Lexical Cohesions in Lyrics of Songs: Insights from the Album 'Midnight Memories' Produced by the Boy-Band 'One Direction' of London

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Abstract

There is a general assumption that the use of lexical cohesion in unambiguous lyrics of songs is very important to avoid misunderstanding of the meanings of them. In this context, this research examines the types and functions of lexical cohesions used in lyrics of selected popular songs.

It employed a descriptive qualitative method involving content analysis. Data were derived from the album 'Midnight Memories' by an English band known as 'One Direction'. Halliday and Hasan's theory was used to analyse the data and to ascertain the types and functions of lexical cohesion in the songs.

The research found that there were 29 types of lexical cohesion that included reiteration involving repetition, synonym, superordinate and general word and collocation. The types of Reiteration comprised of repetition 38%, while the types of Synonyms were 24,1%. The type of Superordinate was 13.8%, and the General words were 10.3%, while the types of Collocation were 13.8%.

It is thus concluded that lexical cohesion is very important in connecting words to words, phrases to phrases, and also sentences to sentences in lyrics. Lexical cohesion has an important role to make a text in songs meaningful and easy to understand. However, it requires appropriate lexical cohesion devices.

Keywords: Discourse analysis, investigation, lexical cohesion, song lyrics

Introduction

According to Batubara et al. (2023), languages help people in everyday life to communicate with others, meanings about things, happenings and states of affairs in the world. Two types of languages exist: verbal languages and non-verbal languages. However, without a verbal language, people will not be able to express their opinions. Moreover, it will also be

difficult to communicate effectively and meaningfully with other people, without a verbal language.

Algeo (2010) says that a language is a system of conventional vocal signs by means of which people can exchange ideas (Purba et al., 2023). Thus, it is important for people to learn languages, which help them to communicate, whether with others by talking and writing or with themselves. Indeed, by using a language, people can think, communicate and express ideas and feelings and also share information with other people.

Communication is a process of transferring a message from a speaker or a sender to a hearer or a receiver. They usually use a language in direct communication to exchange what each wants to say. As is commonly known, there are many languages in every country such as Indonesian, South Korean, Mandarin, Javanese, English etc. In fact, sometimes, there are also many languages in a single country or many 'dialects' of the same language in different regions of one country.

There are many ways to communication: speak, read, shout out loud, command, or even stay silent or not say anything. In many such ways, words are composed into sentences using accepted principles called grammar and statements or utterances can be produced, which are delivered through either speech or in a written form. However, there are also other ways to deliver them: that is by singing. As known, these are referred to as 'songs,' which are comprised of rhythmic verbal sounds as well as machine- or equipment-generated rhythmic sounds popularly known as music.

People like to listen to songs and music, because without any exceptions, they communicate feelings. Songs which comprise of verbal expressions and music thus involve verbal languages and together, they touch human life. Music and songs have a great appeal in the world since they produce emotions such as feelings of love, sadness, hope and happiness and they can share them powerfully. Songs involve lyrics, which are the verbal expressions. In this connection, Kania says that

> "Music is any event intentionally produced or organized to be heard,
> and either (a) to have some basic musical features, such as pitch or rhythm, or
> (b) to be listened to for such features"

<div align="right">Kania, 2011:12</div>

Lyrics have significant contributions to the songs as the first element of it; music being the second. Indeed, lyrics carry messages for the purpose of communicating the feelings and the emotions to the listeners. Such interactions however are embedded in the cultural contexts of the people whose musical preferences play a role in the interpretations of the meanings.

According to Arevalo (2010), songs and music are found in every human culture. They can be heard almost everywhere: while listening to the radio, when watching television and on family occasions, such as birthday parties, wedding ceremonies, at funerals, in restaurants, shops, cars, and even in the streets. In other words, music and songs are omnipresent in the world.

Music and songs indeed are marvelous phenomena which have existed over the entire human civilization and still surrounds all the people. It is common knowledge that they create a wide range of feelings. As Warren (2014) says, sometimes they can excite, inspire and even make people feel like they become one with them. Needless to say, people often prefer to choose songs and music which have strong messages, touch people's feeling and have empathic connotations. However, songs are often created based purely on the feelings of the artists, although some create them related to their deeply-felt experiences and share them with the others (Andayani et al., 2023). Often, some also use them to entertain themselves and others.

