



# **DBB 307 TEXTUAL STUDIES IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

1

# Cohesion and coherence

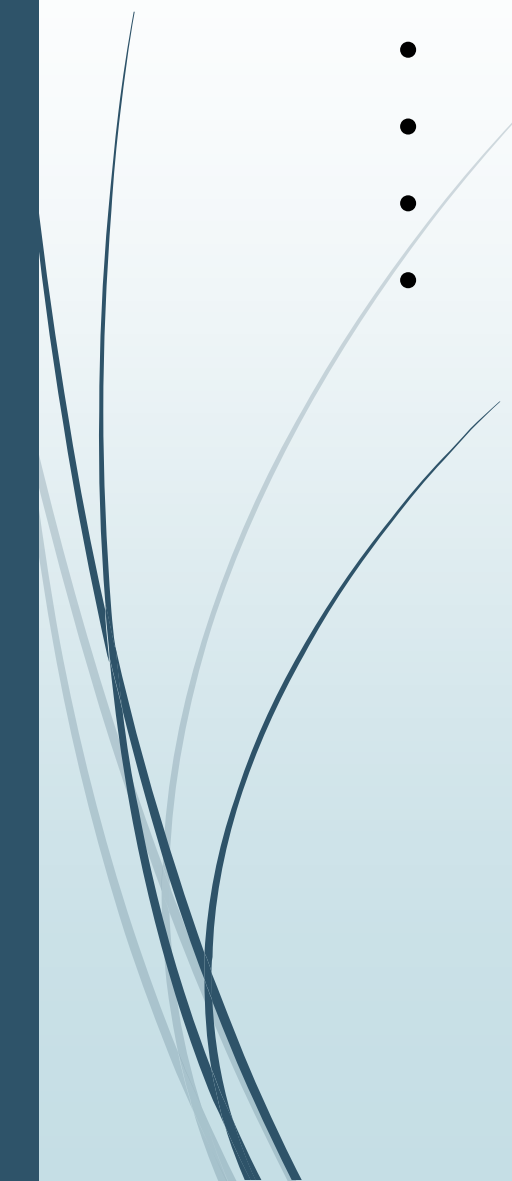
- ▶ A sequence of sentences is a “**text**” when there is some kind of dependence between the sentences. The task of textual analysis is to identify the features that cause this dependence.
- ▶ These features have been classified in terms of **COHESION** and **COHERENCE**

# What is cohesion?

- **Cohesion** is the network of lexical, grammatical and other relations which provide links between various parts of a text.
- „...the use of explicit linguistic devices to signal relations between sentences and parts of texts.“
- «The grammatical and lexical relationship between different elements of a text which hold it together.»
- **Cohesion** is a surface relation; it connects together the actual words and expressions that we can see or hear.
- **Cohesion** occurs where the interpretation of some element in the discourse is dependent on that of another.
- There are two kinds of cohesion. First is **grammatical cohesion** and second is **lexical cohesion**.



## Cohesion is...

- a formal feature of texts
  - the glue that holds a piece of writing together
  - fairly objectively verifiable
  - achieved through cohesive devices
- 

## Coherence

**Coherence** is a semantic property of discourse formed through the interpretation of each individual sentence relative to the interpretation of other sentences, with "**interpretation**" implying interaction between the text and the reader.




## Coherence...

...is the extent to which the reader (or listener) is able to infer the writer's (or speaker's) communicative intentions

...shows how meanings and sequences of ideas relate to each other, e.g.

- allows the reader to make sense of the text
- refers to the semantic unity created between the ideas, sentences, paragraphs and sections of a piece of writing.

