THE COHESION AND COHERENCE IN BARACK OBAMA’S SPEECH
TEXT “FINAL PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE OF YEAR”

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Abstract
This research aimed at analyzing the cohesion and coherence in Barack Obama’s speech text “Final presidential press conference of year”. This research designed by the qualitative method with descriptive approach. Then, researcher used the Miles, Huberman, & Saldana theory to analyze the cohesion and coherence in the speech text. The result of this research showed all of cohesion and coherence devices were found. The data of this research were words and phrases. Based on summary of the result, that Barack Obama’s speech text “Final Presidential Press Conference of Year” contained grammatical cohesion devices, they are reference (34), substitution (1), ellipsis (12), and conjunction (60). And then, it contained the lexical cohesion devices. They are; reiteration (47) and collocation (11). Moreover, it contained the coherence devices. They are; repeat key nouns (9), consistent pronoun (5), transition signals (53), and the ideas in the speech text are arranged structurally.

Based on the research finding, in the speech text, the cohesion devices dominanted in grammatical cohesion, especially in using conjunction. And the coherence devices dominanted in using transition signals. It is suggested that English learners’ should pay attention about the usage of cohesion and coherence in order to create a good text as well as a speech. For the teachers, hopefully this research could be used to enrich their teaching material. And for the next researcher, can get information and knowledge to create a text grammatically and semantically.

Key Words: Cohesion devices; coherence devices; speech text.

Key Words: Perangkat kohesi; Perangkat koherensi; Teks pidato.

A. Introduction

Language can not be separated from human’s life because the language is used by humans to express themselves or things to others through the sounds or symbols in certain language which they use, both spoken language as well as written language. Language consists of words that is containing a meaning, namely abstrack relationships between words as a symbols and concepts in each of statements that stated. A language is system of arbitrary vocal symbols by means of which a social group cooperates (Bloch and Trager, 1942:5). Language used by human in a community to interact with each other. Language in community is as the tool of communication which is conveying the ideas, feelings and thoughts to other one.

In language, there are four skill; listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. The four language skills are related to each other. Moreover, language skills have similarities with discourse which is discussing the use of language as a communication tool. Both of them placed as the communication tool because there are occured in communication and social interaction. Discourse is a relatively complex linguistic element, because it has a linguistic hierarchy starting from phonemes, morphemes, words, clauses, phrases, and sentences. In linguistics hierarchy, the position of discourse is in the largest and highest position. This is caused discourse is as a grammatical unit as well as an object of linguistics elements needed in all forms of communication.

Discourse is a series of words that expresses a thing (subject) that presented regularly, systematically in a coherent whole formed by segmental and prasegmental elements. Discourse is the most complete unit of language which is higher than clauses and sentences, discourse is built by elements of cohesion and coherence, it has a clear beginning and ending, sustainable, and is delivered orally and writing. It shows that cohesion and coherence are two factors that influence the text to be comprehended and arranged sistematically. Discourse places language as a communication tool, people should concern on comprehension. Therefore, discourse must be considered in the terms of coherent content or information and in terms of the supporting elements order or forms in sentences.

Cohesion and coherence are the relationship of the sentences within a text which their existance make a text will be structured grammatically and semantically. Both of them form the tie of whole text. They are an important factor...
which is necessary to convey the exact information that the author wishes. Cohesion and coherence are the parts which are contained in discourse that can not be separated because they both function in a discourse as well a speech. Cohesion is the harmonious relationship between one element and another in the discourse so as to create a slick or coherence understanding. And coherence is the semantic relationship between sentences or between parts of a discourse which its existence serves to create cohesion between parts in a text or speech.

Cohesion is expressed partly through grammar and vocabulary. Halliday and Hasan (1976) divide cohesion into grammatical and lexical cohesion. Grammatical cohesion includes devices such as reference, substitution, ellipsis and conjunction. While, the lexical cohesion is divided into reiteration and collocation. Therefore, in text there must be a grammatical arrangement of language and continuity of the meaning in that text itself. Halliday and Hasan (1976:1) state that in general, any units which is structured hangs together so as to form text. All grammatical units of sentences, clauses, groups, words are internally cohesive simply because they are structured.

