

# A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF LEXICAL COHESION IN JOE BIDEN'S SPEECH TO UNITED STATES CONGRESS ON 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021

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## Abstract.

The goal of this study is to determine the types and function of lexical cohesion underlying President Joe Biden's address and figure out the significance of them as evidenced in the most prominent lexical cohesion in Joe Biden's Speech. Data collection method used documentation by; 1) Searching the speech transcripts from Joe Biden's address on the internet, specifically from reputable media organizations, 2.) Copying the manuscript to Microsoft Word from the website. The data is analyzed by the researcher in several steps; The first step for the writer is to collect and analyze all the data necessary to fulfill the requirements. Second, the writer understands the role of lexical cohesion after classifying the various forms of lexical cohesion. Then, the writers compute the total of all values entered into the table. Finally, the author completes the data/validation and finds the dominant lexical cohesion found in the text of Joe Biden's speech. The results revealed that repetition found 84 times of occurrences, 35 times of Synonym and near-synonym, antonym revealed 15 times with the percentage of it 8%. Superordinate occurred 41 times, general words have 10% in percentage. 5 Collocation found in a Joe Biden's speech. The function of cohesion is to connect one section of a text to another section of the same text. the most commonly employed lexical cohesion is repetition. The researcher suggests that for contribution in English teaching, it give the reader an idea of applying the lexical cohesion in conveying the message especially throughout the speech.

**Keywords:** Discourse analysis, lexical cohesion, speech.

## 1. Introduction

Humans require an instrument or symbol for communication, which is known as language. Language is a source of life power as well as a means for humans to communicate with one another. Linguistics is a discipline of language research that seeks a greater understanding of language. Natural language utterances are therefore inextricably linked to a context component (Marlinda & Susanto, 2022). Language is a source of life power as well as a means for humans to communicate with one another. In the case of speaking, everyone uses a language as a bridge to make contact with others. The speaker's or utterance companion's speech has a definite meaning and goal (Iskandarsyah, 2021).

Speech represents one of the communication abilities that has the ability to affect others, and it has the potential to have a direct impact on the audience constituted by prominent personalities, who play an important role in mainstream culture. Similarly, this research investigates how the

language structure is particularly lexical in the sense of Joe Biden's address to the general assembly, in which he delivered his speech. The argument for examining this speech is because Joe Biden is a person of power not only in his native country, but also worldwide, and it is critical to investigate his speech on the basis of linguistic structure. It implies that human action plainly demands the establishment of language, such as political discourse, which has a substantial influence on the linguistic framework of how it expresses and transmits meaning to listeners. Discourse is the greatest unit of language at the sentence or phrase level, whether spoken or written (Tarigan, 2009: 27)

Thus, research into political discourse must investigate not only the linguistic, as well as the sociocultural, psychological, and ideological factors influencing how political actors convey social meanings and make rhetorical and linguistic choices in order to legitimize their ideological views and guide the audience towards a discourse understanding that suits their communication objectives. When communicating, people should emphasize comprehension. At least two variables impact the language: cohesiveness and coherence. According to Halliday & Hasan in (Ahmad, 2016), cohesion happens when certain aspects of the discourse are interpreted in the same way. Meanwhile, coherence is a semantic quality of speech generated by how each relative sentence is interpreted to the others. Cohesion is a concept that refers to the internal meaning relationship that defines the text. It is obviously an important feature of political discourse, as political figures must consider to what circumstances the potential audience discourse perception will agree with the one intended by them. Furthermore, establishing cohesion in political speech is directly tied to persuasion, that is, convincing others to embrace the speaker's point of view. Cohesion is a term that refers to the relationship of meaning that occurs inside and characterizes the text. Furthermore, Halliday & Hasan in (Ahmad, 2016) define cohesion happens when certain aspects of the discourse are interpreted in the same way. Meanwhile, coherence is a semantic quality of speech generated by how each relative sentence is interpreted to the others. The cohesive text is meaningful, consistent, and evocative. As a result, a discourse becomes coherent due to its cohesiveness.

The subject of this investigation is Joe Biden's speech on 28 April 2021 to the United Nations General Assembly, which was obtained via YouTube, the platform includes political information, such as a video of Joe Biden's full-text address to the United States Congress in April 2021. It connects to the linguistic factor since numerous terms include a degree of lexical consistency. Additionally, it displays manners from the widely known individual applying the linguistic characteristics of their discourse and how his expressions require lexical cohesiveness, which may impact the listener. A Joe Biden covers the United States' position against the majority of nations, the 100<sup>th</sup> days of difficulties and how the problems solved, such as pandemic, vaccination, and other topics in his speech. The address also discusses the significance of the United States of America's relationship with other countries. It demonstrated how powerful the American was.

