

## Grammatical Cohesion Found In 'This Christmas' Novel by Nora Roberts: Discourse Analysis

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### Abstract

*This purpose of this study is to analyze and investigate the function and the various types of Grammatical Cohesion in the novel This Christmas by Nora Roberts. The research discusses about written text (novel) which more easily to be observed. A discourse is the unit of language formed from a series of sentences that are cohesive and coherent either written or speech. This research also observed the function and what types of grammatical cohesion in This Christmas novel. In grammatical cohesion there are four types such as substitution, ellipsis, reference and conjunction. Result of the research are 10 references detected in the novel (34.4%), 6 substitution found in the text (21%), 3 ellipsis (10,2%) and 10 conjunctions (34,4%).*

### Keywords

Discourse; grammatical cohesion; substitution; reference; types



### I. Introduction

Language is important aspect in society, human needs language to communicate with each other. Communicating is an action of transferring the ideas and feelings of human to human. It is impossible to live a life without communicating. That's the purpose of communication. In the study of language there are four aspect that must be mastered by who's that interested to learning english, writing, speaking, reading and listening. Writing and reading are related to each other because the writers that has write their own work expected to be read by the readers. Listening and speaking are related because when people talking there must be others that listening. Language is one of the most important things in the life of every human being. Each of them is of course inseparable from language, the first time a child gets a language that is heard directly from the father or mother when the child is born into this world. Then as time goes by and as the child grows, they will acquire a language other than the language taught by the mother and father, either in the form of a second, third, foreign language or so on which is called language acquisition where it depends on the social environment and cognitive level possessed by these children through the learning process in their environment. (Purba, N. et al. (2020).

In a literary works, ideas are important because the writer must explore many ideas to make the works interesting. In connecting ideas, there is a cohesion. Cohesion is a discourse theory of relation between sentence. Cohesive devices are important in text, because the reader can easily understand the meaning of the text. Cohesion has two types, lexical and grammatical. Grammatical cohesion has four types (Halliday and Hassan, 1976). The types of grammatical cohesion are substitution, ellipsis, reference and conjunction.

The research discuss about written text (novel) which more easily to be observed. Novel is a written literary that has two types, fiction and non-fiction. Fiction novel has an a realism aspect that make it more interesting and catching reader's feeling. Novel is similiar

with short story, novel has the characters, dialogues, plot and conflict. There are many types of novels. include mysteries, thrillers, detective, science fiction, romantic and historical.

Many parts of written novel are affected by the use of cohesive devices. In this part, it is explained why choose their particular research and to provide the grammatical cohesion that connected the idea closely on more specific ideas through the correct use of cohesive devices in a coherent way. Novel "This Christmas" is a novel written by Nora Roberts. Nora Roberts is an author from America that has writes more than 255 romance novels. This novel talks about three woman, Laura, Gwen and Julia that are focused about their career but their grandfather wants them to get married quickly. The grandfather, set up a blind date for them. MacGregor went to Boston after being injured in the first blows of the American Revolution. Je finds refuge with Irish spitfire Alanna Flynn who is not planning on married, again. This research is to find the frequency of four grammatical cohesive; reference, substitution, ellipsis and conjunction in "This Christmas" novel by Nora Roberts. So through this research readers can identified the grammatical cohesion in a long story. While in academical purpose the readers can write a perfect sentence in their works.

## II. Research Method

### 2.1 Discourse Analysis

Discourse analysis is a study or subject that examines and analyzes the use of language that has a certain unity and context in a media (Ervina, Brenda, Nadia, Jehezkiel, Shavira and Aronds, 2021). The low mastery grammar has a serious impact to writers because coherence and cohesive are important in writing. The lacking understanding and awareness about cohesion especially on grammatical cohesion devices leads the students to use inappropriate grammatical cohesion devices (Afrianto, 2017).

### 2.2 Grammatical Cohesion

The importance of cohesion as well as coherence discourse in order to achieve well-constructed and understandable writing (Halliday and Hassan 1976). Discourse has a great effect to writing. Cohesive discourse will never be constructed without a good command of linguistic ties. As it mentions before in grammatical cohesion there are reference, substitution, ellipsis and conjunction.

### 2.3 Reference

Reference is the specific nature of information that is signaled for retrieval (Halliday and Hasan, 1976). There are two basic types of reference, Exophoric and Endhophoric. Exophorareference connected the language with the context of situation outside the text for its meaning, pronous with words such as 'that', 'this', 'there' and 'here' are often an exophoric.