- 
- ▶ **cohesion** = connectivity of the surface
  - ▶ **coherence** = connectivity of underlying contents

# Coherence vs. Cohesion


## Coherence:

- ▶ very **general** principle of interpretation of language in context
- ▶ **fewer formal** linguistic features  
e.g vocabulary choice
- ▶ relationships deal with **text as a whole**
- ▶ based on primarily **semantic relationships**  
↳ errors much more obvious

## Cohesion:

- ▶ **formal** linguistic features  
e.g repetition, reference
- ▶ semantic relationships between **sentences** and **within sentences**
- ▶ determined by **lexically** and **grammatically** overt intersentential relationships  
↳ more recognizable





Halliday & Hasan (1976) identify five main cohesive devices in English that signal coherence in texts:

- ▶ Reference
  - ▶ Ellipsis
  - ▶ Substitution
  - ▶ Conjunction
  - ▶ Lexical Cohesion
- } Grammatical Cohesion



## GRAMMATICAL COHESION

- ▶ Grammatical Cohesive devices help text hang together or be cohesive, that means they contribute to what Hasan terms of a text's unity of texture.
- ▶ According to Halliday and Hasan (1976) there are four types of grammatical cohesive devices. Those are **reference, ellipsis, substitution, conjunction.**



# Halliday & Hasan's Taxonomy of Cohesive Devices :

- Reference :

Two linguistic elements are related in what they refer to

⇒ Three types of reference:

- Personal
- Demonstrative
- Comparative



# REFERENCE

Personal (communication goal of referent)

Demonstrative (proximity of referent)

Comparative (similarity to preceding referent)



## Types of reference:

### ↳ Personal Reference

❖ a reference by means of person includes;

Personal pronouns

Possessive pronouns

Possessive determiners

*e.g. They told me you had gone by her car*

- The following example, from Agatha Christie's *Triangle at Rhodes*, illustrates networks of personal reference in a short paragraph:

**Hercule Poirot** sat on the white sand and looked out across the sparkling blue water. **He** was carefully dressed in a dandified fashion in white flannels and a large panama hat protected **his** head. **He** belonged to the old-fashioned *generation* which believed in covering *itself* carefully from the sun. **Miss Pamela Lyall**, who sat beside **him** and talked carelessly, represented the modern school of thought in that **she** was wearing the barest minimum of clothing on **her** sun-browned person.

(Christie, 1936: 196)



## ↪ Demonstrative Reference

- ❖ essentially a form of verbal pointing
- ❖ the speaker identifies the referent by locating it on a scale of proximity.
- ❖ In general,
  - ⇒ this, these and here imply proximity to the speaker;
  - ⇒ that, those and there imply distance from the speaker.



## ↪ Demonstrative Reference

- ❖ Like personals, the demonstratives regularly refer exophorically to something within the context of situation.

e.g. *How do you like a cruise in that yacht?*

*Pick these up!*






## ↳ Comparative Reference

- ❖ contributes to textual cohesion by setting up a relation of contrast
- ❖ expressed by such adjectives as *same, identical, equal*, adjectives in a comparative degree such as *bigger, faster* and adverbs such as *identically, likewise, so, such* etc.

