

Lexical and grammatical cohesion analysis of “nothing like us” song lyrics: written discourse analysis

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Abstract – This research aims to describe and analyze the lexical and grammatical cohesion types and identify the most common lexical and grammatical cohesion in Justin Bieber's song lyrics "Nothing Like Us". The method used is the descriptive qualitative method. The subject of this research is the words found in the song lyrics "Nothing Like Us". This research showed three lexical cohesion categories, namely repetition, synonymy, and meronymy, and three grammatical cohesion categories, particularly personal reference, demonstrative reference, and conjunction. According to the findings, the song "Nothing Like Us" lyrics contain nine different lexical cohesion types, including seven repetitions, one synonym, and one meronymy. Based on the summary of the result, repetition becomes the data's most common or dominant occurrence. Meanwhile, grammatical cohesion consists of three personal reference, one demonstrative reference, and five conjunctions. As a result, conjunctions appear to be the most frequent in the data. The goal of lexical and grammatical cohesion is to provide harmony to songs to make them more meaningful. The most common effects on listeners were repetitions deepening the song's meaning and allowing listeners to enlist their thoughts more deeply in the song.

Keywords: cohesion; grammatical cohesion; lexical cohesion; song lyrics

I. INTRODUCTION

A language is a tool for communication, particularly when conveying messages involving thoughts and feelings (Telaumbanua, 2021). According to Akmal et al (2017), a language is distinguished by two types of definitions theoretical and operational. A theoretical language should be as distant from the traits that are widely acknowledged as possible to minimize the language's rigidity and immovability. In this situation, it's crucial to understand the impact of a connected and organized presentation of thoughts, feelings, and desires. Contrarily, an operational language is necessary to support its theoretical explanation. Basically, language is a bridge for people to communicate with others from different countries. According to Susanto et al (2017, cited in Pratiwi et al, 2019), language is an arbitrary sound system or spoken sound sequences utilized in interpersonal communication. In line with Sholah and Yunus (2020), language is a system of spoken and written communication used by citizens of a given nation. Transferring a message from the speaker to the hearer is the process of communication. People use direct speech to communicate their intentions. However, individuals also employ indirect speech, like music, to share ideas, messages, and emotions with other people. Therefore, language plays a crucial role in the human touch, notably in delivering and accepting information.

Currently, English is an international language spoken by most people worldwide, including in Indonesia (Telaumbanua, 2021). As a result, English has become a second language for communicating with people from different nations. Specifically, English is the second language for Indonesians. According to the National Education System law, the language must be studied in the school from elementary through college. The importance of the English language in developing the school system in this country cannot be overstated since it has a significant impact. Many people want to commit their own time to learning English to reach the best degree of proficiency possible. Discourse in English serves to connect any English writing to its surroundings.

According to Miell et al (2005, cited in Lidinillah & Meinawati, 2021), music may be a good form of communication in society. People can express their emotions, feelings, and intentions to others through music. Listening to music can reveal what is on people's minds and how they feel at any particular time. Music has the potential to excite, inspire, and make people feel as if they are a part of the song, according to Warren and Corney (2014, quoted in Lidinillah & Meinawati, 2021). People are more inclined to enjoy song music that has strong messages, touches people's feelings, and is in a comparable situation to them at the time. In line with Sari and Anindita (2020; Antari, 2022), lyrics are essential to creating the feeling of harmony. People often write songs about their feelings, and others also write songs about their experiences, which they subsequently share with others. Occasionally, singers will write and perform a song with lyrics that describe their current position. Furthermore, the number of works on musical discourse analysis is steadily expanding.