Songs and poems are similar but different. A song usually is accompanied by music and sung. In contrast, poems are recited and are not accompanied by music. There are three types of songs known as pop songs, classical songs and folk songs. Whatever the type is, there exist a 'discourse' which help produce the meanings a song intends to produce.

In fact, the core meanings people use in any language in communication can be understood as 'discourse' of their utterances. At an academic level, it is defined as the study of how sayings have meanings. In other words, when one communicates with another, one chooses

the 'words' or 'utterances' depending on the situation, social context or the nature of the participants to communicate specific meanings. In other words, people use a language to say or deliver their ideas and opinions, and provide information to others in a highly selective manner.

Discourse is a language level that has linguistic support units called phonemes, morphemes, words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs. In fact, it is one of the most complex linguistic elements. According to Chaily (2011), it has the most complete language unit and is also the highest and largest grammatical unit. The form can be speech, advertising, ordinary conversation, poetry, novel or songs. Use of discourses in communication requires the production of harmony of one element to the other in order to create a good understanding, called cohesion. According to Dewi, Hernawan and Apsari (2019), a good content consists of information composed cohesively and coherently which makes a reader understand the message easily. As Yule says;

> "the word 'discourse' is usually defined as 'language beyond the sentence' and so the analysis of discourse is typically concerned with the study of language in texts and conversation".

Yule, 2010:147

A written discourse builds the unity or inter-connectedness among the sentences within a written text. This is related to cohesion which means the relationship between one sentence and others in text realized by means of formal linguistic devices which are called cohesion devices. The important role of cohesion is to make communication become understandable by using what are called the 'lexical cohesion devices.' They are often found in texts, such as novels, short stories, speech texts, movie scripts, and song lyrics. However, sometimes the words could be ambiguous and listeners may not be able to understand the phrases or the lyrics, due to the absence of lexical cohesion. It is argued that the use lexical cohesion in the lyrics of songs is very important to enable proper understanding of the messages.

In this connection, function of lexical cohesion used in the lyrics of the popular album 'Midnight Memories' produced by a band called 'One Direction' is significant. It shows how the lyrics can be related to each other, and how the songs in it have unity from one lyric to another. 'One Direction,' often shortened to 1D, is an English-Irish pop-boy-band formed in London, England in 2010. In order to generate insights in to this phenomenon, this research investigates how the songs in the Album 'Midnight Memories' produced in the English language which employs lexical cohesion in the composition of its lyrics. Its intention is to facilitate the comprehension of the relationships between phrases or lyrics in songs. It also enables the extension of knowledge on lexical cohesion so that it can be employed in writing and composing songs, in such a way that the listeners can get the message effortlessly. The objectives of this research are thus as follows.

- To identify the types of lexical cohesion used in the lyrics of songs produced by 1D
- To identify the functions of lexical cohesion used in the lyrics of songs produced by 1D

Theoretical Framework
Discourse

A language employs words, sentences or phrases composed according to accepted rules known as grammar to communicate. Both words and grammar are agreements between two parties; first about the meanings of the words and then about the meanings generated by ordering them in specific ways, which are referred to as text. However, text is not merely made up of a set of unrelated sentences. The sentences are in fact connected to each other through the use of two linguistic phenomenon: cohesion and coherence. Discourse is the analysis of how a language is used by employing the forms of linguistic material. In other words, discourse analysis is "a method of analysing the structure of texts or utterances longer than one sentence, taking into account both their linguistic content and their socio-linguistic context" (Gee,2011).

Lexical Cohesion

Siadari et al. (2023) say that cohesion is the connection which results when an interpretation of textual element is dependent on another element in a text. Cohesion means that

text must always relate to another text. In this connection, De Beaugrande and Dressler (1981:60) emphasize that use of cohesive devices to shorten and simplify the surface text. One obvious device is to be economical: this means to use short sentences which can stand in the surface text in the place of more complex context-activating expressions.