e.g. *She has a similarly furnished room to mine.*

*The little dog barked as noisily as the big one.*

*They asked me three equally difficult questions.*

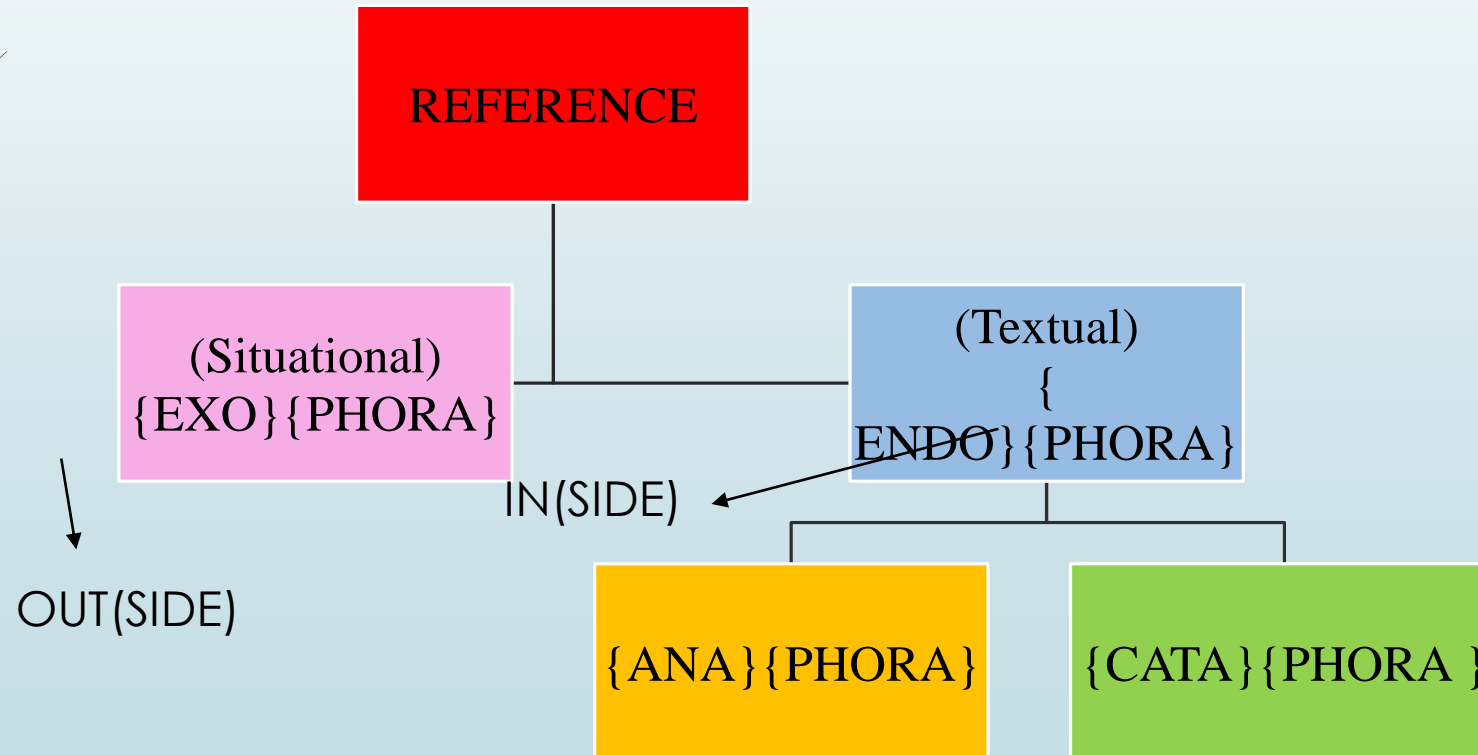


**Reference** creates cohesion by creating links between elements. Reference refers to system which introduces and track the identity of participant through text (Gerot and Wignell, 1994: 170). As a general rule, therefore, reference items may be anaphoric and cataphoric,

1. Anaphoric

2. Cataphoric

Halliday and Hasan call within text cohesive ties **endophoric**, and references, items outside the text **exophoric** :





Halliday and Hasan call within text cohesive ties *endophoric*,

e.g. *Wash and core six cooking apples. Put them into a fireproof dish.*

⇒ an example of an *endophoric reference* when *them* referred back to *apples*.

➤ *Them*, therefore, signals to the reader that he or she needs to look back in the text to find its meaning.

## ANAPHORIC

- ▶ **Anaphoric reference** signifies a word or a phrase that refers to another word or phrase used earlier in the text.

For example:

A: *Can I have an egg and bacon burger?*

B: *Would you like cheese with **that**?*

A: *yes, ...and.....a large fries please.*

B: *Would you like any drinks or a dessert with **that**?*

A: *No, thanks.*

or

**Stephen Downes** denigrates restaurants and, in fact the very food which **he** is, sadly, in the position of judging. **He** has a happy knack of putting the reader completely off by **his** disgusting description.

- ▶ **Mrs Thatcher** has resigned. **She** announced her decision this morning.
- ▶ the pronoun **she** points to **Mrs Thatcher** within the textual world itself.
- ▶ Mrs Thatcher has resigned. **This** delighted her opponents.
- ▶ The reader has to go back to the previous stretch of discourse to establish what **This** refers to.



## CATAPHORIC

- **Cataphoric reference** describes the use of a word or phrase that refers to another word or phrase which is used later in the text.
- For example:  
When I told **him**, **Bill** didn't really believe me.



Halliday and Hasan call references, items outside the text *exophoric* :

e.g. For *he*'s a good fellow  
And so say all of us.