For example:

"I like this one."

There is not enough infomation about 'this' in example above. The reader must observe the whole context of the conversation.

The second basic types of reference is endophoric reference, endophoric reference refers to something in the same text, it is different with exophoric. Two kinds of endophoric reference are anaphoric and cataphoric. Typically, anaphoric refers to

something mentioned one or two sentence previously or sometimes it refers to an item in many pages before. A word that gets its meaning from the next word or phrase is called a cataphoric.

In a reference there are three common references. Personal reference is the reference that has a function in a speech situation depends on the person. The example of personal reference such as 'he', 'she' and 'them'. On a big picture reference can replace the person itself. For example:

"The teacher makes an appointment on Jakarta at 2 PM, she will take the train at 10 AM to get there"

Above the example we can see that 'She' refers to 'The teacher' and the word 'There' refers to 'Jakarta'.

Demonstrative reference is reference by means of location, on scale of proximity (Halliday and Hasan, 1970). The example of demonstrative reference is; those, that and this. Demonstrative can refer to something plural and singular, to determine which word that should be choose.

Comparative Reference is reference by means of similarity. Comparative reference categorized into two, general comparison and particular property. For example, the sentence "Your face exactly like your mom" is general comparison because it is compared two things that can be same, different or similiar. Particular comparison expresses comparability between things depends on the quantity and the quality. For example, "I can treat you better than she can" the sentence refers to something that is more than the other.

## 2.4 Substitution

Substitution is a relation between linguistic devices, such as words or phrases. There are three types of substitution, nominal substitution, verbal substitution and clausal substitution. Nominal substitution includes one or ones. The example of nominal substitution: Take all her clothes off and burn them. Call Nodea or somebody for new ones. Wrap her up in white paper until they come.

The words 'ones' is to substitutes the word 'clothes. Without the substitutes 'ones' there will be a repetition in a word clothes.

Verbal substitution is a head of verbal group, it is occupied by the lexical verb and the position is always final in the group. The word 'do' is parallel with the substitute 'one'. The example of verbal substitution is:

Abi: You're kidding me right? You're not crying in that night.

Sita: No, I did.

The verbal substitution above. The substitution appeared is did. The word did is past form from substitution do.

Clausal substitution is a type of substitution in which the one assumed is an entire clause rather than an element within it, and the contrasting element is provided outside the clause. It can take one of two forms in the environment: positive or negative. So expresses the positive, while not expresses the negative. For example:

Abi: I there going to be an earthquake?

Sita: It says so.

The 'so' presupposes the whole of the clause 'there is going to be an earthquake'

## 2.5 Ellipsis

The third type of grammatical cohesion is ellipsis. Ellipsis is simply explained as 'substitution by zero' (According to Halliday and Hasan, 1976). It happens when a word or part of sentence are omitted. Afterward, ellipsis can be divided into three types, there are

nominal ellipsis, verbal ellipsis, and clausal ellipsis. Nominal ellipsis often involves omission of a noun headword. Ellipsis within the verbal group may cause greater problems. Two very common types of verbal-group ellipsis are what Thomas states, they are echoing and auxiliary contrasting. Thirdly, clausal ellipsis. Clausal ellipsis involves a clause element may be omitted especially common are subject-pronoun omission the example is doesn't matter, hope so and sorry.

## 2.6 Conjunction

The last type of grammatical cohesion is conjunction. Conjunction is a relationship which indicates how subsequent sentence or clause should be linked to the preceding or the following (parts of the) sentence (Renkema, 1993). Conjunction can be divided into additive, adversative, causal and temporal.

Additive conjunctions are adding more information to what is already there. Examples of additive conjunctions include:

and, also, in addition, not only ... but also, moreover, further, besides. In the sentence additive can also replace one piece of information with another. The example such as or, or else, alternatively.

The second type of conjunction is adversative conjunction its is used to show a disagreement or refusal. The example of adversative conjunction is yet, though, only, but, however, nevertheless, despite this, in fact, actually, as a matter of fact, at the same time, instead, rather, on the other contrary, at least, rather, I mean.

Causal conjunction is used to explain how things were work or why things happen. The example of causal conjunction is because, so, hence.

The temporal conjunctions are explain the time or when the things happen. The words that include the temporal conjunction are; As, After, as soon, At first, just.

