



Grammatical Cohesion in Boris Johnson's Speech Entitled *Coronavirus Spread in UK*

Winanda Reisty Oktavia¹, Suprayogi Suprayogi²
Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia^{1,2}

winanda.reisty1@gmail.com¹, suprayogi@teknokrat.ac.id²

Received: (April 2021)

Accepted: (May 2021)

Published: (June 2021)

Abstract

This paper analyzes grammatical cohesion in Boris Johnson's Speech entitled *coronavirus spread in UK*. This research aims to find out which types of grammatical cohesion is the most used in the speech. The research method is qualitative research and the researcher used theories from Halliday and Hasan (1976) to analyze the cohesion. Data of this research is the speech video of Boris Johnson posted in BBC news Youtube channel on May 2020. The researcher found that the grammatical cohesion used in Boris Johnson's speech about coronavirus spread in UK are reference, substitution, ellipsis and conjunction. There are 181 references, 2 substitutions, 2 ellipses and 80 conjunctions. The dominant kinds of cohesion in this speech there is reference with the total 181 and divided into three types: personal reference (122), demonstrative reference (50) and comparative reference (9). The use of cohesion is needed to make those messages is acceptable, a series of sentences, a choice of words must be integrated with each other so that the essence of the message communicated can be conveyed.

Keywords: *Discourse, grammatical cohesion, speech*

INTRODUCTION

There are various texts examined in linguistic perspective which are then enlighten many people that there are many strategies used in the text composition to achieve the goal. Pranoto and Suprayogi (2021) examined how 9gag text and image can be used to understand English better. In more political context, Istiani and Puspita (2020) investigated how speech always perform certain metadiscourse strategy to achieve the communication goal, so as in debate based on the latest research of Azizah and Gulo (2020). The goal of publicly-consumed text and text spoken by dominant societies serves many functions, for example is to express the voices of minority (EWK, 2020), to show local variation and culture (Suprayogi, 2019, Qodriani and Kardiansyah, 2018), to analyze speaker's competence (Suprayogi & Samanik, 2021), to prove the phenomenon of language interference (Qodriani, 2019) and many more.

Speech dominantly becomes the object of linguistic analysis as it contains various linguistic features to support the meaning delivery. Speech becomes one of the oral ways to deliver message (Ivana and Suprayogi, 2020) and is basically technique of using words or language effectively which requires skills in choosing words that can affect the communicant. In today's world, understanding world speeches which were delivered in English is important to update the global issues. Even further, it also an indication of people in this era cope with the significant changes of the world to be digitally literate, in which according to Puspita and Amelia (2020) the digital literacy itself then can foster the interaction and communication. Therefore, when someone is able to understand the explicit and implicit meaning of various texts spread across digital media, the messages of the texts can be well delivered to him or her.

Speech is also one of the forms of discourse. Understanding discourse is considered very important because it is part of a more general analysis of discourse coherence about how speakers and

listeners adjust form, meaning, and action to understand what is said as a whole (Schiffrin, 1987 in Ridho, 2010). According to Putri (2016) based on its function, a discourse serves to convey concepts, ideas, thoughts, or whole ideas. A discourse not only consists of grammatical sentences, but also must provide meaningful interpretation for the reader or the interlocutor. There are some supporting factors for making effective and meaningful interpretation of discourse that is the use of cohesion. Cohesion is a tool created to make a text whether the sentences, ideas, paragraphs or messages contained have a cohesiveness or not (Afrianto, 2017).

The researchers employ the theory from Halliday and Hasan (1976) about cohesion. Based on them cohesion is a semantic concept which refers to the relationship of meaning in the text. Halliday and Hasan (1976) divided cohesion into two types, namely grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion. In this research, researchers only focused on grammatical cohesion. Researchers found that the speech delivered by Boris Johnson about the coronavirus was delivered spontaneously without text to convey a message about the coronavirus in the UK, making researchers want to explore further whether the speech delivered directly was spontaneous without preparation such as text contained cohesiveness and researcher want to know what types of cohesive devices that Boris Johnson's used to make the message conveyed could be received by listeners.

In this speech, Boris Johnson as the UK prime minister conveying developments regarding the spread of coronavirus in the UK through speeches having both elements of cohesion in his speech in BBC news Youtube Channel on May 2020. In the beginning of the speech UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson about his road map for locking action in the UK. He explained the changes to the locking action and launched a threat-level warning system. The new COVID warning system implemented in UK to track the spread of the virus. Researcher examines the grammatical cohesion in his speeches because the researcher wants to know whether the speeches delivered are related or intact. Because in a good speech, cohesion is need to make the message delivered in the spoken discourse acceptable to the person who receives it.

