LEXICAL COHESION OF JOE BIDEN'S SPEECH IN PHILADELPHIA: A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

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Abstract

In discourse analysis, speech was defined as a form of communication involving the production and expression of spoken language. In this study, researchers used spoken language, namely speech. This study aims to discover the types of lexical cohesion in Joe Biden's speech in Philadelphia. The researchers applied Brian Paltridge's theory, which divides lexical cohesion into six types: antonymy, collocation, synonymy, repetition, meronymy, and hyponymy. The qualitative method was used to carry out this study. The data collection method is observation with a note-taking technique by watching and listening to the data source. The analyzing data method is identification with an identity technique by classifying the data that have been collected. Results of this study, the researchers found 20 data related to the forms of lexical cohesion. There are 7 data containing antonymy, 1 data containing collocation, 3 data containing synonymy, and 9 data containing repetition. Repetition is a strategy of lexical cohesion that Joe Biden employed frequently to emphasize his points in each line of his statements. The researchers did not find the data related to meronymy and hyponymy, because there were no data related to part of a whole or no data showing a relationship between general and specific.

Keywords: Discourse Analysis; Lexical Cohesion; Speech

INTRODUCTION

Language is the main tool in analyzing discourse because through language, people can understand the structure, meaning, and purpose behind each expression. In line with that, Yule, (2010) explained that language is a system of communication made up of a collection of signs that are equally distinctive or used by people in the same community. Discourse analysis allows us to delve deeper into the implicit messages hidden in language, opening a window into the thoughts, ideologies, and culture that surround it. By understanding the relationship between language and discourse analysis, we can reveal the complexity and dynamics in social, political, and cultural interactions that are manifested through the use of language in certain contexts. Halliday & Hasan (1976) defined discourse as a linguistic unit consisting of text and context, the text is not only an element of written language as a general understanding, but also elements of spoken language in this case, the text is in the form of linguistic units. Moreover, McCarthy (1991) stated that discourse analysis refers to the way language is used to organize interactions between speakers and listeners in a context. Lastly, Baker and Ellece (2011) explained discourse analysis includes understanding text structure, social context, and speaking practices related to language use. From the explanation above, discourse analysis is a part of linguistics that discusses contextual meaning which requires a relationship of coherence and cohesion. One of the forms of language used to discuss is speech. Speech is defined as a form of communication involving the production and expression of spoken language. It refers to the act of using words, sounds, and vocal patterns to convey meaning, engage in conversation, express ideas, and interact with others.

*"As citizens of Nigeria, we should have **freedom** and **liberty**."* (Enyi and Chitulu, 2015)

This issue was derived from a speech by Goodluck Jonathan, the president of Nigeria in May 2011. He used **freedom** and **liberty** to emphasize that is a right for the people of Nigeria. Freedom and liberty refer to the power or right to act, speak, and think as one wants without restraint. Thus, these two words are called synonymy. Synonymy was used to explain how lexical items' relationships to one another or their proximity in meaning are similar. It is easier for readers to decode the meaning of a text or discourse when lexical items share meanings within and across sentences. Paltridge (2022) described that synonymy refers to words that are similar in meaning and the same concept in a different way.

> *"Donald Trump and the **MAGA Republicans** represent an extremism that threatens…not even the majority of Republicans, are **MAGA Republicans**. Driven and intimidated by Donald Trump and the **MAGA Republicans**."* (https://youtu.be/JemWkV2Vcic)

The researchers took the issue above from YouTube. This is the speech of the American president, namely Joe Biden. He delivered a remark on democracy on September 1st, 2022. As seen, Joe Biden repeated the words **MAGA Republicans** more than twice which has the same meaning or is aimed at the same thing. Reiteration refers to stating or doing something repeatedly. Halliday & Hasan (1976) stated that repetition occurs when one lexical word refers to another lexical word in the discourse, where the words have the same referent as the previous words to maintain a cohesive relationship between sentences.

The first study was written by Batubara et al., (2021). The researchers employed the Halliday and Hasan theory of lexical cohesion, which divides it into two types: reiteration and collocation. A qualitative method was utilized in the study. The study's findings, the researchers found lexical cohesion in Jakarta Post news: 94 synonyms, 40 hyponyms, 67 antonyms, 30 collocations, and 87 repetitions.