The reason for selecting lexical cohesiveness is that it can aid in linguistic evaluation of speech coherence. The linguistic element has been detected in Joe Biden's speech to the United Nations, since some words possess a type of lexical coherence. It also shows how a well-known individual employs linguistic characteristics of his speech and how the phrase itself, which requires lexical cohesiveness, may impact the listener. Furthermore, Joe Biden is the current President of the United States and he is one of the most important persons in the world, and therefore his perspective of what it meant produces pro-andcontra-views throughout the world.

## 2. Literature Review

Discourse can be defined in a variety of ways according to many ideas. To begin, Crystal (1992: 25) cited in (Mebarki, 2018) defines discourse as a continual stretch of particularly speaking language that is longer than a sentence. They often contain coherent units such as sermons, arguments, jokes, or stories. In brief, discourse is a meaningful unit of spoken and written language and has a section (cohesion), integration (coherent), and meaning. According to the definition, discourse uses vocabulary, which may take the form of a part of sentences or a sequence of speech. Discourse is composed of a succession of sentences or phrases according to specific standards, most notably the notion of 16 integrity (unity) and cohesion (coherent). Furthermore, a comprehensive discourse includes supporting themes/topics. At the same time, cohesive discourse consistently contains sentences that demonstrate the idea (Mills, 1997: 1-8) taken from thesis by (Donal, 2014). According to the theories mentioned above, discourse is similar to a "puzzle" with many little parts. The little components are referred to as sentences containing the concept. Therefore, structure, coherence, and continuity between sentences must be adequate for the discourse to be effective. Discourse is connected to a wide variety of fields. The primary objective of discourse analysis is to discover how individuals construct language, even spoken or written. Thus, discourse analysis examines written and spoken forms. As a result, discourse analysis examines how language is utilized in social contexts, particularly the interaction between speakers (Stubbs, 1984: 1) cited in (Kamalu & Osisanwo, 2015). It is guided by specific principles, including those of integrity (unity) and cohesion (coherence) and the topic's central notion.

According to (Halliday & Hasan, 1976), "cohesion is a semantic concept; it refers to the meaning connections inside a text". Halliday and Hasan offer this concept in their book *Cohesion in English*. Cohesion exists when the explanation of one element of speech depends on the understanding of another. In the sense that it cannot be successfully deciphered without reliance, implying the other. When this happens, a cohesive connection is established and the two elements, premise and assumption, can be integrated into the text. Additionally, Halliday and Hasan suggest that cohesion is an essential component of language. The possibility of cohesion is dependent on the system resources of reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction, all of which are included in the language. Based on Halliday and Hasan (1976: 5) quoted in (Alyousef, 2021), the text's structure is determined by the connections between its constituents, such as semantic and grammatical connections, which they refer to as coherent. Regarding cohesion, Widdowson asserts that the identification of relationships between the verb and preceding noun phrase is linguistically indicated. It refers to a text's cohesion (Widdowson, 2007: 45). (Halliday & Hasan, 1976) differentiate cohesion into two types: grammatical cohesion and 19 lexical cohesion. Grammatical cohesion refers to the arrangement of sentences based on their grammatical characteristics. At the same time, lexical cohesion refers to the assembly of sentences created by verbal components.

According to (Halliday & Hasan, 1976: 274), lexical cohesion is the cohesive devices that effected by the selection word of choice. Moreover Halliday & Hasan, explain that lexical cohesion arises through the selection of words or 20 items that previously have been related in an existing way. Same with Halliday and Hasan theory, (Nunan, 1993: 28) when two words in a text are related semantically in some way, especially in terms of meaning, it is called lexical cohesion. Lexical cohesion refers to the unity of the text that can be felt by the reader which achieved by the author's use of various words with related meanings. Furthermore, (Halliday & Hasan, 1976: 288) divide lexical cohesion into two types, namely reiteration and collocation.

Then they also divide reiteration into five forms, namely repetition, synonym/near-synonym, anonym, superordinate, and general words.

