

Cohesion in Charles Dickens' "The Story Of Richard Doubledick" and Edgar Allan Poe's "The Black Cat"

Lec. Dr. Noor Othman Adday AlKhalil¹ , Hegraan Falah Abdul Hassan²

Abstract

Due to the linkage between literature and linguistics in general. This study has set itself the task of the linguistic analysis of two literary texts. Cohesion, being one of the linguistic means for the construction of texts, is examined hereby in two short stories for two famous writers. In this respect, Edgar Allan Poe's and Charles Dickens' short stories are chosen to be analysed along with answering the following questions: (1)What is meant by cohesion? (2) What are the types of cohesion? (3) How can texts be constructed cohesively? (4) Which cohesive device is the mostly used and which is the least frequently used in the stories selected? (5) What are the differences and similarities of the cohesive devices used in these two stories? Based on these questions, the following aims are to be achieved; (1) defining cohesion, (2) enumerating the types of cohesion, (3) investigating the way through which texts and be constructed cohesively, (4) identifying the type(s) of cohesive devices that is/are the most frequently used and least frequently used in the stories selected, (5) detecting the differences and similarities between these two stories in relation to the cohesive devices used. The model of analysis adopted is made up of the cohesive devices types and sub-types. The analysis reveals, as a conclusion, the prevalence of grammatical cohesive devices in comparison to the lexical cohesive devices used in both of the selected stories.

Keywords: cohesion, reference, ellipsis, reiteration, collocation

التماسك في قصة جارس دكنز "قصة رچارد دبلدك" وقصة ادگار الان بو "القطعة السوداء"
م.د. نور عثمان عداي الخليل¹ ، هجران فلاح عبد الحسن²

المستخلص

نظراً للارتباط بين الأدب واللغويات بشكل عام. حددت هذه الدراسة لنفسها مهمة التحليل اللغوي لنصين أدبيين. التماسك ، كونه أحد الوسائل اللغوية لبناء النصوص ، يتم بحثه هنا في قصتين قصيرتين لكاتبين مشهورين. في هذا الصدد ، يتم اختيار قصص إدغار آلان بو وتشارلز ديكنز القصيرة ليتم تحليلها جنباً إلى جنب مع الإجابة على الأسئلة التالية: (1) ما المقصود بالتماسك؟ (2) ما هي أنواع التماسك؟ (3) كيف يمكن بناء النصوص بشكل متماسك؟ (4) ما هي أدوات التماسك الأكثر استخداماً وأيهما الأقل استخداماً في القصص المختارة؟ (5) ما هي الاختلافات والتشابهات بين أدوات التماسك المستخدمة في هاتين القصتين؟ بناء على هذه الأسئلة ، يجب تحقيق الأهداف التالية ؛ (1) تعريف التماسك ، (2) تعداد أنواع التماسك ، (3) التحقيق في الطريقة التي يتم من خلالها بناء النصوص بشكل متماسك ، (4) تحديد نوع (أنواع) أدوات التماسك الأكثر استخداماً والأقل استخداماً في القصص المختارة ، (5) الكشف عن الاختلافات والتشابهات بين هاتين القصتين فيما يتعلق بأدوات التماسك المستخدمة. يتكون نموذج التحليل المعتمد من أنواع وأدوات التماسك. يكشف التحليل ، كاستنتاج ، عن غلبة أدوات التماسك النحوي مقارنة بأدوات التماسك المعجمية المستخدمة في كلتا القصتين المختارتين.

الكلمات المفتاحية : التماسك ، إشارة ، الحذف ، التكرار ، التجميع

Affiliation of Authors

¹ College of Basic Education,
University of Babylon, Iraq, Babil,
51002

² Imam Alkadhim University College,
Iraq, Babil, 51002

¹Bas656.nour.athman@uobabylon.edu.iq

²hjralfalah474@gmail.com

¹ Corresponding Author

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انتساب الباحثين

¹ كلية التربية الأساسية، جامعة بابل، العراق،
بابل، 51002

² كلية الإمام الكاظم الجامعة، العراق، بابل،
51002

¹Bas656.nour.athman@uobabylon.edu.iq

²hjralfalah474@gmail.com

¹ المؤلف المراسل

معلومات البحث

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1. Introduction

In this section, cohesion, its types and sub-types

will be presented briefly aiming at presenting the

theoretical background on which the analysis will be based.