There are some researchers already conducted the studies about cohesion. There are Arifiani (2016) who investigated grammatical and lexical cohesion in Emma Watson speech. Ningsih (2019) studied Grammatical cohesion in Barack Obama's speech. Afrianto (2017) studied cohesive devices in students writing, and Rullyanti & Srigawati (2017) studied cohesion in Donald Trump's inauguration speech. What makes this research is different from previous studies is this speech was delivered by Boris Johnson. It is a speech delivered directly without using text. Therefore, it makes researchers interested to conduct research about cohesion from this speech because researchers wanted to prove whether the messages delivered spontaneously and orally were cohesive. From this research it is expected to contribute to developing information about what cohesion is in Boris Johnson's speech about Coronavirus spread in the UK. Therefore, readers can use them in their daily vocabulary or any other situations and needs.

METHOD

The key of this research concerns about grammatical and lexical cohesion in Boris Johnson's speech. This research employed qualitative research method. Based on Saryono (2010) qualitative research is a research used in investigating, finding, describing, and explaining the quality or features of social influences that cannot be measured or described through a quantitative approach. Based on Stake (2010 in Afrianto and Gulo, 2019) qualitative-directed research mainly focuses on the perception or understanding of human thought. This method highlights diverse points of view of analysis, and also concerns on inductive and deductive processes (Creswell, 2014 in Suprayogi and Pranoto, 2020). Researcher thinks that this method fits this research because this research observes linguistic features and their use in the text and the finding elaborates the types of cohesion contain in

Boris Johnson's speech. The data of this study is in the form of sentences, phrases or word and the data source is from Boris Johnson's speech about *Coronavirus Spread in UK* on Youtube BBC News (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8HC5sOHzus&list=WL&index=15&t=0s>) which was uploaded on May 11,2020.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the researchers explain the findings on grammatical and lexical cohesion in speech by Boris Johnson's about *coronavirus spread in UK*. Grammatical cohesion is about semantic relationship between elements characterized by grammatical tools - language tools used in relation to grammar. In Boris Johnson's speech, researcher found 4 types grammatical cohesion, there are *Reference, Substitution, Ellipsis and Conjunction*

1.1. Reference

Reference is about the relation of the word and its object. Reference can be identified as a situation where one element cannot be interpreted semantically unless it refers to another element in the text. There are 3 types of references, namely personal references, demonstrative references, comparative references. In this speech, the reference that is the most used by the speaker is the personal reference. Personal reference is a reference by means a function in the speech. In this speech, this type of reference is the most used by the speaker rather than other types of reference. The word most used by speakers is the word *we* which is refers to the speaker (Boris Johnson) and the listener (UK society) where the listener is the object or the recipient of the message contained in the speech conveyed by him. Here are the data of personal reference distribution contain in speech.

Table 1. Personal Reference Distribution

No	Cohesive Devices	Data	Frequency
1.	Personal Reference	<i>Your</i>	4
		<i>We</i>	64
		<i>You</i>	16
		<i>It</i>	1
		<i>Our</i>	15
		<i>I</i>	9
		<i>They</i>	3
		<i>Its</i>	3
		<i>Us</i>	6
		<i>My</i>	1
Total			128

Excerpt 1

We must stay alert, We must continue to control the virus and save lives

Excerpt 2

*We must also recognized, that this campaign against the virus has come at colossal cost to **our** way of life.*

We in the Excerpt 1 above refers to the speaker (Boris Johnson) and the whole community in The UK to stay alert and control the spread of the coronavirus so that everyone will be safe from the dangers of spreading the coronavirus. Then, the word *our* in Excerpt 2 is refers to the speaker (Boris Johnson as a representative of the government) and to the entire The UK community as listeners who experience the impact of the coronavirus, one of which costs a lot because the campaign against the corona virus in the UK makes both parties, namely the speaker and the listener, incur large costs as a way to anticipate fighting the virus that is currently sweeping the world, one of them is The UK. The function of pronoun *we* and *our* is to show the exclusion that both listener and speaker are framed as one entity to solve the problem of coronavirus in this context.

Other significant finding on reference in this research is the demonstrative reference, that is expressed through determiners and adverbs. Demonstrative determiner includes *this, these, that, those, and the*. They refer to location, or thing, typically some entity, person or object that participating in the process; they occur as elements within a text. There are in total 50 demonstrative referents found in the speech. Here the distribution of the demonstrative referents.