Reiteration is type of lexical cohesion that demands lexical items at one scale, the use of common terms to refer back to lexical items at the other end of the scales, and various things in between such as synonyms, antonyms, or superordinate. Journal (Chibueze, 2020) emphasizes the statement from Halliday and Hasan (1976) that repetition is simply repeated words or phrases that are threaded throughout the text. According to George Yule (2010: 117), Synonymy is "two or more concepts that have a very close semantic link." In sentences, they are often, but not always, interchangeable." Near-Synonym also is a relationship between two words that are not identical. However, the two terms have a similar or the same meaning. Lyons explained antonyms are called semantic opposites (rather than semantic identity). On the other hand, according to the Cambridge Advanced Learner Dictionary, "an antonym is a word or phrase whose meaning is the opposite of another word or phrase. Yule (2010: 118) states that "hyponymy or superordinate happens when one's meaning is incorporated into the meaning of another." Thus, some aspects are considered hyponyms when they give a more clear or more extensive explanation for the previous item's meaning. The general word applies to an item with a specific classification related to another item with a broader meaning. This activity acts as a replacement for something previously defined. Collocation is one sort of lexical cohesion that is the most problematic element. The writer can discover the consequences of a coherent expression by collocation. Based on (Halliday & Hasan, 1976: 285) statement cited in (Ahmad, 2016), collocation involves lexical things that are associated or have connections to one another along with other lexical items but still in the same meaning so they have a text function. Unlike the binding lexical device described above, a collocation is a lexical binding of relations bound to the text; certain things tend to appear in the same semantic context.

Speech is an activity that is often conducted by a person who provides speeches and comments regarding a significant event or occurrence worthy of attention, utilizing public speaking activities, clear words, and at certain times. There are various sorts of speech, including educational "speeches, persuasive speeches, and memorable event speeches (Teig, 2011: 2). In addition to entertaining and informing the audience, speeches serve a variety of purposes. The next goal of public speaking is to give an impact on the audience. People who give speeches express concepts in a manner that influences the audience. Another objective is to amuse the audience. In addition to these two goals, speeches might also attempt to make others happy and content with the information presented by the speaker. However, the objective of a speech relies on the speaker's message.

### **3. Method**

The author employs descriptive qualitative methods in this study since the data to be collected are represented in the form of a word description rather than figures or tables with statistical measurements. A descriptive qualitative study approach is when the subject of the study is described or depicted using facts as they appear or as they are (Harjanto, Wijaya, & Kaestri, 2020). Qualitative research will seek and gather natural data by straying from reality and replicating what is known as *proktayal*, or all of the data pieces it picks up (Manab, 2015). The writer uses this technique to present the discussions and results from the Discourse Analysis, which focuses on lexical cohesion analysis. Next, the writer investigates an issue involving the function of lexical cohesion, which is then developed into a study to arrive at findings conclusions by the initial purpose. The data source of this study is sentences taken from the

script of Joe Biden's speech at the United States Congress on 28th April 2021. The scripts from the speech sources are taken from a The White House website. The speech script duration lasts one hour and five minutes published by the CNN youtube channel. The writer chose this speech transcript because the writer already knows how to identify the lexical cohesion in this transcript. Documentation was used to gather data when it was collected. It indicates that the researcher took some actions; 1) Searching the speech transcripts from Joe Biden's address on 28th April 2021 on the internet, specifically from reputable media organizations, 2.) The writer copying the manuscript to Microsoft Word from the website. The data is analyzed by the researcher in several steps; The first step for the writer is to collect and analyze all the data necessary to fulfill the requirements. Second, the writer understands the role of lexical cohesion after classifying the various forms of lexical cohesion. Then, the writers compute the total of all values entered into the table. Finally, the author completes the data/validation and finds the dominant lexical cohesion found in the text of Joe Biden's speech.

#### 4. Finding and Discussion

There are three findings within this study to answer the problems towards the lexical cohesion of Joe Biden's address; To analyze the type of lexical cohesions used in the text of Joe Biden's speech in Congress on 28 April 2021. To describe the dominant lexical cohesions used in the text of Joe Biden's speech and to reveal the functions of lexical cohesions used in Joe Biden's speech in Congress on 28 April 2021. The data belows show the writers managed to find two forms of lexical cohesion; repetition which consist of synonymy and near-synonym, antonym, superordinate, general words, and collocation. Each type of lexical cohesion above explained through several samples.