Discourse analysis can be defined as the language level with units supported by linguistics, including phonemes, morphemes, words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs (Pratiwi et al, 2019). Based on Chailly (2011, cited in

Pratiwi et al, 2019; Dewi, 2023; cf. Wajdi, 2018; Teja et al, 2022; Lestari & Wardhono, 2022), discourse analysis can be interpreted as the elements of linguistics complex and have an exhaustive language unit including the highest and most significant grammatical unit. It can be found in speech scripts, product advertisements, everyday conversation, poetry, novels, and all genre of music. In line with Fasold and Connor-Linton (2014), discourse is the use of language that goes beyond how it is used in writings and other contexts. Discourse analysts concentrate on people's actual utterances and work to understand the mechanisms that shape how those utterances appear. Analysis of spoken or written language using discourse analysis benefits linguists and language teachers. Regarding analysis, written texts are considered an essential aspect that needs analysis. Through discourse, the writer can make their writing more cohesive and coherent.

Regarding the explanation above, the researcher focuses on the cohesion of the context of the text. The discourse used to communicate requires the harmony of one another to ensure understanding, which is called cohesion. The cohesive and coherent information will help readers comprehend the message of the written content. Halliday and Hasan (1976, cited in Sudani et al, 2017) have two significant kinds of cohesion, namely, lexical and grammatical cohesion. Both of them are established with two different elements. Lexical cohesion is the semantical relationship between parts and discourse elements (Sidabutar, 2021). Based on Pratiwi et al (2019), repetition, synonyms, hyponyms, metonyms, antonyms, and collocation are examples of reiteration in lexical cohesion. Meanwhile, grammatical cohesion is the usage of grammatical elements of the text expressing the semantic relationship within and between the sentences. It includes personal, demonstrative, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in analyzing the song lyrics based on lexical cohesion, namely, repetitions, meronymy, and synonyms, as well as grammatical cohesion, such as personal reference, demonstrative reference, and conjunction. The data was derived from the lyrics of Justin Bieber's song "Nothing Like Us". The piece was published in Believe Acoustic album on January 29th, 2013.

II. METHOD

This research analyzed lexical and grammatical cohesion analysis of "Nothing Like Us" song lyrics by Justin Bieber. The descriptive qualitative method was adopted in this research. According to Creswell (2012), asserts that the goal of descriptive qualitative research is to delve thoroughly into the subject under study. By obtaining and analyzing data, the descriptive qualitative method seeks to explain the purpose of this research. In order to examine the lexical and grammatical aspects of words, the researcher makes use of the internet, particularly journals or articles. The music lyrics themselves are the research subject in this study. The information is gathered by employing data analysis and is taken directly from the song lyrics. The researcher in this study pinpoints the lexical and grammatical cohesion in the lyrics of the song.

The data from the resources were analyzed by the researcher using the design analysis from Miles and Huberman (1994). This data analysis design

addresses three techniques: data reduction, data display, and conclusion writing. In the first stage of data reduction for this study, the terms that contained lexical cohesion were divided into three groups: repetition, synonymy, and meronymy. The terms that have grammatical cohesion were divided into conjunctions, personal references, and demonstrative references. In the second stage, data presentation, data of lexical and grammatical discovered in the song lyrics were then inserted into the table. This list assisted the researcher in coming to a conclusion. In the last step, the researcher draw a conclusion based on the result the study.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Findings

The findings are based on the analysis of lexical and grammatical cohesiveness in the most popular song of 2013, which was popularized by Justin Bieber, a well-known Canadian male artist. The data for this study came from the lyrics of the song "Nothing Like Us." This research aims to look at the lexical aspects of the song lyrics, such as repetition, synonymy, and meronymy, as well as the grammatical aspects, such as personal reference, demonstrative reference, and conjunction.

The frequency of instances of repetition, synonymy, and meronymy, personal reference, demonstrative reference, and conjunction on the song lyrics "Nothing Like Us" is shown below.