Table 2. Demonstrative Reference Distribution

No	Cohesive Devices	Data	Frequency
1.	Demonstrative Reference	<i>The</i>	17
		<i>This</i>	21
		<i>Their</i>	4
		<i>Those</i>	6
		<i>These</i>	2
Total			50

Excerpt 3

*You have shown that good sense to support **those** rules overwhelmingly.*

Excerpt 4

*and it's thanks to your effort and sacrifice in stopping the spread of **this** disease that the death rate is coming down and hospital admissions are coming down.*

Those in the Excerpt 3 above refers to something that is done by UK residents about restrictions of freedom or social distancing which is done to stop the spread of the coronavirus conveyed by the speaker (Boris Johnson). Then, the word *this* in the Excerpt 4 refers to the coronavirus which is a disease problem that is being discussed in the content of the speech that the speaker delivers to the listener. In the above excerpt the speaker feels grateful to the listeners for all the efforts being made to fight this coronavirus to stop the spread of coronavirus in the UK so that the death rate from coronavirus disease decreases. The use of demonstrative referents is basically for connecting the previous ideas to be unified speech and meaning. In this context, *The, This, Their, Those, These* are employed strategically to refer to the case itself, the solution and the hope delivered by the speaker.

Comparative reference is also found in the speech but not as significant as the previous ones. It is expressed through adjectives and adverbs and serves to compare items within a text in terms of identity or similarity. The following tables show that *more* and *other* are the comparative referents appeared in the speech.

Table 3. Comparative Reference Distribution

No	Cohesive Devices	Data	Frequency
1.	Comparative Reference	<i>More</i>	8
		<i>Other</i>	1
Total			9

Excerpt 5

*you've put up with all the hardships of that program of social distancing because you understand that as things that and as the experience of every **other** country has shown it's the only way to defeat the coronavirus*

Excerpt 6

*the devotion and self-sacrifice of all those in every walk of life who are helping us to beat this disease police, bus drivers, train drivers, pharmacists, Supermarket workers, Road hauliers, bin collectors, cleaners, security guards, postal workers, our teachers and a thousand **more**.*

The word *other* in the above speech excerpt refers to every other country that has experienced the impact of the coronavirus to tell listeners that it is not only the UK that imposes social distancing regulations but other countries are also using these regulations. Then, the word *more* which is located at the end of the above quotation which is discussed by the speaker that there are many more layers of society, not only those mentioned by the speaker in the quote above but there are still many layers of society who are helping to fight against the coronavirus disease in the UK. Therefore, the speaker used the word *more* as a reference for the many people participating in activities against this virus

1.2 Substitution

Substitution is the replacement of one item by another. Halliday and Hasan (1976) explain that substitution holds a text together through preventing repetition and creating cohesive grammatical cohesion, not in the meaning, but in the wording, between words, clauses, and phrases. However, in the content of this speech, there are not many substitutions used by the speaker. Only several times substitution appears when speaker talk. There are only one substitution cohesive devices, that is *that* appeared twice in the speech.

Excerpt 7

*We've protected our NHS and saved many thousands of lives and so I know you know that it would be madness now to throw away **that** achievement by allowing a second spike*

The word *that* in the statement is an example of substitution from the previous statement, namely that the UK population has protected the NHS and saved many lives. This substitution is used to avoid repetition of words without changing the meaning of the word itself.

1.3 Ellipsis

Ellipsis is style of language that omits a part of sentence which easily to be interpret by reader and make the meaning of sentence become clear. In this speech, the speaker does not use ellipsis much in his speech. There is only one ellipsis appeared in the text through the word **thousand**.

Excerpt 9

*the incredible bravery and hard work of our NHS staff our care workers the devotion and self-sacrifice of all those in every walk of life who are helping us to beat this disease police, bus drivers, train drivers, pharmacists, Supermarket workers, Road hauliers bin collectors, cleaners, security guards, postal workers, our teachers and a **thousand** more.*

The word *thousand* in the speech is a form of ellipsis used by the speaker to refer to the various kinds of people who have worked hard against the coronavirus apart from the people already mentioned implying that there are all kinds of other people who are working hard. This ellipsis is used as the form used by speakers to refer to the deletion of some words that need to be repeated and shorten the time.

1.4 Conjunction

Conjunction is the relationship which indicates how the subsequent sentence or clause should be linked to the preceding or the following (part of the) sentence. Cohesive conjunctions have become one of the subjects of research because of their effectiveness in building logical connections from ideas in discourse. In other words, **they serve as important tools that significantly influence the structure of meaning (Kuswoyo et al, 2020)**. Halliday and Hasan (1976) divided cohesion into 4 types there are Additive, Adversative, Causal and Temporal.

Additive conjunction contributes to give additional information without changing information in the previous phrase or clause. In this speech, this type is the most used by the speaker. For example, word **and** is functioned as a connector adding information from one sentence or clause to another. These are the table of additive conction distribution from the speech of Borris Johnson.