Halliday and Hasan (1976) divide cohesion into two types: grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion. Grammatical cohesion is based on structural contents and is divided into references, substitutions, ellipsiess, and conjunctions. Lexical cohesion on the other hand, as the name implies, can be defined as cohesion that is created via the use of vocabulary. It is divided into reiteration and collocation. Halliday and Hasan (1976) show that lexical cohesion has two functions. The first is to connect between words, and then between phrases. The second is to show the appearances of words in the same environment where the meanings are related.

Lexical cohesion is a linguistic device which helps to create unity of the text and discourse. It can also be identified from relational patterns in the text in a way that links sentences to create an overall feature of coherence with the audience. In fact, understanding the content of a sentence helps to identify the central information in that text.

Lexical cohesion, as the name implies, can be defined as cohesion created via the use of vocabulary. It is the central device to make a text hang together experientially which defines the aboutness of a text (Halliday & Hasan,1976). In the framework of Halliday and Hasan, lexical reiteration is a mechanism of producing cohesion by means of repetition of lexical items that are observable at the surface of the text. In other words, lexical cohesion is the predominant means of connecting sentences in discourse.

Lexical cohesion comes about through the selection of items that are related in some way to those that have gone before (Siadari et al., 2023). Halliday and Hassan (1976) divide the types of lexical cohesion into reiteration which includes repetition, synonym, superordinate and general word and collocation. Reiteration is a form of lexical cohesion which involves the repetition of lexical items, at one end of the scale.

Halliday and Hassan (1976) divides reiteration into four types: repetition, superordinate, synonym, and general word. Repetition is the most direct form of lexical cohesion and is a repetition of the lexical item. In fact, it is the most common form of all the lexical cohesions which simply comprises repeated words or word-phrase combinations threading through the text. Superordinate is the term for words that refer to the upper class itself. Synonym is used to mean the sameness of meaning, while the term 'general word' refers to the major classes of lexical items, which are commonly used with cohesive force.

Collocation on the other hand is lexical cohesion which depends upon their tendency to co-occur in text. Collocation is a way in which some words are often used together and sound natural together. It also refers to restrictions on how words may be used together such as which verbs and nouns can be used together, and which prepositions and verbs can be used together. Just as same with grammatical cohesion, lexical cohesion varies from genre to genre. Synonyms and superordinate are unsuitable for some types of text such as technical or scientific ones where key words cannot be substituted for other more general terms without precise meaning.

Lexical cohesion which consists of reiteration and collocation is essential in generating a depth of understanding of songs. In fact, by analyzing lexical cohesion, one can know how the lyrics of a song can be related to each other. In this connection, applying Halliday and Hasan's theory can unravel the kinds and the most dominant types of lexical cohesion used in songs. Analyzing lexical cohesion rather than grammatical cohesion, one can grasp the selection of vocabulary in the lyric of a song rather than the grammatical ones. They will also unravel the connections between one sentence and another. This can be articulated in the English language for a better understanding.

Lexical Cohesion in the English Language

From among the many languages used by people, English is the most widely spoken language and according to Simbolon, Sinurat and Silalahi (2023), the idea of lexical cohesion can be well articulated in the English language. Sinamo, Herman and Marpaung (2023) add that English is the global language and that it is important because it is a means for the global

community to interact socially, educationally, and professionally (Kilickaya, 2009). As a tool for international communication, it is learned by people who want to compete, survive and excel in the modern world. Most consider English as a foreign language or the second language. In English, lexical cohesion happens in numerous ways. For example:

You and I

I figured it out

I figured it out from black and white

Seconds and hours

Maybe they had to take some time

In the example, it can be seen that there is a word mentioned two times in the sentences. The word I figured it out is stated in the first sentence and repeated again in the next sentence. The word which is stated more than once is included in lexical category known as the repetition.

Reiteration

Reiteration can arise through the use of a word that is systematically linked to another previous word. Halliday & Hasan (1976) show that, reiteration can be divided into repetition, superordinate, synonym, and general word.

1. Repetition

Repetition is one kind of reiteration. It is also called repetition by repeating the same words (meaningful) in discourse. According to Rankema (2004), repetition is a word or phrase which is systematically repeated in one sentence to another. It refers to something or the same as before an event or situation that is the same one that happened previously. It emerges when a word in a sentence is repeated or rewritten in the next sentence. For example, when one says;

- What we lack in a newspaper is what we should get. In a word, a "popular" newspaper may be the winning ticket.

