

ANALYSIS OF LEXICAL COHESION IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS JOURNALS

A Thesis

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis has not been submitted yet either in the same or different form. To my knowledge there has not been any form or idea written or published by others except who are referred to this thesis and mentioned in the bibliography.

Padang, July 2012

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Text is functional language that has a unified meaning built up from a topic and purpose. According to Renkema (1993:35), there are seven criteria that have to be fulfilled in understanding a text. Those criteria are “cohesion, coherence, intentionality, acceptability, informativeness, situationally, and intertextuality”. This research focuses on cohesion. It refers to the choice of words which is more influential in relating one element to other elements in a text. According to Halliday and Hasan (1976:8), “cohesion is a semantics relation between an element in the text and some other element that is crucial to the interpretation of it. The cohesion refers to relation of meaning that exists within the text. It is a semantic relation among elements of the text that makes a text meaningful. Lexical cohesion is the cohesive effect achieved by selection of vocabulary (Halliday and Hasan, 1976:274). It means the selection of vocabulary builds the connection within the text and makes relation between lexical cohesion and cohesion. Furthermore, the writer is interested in analyzing the lexical cohesion in journal particularly in applied linguistics journal. We already know that journal has some pattern in writing. The journals use standard and scientific word in form.

Journal is a kind of non-fiction text deals with a particular subject or professional activity (A.S Hornby, Oxford dictionary). The journal is usually written in specific language form and specific register. The word choice is not common word, but it is more scientific word that based on the professional field. The concept of cohesion can therefore be usually supplemented by that of register. According to Halliday (1976:22), Registers is constituted by linguistic features which

are typically associated with a configuration of situational features. Situational features of a text concerning with external factor which are affecting the linguistics choice that the speaker or writer makes. It means that a register can be defined as a configuration to associates with a situation type. So, the reader can understand with the topic about based on the register of professional field .

Text is built by arranging of words which authors use in conveying idea and getting interpretation by the readers. Meanwhile, when we talk about the context of word, automatically it relates to cohesion. The writer is interested in analyzing of lexical cohesion in journal since the words choices in journal are more specific. The writer would like to analyze the words choice in journal especially in applied linguistics journal because it relates with our studies in the English department. English Department students usually use the journal as reference in their studies in doing assignments.

1.2 Research Questions

There are two research questions proposed in this research. They are:

- What are the types of the lexical cohesion found in the three articles of Applied linguistics journals?
- What is the dominant type of the lexical cohesion used in the three articles of Applied linguistics Journals ?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This research is aimed at identifying and analyzing the types of lexical cohesion, which are in the forms of repetition, synonym, antonym, hyponym, meronymy and collocation. This

research is also to identify the dominant type of lexical which is used by the authors in the journals in order to describe the tendency of lexical that authors use in journals.

1.4 Scope of the study

Halliday and Hasan (1976:6) stated that there are two groups on cohesion. They are grammatical cohesion (reference, substitution, and ellipsis) and lexical cohesion (reiteration and collocation). Furthermore, the scope of this research is lexical cohesion and its types such as synonym, repetition, hyponym, antonym, meronymy and collocation that appear in two journals of applied linguistics particularly the articles written by Elizabeth R. Miller , Kathryn Roulston, and David Cassels Johnson.

1.5 Methods of the Research

This research follows the procedures which are proposed by Sudaryanto. They are “collecting data, analyzing data and presenting the result of the analysis”(Sudaryanto, 1993:57)

1.5.1 Collecting the Data

In collecting and selecting the data, the writer applies Observational-Non Participant method (Sudaryanto,1993:134). The writer does not use the participant to observe the data. Firstly, the writer observes the data source by gathering several journals and chooses applied linguistics journal. After the writer selected the data source from applied linguistics journal, the writer using note-taking technique to take notes on the data. Then, point out the registers specific to linguistics and their lexical cohesion types which is found in the journal.