Table 4. Additive Conjunction Distribution

No	Cohesive Devices	Data	Frequency
1	Additive Conjunction	<i>And</i>	63
		<i>Or</i>	4
	Total		67

Excerpt 10

*It is now almost two months since the people of this country began to put up with restrictions on their freedom, your freedom of a kind that we have never seen before in peace **or** war.*

Excerpt 11

*we can see it all around us in these shuttered shops **and** abandoned businesses **and** darkened pubs **and** restaurants **and** there are millions of people who are both fearful of this terrible disease.*

The word **or** at the end of the sentence is an example of an additive conjunction where the word "or" is a link and also adds information from the previous clause. The word **and** that appears in the quote above is used by the speaker as a conjunction to add additional information from the previous word or clause that the effect of this coronavirus is to make many community-run businesses such as pubs go bankrupt or stop. However, it was not only pub business that went bankrupt according to the speaker, but the restaurant business also went bankrupt due to this coronavirus disease.

Adversative Conjunction is also found but in low frequency. The basic meaning of adversative conjunction is contrary to expectation. The expectation may be derived from the content of what is being said, or from communication process. The adversative conjunctions are for example *However, but, nevertheless, in fact, instead*. There is only one, *but*, with frequency of 6.

Excerpt 12

*we must sort out our challenges in getting enough PPE to the people who need it and yes, it's a global problem **but** we must fix it.*

Excerpt 13

*I believe we can be stronger and better never before more resilient, more innovative, more economically dynamic, but also more generous and more sharing. **But** for now, we must stay alert control the virus and save lives.*

The word **but** in the exceRpt 12 above is an example of the use of an adversative conjunction where the word **but** is used to contradict the previous sentence, namely the speaker's hope of distributing PPE sufficiently to people in need in a coronavirus pandemic situation but afterwards the speaker said that we are refer to the speaker (Boris Johnson) and the listener (UK residents) to jointly deal with the problem of handling the distribution of PPE to the needy, and this is one of the problems during a pandemic like this. Then, the word **but** in the excerpt 13 is used by the speaker (Boris Johnson) as a conjunction which implies contradiction from the previous clause where the speaker wants *us* (Boris Johnson and all UK society) with the coronavirus disease problem that is hitting this to be stronger, innovate and often share a lot with others but remain vigilant about this coronavirus so that it doesn't spread bigger so that everyone remains safe.

Causal conjunction emphasized on “result, reason, and purpose” and the simple form of causal relation is expressed by *so, thus, hence, therefore, consequently, accordingly, and number of*

expression such as a result (of that), in consequence (of that), because of that. All these regularly take place in initial clause or sentence, and express causality. There are two causal conjunction found in the speech, namely *because* and *so*.

Table 5. Causal Conjunction Distribution

No	Cohesive Devices	Data	Frequency
1.	Causal Conjunction	<i>Because</i>	4
		<i>So</i>	1
	Total		5

Excerpt 15

*Today a general consensus on what we could do and I stress could **because**, although we have a plan it is a conditional plan and since our priority is to protect the public and save lives.*

Excerpt 16

*Last, we must make sure, that any measures we take do not force the reproduction rate of the disease. They are back up over one. **So** that we have the kind of exponential growth we were facing a few weeks ago.*

The word *because* in the sentence above is a form of causal conjunction which refers to the purpose of the plan of the speaker (Boris Johnson) and the listener (UK residents) about the purpose of what steps can be taken in the face of the coronavirus attack that hit the UK, namely to prioritize the safety of everyone. Then, the word *so* in the excerpt fragment above is used by the speaker as a conjunction that describes the cause or effect of the previous sentence, namely, we (the speaker and listener) must make a decrease in the increase in the spread of this coronavirus because this virus spreads rapidly and results in a growing number of viruses. increases with the population of people affected by the virus getting bigger and bigger.

CONCLUSION

From the result of the study, it can be concluded that the grammatical cohesion used in Boris Johnson's speech about coronavirus spread in UK are reference, substitution, ellipsis and conjunction. There are 181 references, 2 substitutions, 2 ellipses and 80 Conjunction. The dominant kinds of cohesion in this speech there is reference with the total 181 and divided into three types: personal reference (122), demonstrative reference (50) and comparative reference (9). Based on those findings it can be concluded that the use of cohesion is important to make the message from the speaker is acceptable for the listeners. Because to make those messages is acceptable, a series of sentences, a choice of words must be integrated with each other so that the essence of the message communicated can be conveyed and for example this speech, speaker (Boris Johnson) is able to make the message contain in his speech easy to be understand by the listener. Because he can choose the right words even his speech does not use a text. The delivery of his speech also uses terms that are easy to understand and not long-winded.

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