Coherence is the combination and consistency between units in the text or speech. In the structure of discourse, the coherence aspect is very necessary for its existence to organize the inner connection between one position to another in order to obtain whole of the text or speech itself. The existence of the element of coherence is not only in the text unit, but also in reader or listener’s ability to connect meaning and interpret an acceptable form of discourse. Coherence occurs when the sentences in a text hold together and they are semantically and logically related in some way. In other words, they are related in terms of their meaning. Furthermore, Oshima and Hogue (2006) state that coherence can be reached by four ways, they are the use of a repeating key noun, the use of the consistent pronoun, the use of transition signals to link ideas and through logical order.

Related with language used as a tool of communication, speech also as the way to communicate or interact to others by using language. According to Agrawa, et al (2018:68) speech is a form of communication that is based on combination of natural sound in the form of units. When these units are kept together, they may form a word or sentence. Halliday and Hasan (1976:293) state that the concept of cohesion refers to the linguistic means whereby texture is achieved. Its means that the existence of cohesion within a text or speech is very important to achieve the text or speech structurally. Moreover, Oshima and Hogue, (2006:21) emphasize that the sentences in speech must be coherent. It means that the sentences must hold together, that is the movement from one sentence to the next must be logical and smooth, they must be no sudden jumps and each sentence should flow smoothly into the next one.

In one of the Barack Obama’s speech texts, it is about final presidential press conference of year. This speech is about the final speech of him in the year. It was discussing about how far America Country has come over the past eight years. The researcher chooses this speech text because this speech conveyed by Barack Obama which is as the president of America country. It known by many
people because it spread in whole of the world through publication of many social media and it contains the native language of English. Furthermore, it contains the organization of English elements such as cohesion and coherence, so it is understandable.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher was very interested to know deeply how cohesive and coherent the Barack Obama speech text “Final Presidential Press Conference of Year”. Therefore, the researcher conducted the research entitled: “The Cohesion And Coherence In Barack Obama Speech Text ‘Final Presidential Press Conference of Year’”.

B. Research Method

This research is conducted by using descriptive qualitative research to analyze the cohesion and coherence contained in Barack Obama speech text “Final Presidential Press Conference of Year”. Qualitative research involves collecting data an analyzing non numerical data to understand concepts, opinions or experiences. Gay, Mills, Airasian (2012:381) explain that qualitative research is the collection, analysis, and interpretation of comprehensive narrative and visual (i.e., non numerical) data to gain insight into a particular phenomenon of interest. Qualitative research relates to ideas, perceptions, opinions or beliefs of the person being studied and all of them can not be measured by number. The researcher used the descriptive qualitative method which aims to describe what are grammatical and lexical cohesion devices contained in Barack Obama’s Speech Text “Final Presidential Press Conference of Year”, and how is coherent text of Barack Obama’s Speech Text “Final Presidential Press Conference of Year”.

The data of this research is the words or phrases used as cohesive devices and words or phrases that organize the coherent texts in Barack Obama’s speech text “Final Presidential Press Conference of Year”. Meanwhile, the source data which used in this research is the text of Barack Obama’s speech “Final Presidential Press Conference of Year”.

The data collection of this research was documentation technique. In documentation technique involves the analysis of documents, trascripts, magazines, news paper, etc. In this research, documentation intended is the text of Barack Obama’s speech “Final Presidential Press Reference of Year”. In this case, the researcher collected the data which is the cohesion and coherence devices contained in Barack Obama’s speech text “Final Presidential Press Reference of Year”.

The technique of data analysis that used by the researcher in this research was content analysis. According to Crowley and Delfico (1996:1) in content analysis, evaluator can do content analysis of video, film, and other form of record information. Furthermore, they state that content analysis is a systematic research method for analyzing word textual information in standardized way that allows evaluators to make inferences about that information. Content analysis is to a systematic reading of whole of text which refers to textual, meaning and content that contained within a text.

In analyzing the data of this research, there were three steps flows of activity. They were data condensation, data display, and drawing and verifying...
conclusions. (Miles, Huberman & Saldana, 2020:8-10).

In analyzing the data of this research, there were three steps flows of activity. They were data condensation which refers to the process of selecting, focussing, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming the data that appear in the full coupleus (body) of written-up field notes, interview transcripts, documents, and other empirical materials. Then, data display which is designing a display, deciding on the rows and columns of a matrix for qualitative data and deciding with data, in which form, should be entered in the cells- are analytic activities. And then, drawing and verifying conclusions. this steps, the researcher will describes the results of analyzing the data which from the start of data collection, the qualitative analyst interprets what things mean by nothing patterns, assertions, propositions, explanations, and clausal flows. Furthermore, the conclusions that have got will be verified as the analyst proceeds. The verification may be as a brief as a fleeting second thought crossing the analyst’s mind during writing.

