgment.

- 4) Overlook: Overlook means to fail to notice or consider something, indicating a lack of understanding or awareness.

Data 13:

"Roads and bridges"

A term that refers to the semantic relationship between two entities where one of them is a part or component of the other. In other words, meronymy describes the part-whole relationship between two words or phrases (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). "Roads and bridges" are a meronym for the sentence "We will build the roads and bridges, the electric grids and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together." This meronym refers to a more specific infrastructure consisting of roads and bridges. The meronym of "Roads and Bridges" are as follows:

- 1) "Roads" has several meronyms, including:
 - 2) "lane" is a meronym of "road," referring to the part of the road used for vehicles in one direction.
 - 3) "Pedestrian bridge" is a meronym of "road," referring to a specialized structure that allows pedestrians to cross over a road or river.
 - 4) "Bridges" also has several meronyms, such as:
 - 5) "pylon" is a meronym of "bridge," referring to the vertical structure that supports the bridge.
 - 6) "Bridge platform" is a meronym of "bridge," referring to the part that spans over a river or valley and is used for vehicular traffic.

Data 14:

"Electric grids and digital lines"

"Electric grids and digital lines" are a meronym of the same sentence above. It refers to the electrical grid and digital communication systems needed to support commerce and connect communities. The meronym of "Electric grids and digital lines" are as follows:

- 1) "Pole" is a meronym of "power grid," referring to the poles used to support power lines.
- 2) "Transformer" is a meronym for "power grid," referring to a device used to change the voltage of electricity.
- 3) "Cable" is a meronym for "digital channel," referring to the cable used to transmit digital signals.
- 4) "Router" is a meronym for "digital channel," referring to a device that directs data traffic on a network.

Data 15:

"Healthcare's quality and cost"

"Healthcare's quality and cost" is a meronym for the phrase "We will restore science to its rightful place and wield technology's wonders to raise healthcare's quality and lower its cost." This meronym refers to two more specific aspects of healthcare, namely the quality of healthcare and the costs associated with it. The meronym of "Healthcare's quality and cost" are as follows:

- 1) "Medical staff" is a meronym for "healthcare quality," referring to doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who provide healthcare to patients.
- 2) "Medical equipment" is a meronym for "healthcare quality," referring to the various medical equipment and devices used in diagnosis and treatment.
- 3) "Medication cost" is a synonym for "healthcare cost," referring to the

cost of medicines needed in patient care.

- 4) "Hospitalization cost" is a meronym of "healthcare cost," referring to the cost of medical care and treatment while the patient is hospitalized.

Data 16:

"Sun, winds, and soil"

"Sun, winds, and soil" is a meronym for "We will harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories." This meronym refers to more specific natural resources, namely sunlight, wind, and soil, which can be utilized as alternative energy sources. The meronyms of "Sun, winds, and soil" are as follows:

- 1) "Sunlight" is a meronym of "sun," referring to the light emitted by the sun.
- 2) "Sun rays" is a meronym of "sun," referring to the rays of sunlight that shine on the earth.
- 3) "Gusts" is a meronym for "winds," referring to winds that blow strongly for a short period of time.
- 4) "Breezes" is a meronym for "winds," referring to winds that blow gently and pleasantly.
- 5) "Soil layers" is a meronym for "soil," referring to the different layers that make up soil and have different characteristics.
- 6) "Soil particles" is a meronym for "soil," referring to the fine grains that make up the soil structure.

Data 17:

"Schools, colleges, and universities"

"Schools, colleges, and universities" is a meronym for the sentence "And we will transform our schools and colleges and universities to meet the demands of a new age." This

meronym refers to more specific educational institutions, namely schools, colleges, and universities. The meronym of "Schools, colleges, and universities" are as follows:

- 1) "Classrooms" is a meronym of "school," referring to the spaces where students learn and interact with teachers.
- 2) "Playground" is a meronym of "school," referring to the open areas in schools used for play and recreation.
- 3) "Departments" is a meronym of "colleges," referring to academic divisions or units that teach specific subjects.
- 4) "Libraries" is a meronym of "colleges," referring to places that hold collections of books and information resources.
- 5) "Faculties" is a meronym for "universities," referring to groups of faculties and researchers who have specific areas of expertise.
- 6) "Campuses" is a meronym for "universities," referring to the physical areas where universities operate and conduct academic activities.

Data 18:

"Violence" and "hatred"

"Violence" and "hatred" are hyponyms of the more general words "network of violence and hatred". Both words refer to types of actions or feelings that fall under the broader category. There are hyponyms:

- 1) Physical violence: Refers to forms of physical violence such as punches, kicks, or other physical attacks.
- 2) Verbal abuse: Refers to the verbal use of words that demean, insult, or hurt another person's feelings.

- 3) Domestic violence: Refers to violence that occurs in a domestic setting, such as violence in a couple relationship.
- 4) Gang violence: Refers to violence perpetrated by a group or gang, usually related to criminal activity or gang rivalry.

Hyponyms of "hatred":

- 5) Prejudice: Refers to a negative or prejudiced attitude towards a particular group based on race, religion, gender or other factors.
- 6) Bigotry: Refers to an extreme dislike or intolerance of a particular group or belief.
- 7) Racism: Refers to hatred or prejudice against a particular ethnic or racial group.
- 8) Homophobia: Refers to fear, hatred, or discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) people.

Data 19:

"Greed" and "irresponsibility"

"Greed" and "irresponsibility" are hyponyms of the more general words "greed and irresponsibility". Both words refer to behaviours or attitudes that fall under the broader category.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research on the discourse in the dialog text of Barack Obama's speech, it was found that the most common lexical cohesion found was synonym. Synonyms are seen from various meanings spoken in a formal atmosphere related to the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th President of America. The use of synonyms is used with standardized language so that it is shown during certain events, thus this gives the view that discourse is

used to assess a person's level of education and position. Lexical cohesion can be found in the language that we use daily in the scope of human life. In addition, researchers hope that this research can be a reference material and become a further learning reference material about to better understand about lexical cohesion to further researchers.

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