#### The Types of Lexical cohesions Used in The Text of Joe Biden's Speech in Congress on 28 April 2021.

The data is then examined for the Degree of Cohesiveness using Halliday and Hasan's lexical cohesion theory. Both categories are used to assess the coherence of the spoken text. Finally, the data is reviewed paragraph by paragraph in process analysis. The data is described in the following table for a better understanding:

*Table 1: Types of Lexical Cohesion*

<b>Reiteration</b>	<b>Frequency of Occurrence</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Repetition	84	43%
Synonym - Near-Synonym	35	18%
Antonymy	15	8%
Superordinate	41	21%
General Words	19	10%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Collocation</b>	<b>Frequency of Occurrence</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Adjective and Nouns	45	32%
Nouns and Verbs	0	0
Nouns and Nouns	42	30%
Verbs and Adverbs	7	5%
Adjective and Adverbs	4	3%
Verbs and Nouns	41	29%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>100%</b>

The lexical cohesiveness shows in Table 1, indicating that the most common kind of lexical cohesion discovered was repetition, with data comprising just over 43% of the total data, followed by collocation of adjective and noun as the second biggest at precisely 32%. In comparison, the total of superordinate and collocation of verb and noun was exactly 29%, and

there was just 4 percent difference between antonymy and general words. Also, the collocation of verbs and adverbs was greater than the collocation of adjective and adverb, with the former being 7% and the latter being 4%, both of which were claimed to have the smallest lexical coherence forms in the text. Synonymy and Near-Synonym is the next lexical cohesive mechanism of reiteration used in the discourse. There are 35 examples of equivalent occurrences. Furthermore, collocation of nouns and verbs have not been observed in the speech delivered.

In term of Reiteration, a tie of repetition found 84 times of occurrences, the percentages of it was 43 %, 35 times of Synonym and near-synonym with the percentages of 18 %. In addition, antonym revealed 15 times with the percentage of it 8%. Superordinate occurred 41 times and general words have 10% in percentage. In term of Collocation, there are 5 Collocation found in a Joe Biden's speech; Collocation of adjective-noun (32%), noun-verb (0%), noun-noun (30%), verb-adverb (5%), adjective-adverb (3%), and verb-noun (29%). According to Asif, (2020) the most common type of lexical cohesiveness technique utilized in speech is repetition.

The novelty of this study result is that the most lexical cohesion utilized in expression was repetition, which might greatly reinforce the argument expressed. Furthermore, Repetition is essential in political speeches to make the listener more attentive of what the speaker has to say. In the case of Biden's speech, he sought to express his thanks for the role of stakeholder while also emphasizing how great his proposal was, and both gestures were intended to present a positive picture of the president.

### **The Functions of Lexical Cohesions Used in Joe Biden's Speech in Congress on 28 April 2021**

Cohesion is the link between one piece of a text and another section of the same text. In other words, coherence acts as a link that connects one sentence to the next. The purpose of repeating that term is to stress that it is vital to the president, therefore he repeats his sentences through repetition. This emphasis is intended to remind the audience that the most important thing to do in that forum is to talk and, more importantly, to listen, as indicated by the president in the next remark. Furthermore, the purpose is to instill in the audience the importance of paying close attention to what the speaker said. That's why the president repeated the term. On the other hand, the use repetition as a tool to obtain and stress many points. The first is to fascinate the audience's attention, the second is to instill strong belief in the people's minds that Joe Biden is the right person to lead the United States, the third is to remind the people of what they have done previously as President, and the fourth is to provide proof about the country's problems and the solutions that they have devised for the problems.

The synonym and near-synonym are employed to achieve a number of goals. It is used to explain and emphasize what the speaker has previously remarked or stated, to emphasize a statement, to give the listener with a clear understanding of something noteworthy, and to accentuate the essential point of a statement. The antonym terms revealed clearly demonstrate that those two words have diametrically opposed meanings. The purpose is to make the text more coherent and to persuade the listener of something. The usage of superordinate in of the speakers' statements indicates an effort by the candidate to clarify anything by stating the particular term after mentioning the superordinate word. Each term that relates to the superior has a solid semantic relationship and continuity. There are general words in Joe Biden's speech that serve to generalize messages that can reach the wider community by including explanations of sentences in general.

The utterances also show collocation as the last kind of lexical cohesiveness. All of the collocation terms used in the speeches are meant to demonstrate the collocative relationship between each word in the speeches' content. In other words, this component represents the coherence of the utterances. Although the collocation is not used frequently in the speeches, it is utilized correctly in the appropriate context. As a result, they are easily comprehended by the audience or listener.

Repetition is one of several forms of lexical cohesion that appear often in the text of this political speech, representing for over 43% of the total. The majority of the paragraphs in the Joe Biden's speech show this form of lexical cohesion. For example, the recurrence of the words "thank you" contained in the speech text in data that is tallied as a speech beginning that serves as a form of gratitude for success or as a form of appreciation to members of the party cabinet. Conservative in attendance at the time. Second, the term "thank you" appears in the opening paragraph, serving as a gesture of gratitude and as a closure or respect in a speech, as is common.