Table 1 Table appearance of repetition, synonym, and meronymy

Category of Lexical Cohesion	Frequency
Repetition	7
Synonym	1
Meronymy	1
Total	9

Table 2 Table appearance of personal reference, demonstrative reference, and conjunction

Category of Grammatical Cohesion	Frequency
Personal Reference	3
Demonstrative Reference	1
Conjunction	3
Total	7

3.2 Discussion

Table 3 Table of Data Identification

Data Identification	
Song Lyrics	Num Data
Oh, oh, oh	1
Lately I've been thinkin'	2
Thinkin' 'bout what we had	3

I know it was hard, It was all that we knew, yeah	4
Have you been drinkin'	5
To take all the pain away?	6
I wish that I could give you what you deserve	7
'Cause nothing can ever	8
Ever replace you	9
Nothing can make me feel like you do, yeah	10
You know there's no one	11
I can relate to	12
And know we won't find a love that's so true	13
There's nothing like us	14
There's nothing like you and me	15
Together through the storm	16
There's nothing like us	17
There's nothing like you and me together, oh	18
I gave you everything, baby	19
Everything I had to give	20
Girl, why would you push me away? Yeah	21
Lost in confusion	22
Like an illusion	23
You know I'm used to making your day	24
But that is the past now	25
We didn't last now	26
I guess that this is meant to be, yeah	27
Tell me, was it worth it?	28
We were so perfect	29
But, baby, I just want you to see	30
There's nothing like us	31
There's nothing like you and me	32
Together through the storm	33
There's nothing like us	34
There's nothing like you and me together, oh	35
There's nothing like us	36
There's nothing like you and me	37
Together through the storm	38
There's nothing like us	39
There's nothing like you and me together, oh	40

Lexical Cohesion

1. Repetition

Sidabutar (2021) reported that repetition is the process or action of repeating or saying the same word or phrases many times. In other words, repetition is repeating lingual units (sounds, syllables, words, and parts of sentences) mentioned previously with the same word. As a result, the same word or repetition function was to ensure that the readers understood the song's concept. The emphasis of this song was on informing the readers of the situation and making the readers guess the song's theme. In this study, the researcher found seven repetitions shown in the following data.

Oh, oh, oh (1)
Lately I've been *thinkin'* (2)
Thinkin' 'bout what we had (3)

I know it was hard, *It* was all that we knew, yeah (4)
I wish that *I* could give you what you deserve (7)

The word "Oh" in the data number (1) which is placed at the beginning of the song lyrics is repetition because they say the word 'oh' three times. The next repetition is in the word 'thinkin' in the data number (2), and (3). The word 'thinkin' is repeated to emphasize the previous one. The third repetition is in the data number (4) with the word "It". And the last repetition is the word "I" on the data number (7). These phrases were categorized as repetition not only because it appears multiple times in the stanza, but also because it relates to the same act, event, time, meaning, and context each time.

'Cause nothing can *ever* (8)
Ever replace you (9)

The word "ever" in the data number (8) and (9) is repetition since the exact sentence is repeated many times and both phrases pertain to the same period, it is a sort of repetition.

There's nothing like us (14)
There's nothing like you and me (15)
There's nothing like us (17)
There's nothing like you and me together, oh (18)

"There's nothing like" is referred to as a repetition in the data because it is the first phrase that is repeated in the next row in the first position, as indicated on the data numbers (14), (15), (17), (18), (31), (32), (34), (35), (36), (37), (39), and (40).

I gave you *everything*, baby (19)
Everything I had to give (20)

The word "everything" in the data number (19) and (20) is repetition because the data was repeated to the next lyrics. In conclusion, the word is called repetition because not only repeated more than once but there was the same activity happened.

2. Synonymy

Based on Pratiwi et al, (2019), a synonym is a word or another name for objects which has more or less the same or nearly meaning as other words or phrases. In line with, Sidabutar, (2021), a synonym is a word in a language that has the same or nearly identical meaning as another word or word in the language. In this study, the researcher found one synonym in the following data.

But that is the *past* now (25)
We didn't *last* now (26)

The word "past" on the data number (25) has synonymous with the word "last" on data number (26). These two words were synonyms because

both words have the same meaning. The word "past" means something that occurred before the present, whereas the word last means at the end of a period. In conclusion, the meaning of these two words is something that happened in the past and became the final phase of an activity or event.

3. Meronymy

According to Sidabutar, (2021), meronymy can be defined as a figure of speech in which one word or phrase is replaced for another that is similar in meaning. In this song lyrics, the researcher found one meronymy in the following data.