The second study was written by Putri (2022). The researcher discussed lexical cohesion theory proposed by Jan Renkema which divides it into two types: reiteration and collocation. A qualitative method was applied. As the result of this study, the researcher found 16 containing repetitions two containing synonyms, five containing antonyms, and one containing collocation. The similarity of the two previous studies is that they discussed the same theme which is lexical cohesion. However, the present and the previous studies used different data sources and theories: the first research used the educational article of Jakarta Post News and Halliday and Hassan's theory, while the second research used photograph song lyrics by Ed Sheeran and Jen Renkema's theory. These two theories have a concept in common, by separating lexical cohesion into two components: reiteration and collocation. Meanwhile, the present study used Joe Biden's speech as a data source and Patridge's theory of lexical cohesion, which divided it into six forms of lexical cohesion.

1. Lexical Cohesion

Lexical cohesion refers to the way words and phrases in a text are connected and related to each other to create coherence and unity. In line with that, Paltridge (2022) stated the connection among lexical items in a text, more precisely the link among the content, is known as lexical cohesion. One type of meaningful relationship that might exist between different textual elements is cohesion. When a text's interpretation of one element is related to another, it b comes to cohesion since each element serves as a prerequisite for another to understand the interpretation. Basic types of lexical cohesion include antonymy, collocation, hyponymy, synonymy, repetition, and meronymy.

a. Repetition

The use of words that have already been spoken or written multiple times is known as repetition. It occurs when a word from the first word appears again in the following one. Paltridge (2022) stated that repetition refers to words that are repeated in a text, usually with the same reference.

*"We **will** find you; we **will** eliminate you. We **will** always protect our diplomats,"*(Mandarani and Fakhruddin, 2020).

Repeated action forges a strong sense of intention to complete the goal. Here, the speaker wants it to be known that he would do everything it takes to protect his followers and constituents against those who are seen as enemies

b. Synonymy

Paltridge (2022) stated that synonymy describes terms with similar meanings. It is vital to employ the same notion or meaning differently because it is bad form in English to repeatedly use the same word in writing and speaking.

*"United States coach Gregg Berhalter said their World Cup last-16 exit after a 3-1 loss to the **Netherlands**…Christian Pulisic, who was brilliantly denied by goalkeeper Andries Noppert before the **Dutch** punished them their first attack"* (Agustian and Arsyad, 2023).

The words ***Netherland and Dutch*** have the same meaning but the way to deliver is different. Dutch is a synonym for Netherlands, a nation that will be competing in the Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup. Therefore, these two words have the same meaning in general.

c. Antonymy

Antonymy explains the opposite by showing the difference between two words or the opposite meaning of the relation between an item and another item (Paltridge, 2022). For example: young-old, rich-poor, black-white and hot-cold. Antonymy can be found in adjectives, nouns, verbs, adverbs, and prepositions.

*"Some individuals to be **optimistic** about the country. There were also some others who were **pessimistic** about negotiations with the US…"*(Farnia and Kabiri, 2020).

In the example below, Trump said these words some individuals tried and felt ***optimistic*** and ***pessimistic.*** These two words have a contrasting meaning. ***Pessimistic*** is a propensity to the worst or view situations negatively. Optimistic is positive thinking and assured of the future. Mirzapour and Ahmadi (2011) discussed that antonymy is produced by choosing a word that has a reverse meaning of the word that comes before it. Therefore, these two words were classified as antonymy.

d. Meronymy

A meronym is a term that is related to other word parts and exhibits lexical cohesion. In line with that, Paltridge (2022) described that meronymy is the relationship between lexical items that are whole to part relationship with each other and can give the text cohesion.

*"In this regard **teachers,** parents, **schools,** and other stakeholders and agencies play a vital role "*(Sinaga et al., 2022).

For the example above, the key elements of a *school* are its *teachers* and *students*. It is assumed that the sentences employed meronyms to clarify the different categories of themes. The elements of a school include a classroom, the teachers, and the students. Thus, teachers and schools were classified as meronymy.

e. Hyponymy

The relationship between two words where one has a more particular meaning than the other is known as hyponymy. According to Paltridge (2022), the term hyponymy refers to a group of lexical items with a general to specific relation, such as a class to subclass.

*"Currently for two of its drugs **Anesthetic buvanest spinal** and **Anthimoragic asam tranexamat generic** which caused the deaths last month"*(Habibah and Sulistiyo, 2018).