C. Research Findings and Discussion

In this research, the presented data related to the main focuses of this research, they were to find out the grammatical, lexical cohesion devices and the coherence devices of Barack Obama’s speech text “Final Presidential Press Conference Of Year”. In this research the researcher used Halliday and Hasan’s theory, they divided two cohesion devices. They are grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion. Grammatical cohesion divided four devices, they are reference, substitution, ellipsis and conjunction. Meanwhile, the lexical cohesion divided into two devices, they are reiteration and collocation. Furthermore, to find out the coherence of Barack Obama speech text “Final Presidential Press Conference of Year”, the researcher used Oshima and Hogue’s theory. They state that there are four to achieved the coherent text, they are repeat key nouns, use consistent pronouns, use transition signals to link ideas and arrange your ideas in logical order.

Therefore, based on the data that acquired by the researcher in Barack Obama’s speech text “Final Presidential Press Conference of Year”. Those of data described in the tables below:

1. The grammatical cohesion devices contained within Barack Obama’s speech text

| Table 1. The Grammatical Cohesion Devices Contained in Barack Obama’s Speech Text |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Grammatical cohesion devices    | Total  |
| Reference                       | 16     |
| Personal reference              | 16     |
| Demonstrative reference         | 11     |
| Comparative reference           | 17     |
| Substitution                    | 1      |
| Ellipsis                        | 12     |
| Conjunction                     | 60     |
| Total                           | 117    |

Based on the example above, the sentences are cohesive. Because it contains

\[
\text{The unemployment rate was on its way to 10 percent. Today, it’s at 4,6 percent---.} \quad (P.1. L.8)
\]
a cohesiveness between two sentences which is it in the second sentence is referred to the unemployment rate in the first sentence. The detail information about personal reference can be seen in appendixes 57, 58, 60, 62, 63, 64, 67, 68, and 69.

2) Demostrative reference

One of the demostrative reference examples that contained in Barack Obama’s speech text is:

“We’ve cut our dependence on foreign oil by more than half, doubled production of renewable energy, enacted the most sweeping reforms since FDR to protect consumers and prevent a crisis on wall street from punishing main street ever again. None of these actions stifled growth as critics predicted.” (P.2. L.1).

Based on the example above, the text is cohesive. Because it contained the cohesiveness between sentences which is these in the second sentence referred to the previous sentences. The detail information about demostrative reference can be seen in appendixes 56, 58, 61, 62, 64, 66, and 69.

3) Comparative reference

One of the comparative reference examples that contained in Barack Obama’s speech text is:

“When I came into office, 44 million people were uninsured. Today, we’ve covered more than 20 million of them.” (P.1. L.11).

Based on the example above, the text is cohesive. Because it contained the comparative reference between sentences which is more in the second sentence is referent to 20 million of them. The detail information about demostrative reference can be seen in appendixes 55, 56, 57, 59, 60, 63, 65, 67, and 69.

b. Subtitution

One of the comparative reference examples that contained in Barack Obama’s speech text is:

“Of course, to tout this progress doesn’t mean that we’re not mindful of how much more there is to do.” (P.2 L.30).

Based on the example above, the text is cohesive. Because it contained the substitution in the second sentence, it is do which substitute not mindful. The detail information about substitution can be seen in appendix 61.

c. Ellipsis

One of the ellipsis examples that contained in Barack Obama’s speech text is:

“And almost every country on Earth sees America as stronger and more respected today than they did eight years ago.” (P.2. L.21).

Based on the example above, the text is cohesive. Because it contained the ellipsis which did in the second clause is ommits more respected in the first clause. The detail information about ellipsis can be seen in appendixes 56, 57, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, and 68.

d. Conjunction

One of the conjunction examples that contained in Barack Obama’s speech text is:

“This is the most wonderful press conference of the year. I’ve got a list of who’s been naughty and nice to call on. But let me first make a couple of quick points, and then I’ll take your questions.” (P.1. L.2).

Based on the example above, the text is cohesive. Because it contained the conjunctions, they are but and and then. But in third sentence is connecting the previous sentence to forward sentence. And, and then in second clause of third sentence is connecting the previous clause
to forward clause. The detail information about conjunction can be seen in appendices 54, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, and 69.