- As readers outside of this environment, we are unfamiliar with who the *he* is that is being referred to,
- But, most likely, the people involved are aware of the *he*.
- ⇒ When the meaning is not explicit from the text itself, but is obvious to those in a particular situation. This is called *exophoric reference*.





# Halliday & Hasan's Taxonomy of Cohesive Devices :

- Substitution :

Replacement of one linguistic item by another.

⇒ somewhat different from reference in that another word takes the place of the thing that is being discussed.

⇒ Types of Substitution:

- Nominal
- Verbal
- Clausal



☞ Whereas reference is a relation between meanings, substitution is a grammatical relationship :

Types of Cohesive Relation

Linguistic Level

---

Reference

Semantic

Substitution (including Ellipsis)

Grammatical

# Types of Substitution

## ↳ Nominal Substitution:

- ❖ Nominal substitutes ;

e.g. *There are some new tennis balls  
These **ones** have lost their bounce.*

*Let's go and see the bears. The polar ones are over on that rock.*

*A: I'll have two poached eggs on toast, please*

*B: I'll have **the same***

*In the text above the poached eggs on toast is substituted by same*



## ↪ Verbal Substitution:

- ❖ The verbal substitute in English is do.
- ❖ Verbal substitutes ;

*e.g. The words did not come to the same as they used to **do**.*

*e.g. I finally called on him. I have wanted to **do (so)** for a long time.*



## ↪ Clausal Substitution:

- ❖ The clausal substitutes ;
  - ⇒ for positive : so
  - ⇒ for negative : not

e.g. A: *Is it going to rain?*

B: *I don't think **so**.*

e.g. *Is there going to be an earthquake?*

*It says **so**.*

e.g. *Has everyone gone home?*

*I hope **not**.*



# Halliday & Hasan's Taxonomy of Cohesive Devices :

## ► Ellipsis :

Deletion of words, expressions or phrases. **Ellipsis** involves the omission of an item. In other words, in ellipsis, an item is replaced by nothing.

### ⇒ Types of Ellipsis:

- Nominal
- Verbal
- Clausal

# Types of Ellipsis

## ↳ Nominal Ellipsis :

❖ ellipsis within the nominal group.

e.g. Here are **thirteen cards**.

*Take any (-). Now give me any three (-).*

e.g. Some say one **thing**, others say another (-).

e.g. Which **hat** will you wear ?

*This is the best (-).*

e.g. Have another **chocolate**.

*No thanks; that was my third (-).*

e.g. Smith was the first **person** to leave. I was the second (-).



## ↳ Verbal Ellipsis :

❖ ellipsis within the verbal group.

e.g. Have you **been swimming**? Yes, I have.

e.g. What **have** you **been** doing? Swimming.

e.g. Is he **complaining**? He may be; I don't care.

e.g. I haven't **finished** it yet. I hope you're going to have by tomorrow.

e.g. Some **were** laughing and others crying.

e.g. Were you **laughing**? No I wasn't.

e.g. John **came**, did not he? NO, but he will.





## ↪ Clausal Ellipsis :

❖ Ellipsis in which an entire clause is elided from a sentence.

e.g. *Smith was going to take part but somebody **telephoned and asked to see him urgently** so he had to withdraw.- Who ?*

e.g. *Who **could have broken those tiles**?- I can't think who.*



# Halliday & Hasan's Taxonomy of Cohesive Devices :

- ▶ Conjunctions :

a word or group of words used to connect words, phrases, or clauses. **Conjunction** involves the use of formal markers to relate sentences, clauses and paragraphs to each other.

⇒ Four categories:

- ▶ Additive
- ▶ Adversative
- ▶ Causal
- ▶ Temporal

- The main relations are summarized below, with examples of conjunctions which can or typically realize each relation.
- **a. additive:** and, or, or else, also, in addition, furthermore, besides, similarly, likewise, by the way, that is, for instance;
- b. adversative:** but, yet, however, whereas, while, instead, on the other hand, nevertheless, as a matter of fact;
- c. causal:** so, thus, hence, therefore, in that case, consequently, it follows, for, because, under the circumstances, accordingly, for this reason;
- d. temporal:** then, next, after that, on another occasion, in conclusion, an hour later, finally, at last.