1.1. Cohesion

Cohesion can be defined according to different points of view. Halliday and Hasan describe it as a semantic concept that refers to relations of meaning which exist within a text (71). It is regarded by Hoey as "the way certain words or grammatical features of a sentence can connect that sentence to its predecessors (and successors) in a text" (3). Finch, on the other hand, states that it "signifies the surface ties which link sentences together" (211).

1.1.1 Cohesive Devices

Cohesive relationships within a text are set up where the interpretation of some element in the discourse is dependent on that of another. In practice, cohesion can be interpreted as the set of semantic resources a language has for linking one sentence with what has gone before. Cohesive devices are useful transitional phrases and conjunctions which express ideas in a cohesive manner. Their job is joining sentences together to make ideas more understandable to the reader. There is a distinction between grammatical cohesion which consists of reference, substitution, ellipsis and conjunction and lexical cohesion which are repetition and collocation (Halliday & Hasan, 4). Cohesive devices are very important for they make any text meaningful and coherent. Therefore, it is important to know the types of these devices each one of them will be studied along with its subdivisions.

1.1.1.1. Grammatical Cohesion

Grammatical cohesion can be subdivided into:

1.1.1.1.1. Reference

Halliday and Hasan define reference as a semantic device. It has a number of items that are dependent as they make reference to something else for their interpretation rather than being interpreted semantically in their own(32).

Reference can be of two types: exospheric (It refers to another item outside the text, also known as situational) and endophoric (It refers to other items inside the text, also known as textual. Endophoric, can be anaphoric or cataphoric (Halliday and Hasan, ibid).

1.1.1.1.2. Substitution

Quirk et al. explain substitution as using a word to refer to something already mentioned in the text. It serves in abbreviating and avoiding repetition (294). For example:

– *My **bag** is old. I must get a new **one**.*

In the example above, the substitute (*one*) replaces its antecedent (*bag*).

1.1.1.1.3. Ellipsis

Trask defines ellipsis as having a material which is absent in the text but can be recovered immediately from the linguistic context. This material is required for semantic interpretation and is overtly present elsewhere in the sentence(89). For example:

- *Ali bought some books, and Ahmed some toys.*

The above example shows one type of ellipsis where the verb of the second clause is omitted.

1.1.1.1.4. Conjunction

The linkage of sentences of the text is necessary for the constitution of the property of a text. Thus, conjunction is defined, according to Fries, as "a word that joins together sentences or parts of a sentence" (206). For example:

- *He visited his friend. Then, he went shopping.*

There is no structural relationship between these two separate sentences, yet the two parts are still linked by the same logical relations of succession in time.

1.1.1.2. Lexical Cohesion

Lexical cohesion contributes in showing the continuity of lexical meaning as a result to chains of related words. These chains indicate units of text being "about the same thing". This is why to have text structure is to have units of text which are about the same thing (Morris and Hirst, 21). Reiteration and collocation are two kinds of lexical cohesion can be distinguished as follows:

1.1.1.2.1. Reiteration

Reiteration is a the repetition of a lexical item. It is "an important communication strategy used in language" (Smith, 47). It is based on repeating important words in the paragraph in order to keep the reader aware of the subject and put the sentences together in a unified whole. This is done throughout synonymy as well as repetition (Halliday and Hasan, 278).

1.1.1.2.2. Collocation

Collocation, according to Halliday and Hasan, is recognized through the association of co-occurring lexical items. It deals with relationships between words that co-occur. Some examples are like "bird" and "wing"; "teacher" and "class". The relationships that hold between the collocated lexical items are systematic and non-systematic semantic ones. The systematic semantic relationships can be categorized in a direct way, i.e. part-to-whole relationships such as (*cat*, *dog*, *animal*), members of an ordered set like (one, two,

three), and members of an unordered set like (*red*, *black*, *white*); while non-systematic semantic relationships exist between words which tend to occur in similar lexical environments (potatoes, garden) (ibid.: 248).