2. The lexical cohesion devices contained within Barack Obama’s speech text

Based on the data analysis, it was found that there are several lexical cohesion devices contained in Barack Obama’s speech text “Final Presidential Press Conference of Year”. They are; reiteration (repetition, synonym, superordinate, general word), and collocation.

Table 2. The Lexical Cohesion Devices Contained in Barack Obama’s Speech Text

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lexical cohesion devices</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Repetition</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synonym</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superordinate</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General word</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collocation</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Designed by researcher 2023.

a. Reiteration

1) Repetition

One of the repetition examples that contained in Barack Obama’s speech text is:

“This is the most wonderful press conference of the year. I’ve got a list of who’s been naughty and nice to call on. But let me first make a couple of quick points, and then I’ll take your questions. Typically, I use this yearend press conference to review how far we’ve come over the course of the year.” (P.1. L.1-5).

Based on the example above, the text is cohesive. Because it contained the repetition of phrase which is press conference in (P.1. L.1) is repeated in (P.1. L.4). Then the year in (P.1. L.1) is repeated in (P.1. L.5). The detail information about repetition can be seen in appendices 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, and 77.

2) Synonym

One of the synonym examples that contained in Barack Obama’s speech text is:

“As I was preparing to take a office, the unemployment rate was on its way to 10 percent.” (P.1. L.7).

“When I came into office, 44 million people were uninsured.” (P.1. L.11).

Based on the example above, shows that the unemployment in (P.1. L.7) is synonym with uninsured in (P.1. L.11). The detail information about synonym can be seen in appendices 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, and 77.

3) Superordinate

One of the superordinate examples that contained in Barack Obama’s speech text is:

“The stock market has nearly tripled. Since I signed Obamacare into law, our businesses have added more than 15 million new jobs.” (P.2. L.4-5).

Based on the example above, shows that businesses is superordinate word of stock market. The detail information about superordinate can be seen in appendices 72, 74, and 75.

4) General word

One of the general word examples that contained in Barack Obama’s speech text is:

“When I came into office, 44 million people were uninsured. Today, we’ve covered more than 20 million of them. For the first time in our history, more than 90 percent of Americans are insured.” (P.1. L.11-12).

Based on the example above, shows that people is general word of Americans. The detail information about general word can be seen in appendix 71.
b. Collocation

One of the collocation examples that contained in Barack Obama’s speech text is:

“We’ve seen the longest streak of job growth on record, and wages have grown faster over the past few years than any time in the past 40.” (P.. L.8-10).

Based on the example above, shows that growth have a same context to grown. Then, record have a same context with wages. The detail information about collocation can be seen in appendices 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, and 77.

3. The Coherence Devices

Based on the data analysis, it was found that there are several coherence devices contained in Barack Obama’s speech text “Final Presidential Press Conference of Year”. They are; repeat key nouns, consistent pronouns, transition signals and logical order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coherence devices</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Key nouns</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consistent pronouns</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition signals</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Repeat key nouns

One of the repeat key nouns examples that contained in Barack Obama’s speech text is:

“even as the United Stated continues to be the world’s largest donor of humanitarian aid to the Syrian people. .... That’s wahat the Unites States is going to continue to push for, ....” (P.52. L.19-23).

Based on the example above, the the Unites States in (P.53. L.19) is repeated in line L.23. The detail information about repetition key nouns can be seen in appendices 78,79, 80, 81, 82, and 83.

b. Consistent pronouns

One of the consistent pronoun examples that contained in Barack Obama’s speech text is:

Pronoun I in L1 is used consistently in the next sentence. (line 3,4,5,7,11, and so on). The detail information about consistent pronouns can be seen in appendices 78, 79, 80, and 82.

c. Transition signals

One of the transition signal examples that contained in Barack Obama’s speech text is:

“Typically, I use this yearend press conference to review how far we’ve come over the course of the year.” ( P. 50. L.4)

Based on the sentence above, shows that transition signal, It is typically in line 4. Typically refers to the next sentences which related with the previous sentences. The detail information about transition signal can be seen in appendices 78, 89, 80, 81, 82, and 83.

d. Logical order

The text of Barack Obama’s speech is organized some discussion. He started from introduction of main discussion about press conference of the year (P.50. L.1-6.). Then, it continued about the unemployment rate (P.50. L. 7-10.). Furthermore, he continued about the the biggest day ever for HealthCare.gov. (P.51. L.12.).