# Types of Conjunction

## ↳ Additive type

- ❖ The additive is a kind of conjunctive relation which is closer to coordination.
- ❖ Additive words are such as and, or, or else, also, furthermore, moreover, in addition, besides, by the way, that is, likewise, similarly, for instance.

e.g. *My client says he does not know his witness. **Furthermore**, he denies ever having seen her.*

e.g. *Perhaps she missed her train. **Or else** she's changed her mind and isn't coming.*

e.g. *Alice wrote the letters **and** Peter posted them.*



# Types of Conjunction

## ↳ Adversative type

- ❖ Adversative conjunctions express contrast between two statements.
- ❖ Conjunctions of this type are such as but, yet, however, instead, on the other hand, whereas, while, nevertheless, although, as a matter of fact etc.

e.g. He is hardworking **whereas** his brother is quite the reverse.

e.g. We bathed the dog, **but** we couldn't get him clean.



# Types of Conjunction

## ↳ Causal type

- ❖ Causal relation involves primarily reason, result and purpose relations between the sentences.
- ❖ Causal words are such as so, thus, hence, therefore, arising out of this, in that case, consequently, it follows, for, because, as a result (of this), on this basis, accordingly.

e.g. *You are not leaving, are you? **Because** I've got something to say to you.*

# Types of Conjunction

## ↳ Temporal type

- ❖ The relation between two successive sentences.
- ❖ Conjunctions of this type are such as then, next, afterward, previously, finally, at last, after that, meanwhile, next day, first, from now on, to sum up, in short, henceforward, hitherto, up to now, this time etc.

e.g. *The weather cleared just as the party approached the summit. **Until then** they had been nothing of the panorama around them.*

e.g. ***At last**, he finished the rehearsal for his role.*

# Categories of Conjunction

## ↳ Examples :

- ⇒ **And** in all this time, he met no one. ▶ Additive
- ⇒ **Yet**, he was hardly aware of being tired. ▶ Adversative
- ⇒ **So** by the night time, the valley was far below him. ▶ Causal
- ⇒ **Then**, as dusk fell, he sat down to rest. ▶ Temporal





# Halliday & Hasan's Taxonomy of Cohesive Devices :

- ▶ Lexical Cohesion :  
achieved by the selection of vocabulary.

⇒ Types of Lexical Cohesion :

- ▶ Reiteration
- ▶ Collocation



# LEXICAL COHESION

According to Paltridge (2000:134), lexical cohesion refers to relationship among lexical items in – a text and, in particular, among content words. **Lexical cohesion** refers to the role played by the selection of vocabulary in organizing relations within a text.

The main kinds of lexical cohesion are **reiteration**, **synonymy**, **antonymy**, **hyponymy**, **meronymy**, and **collocation**.

1. **Reiteration** refers to words that are repeated in the text.
2. **Synonymy** refers to the relationship between words that are similar to meaning.
3. **Antonymy** refers to opposite meaning such as **good and bad**, **happy and sad**.



## LEXICAL COHESION

4. **Hyponymy** refers to classes of lexical items where the relationship is one of 'general - specific' or ' a type of', such as ***animal and a lion***.
5. **Meronymy** refers to lexical items which are in a whole-part relation.
6. **Collocation** describe associations between words that tend to co-occur, such as, combinations of adjectives and nouns, as in '***quality product***', '***snide remarks***' and '***discerning customers***'.



# Types of Lexical Cohesion

## ↳ Reiteration :

*e.g. Pollution of our environment has occurred for centuries, but it has become a significant health problem only within the last century. Atmospheric pollution contributes to respiratory disease, and to lung cancer in particular. Other health problems directly related to air pollutants include heart disease, eye irritation and so on. ⇒ Repetition*



e.g. Henry's has bought a new jaguar. He practically lives in the car. ⇒ Superordinate/hyponym

e.g. I turned to the ascent of the peak. The climb is perfectly is easy. ⇒ Synonym

e.g. There is a boy climbing that tree. The lad is going to fall if he doesn't take care. ⇒ Near-Synonym