

COHESIVE DEVICES REALIZATION IN *THE JAKARTA POST* NEWS EDITORIALS: A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

Ihsan Tanama Sitio¹, Mutia Nursyafitri Nasution², Nurlela³

^{1,2,3}English Postgraduate Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Sumatera Utara
¹ihantsitio@gmail.com, ²mutia98fitri@gmail.com, ³nurlelamajrul@usu.ac.id

Abstrak

Dalam menyusun ide dan pendapat ke dalam kalimat dan paragraf melalui editorial dalam artikel berita harus diperhatikan dengan saksama. Untuk mencapai hal itu, setiap paragraf harus kohesif dan berkaitan satu sama lain dengan bermakna. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini mencoba untuk mengetahui dan meneliti elemen-elemen kohesif dan realisasinya dalam Bahasa Inggris pada tiga editorial berita dari *The Jakarta Post* yang berjudul 'Menghormati Batas', 'Kebebasan Beragama yang Berisiko', dan 'Kejujuran adalah Kebijakan Terbaik'. Analisis Konten oleh Krippendorff (2018) diterapkan sebagai metode analisis untuk menjelaskan elemen-elemen kohesif dan mendeskripsikan realisasi diskursifnya dalam editorial berita tersebut. Selain itu, teori kohesi oleh Halliday & Hasan (1976) juga diterapkan sebagai alat analisis untuk menjelaskan perangkat kohesif dalam editorial terpilih. Berdasarkan hasil temuan, diketahui bahwa hanya ada tiga jenis perangkat kohesif yang ditemukan dari ketiga tajuk rencana berita tersebut; referensi (71%), konjungsi (15%), dan kohesi leksikal (14%). Realisasi diskursif perangkat kohesif telah mengungkapkan bahwa penulis dari tiga editorial berita terpilih cukup memanfaatkan hampir semua perangkat kohesif untuk membentuk tekstur kohesif yang mengarah pada opini dan sudut pandang yang persuasif dan komprehensif.

Kata Kunci: Kohesi; Elemen-Elemen Kohesi; *The Jakarta Post*; Editorial; Analisis Wacana

Abstract

Organizing ideas and opinions into sentences and paragraphs through editorials within news articles must be paid careful attention. To achieve that, each and every paragraph needs to be cohesive and meaningfully linked to each other. Hence, this study attempts to analyze and investigate the English cohesive devices and their realization within three *The Jakarta Post* news editorials entitled *Respecting Boundaries*, *Freedom of Religion at Risk*, and *Honesty the Best Policy* in constructing cohesive sentences so as to convey argumentative and persuasive opinions to readers. Krippendorff's (2018) content analysis was applied as an analytical method to elucidate the cohesive devices and describe their discursive realization within the news editorials. Moreover, Halliday & Hasan's (1976) framework of cohesion was also applied as an analytical tool to elucidate the cohesive devices in the selected editorials. Based on the findings, it was figured out that there are only three types of cohesive devices found from the three news editorials; reference (71%), conjunction (15%), and lexical cohesion (14%). The discursive realization of the cohesive devices has revealed that the writers of the three selected news editorials adequately utilized almost all of the cohesive devices in order to constitute cohesive textures that lead to persuasive and comprehensive opinions and points of view.

Keywords: Cohesion; Cohesive Devices; *The Jakarta Post*; Editorials; Discourse Analysis



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INTRODUCTION

Despite the rapid development of various means of communication, editorials in news articles remain people's top source of information nowadays since they often feature current and intriguing information intended for reading enjoyment of the large majority of readers of all ages from all over the world, as well as a viewpoint on one or more current issues(s). Importantly, editorials are a means to convey ideas and perspective to the readers toward a certain phenomenon from a single viewpoint (Leupold, Klinger & Jarren, 2018; Singh & Singh, 2006). They also function to influence a certain audience to believe that what they have reported in the news as truth without being self-aggrandizing, didactic, biased and egocentric (El Baff et. al., 2020; Singh & Singh, 2006; Zuraiq & Alshboul, 2019). Hence, in order to serve the factual facts as persuasively as possible, the clauses and sentences presented in news editorials should be cohesive one another.