The data are taken from three articles of applied linguistics journal volume 31 number 1 February 2010 and volume 32 number 1 February 2011. The writer chooses one article from Volume 31 and two articles from volume 32 . The source from volume 31 is *The Relationship between Applied Linguistic Research and Language Policy for Bilingual Education* (Johnson). Meanwhile the sources from volume 32 are “*Indeterminacy and Interview Research: Co-constructing Ambiguity and Clarity in Interviews with an Adult Immigrant Learner of English*” (Miller) and *Interview ‘Problems’ as Topics for Analysis* (Roulston). The writer selects the words which is categorized as register academic linguistic and cross-check it in academic word list. Those words as the data which the writer uses to analyze.

1.5.2 Analyzing the Data

In analyzing the data, the writer applies “referential identity method” (Sudaryanto, 1993:13). Referential identity method is used to analyze the function of types of lexical cohesion which creates cohesive effect in applied linguistics journal and analyze the content of the articles proposed by Halliday (1985). There are several steps in analyzing the data. Firstly, pointing out the register used in each article. The writer applies the theory proposed by Halliday (1978: 68, 111, 123) which defined register as a semantic phenomenon in the sense that ‘register is the clustering of semantic features according to situation type’. The writer uses the register academic linguistic. Next, the writer identifies the lexical cohesions which occur in the text based on the register proposed by Halliday and Hassan (1976). Then, the writer analyzed the author’s purpose in using lexical cohesion. After that, the writer identifies the tendency of the type of lexical cohesion that author used dominantly in each articles.

1.5.3 Presenting the Data

The writer applies informal method in the analysis of the data by using verbal language (Sudaryanto, 1993:145). It means the analysis will be presented by using word and sentences.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Review of the Previous Studies

There are some researches analyzing cohesion using theory from Halliday and Hasan (1976). The first is a work by Morley. He presents about the lexical cohesion and rhetorical structure. This article looks at this argument-structuring function of lexical cohesion first by considering single text using the techniques of classical discourse analysis and then by using the methodology of corpus linguistics to examine several million words of text. In his research, he analysis the lexical cohesion in several headlines newspaper and point out the register before analyze the lexical cohesion. He also uses the theory by Halliday and Hassan (1976).

Another study that relates to this research is a study done by Teich and Frankhouser (2005). They present a system for linguistic exploration and analysis of lexical cohesion in English text. They use semantic concordance version of the Brown Corpus which comprises 352 texts. Each text was divided into paragraphs, sentences and words. Their work is based on Halliday and Hassan theory (1976:2), “cohesion is defined as the set of linguistic means we have available for creating texture”. Based on their analysis, they found ten types of lexical cohesion, such as synonymys, hyponyms, hypernoms, cohypnoms, cohypnoms, meronyms, comeronoms, holynoms, coholonoms, and antonyms.

The last research is conducted by Stokes (2004). This analysis investigates the appropriateness of using lexical cohesion analysis to improve the performance of Information Retrieval (IR) and Nature Language Processing (NLP) application that deals with documents in the news domain. Stokes explores the effect of lexical cohesion analysis on New Story Gisting (ex: a type of summarization that generates a news story title or headline). In his analyzing, he used the theory proposed by Haliday and Hassa (1976). He found that lexical is property text that is responsible for the present of semantically related vocabulary in written and spoken discourse. The types of lexical cohesion which are found such as repetition, synonym, and collocation.

The relation of those works with this thesis that it also analyzes the lexical cohesion theory proposed by Halliday and Hasan. The similarities between Teich and Frankhouser with the writer’s are focused on the Lexical Cohesion and the work also based on Halliday and Hassan theories. Those explanations above are helpful for the writer to get information particularly related to this thesis in analyze the data based on the lexical cohesion.

2.2 Definition of Key Terms

There are main theories which guide the writer in analyzing the data. The main theories are proposed by Halliday & Hasan (1976). The supporting theories are proposed by Leech (1991) and Nunan (1993).