2. Methodology

This section represents the practical part of this study. The researchers investigate cohesion and its different divisions and subdivisions in two famous short stories selected from two writers. A description of the data and the model used in the analysis as well the analysis itself will be presented below:

2.1 Data Description

The selected data in this study are two short stories, namely; the *Story of Richard Doubledick* is the second and most important chapter of Charles Dickens Christmas short stories. The narrator tells a story within a story to entertain his friends the hero of the story is a strange twenty-two-years-old man who comes to Rochester to fall in love, enlist in the military and become the most reckless soldier. And the *Black Cat* by Edgar Allan Poe which is a story about unnamed narrator who is writing the story of his miserable life fell apart because of him being a drunken and abused and then killed his wife and the pets in the house. So, the image of black cat *Pluto* was always chasing him.

2.2 The Model of Analysis

The research design of this study is descriptive qualitative-quantitative. The model adopted in this study is of Halliday and Hasan view of cohesion that is composed of grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion. As Show Figure (1).

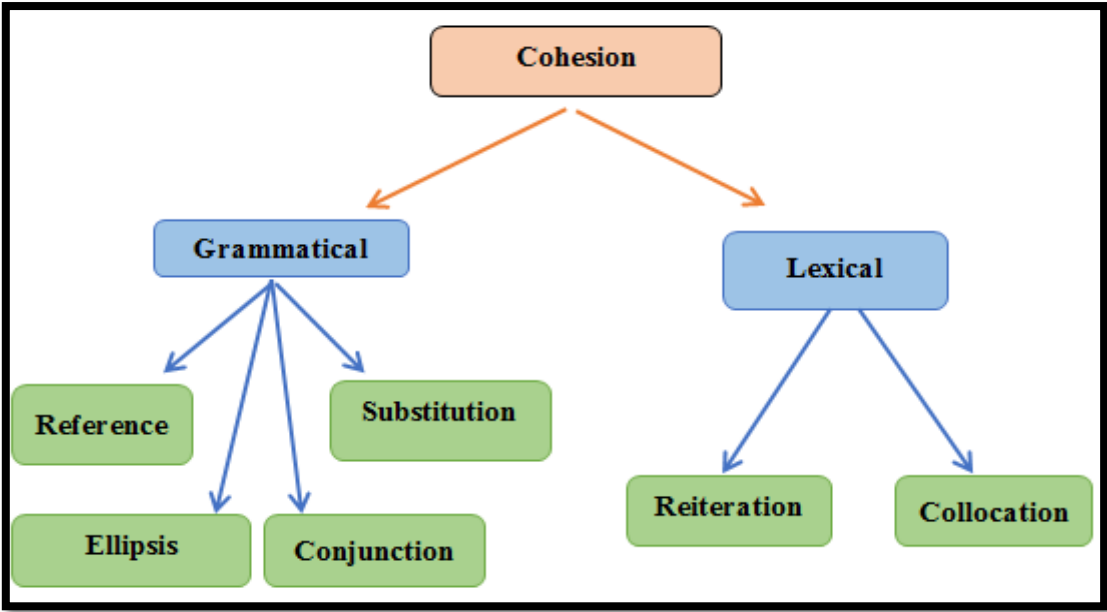


Figure (1) Model of analysis according to Halliday and Hasan (1976)

3. Data Analysis

This section is composed of three parts; one for the thorough analysis of Charles Dickens’ story, another for Allan Poe’s story, and a third for the total results and discussion of both.

3.1 Data Analysis of *The Story of Richard Doubledick*

In this section, the story by Charles Dickens will be analyzed cohesively, as in the following table. As Show table (1) and (2).

Table (1) Analysis of Grammatical Cohesion in the Story of Richard Doubledick

No		Grammatical Cohesion	
1	Reference	Frequency	Percentage
	Mine	2	0.3%
	I	57	9%
	He	142	23%
	His	103	17%
	It	60	10%
	She	29	5%
	Her	29	5%
	You	39	6%
	My	24	4%
	Their	10	2%
	Themselves	3	1%
	Me	20	3%
	Him	46	7%
	Them	9	1%

	Thee	2	0.3%
	They	13	2%
	Himself	2	0.3%
	Your	6	1%
	Herself	2	0.3%
	We	5	1%
	Us	1	0.2%
	Its	4	1%
	Our	2	0.3%
	Your	2	0.3%
Total of Reference		612	100 %
2	Conjunction	Frequency	Percentage
	And	171	71%
	Either	1	0.4%
	Neither...nor	2	0.8%
	But	28	12%
	Through	19	8%
	Consequently	1	0.4%
	Since	2	0.8%
	So that	1	0.4%
	After that	1	0.4%
	After	3	1.3%
	First	3	1.3%
	Before	5	2%
	At last	3	1.3%
Total of Conjunction		240	100%
3	Substitution	1	100%
4	Ellipsis	16	100%
Totals		869	100%