For the example below, ***Generic Anthimoragic asam tranexamat*** and ***anesthetic buvanest spinal*** in nature. It denotes a hyponymy between these medications because medicines are the typical term associated with them. ***Generic Anthimoragic asam tranexamat*** and ***anesthetic buvanest spinal*** both have distinct medical meanings.

f. Collocation

Collocation is a combination of words in a sentence. According to Paltridge (2022) collocation is the term used to indicate relationships between vocabulary words that frequently occur together, such as adjective and noun or verb and noun combinations. Collocation is not something that is restricted to a single text but is part of textual knowledge in general. For example: real-estate agent and right-direction.

> *"the **civil war** in Yemen had to be ended to establish a better life for the people of the Middle East"...*(Nuzulia and Wulandari, 2020).

The relationship between civil and war in the aforementioned example showed that a civil war was a conflict between two sides in the same country that had been declared by the same government. Furthermore, Wahyuni and Oktaviany (2021) discussed if two words appear together to fulfill their meanings called collocations. Some forms of collocation such as verb-noun relationships, noun pairings, and adjective-noun combinations are examples of the relationships that collocations explain between words that frequently occur. Therefore, civil war was classified as collocation.

METHOD

This study discusses the types of lexical cohesion used by Joe Biden in Philadelphia. The data source was obtained from social media, namely YouTube(https://youtu.be/JemWkV2Vcic). The researchers used a qualitative research method for this study to gather the data. Creswell and Creswell (2018) stated that a technique for analyzing and understanding the significance that individuals or groups place on a social or human issue is a qualitative research method. The data sources that researchers used is related to the social and democracy that occurred in America.

The method used to collect the data is the observation method proposed by Merriam and Tisdell (2016). The technique used was note-taking. There are some steps in collecting the data. First, the researchers watched and listened to the video from YouTube as a data source. Second, the researchers transcribed the script to make it easier to find the data. Third, the researchers took note to find the data related to the discussion, namely the types of lexical cohesion.

The method utilized to analyzing the data is the identification method by Merriam and Tisdell (2016). The techniques used identity. There are some steps for analyzing the data. First, the researchers reread the data that had been collected. Second, the researchers reread the data source and Paltridge's theory. Third, the researchers classified the data that has been collected using Paltridge's theory regarding the types of lexical cohesion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

The researchers discovered the forms of lexical cohesion in Biden's speech in Philadelphia. According to Paltridge (2012), lexical cohesion is the relationship between lexical items in a text, specifically the relationship between the content. Synonymy, antonymy, repetition, hyponymy, meronymy, and collocation are the forms of lexical cohesion. However, not all types of lexical cohesion were found. There are four types of lexical cohesion were found: antonymy, synonymy, repetition, and collocation. Meanwhile, the researchers did not find data related to meronymy and hyponymy because there were no data related to parts of a whole and no data showing a relationship between the general and the specific or subclass. There were 16 data found in total. Moreover, the researchers analyzed ten data for each type of lexical cohesion in this section.

Table 1. Joe Biden's Speech in Philadelphia

No	Types of Lexical Cohesion	Frequency
1	Antonymy	7
2	Synonymy	3
3	Repetition	9
4	Collocation	1
5	Meronymy	-
6	Hyponymy	-
	Total	**20**

Discussion

1. Antonymy

Data 1

"*America must choose to build a **future** or obsess about the **past**…*"

Based on the data presented above, Joe Biden as president of America asked the people to choose whether to build America more advanced in the future or to be left behind and immersed in the past of democracy. The terms ***future*** and ***past*** have a contrast meaning, that way it can be said as an antonym. The term of future refers to what will be occur. Whereas, the term of past refers to a something that has happen. Paltridge (2022) stated that when there was two opposite words in a context it is called antonymy.

Data 2

"*They **refuse** to **accept** the results of a free election…*"

As seen on the data above, Joe Biden made it obvious that Americans disapproved of the outcomes of democratic elections. The word ***refuse*** shows that someone is not willing to accept or grant (something offered or asked for). Meanwhile, ***accept*** means believe or acknowledge (opinion or explanation) or receive an offer as valid or true. Paltridge (2022) stated that antonymy is the right word to describe the situation of these two words.

Data 3

"*It's in our hands, **yours and mine**, to stop the assault on American democracy.*"

Yours and mine have opposite meanings in this context. The term ***Yours*** is a possessive pronoun that refers to something or things belonging to the addresser or second person. Meanwhile, the term ***Mine*** is a possessive pronoun that refers to something or things belonging to the speaker or first person. Thus, yours here is addressed to the American people and mine is addressed to the speaker, namely Joe Biden. Paltridge (2022) defined the choice of words that have opposite meanings in a context made by the speaker is called antonymy.