- **Text**

A text is a unit of language in use, it is not a grammatical unit, like a clause or sentence and it is not defined by its size, Halliday and Hasan (1976:1)

- **Context**

Context is a component which creates the understanding among participants in interpreting the meaning of utterance, (Leech, 1991:9).

- **Cohesion**

Cohesion is sequences of sentence or utterances which seem to 'hang together' contain what are called text – forming devices, (Nunan, 1993:21).

- **Lexical Cohesion**

Lexical cohesion is the cohesive effect achieved by the selection of vocabulary, (Halliday and Hasan, 1976: 274)

2.3 Review of Related Theories

There are some theories used in analyzing this research. This review of related theory is used lexical cohesion as proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976). There are also several supporting theories from David Nunan (1993) and Renkema (1993).

2.3.1 Text and Context

According to Halliday and Hassan (1976:1), "The word text is used in linguistics to refer to any passage, spoken or written of whatever length, that does form a unified whole. A text is a unit of language in use. It is not a grammatical unit, like a clause or sentence and it is not defined by

its sized.” It means that text can be in the form of spoken or written. The length of text is not defined. Verdonk (2002:17) added that consider the road sign ‘ramp ahead’. When you are driving a car and see this sign, you interpret it as a warning that there will be a small hump on the road ahead of you and that it is therefore wise to slow down when you drive over it. From this it follows that you recognize a piece of language as a text, not because of its length, but because of its location in a particular context. And if you are familiar with the text in that context, you know what the message is intended to be.

Furthermore, Halliday and Hasan (1976:17) stated that a text always exists in the context, the notion of text and context is inseparable. Halliday said that context of situation is feature which is feature which is relevant to speech that is taking place. Context can influence the text. For example:

John wants to visit his girlfriend. Mary lives in AS ,all village nearby. The car wouldn’t start. The garage down the street couldn’t help. The last bus had already left. It is going to be a long hot walk. (Renkema, 1993:34)

The example illustrates that the existence of connections between sentences is an important characteristic of texts. The term ‘connection’ is, however, somewhat vague. Textuality is criteria that sequence of sentences must meet in order to qualify as a text (Renkema, 1993:34) . To know about context of the text we can use stylistic to understand the language used of a text.

In this thesis the writer would like to find the lexical cohesion in journal academic linguistics. Before going through to looking for lexical cohesion, the writer has to point out the register in journal.

2.3.2 Register

Registers are ways of saying different things; they reflect social processes example: division of labor, specialty, contexts, content areas, and specific activities (Halliday, 1978). He assumed that a register can be defined as the configuration of semantic resources that the member of a culture typically associates with a situation type. It is the meaning potential that is accessible in a given social context. Both the situation and the register associated with it can be described to varying degrees of specificity; but the existence of registers is a fact of everyday experience—speakers have no difficulty in recognizing the semantic options and combinations of options that are “at risk” under particular environmental conditions. Since these options are realized in the form of grammar and vocabulary, the register is recognizable as a particular selection of words and structures. But it is defined in terms of meanings; it is not an aggregate of conventional forms of expression superposed on some underlying content by “social factors” of one kind or another. It is the selection of meanings that constitutes the variety to which a text belongs. (Halliday, 1978, p. 111)

The role of register in this thesis is necessary to find some lexical that used in journal. The writer uses journal academic linguistics as if the writer points out the lexical that related with linguistics studies. After the writer found the registers in journal, furthermore the writer can categorize the lexical cohesion.

2.3.3 Lexical Cohesion

Cohesion is one of the important aspect that can built the text texture in the text. According to Halliday and Hasan (1976:4), "The concept of cohesion is semantic one, it refers to

relation of meaning that exist within the text and that define it as a text." The sense of cohesion in a text can also be establish by the lexical items, that is by the words in the text and semantic relationship among them. These relationship allow group of words in a text to be seen as forming chains and constitute texture.