Table (2) Analysis of Lexical Cohesion in *the Story of Richard Doubledick*

Lexical Cohesion		
Reiteration	Frequency	Percentage
Chatham	7	5%
Town	3	2%
Cavalry	3	2%

Regiment	15	10%
Relative	4	3%
Richard	54	36%
Evil	3	2%
Punishment	2	1%
Private	17	11%
Mouth	3	2%
one thousand seven hundred	3	2%
Mother	16	10%
French officer	15	10%
Stranger	6	4%
Total of Reiteration	151	100%
Collocation	Frequency	Percentage
bright eyes	5	31%
squalid state	1	6.2%
parade-ground	1	6.2%
salute of acquiescence	1	6.2%
grave indignation	1	6.2%
drummer-boy	1	6.2%
Boldest-spirits	1	6.2%
excited cry	1	6.2%
Trembling voice	1	6.2%
Crowded city	1	6.2%
terrace-gardens	2	13%
Total of collocation	16	100%
Totals	167	100%

3.2 Data Analysis of the Story of *The Black Cat*

In this section, the story by Edgar Allan Poe will

be analyzed cohesively, as in the following table.

As Show table (3) and (4).

Table (3) Analysis of grammatical cohesion in *The Black Cat*

No	Grammatical Cohesion		
1	Reference	Frequency	Percentage
	I	145	36%
	My	110	27%
	Myself	11	3%
	You	2	0.5%

	Your	1	0.2%
	He	7	2%
	His	4	1%
	Him	7	2%
	Himself	1	0.2%
	She	4	1%
	Her	3	0.7%
	It	69	17%
	Its	18	4.5%
	Itself	3	0.7%
	They	5	1.2%
	Their	6	1.5%
	Them	5	1.2%
	Us	1	0.2%
	Total of Reference	402	100%
2	Substitution	Frequency	Percentage
	One	4	33%
	Not	5	42%
3.	So	3	25%
	Total of Substitution	12	100%
	Ellipsis	6	100%
4	Conjunction	Frequency	Percentage
	And	122	56.7%
	But	25	11.6%
	So	13	6%
	Because	5	2.3%
	If	7	3.20%
	Before	4	1.8%
	After	1	0.5%
	Either	4	1.8%
	Or	15	7%
	Since	1	0.5%
	First	3	1.3%
	Though	1	0.5%

	Consequently	1	0.5%
	Although	4	2%
	So that	1	0.5%
	Neither	2	1%
	While	3	1.3%
	When	3	1.3%
Total of Conjunction		215	100%
TOTALS		635	100%

Table (4) Analysis of lexical cohesion in *The Black Cat*

No. Lexical Cohesion			
1	Reiteration	Frequency	Percentage
	Pet	5	3%
	Cat	11	8%
	Wife	10	7%
	Scarcely	2	1%
	Eye	7	5%
	Reason	6	4%
	Remorse	3	2%
	Beast	8	6%
	Cellar	7	5%
	Creature	5	3%
	Disposition	4	3%
	Dread	4	3%
	Evil	3	2%
	Fact	3	2%
	Gentlemen	3	2%
	House	12	9%
	Heart	9	6%
	Knew	7	5%
	Length	6	4%
	Large	5	3%
	Night	7	5%
	Party	3	2%
	Soul	7	5%

	Unutterable	2	1%
	Violence	4	3%
	voice	2	1%
	Total of Reiteration	145	100%
2.	Collocation	Frequency	Percentage
	fiendish malevolence	1	9.1%
	gin-nurtured	1	9.1%
	waistcoat-pocket	1	9.1%
	damnable atrocity	1	9.1%
	frightful appearance	1	9.1%
	Cool blood	1	9.1%
	Cruel deed	1	9.1%
	Unutterable loathing	1	9.1%
	Hideous murder	3	27.2%
	Total of collocation	11	100%
	Totals	156	100%

3.3 Discussion of the Total Results of Analysis

analysis of each of the stories: As Show table (5).