Here the words newspaper is repeated. It is written in the first sentence and repeated or rewritten in the next sentence.

2. Synonymy

Synonym or near synonym is the second part of reiteration where two or more words with very closely related meaning or same meanings are often inter-substitutable in sentences. Words that are synonym are stated to be synonymous, and the state of being a synonym is called synonymy. According to Setiawaty et al. (2021), synonym is the link between the words which have similar meanings or have closely related meanings. Putri and Fitrawati (2020) say that, synonymy is two expressions or more that have similar meanings. It can be a word that means the same or almost the same as another word in the same language. Synonymy are words which have different forms but same in the meaning. For example:

- You can treat your injuries by yourself. I suggest you to medicate it in hospital.

In the example above, the word 'treat' is the synonym of the word 'medicate' in the second sentence. Thus. it is called synonymy.

3. Superordinate

According to Halliday and Hasan (1976), superordinate is a name for more general class. It is used to refer to a word which has general properties, not the specific one. For Example:

- Pneumonia has arrived with cold and wet conditions. The illness is striking everyone from infants to the elderly.

4. General Word

The last part of reiteration is referred to as 'general word'. The general words, which correspond to the major classes of lexical items are very commonly used with cohesive force. However, not all general words are used cohesively; in fact, only the noun is cohesive in the

context of reference. When it has the same referent as whatever it is presupposing, and when it is accompanied by a reference item (Halliday and Hasan, 1976). For Example:

A: Did you try the steamed buns?

B: Yes, I didn't like the things much.

As the second underlined words or phrases in the above texts refer back to a previously mentioned entity, they serve a similar semantic function as cohesive reference.

B. Collocation

Collocation is the second type of lexical cohesion. Halliday and Hasan (1976) recognize collocation as an important part of creating cohesion in the connected text. They argue the case of collocation as follows: The cohesive effect depends not so much on any systematic relationship as on their tendency to share the same lexical environment, to occur in collocation with one another. In general, any two lexical items having similar patterns of collocation – that is, tending to appear in similar context – will generate a cohesive force if they occur in the adjacent sentences (Halliday & Hasan, 1976).

Collocation refers to a paradigmatic relationship because of its linear nature, being in one sphere of meaning so that it can be concluded as a meaning of collocation. The use of shapes like this can form a complete text. For Example

- A huge oil boat polluted the sea. Many dead fishes lie along the beach.

Previous studies of lexical cohesion show these well. For example, Sari and Anindita (2020) have examined the song lyrics in 25 albums of Adele. They have found repetition as the most common lexical cohesions used. Sari and Anindita have however used 'Rankema' as their main theory in which there were two types of lexical cohesion. Those were reiterations such as repetition, synonym, antonym, and hyponym and collocation.

Research Methodology
A. Research Design

This research employs qualitative research. According to Sutrisno et al. (2023), qualitative approaches are used to describe data. Creswell (2003) shows that there are seven types of qualitative research: case studies, document or content analysis, ethnography, grounded theory, historical research, narrative inquiry and phenomenological studies. According to Arikunto (2010), qualitative research is often conducted to describe the current status of a phenomenon that exist at the time of a study. According Simaremare et al (2023), descriptive qualitative research refers to the meaning, concept, definition, language features, metaphor, symbols and the descriptions of thing.

This research focuses on the analysis or interpretation of the written material in a specific context: specifically, the lyrics of songs. The case studies are the lyrics of songs of the Midnight Memories album of the band 'One Direction'. Its intention is to gain a deep understanding about Lexical cohesion. Lexical cohesion can be identified from relational patterns in text in a way that links sentences to create an overall feature of coherence with the audience/Reader.

B. Sources of the Data

The data of this study are lyric scripts are from selected song of an album produced by the band named 'One Direction'. The primary data is the text itself. Information is collected from the library and the internet site: https://genius.com/albums/One-direction/Midnight-memories

Preliminary observations identified seventeen song lyrics found in the 'midnight memories' album One direction which cannot be understood clearly. These lyrics have never been researched before. They included descriptive lyrics consisting of more than twenty lines.