Lost in *confusion* (22)
Like an *illusion* (23)

The word "confusion" on the data number (22) has a close meaning to the word "illusion" on the data number (23). The meaning of the two words is someone who did not know what they have to do and finally live in the illusion world. When a word can represent another word because it is a component of the first word, it is said to be part versus whole. As we know, when a person feels confused, they have problems controlling their thoughts. Sometimes many things make this happen. In confusion, a person thinks a lot about something that is only wishful thinking or something false and untrustworthy. Therefore, based on this Stanza, the researcher thinks these two words have a connection that unifies the lyric and is known as meronymy according to Renkema's theory.

A. Grammatical Cohesion

1. Personal Reference

A personal reference is a reference to a person's category via the function of the personal pronoun, possessive determiners (possessive adjective), and a possessive pronoun in a speaking scenario (Maulida et al, 2020). In this study, the researcher found one personal reference in the following data.

Lately *I*'ve been thinkin' (2)
Thinkin' 'bout what *we* had (3)
I know *it* was hard, *It* was all that we knew, yeah (4)

The personal reference which is expressed by the word "I", "we", and "it" are kind of situational reference (exophoric) since the song depicts the life story of someone who has encountered situations comparable to those in the lyrics.

2. Demonstrative Reference

Demonstrative reference is a scale of proximity reference that uses nominative demonstratives (this, that, these, those), circumstantial demonstratives (there, here, now, then), and the definite article "the" to refer to a location and time (Rustipa, 2015). In this study, the researcher found one demonstrative reference in the following data.

We didn't last now
I guess that *this* is meant to be, yeah (27)

"This" is a demonstrative reference which anaphorically refers to "We didn't last now" or on the other words is the place in time or space where the phenomena were occurred.

3. Conjunction

A conjunction is defined as a formal relationship between sentences that provides the words and phrases that exist between one sentence or clause and another (Cook, 1989: 21, cited in Maulida, 2020). According to Afrianto (2017), the use of conjunction to build strong cohesiveness is based on its various meanings. In this study, the researcher found three conjunctions in the following data.

'Cause nothing can ever (8)
There's nothing like you *and* me (15)
There's nothing like you *and* me together, oh (18)
But that is the past now (25)
But, baby, I just want you to see (30)

The conjunction 'cause on the data number (8) emphasize that no one can have a relationship like them. Then, the word "and" on the data number (15), "and" on the data number (18), "but" on the data number (25), and "but" on the data number (30) are conjunctions which has the function to add further information to what has been mentioned. The conjunction is used to show that the second word or sentence contains information that is related to that in the first word or sentence.

IV. CONCLUSION

This research looks at the lexical and grammatical cohesiveness in the song "Nothing Like Us." The data collection results reveal that lexical cohesiveness is used in a variety of ways, including repetition, synonymy, and meronymy. There are nine different types of lexical coherence in the lyrics: seven repetitions, one synonym, and one meronymy. There are some kinds of repetition on the data, namely 'oh', 'thinkin', 'it', 'I', 'ever', 'there's nothing like', and 'everything'. The word 'nothing like us' which repeated twelve times in the next row. For synonyms and meronymy, the researcher found one of them, such as the word 'past' and 'last'. Then, the word for meronymy is shown in the numbers (22) and (23), which are 'confusion' and 'illusion'. As a result, the lyrics contain some parts of grammatical cohesion, particularly personal reference, demonstrative reference, and conjunctions. The lyrics contain three personal reference, one demonstrative reference, and three conjunctions. The personal and demonstrative reference data is shown in the number (2), (3), and (4) with the word 'I', 'we', and 'it', then in the grammatical is seen in number (27) with the word 'this'. Then, there are 3 conjunctions in the lyrics: 'cause', 'and', and 'but'. As a result, repetition appears

to be the most frequent in the data of lexical cohesion above. In conclusion, song lyrics are more significant because of the lexical and grammatical coherence harmonization.

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