To achieve textual cohesion, it can merely be established through the utilization of cohesive devices that contribute to the unity of a text (Abdul Rahman, 2013; Halliday & Hasan, 1976; Tanskanen, 2006). Cohesive devices are the linguistic resources used to connect one part of a text to another (Dastjerdi & Samian, 2011; Halliday & Hasan, 1976). They include into the concept of cohesion, which was first proposed by Halliday & Hasan (1976), that allows a text to be analyzed in terms of its cohesiveness and provides a systematic evaluation of its patterns and texture. Cohesion exists when one interpretation of a speech element is dependent on another (Halliday & Hasan, 1976). Halliday & Hasan (1976) then assert that the actualization of cohesiveness in any discourse is dependent not only on the choosing of any choice from among the cohesive resources, but also on the presence of some additional factor that resolves the presupposition that this sets up. Therefore, Halliday & Hasan (1976) classify five major classes of cohesive devices. They are reference, substitution, elipsis, conjunction, and lexical cohesion. Each of them consists of various sub-classes and sub-subclasses.

First of all, *reference* performs the function of cohesion, which ties and organizes relations naturally between sentences and contains the particular nature of the information signaled for retrieval (Eun & Jeon, 2009; Halliday & Hasan, 1976). According to Halliday & Hasan (1976), there are three types of reference, namely personal (*I, me, my, mine, you, your, yours, we, us, our, ours, he, him, his, she, her, hers, they, them, and it*), demonstrative (*this, that, these, those, the*), and comparative (*same, other, another, identical, such, likewise, additionally, similarly, etc.*) reference.

Another type of cohesive devices is *substitution*, which is a relation in the wording rather than in the meaning since it is a replacement of one item by another (Halliday & Hasan, 1976). Halliday & Hasan (1976) also divide this type of cohesive device into three; nominal (*one/ones*), verbal (*do*), and clausal (*so, not*) substitution.

Furthermore, *Ellipsis*, in contrast to substitution, is the omission of an item within a text (Halliday & Hasan, 1976). Similar to substitution, *ellipsis* is also divided into three types; nominal (the omission of head noun), verbal (the omission of one or more verbs), and clausal (the omission which appears within clause) ellipsis.

The next type of cohesive device is *conjunction*, which is a semantic relation in which the conjunctive element indicates how the immediately previous segment of text is tied to the immediately preceding segment of text in a systematic manner (Halliday & Hasan, 1976; Taboada, 2019). Halliday & Hasan (1976) divide four types of conjunction, namely; additive (*also, likewise, moreover*), adversative (*on the other*

hand, however, conversely), causal (*consequently, therefore, as a result, for this reason*), and temporal (*next, finally, at last, then*) conjunctions.

Last but not least, *lexical cohesion*, which is referred to the semantic correlations created by certain lexical items (Halliday & Hasan, 1976). It is a cohesive effect obtained by the choice of vocabulary. According to Halliday & Hasan (1976), lexical cohesion includes synonymy (words with closely related meanings), hyponymy (a relation between the senses of lexical items that include specific words and more general ones), meronymy (any word that denotes a constitutive part or a member of something), antonymy, (words that having contrasts in meaning of, most frequently in adjectives, but also in nouns and, on occasion, verbs), and collocation (the recurrence of lexical components regularly).

Essentially, the establishment of those cohesive relations is necessarily important in the construction of a texture (Halliday & Hasan, 1976; Martin, 2005). Linguistically, the concepts of cohesion and texture are set up to account for relation in discourse analysis (Halliday & Hasan, 1976). Discourse Analysis (DA hereafter) focuses on the aspects of speech or writing that are arguably significant to the context and to the arguments being developed (Halliday & Hasan, 1976; Handford & Gee, 2013; Yule & Brown, 1986). It studies what language is used for (Handford & Gee, 2013; Sitio, 2022; Yule & Brown, 1986). Tanskanen (2006) mention that DA encompasses not only casual utterances and its environment, but also written communication between writers and readers. Many discourse analysts evaluate the broader discourse context in order to comprehend how it influences the sentence's meaning either in written or oral communication. Thus, by engaging in DA, it assists scholars in uncovering the motive behind any kind of text by enabling them to evaluate an issue from a higher perspective (Martin, 2005; Michael et al., 2013; Sitio, 2022; Tanskanen, 2006).

The issues of cohesion in news editorials and articles in either national or international news sites have been a growing interest for the last several decades worldwide (Leupold, Klinger & Jarren, 2018; Malah, Tan & Rashid, 2017; Michael et. al., 2013; Nijat, Karimi & Monib, 2022; Robert, 2019; Singh & Singh, 2006; Zuraiq & Alshboul, 2019). Scholars believe that it is necessarily essential to look at how cohesive devices might enhance editorial texts' texture in persuasively constructing the writers' viewpoints since editorials remark in news sites must be meaningful and coordinated with readers (Leupold, Klinger & Jarren, 2018; Michael et. al., 2013; Robert, 2019). Such studies as conducted by Michael et. al. (2013) revealed that the cohesion generates one type of texture through the cohesive ties that connect experiences as well as develop meaning through the language in one of the Malaysian news article. Other studies done by Malah, Tan & Rashid (2017), which focused more on lexical cohesion, figured out that the devices of lexical cohesion formed and utilized together were useful in building coherence in the selected Nigerian news editorials. Moreover, other studies done by Robert (2019) and Nijat, Karimi & Monib (2022) revealed that the cohesive devices used in the Nigerian and BBC news editorials contributed to the texts' meaning and viewpoints by binding them in an organized manner.