"In order to complete picture of cohesive relations it is necessary to take into account also lexical cohesion. This is the cohesive effect achieved by the selection of vocabulary", (Halliday and Hasan, 1976:274). It means that cohesion in a text composed by selection vocabulary and lexical cohesion is part of cohesion that concerns with connection word used. Based on Halliday and Hasan explanation, they divide the lexical cohesion into two categories, reiteration and collocation.

2.3.3.1 Reiteration

Reiteration is a form of lexical cohesion which involves the repetition of lexical item, at one end of scale; the use of a general word to refer back to a lexical item, at the other end of the scale and a number of things in between use of a synonym, near synonym, or superordinate (Halliday and Hasan,1976:278). Reiteration has fives types which are:

a. Repetition

Repetition is to refer back to preceding word. Repetition is a part of lexical cohesion that involves that repetition of lexical item.

For example:

A conference will be held on national environment policy. At this conference the issue of salivation will pay an important role. (Renkema, 1993:39)

The word 'conference' is repeated in next sentence. It is categorize as repetition because the meaning of 'this conference' is still related with 'a conference' at first sentence.

b. Synonymy

Synonymy is the experiential meaning of the two lexical items which is identical; this does not mean that there is total overlap of meanings, simply that so far as one kind of meaning goes, they 'mean the same'.

For example:

You could try reversing the car up the slope. The incline is not all that steep, (Nunan,1993:29)

According to Lyon, synonym means two or more form are be associate with the same meaning. In above sentence. The word 'slope' and 'incline' has the some meaning. The author used different word but has some meaning in order to makes the variation in the text.

c. Antonymy

According to Halliday and Hasan, "Antonym can be described as the oppositeness of experiential meaning; the members of our co-extensional tie". They also give addition (1985:312) that "Antonym is lexical items which are opposite in meaning and functioning as cohesive effect in a text."

For example:

He fell asleep. What woke him was a loud crash. (Halliday and Hasan, 1985:312)

The meaning of 'asleep' and 'woke' are contrary. In this case, antonym characterize of such pairs of lexical item that denial of the one implies the denial of other.

d. Hyponymy

Hyponymy is a relation that holds between a general class and its sub-classes . (Halliday and Hasan, 1985: 80). It means the item that relates to general class is called superordinate and the item that relates to the sub-classes is called hyponymy. For example: There are many animals in his house. He keeps dog, bird, cat, monkey, and rabbit there.

If we take *animal* as an example of super-ordinate then its hyponyms are *cat, dog, bird, monkey and rabbit* . Note that cat, dog, bird, monkey and rabbit also semantically related as the co-hyponyms of the super-ordinate animal (Halliday and Hasan, 1985:80). Palmer adds that hyponym involves entailment, such as *flower*, an immediate hyponym of *plant* and *tulip* is a hyponym of *flower* (1976:87)

e. Meronymy

Meronymy refers to a part-whole relation or a concept used in the linguistic community which specifically deals with part and whole relation. "While meronymy is very much like a sense relation, there is another kind of lexical patterning that contributes to texture, but strictly speaking it is not recognized as a kind of sense relation (Halliday and Hasan, 1985:81)

For example:

She knelt down and looked along the passage into the loveliest garden you ever saw. How she longed to get out of that dark hall, and wander about among those beds of bright flower and theoretical fountains.

The words of flower and fountains are meronymy of garden, which flower and fountains are part or lexical set of garden.

2.3.4.2 Collocation

According to Renkema (1993:39-40), "Collocation deals with the relationship between words on the basis of the fact that these often occur in the same surroundings." Furthermore added by Halliday and Hassan (1976: 319), "A word that is in some way associated with another word in the preceding text, because it is a direct repetition of it, or is in some sense synonymous with it, or tends to occur in the same lexical environment, coherence with that word and so contributes to the texture." Example: "sheep and wool", "collage and study", or "congress and politician".