Related with the biggest day ever for HealthCare.gov, he continued to discuss about the dependence on foreign oil. (P.51. L.1.). Foreign oil is one of America’s bussinesses which can be increase the America’s economy. Furthemore, he continued to discuss about the poverty rate. (P.51. L.8.). Then, He told the protection investments that grow the midlle class. (P.51. L.11.). The next discussion is he told about the war where
the on foreign terrorist organizations has successfully executed an attack on America’s homeland. (P.51. L.13-17.). after that, he discussed about the power of America. (P.51. L.18-23.). Then, he gives the thank expressions to the American people for the hard work. (P.51. L.25-28.). Furthermore, he continued to discuss about the difficulties of people although exist the progressions of America country. (P.51. L.29 – P.52. L.4.).

With the progression of America, he told about the conflict and the disputes, and his difficulties that he had faced as president. (P.52. L.5-9.). Then, he discussed about what the America pushes is. (P.52. L.17-24.). After that, he told about the action of Russia to block the security council and to improve the delivery of humanitarian aid. (P.52. L.25-31.). And then, he continued to discuss about the Americans’ incredible blessings and he told about the involvement of American in bearing burdens. (P.53. L.5-8.). and the last discussion is, he told about the American’s values and ideals. Finally, the closing expression.

Cohesion and coherence are the parts that can not be separated which their existance in discourse is very necessary. Both of them make the elements within a text as well as speech links and hangs together grammatically and semantically, so the text or speech itself makes the reader or listener can be understand. According to Halliday & Hasan (1976:5) cohesion is part of sistem of language. The potential of cohesion lies in systematic recources of reference, ellipsis and so on that built into the language itself. Furthermore, Halliday & Hasan (1976:6) divided cohesion into grammatical and lexical cohesion. Based on the finding, the speech of Barack Obama’s speech text “Final Presidential Press Conference of Year” contained the grammatical cohesion devices. They are; reference (34), subtitution (1), ellipsis (12), and conjuction (60). And then, it contained the lexical cohesion devices. They are; reiteration (47), and collocation (11).

Furthermore, the speech text of Barack Obama “Final Presidential Press Conference of Year” contained the coherence. The term coherence is to create the elements within a text hang together. According to Oshima and Hogue (2006:21) the Latin verb cohere means “hold together”. It means that the sentences must hold together, that is the movement from one sentence to the next must be logical and smooth, there must be no sudden jumps and each sentence should flow smoothly into the next one. Oshima & Hasan (2006:22) state that there are four ways to achieve coherence. They are; repeat key nouns, use consistent pronoun, use transition signals and arrange your ideas in logical order. Based on the finding, the coherence devices that contained in barack speech text “Final Presidential Press Conference of Year” are repeat key nouns (9), use consistent pronouns (5), transition signals (53). And the ideas in the speech text are arranged in logical order.

So, the cohesion devices that contained in Barack Obama speech text “Final Presidential Press Conference of Year” is dominant in grammatical cohesion. And the grammatical cohesion devices are used dominantly in the speech text is conjuction. And then, the coherence devices are used dominantly in the speech text is transition signal.

D. Closing

Based on the data analysis the cohesion and coherence devices that the
researcher found in Barack Obama’s speech text “Final Presidential Press Conference of year” were: grammatical cohesion devices are; reference (44), substitution (1), ellipsis (12), and conjunction(60), lexical cohesion devices are; reiteration (repetition (29), synonym (11), superordinate (5) and general word (4)) and collocation (11), and coherence includes key nouns (9), consistent pronoun (5), transition signals (53), and logical order in the text is arranged logically and the text hangs together semantically.

So, the cohesion devices that contained in Barack Obama speech text “Final Presidential Press Conference of Year” is dominant in grammatical cohesion. And the grammatical cohesion devices are used dominantly in the speech text is conjunction. And then, the coherence devices are used dominantly in the speech text is transition signal.

Based on the data were found by researcher, it could be concluded that the grammatical cohesion devices cohesion that contained in Barack Obama’s speech text “Final Presidential Press Conference of Year” are; reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction. And, the lexical cohesion devices that contained are reiterations (repetition, synonym, superordinate, and general word), collocation. Meanwhile, the coherence the text of Barack Obama’s speech “Final Presidential Press Conference of Year” is coherent. Because, it contained the parts of coherence achievement. They are; repeat key nouns, consistent pronoun, transition signals, and the ideas which arranged logically.

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