The writer examines how cohesion markers are employed in the spoken text and the degree of coherence. The use of the term "everyone," particularly for men and women. The speaker chooses to emphasize men and women because they are the primary audience for this speech. The word "everyone" has function as objects of speech. The word "Let us" repeated several times with the function of highlighting the ambition of the president to reach the variety of new hope. According to several results, this subsection develops for a variety of reasons.

The lexical cohesive devices could really support the cohesiveness of the text by performing some features, such as maintaining the cohesive relationship among sentences in the text in order to keep related to each other significantly, emphasizing the pronouncement that the speaker considers important in order to ensure that the message of that statement is conveyed well to the audience, and varying in word choice to avoid using the same word repetitively. Ali, (2020) explained that the data analysis shows that the speeches contain lexical devices that are used in a variety of ways for a range of goals and intentions. Furthermore, it serves to assist all readers in comprehending the meaning or message of the text overall.

The uniqueness according to the research, the lexical cohesive devices are all used correctly in the text, preserving the text's integrity and cohesion. If the text is coherent, the listener will find it easy to understand.

1.

2.

3. **The Dominant Lexical Cohesions Found in The Text of Joe Biden's Speech in Congress on 28 April 2021**

According to the lexical cohesion table above, the most commonly employed lexical cohesion is repetition. Each paragraph must have a repetition. Repetition has a higher proportion than the other cohesiveness devices. The percentage of references is almost 50%. In reality, the reference rate exceeds 43%. Furthermore, repetition is commonly utilized for lexical cohesiveness. In cohesion, repetition is a component of reiteration devices.

Repetition has ranked top in the proportion of lexical coherence used in Joe Biden's political speech. When compared to other forms of lexical coherence, repetition always has a high number. This is also known as linguistic rhetoric, which is widely utilized by politicians in political speeches. The investigation demonstrated how Joe Biden and other politicians purposefully used repetition to persuade the American people of their political intentions. The

president uses their goals to get support from their surroundings. These political methods include employing passionate and hopeful language in addition to asking for unity. As the goal of a political speech, these methods have made it more convincing.

The equation is the discovered lexical kind of cohesion, and it works well in real data "repetition." Based on their political background, they employed this style of language in their political speeches to attain a political purpose. It has been discovered that politicians make purposeful efforts to manipulate the emotions of their audience.

The novelty of this study result is that in summary, repetition asserts meaning, reinforces the message, and adds aesthetic value to their speech. Repetition is commonly utilized to emphasize a point in a document or speech (Enyi, 2015). However, earlier studies claimed that lexical cohesiveness is a technique to discover the beauty of language. It makes use of lexical cohesiveness to comprehend the meaning of text used by politicians, particularly by defining its role in relation to the speaker's social and political context.

## 5. Conclusion

The result of the analysis shows that there are found 194 total of reiteration and 139 total of collocation. Reiteration consist of five's element, the first was repetition which appeared 84 times, the second was superordinate which appeared 41 times, the third was synonym and near synonymy which appeared 35 times, followed by general words 19 times and the last was antonymy appeared 15 times. Meanwhile the collocation consist of six elements, the first was adjective and nouns which appeared 45 times, the second was nouns and nouns which appeared 42 times, the third was verbs and noun which appeared 41 times, followed by verbs and adverbs 7 times, adjective and adverbs 4 times, and the last was nouns and verbs appeared 0 times.

Cohesion connects one section of a text to another section of the same text. In other words, cohesion serves as a connection that connects one sentence to the following. Cohesion is concerned with how the meaning of the elements is understood. The utterances also show collocation as the last kind of lexical cohesiveness. All of the collocation terms used in the speeches are meant to demonstrate the collocative relationship between each word in the speeches' content. In other words, this component represents the coherence of the utterances.

There were six stressing words error found in the video 'A Day With A Stranger'. According to the data analysis, some of the words detected have stressing words errors, namely, recommended, honestly, success, money, vancouver and company. There were stressing words realized in the video 'A Day With A Stranger' which concluded that for nouns and adjectives that have two syllables, the emphasis is on the first syllable, while for verbs in the second syllable, stress is on the second syllable. There was found the most dominant words stress in the video 'A Day With A Stranger' is noun. From the data collection show nouns have a percentage of 51% of the 87 word stress found in the video with 44 nouns. Verb have 21% with 18 word stress. Adverb have 15% percentage with total 13 word stress, and adjective have 14% with 12 word stress found. Based on the study, the most commonly employed lexical cohesion is repetition. Repetition has a higher proportion than the other cohesiveness devices.

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