2. Collocation

Data 1

"***Civil War,*** *suffrage, the Great Depression,* ***world wars, civil rights.***"

In the data above, can be seen ***civil war***, ***world wars,*** and ***civil rights*** are combinations of words in a way that feels natural or correct. According to Paltridge (2022), collocation is the term used to indicate relationships between vocabulary words that frequently occur together. In some cases, civil unrest or societal division can escalate into a civil war or world war. **Civil**

war or world wars served as catalysts, prompting individuals and societies to reevaluate and fight for the **civil rights** and freedoms they believed. Deep-seated differences over political dominance, religion, ethnicity, and socioeconomic issues frequently give rise to this conflict. Moreover, Afzaal et al., (2019) discussed that collocation is the appearance of a term that is related to the word that came before it in context or has contextual significance. Therefore, The relationship between two words that are commonly used is called collocation.

3. Synonymy
Data 1

> *"We do not **deny** it. And this is a nation that **rejects** violence as a political tool."*

From the data above, Joe Biden used two words **deny** and **rejects** that have the same concept. These two words are used to refuse something such as the truth, existence, idea, and validity of something. Synonymy is the property or characteristic of words that share the same or similar meaning. These two words have the same meaning but with different delivery so that it more precisely, can be called synonymy. That way, the two words above can be categorized as synonyms (Paltridge, 2022).

Data 2

> *"MAGA Republicans do not respect the **Constitution**. They do not believe in the rule of **law**."*

In the data above, Joe Biden said that MAGA Republicans do not comply with existing rules according to democracy. In this data, Joe Biden used **Constitution** and **law** that have the same meaning in the context. The Constitution provides the fundamental principles and structure for a legal system. Law was derived from and governed by the constitution. Paltridge (2022) stated synonymy refers to words that are similar in meaning.

Data 3

> *"We have to **defend** it, **protect** it, stand up for it, each and every one of us."*

The terms defend and protect have similar meanings to ensure the safety of someone or something by keeping them from harm, an attack, or criticism. According to the data above, Joe Biden asked the American people to keep secure one another. Paltridge, (2022) described that synonymy is a word or expression that can be used interchangeably in certain contexts without significantly altering the meaning of sentences or utterances.

4. Repetition
Data 1

> "…*to an America where there is **no right** to choose, **no right** to privacy, **no right** to contraception, **no right** to marry who you love*."

On the data above, Joe Biden said more than twice the same words to emphasize his statement. By emphasizing the word, it helps to highlight his important point. The words **no right** have the same meaning in the first, second, and third use. Paltridge (2022) stated that **no right** refers to words that are repeated in a text with the same reference. In line with that, Asif et al., (2020) discussed the most common technique for emphasizing the speaker's points and important topics to make their message clear is using repetition.

Data 2

> *"**This** is where America made its declaration. **This** is where the United States Constitution was written and debated. **This** is where we set in motion the most extraordinary experiment."*

Joe Biden repeated the word **this** several times to reinforce his statement. Repetition can reinforce a message or argument. Paltridge (2022) stated that the use of words several times was called repetition. In a communication context, repetition can be used to strengthen or emphasize an idea, establish a rhythm or pattern, or clarify the message being conveyed.

Repetition strategies are often used in language, rhetoric, and persuasive communication to achieve the desired effect on listeners or readers.

Data 3

 *"We need everyone to do their part, so speak up, speak out, get engaged, **vote, vote, vote**!"*

 Repetition can be employed as a persuasive technique to influence the audience's perception. Repetition in this instance is intended to support the claim and further the speaker's objectives. The term **vote** was employed in the previous line to persuade Americans to support Joe Biden's plan. If a word has the same form as the previous one and appears several times, it is called repetition (Paltridge, 2022).

CONCLUSION

The lexical cohesion and the types of lexical cohesion phenomenon in the "Joe Biden's Speech in Philadelphia" was examined using Paltridge's theory. This study found several types of lexical cohesion in Joe Biden's Speech in Philadelphia. There were four types of lexical cohesion used by Joe Biden. They were antonymy, synonymy, repetition, and collocation. Repetition was used most frequently by Joe Biden, which have 9 data. Repetition is a strategy of lexical cohesion that Joe Biden employed frequently to emphasize his points in each line of his statements. Meanwhile, the researchers did not find data related to meronymy and hyponymy, because there were no data related to part of a whole and no data showing a relationship between the general to the specific or subclass. However, this study helps further readers to understand the connection between words and sentences in context. It also helps readers make inferences about the meaning of certain words based on their context.

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