The following tables show the totals for the

Table (5): The total use of grammatical and lexical devices in *The story of Richard Doubledick*

Cohesive Devices	Frequency	Percentage
Grammatical Devices		
Reference	612	59%
Conjunction	240	23 %
Substitution	1	0.09%
Ellipsis	16	1.5%
Totals of grammatical devices	869	84%
Lexical Devices		
Reiteration	151	15%
Collocation	16	1.5%
Totals of lexical devices	167	16%
Totals of Grammatical & Lexical	1036	100%

Depending on the results of the above table, grammatical devices are used more than lexical ones By Dickens.

Reference is the prevailing cohesive device. It is used 612 times making (59%) of the whole percentage such as:

- “That still young woman with the fatherless child,” said Captain Jorgan, as **they** fell into step...”.

In this sentence, the pronoun ‘ they’ is used referring to the woman and her child.

Substitution is the least used cohesive device as it is used 1 time making (0.09%) of the whole percentage as in:

- “The war went on—and through it went the exact picture of the French officer on the one **side**, and the bodily reality upon the **other**.”

The word ‘side’ is substituted by ‘other’.

Ellipsis and Collocation are used 16 times each making (1.5 %) of the whole percentage.

Conjunction, on the other hand, is used 240 times making (23%) of the whole percentage such as:

- *I know even better than you can imagine, that, **after** that has happened, you are lost.*

Reiteration which is used 151 times making (15%) of the whole percentage, as in:

- “My relative’s Christian name was **Richard**, but ... He was passed as **Richard**...”.

The word ‘ Richard’ was repeated as a matter of reiteration. As Show table (6).

Table (6): The total use of grammatical and lexical devices in *The Black Cat*

Cohesive Devices	Frequency	Percentage
Grammatical Devices		
Reference	402	51%
Substitution	12	1.5%
Ellipsis	6	0.7 %
Conjunction	215	27%
Total	635	80%
Lexical Devices		
Reiteration	145	18%
Collocation	11	1.3%
Totals	156	19.3%
Totals of Grammatical & Lexical	791	100%

Based on the results of the above table, grammatical devices represent the prevailing type of cohesive devices used making (80%). The most frequently used one is **reference** as it is used 402 times making (51%) of the whole percentage such as:

- “The officers bade me accompany them in their search. **They** left no nook or corner unexplored.”.

The pronoun ‘they’ in the second sentence refers to ‘the officers’.

Conjunction is the second prevailing device. It is used 215 times making (27%) of the whole percentage such as:

- “I not only neglected, but ill-used them.”

Next is **reiteration** which is used 145 times making (18%) of the whole percentage as in:

- “My wife had called my attention more than once to the character of the mark of white hair”. The word ‘wife’ is repeated about ten times across the story.

Substitution and **collocation**, on the other hand, are used 12 and 11 times subsequently making (1.5%) and (1.3%) of the whole percentage. **Finally, ellipsis** is the least used one; it is applied just 6 times making (0.7 %) of the whole percentage such as:

- “I married early, and was happy to find in my wife a disposition not uncongenial with my own”. The subject ‘I’ after ‘and’ was deleted.

4. Conclusions

As a result to the thorough investigation, it is concluded that:

1. Cohesion can be defined as a set of semantic resources that language has for linking one sentence with what precedes or follows it. Even though sentences are structurally independent of one another, they may be linked together through certain features of their interpretation.
2. Cohesion is of two main kinds; grammatical and lexical. Each one has a number of devices embody it and serve in the unity of the text. Grammatical cohesion consists of conjunction, ellipsis, reference, and substitution whereas the lexical cohesion includes reiteration and collocation.
3. The two writers focused on the use of grammatical cohesion more in comparison to the lexical one.
4. Despite the variation in number and percentage of the use of cohesive devices in both stories, they assimilate each other in the distribution of their use. Reference makes (59%) in one and (51%) in the other, reiteration makes (15%) in one and (18%) in the other, etc.
5. In both stories, it is clear that grammatical devices are used more than lexical devices. In

The Story of Richard Doubledick, Dickens uses grammatical devices (84%) while lexical devices (16%). Similarly, in *Black Cat*, Allan Poe uses grammatical devices (80%) while lexical devices are used (19%).

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