## III. Review of Literature

This research is using descriptive method because the researcher wants to get the details about grammatical cohesion occurs in the story. This data of this research is taken from novel "This Christmas by Nora Roberts". This research is finding the phrases, sentences and clauses of the text that has a grammatical cohesion in it. The grammatical cohesion such as references, ellipsis, substitutions and conjunction. To make this research meaningful, the researcher follow some steps such as collecting data, determine use of grammatical cohesion, find the function of each types in references, ellipsis, substitutions and conjunction.

## IV. Result and Discussion

The result of the study is presented in this section. The goals of this study are to identifying and classifying the types of grammatical cohesion; reference, substitution, ellipsis and conjunction. Furthermore, the function of each type of grammatical cohesion in novel *This Christmas*.

### 4.1 Reference

#### Data 1

**Daniel MacGregor:** "A fine, bright September morning. **You** should be up enjoying it, little girl, instead of sleeping it away."

**[Page 16, first paragraph]**

**Context:** Daniel MacGregor wake his granddaughter up. Laura's alarm ringing ten times but Laura still not waking up that's why MacGregor came to Laura's room. MacGregor wants Laura to waking up and enjoying the morning's air.

**Data analysis:** Data 1 belongs to reference type in grammatical cohesion. In reference set, there are three categories; personal reference, demonstrative reference and comparative reference. In data 1, the word 'you' indicated as personal reference. The personal reference 'you' the situation refers to Laura, his granddaughter. It in data 1 has the function as pronoun of 'little girl' and little girl itself is Laura.

#### **4.2 Substitution**

##### **Data 2**

**Branson:** "Whatever it takes out of you, that's what you **do**."

**[Page 197, Second paragraph]**

**Context:** There is a incident in a christmas night, a twelve-years-old boy is dying from being shot. As a doctor, Gwen lost him and he is the first patient that failed to saved by her. The conversation is about Gwen very repenting about the incident and Branson comfort her.

**Data analysis:** The data 2 belongs to substitution type in grammatical cohesion. In substitution there are nominal substitution, verbal substitution and clausal substitution, do is verbal substitution. Verbal substitution is to elided the phrase. The function of do in Data 2 is for substitute the phrase "I can fix it or at least I can help." It is replace a previous phrase with a filler word, for avoiding repetition.

#### **4.3 Ellipsis**

##### **Data 3**

**Gwen:** "I appreciate it. And if, after we're done, **I ask you out to dinner, buy a small gift to show an appreciation**, are you going to hurt me?"

**[Page 148, second paragraph]**

**Context:** The conversation is about Branson helped Gwen in the hospital and then Branson wants get to know Gwen. At first, Gwen's respon is refuse it, but after a long conversation, Gwen seems welcoming it.

**Data analysis:** Data 3 belongs to ellipsis in grammatical cohesion, it is in verbal ellipsis category. In Data 3 the subject I is ommited the second clause because it is anaphorically from the first clause. Ellipsis is invisible in the long phrase it can realized by the reader itself. Data 3 has a crucial function to the omission of two sentence; I ask you out to dinner to show an appreciation and I buy you a gift to show an appreciation. Data 3 has a similiarity with data 2, the sentence become ommited and it can easily understand.

#### **4.4 Conjunction**

##### **Data 4**

**Royce:** "**Last week**. I had to go up that fortress of his in Hyannis Port so he could check me out face-to-face. Hell of a place. We had a scotch and a cigar after we did a deal."**[Page 25, sixth paragraph]**

**Context:** Royce's story is about how Laura's grandmother made an appointment with him to protect Laura. He said about the situation in his old place.

**Data analysis:** The last data belongs to conjunction, it is categorized as temporal conjunction. The usage of the words last week make it the phrase obviously tell about time. The function of the last data it is clarify the timeline of the text. Data 1 as an adverb of time in the text. Without the words last week it won't explain when the conversation and the incident happen.

## V. Conclusion

The study focuses on analysis of grammatical cohesion that appeared in novel. Based on findings and discussion it is inferred there are four types of gramatical cohesion that appears in the novel. There are 10 references detected in the novel (34.4%), 6 substitution found in the text (21%), 3 ellipsis (10,2%) and 10 conjunctions (34,4%). Conjunction and reference have dominated the novel's text. The reason why conjunction and reference dominating the text because it very common in the text.

Although, the function of grammatical cohesion in the phrases are important. Each grammatical cohesion helps to ommited and connect clause by clause. Novel This Christmas has a lot of grammatical cohesion and its function because it is narration text, the reader must be understood the meaning of the text. Grammatical cohesion has a role in omitted the text.

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