It examined eleven lyrics of songs as follows.
       1) Story of my life,
       2) Midnight memories,
       3) You and i
       4) Don't forget where you belong,
       5) Strong,
       6) Right now,
       7) Why don't we go there,
       8) Better than words,
       9) If I could fly,
       10) Through the dark,
       11) They don't know about us.
There were some reasons why the researchers chose those

C. Instruments of the Research

Sugiyono (2008) state that the instrument of the data choice in naturalistic inquiry is the researcher himself or herself. This research used a laptop to access the internet and access the songs. The researcher is the instrument and lyric of songs are used for 'discourse analysis.

D. Technique of Data Collection

Sugiyono (2008) says that documentation can be written and pictures by someone that can be used to obtain information. The steps of collecting the data are as follows.
- Downloading the lyrics from https://genius.com/albums/One-direction/Midnight-memories
- Reading and selecting all the lyric which contained lexical cohesion
- Categorizing and analyzing the lexical cohesion based on Halliday and Hassan (1976).

E. Technique of Data Analysis

According to Sugiyono (2008), analysis of data is a process to find and arrange the data systematically taken from the result of the interviews, observations, and documentation. Following techniques were used in analyzing the data.
- Marking the data from all the lyrics Midnight Memories album which contained reiteration (repetition, superordinate, synonym, and general word) and collocation.
- Analyzing the types of lexical cohesion in each verse by using the theory of Halliday and Hasan (1976).
- Analyzing the function of lexical cohesion used in the Midnight Memories album

Findings and Discussion
A. Research Findings

There are two outcomes of this study. The questions are about types and the functions of lexical cohesion found in the lyrics of the songs. The analysis found 29 data containing types related to Reiteration and Collocation of lexical cohesion. Reiteration was divided into 4: repetition, synonym, superordinate, and general word.

Table 1: Lexical Cohesion Found in Songs Lyric of One Direction

No	Types of Lexical Cohesion	Total	Percentage
1.	Reiteration		
a	Repetition	11	38%
b	Synonym	7	24,1%
c	Superordinate	4	13,8%
d	General word	3	10,3%
2.	Collocation	4	13,8%
	Total	29	100%

From the above, it can be concluded that the types of Lexical cohesion contained in the album are:

1. Reiteration (Repetition 38%, Synonyms 24.1%, Superordinates 13.8%, and General words 10,3%) and
2. Collocation 13.8%.

The functions of lexical cohesion found in the lyrics of one direction song were 7. They are:

1. To inform,
2. To describe,
3. To confirm,
4. To strength,
5. To convince,
6. To express, and
7. To stress the narrator's idea.

B. Discussion

This research was descriptive qualitative There were two aims of this research. They were to find out the types of Lexical Cohesion used in the song lyrics, and to describe the function of Lexical Cohesion used in them. The research used Halliday and Hasan (1976) theory to find out them. Based on the research finding above, it is concluded that there are two kinds of Lexical cohesion used in the song lyrics: Reiteration (identified as repetitions, synonyms, superordinates, and general words) and Collocation.

These findings are similar to the related previous research by Wulandari (2014). She has analyzed the types of lexical cohesion found in selected articles of Jakarta Globe e-paper based on the theory of Halliday and Hasan (1976). They are Repetition, Synonym, Meronymy, Antonymy and Hyponymy. The difference is that in Wulandari's research, she has used a quantitative analysis method while this research used a qualitative method. In Wulandari's research, she has looked for the most dominant Lexical Cohesion while this research focused on finding the functions of Lexical Cohesion. Wulandari's analysis on the types of Lexical Cohesion were Repetition, Synonym, Meronymy, Antonymy, and Hyponymy while in this study, it revealed Reiteration (repetition, synonym, superordinate, and general word) and Collocation.

Conclusion

This research thus concludes the following.

1. It found two types of lexical cohesion in the lyrics of 'Midnight Memories'. They are Reiteration and Collocation. Reiteration is identified as repetitions, synonyms, superordinates, and general words.
2. The functions of lexical cohesion in the lyrics of the songs in 'Midnight Memories' are to inform, to describe, to confirm, to strengthen, to convince, to express, and to stress the narrator's idea.

It is concluded that lexical cohesion is very important in connecting words to words, phrases to phrases, and also sentences to sentences. There is no doubt that lexical cohesion has an important role to make a text meaningful and easy to understand.

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