Similar concern has also been obtained an important place in the only prominent international news site in Indonesia, The Jakarta Post. Most of the studies such as done by Batubara, Rahila & Ridaini (2021) and Puspita, Rizkiyah & Suprijadi (2019) only focused their analysis on lexical cohesion within the Jakarta Post news editorials. Even when several studies such as done by Arifianto (2020), Demantik (2018), Desiyanti & Heriyanto (2015), and Jambak & Gurning (2014) did focus their analysis on the overall

types of cohesive devices, the results still gave little contribution to the cohesion realms, since they mostly focus on a single editorial or even only to the headlines. Therefore, importantly, the current study offers a novel finding and insight by attempting to analyze and elucidate the cohesive devices and their realization within three up-to-date *The Jakarta Post* news editorials. Hence, the current study covers the following research questions:

1. What are the cohesive devices found within *The Jakarta Post* news editorials entitled *Respecting Boundaries*, *Freedom of Religion at Risk*, and *Honesty the Best Policy*?
2. How is the discursive realization of the cohesive devices within the three news editorials in constructing the texts cohesively whilst conveying the writer's ideas and viewpoint to the readers?

RESEARCH METHOD

Design

The current study employed descriptive qualitative design with content analysis as an approach. Ary et al. (2018) assert that a qualitative research attempts to present a comprehensive picture and depth of understanding rather than a numeric analysis of data. Moreover, Krippendorff's (2018) Content Analysis was used as an analytical method since the current study focused its analysis on text description. Content Analysis is a research method that focuses on examining, characterizing, and interpreting texts (or other recorded materials) to learn about human behavior (contexts of usage) (Krippendorff, 2018). The material may be public records, textbooks, letters, films, tapes, diaries, news, reports, or other documents (Ary et al., 2018; Krippendorff, 2018). Furthermore, the current study adopted the cohesion framework by Halliday & Hasan (1976) in order to analyze and elucidate the cohesive devices and their realization within the three selected *Jakarta post* news editorials.

Data Source and Sampling

The data were 1.555 words extracted from three *The Jakarta Post* news editorials entitled as follows:

1. *Respecting Boundaries* gained from:
<https://www.thejakartapost.com/academia/2021/09/20/respecting-boundaries.html>,
2. *Freedom of Religion at Risk* gained from:
<https://www.thejakartapost.com/academia/2021/09/13/freedom-of-religion-at-risk.html>, and
3. *Honesty the Best Policy* gained from:
<https://www.thejakartapost.com/academia/2020/10/14/honesty-the-best-policy.html>

Furthermore, we use purposive sampling in selecting the research subjects. Purposive sampling involves the researchers in handpicking the cases to be included in the sample based on their assessment of their typicality and necessity (Cohen, Manion & Morrison, 2002). That is, the news editorials were selected as the research subjects because of the following justifications:

1. They are published by a leading prominent international Indonesian news site.
2. They are rooted in facts and present the reconciliation between contrary viewpoints or standpoints.
3. They present the writers' opinions in a balanced way while being mindful of the facts.

Procedures of Data Analysis

In order to answer each of the research questions, analytical procedures were necessarily and carefully conducted in order to analyze the data. To answer the first research question, a general frequency count (percentage) was carried out to determine and take into account the cohesive devices by counting and tabulating the data in Excel worksheets. Using cohesion-based coding, we first determined the cohesive devices contained in the three news editorials employing Halliday & Hasan's (1976) cohesion framework (see Table 1, Table 2, Table 3, Table 4, Table 5, and Table 6). After the frequency count was done, a discursive description and interpretation of cohesive devices realization following Halliday & Hasan's (1976) cohesion framework was carried out in order to answer the second research question. Additionally, other related frameworks such as Gutwinski (1976), Martin (2005), and Hallock (2007) were used to support the analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This part presents the results of the analysis. The results are presented in two sections. The first section is dealing with the general frequency counts (percentage) of the cohesive devices found within the three Jakarta Post news editorials which is necessary to answer the first research question. The second section is dealing with the discursive realization of each of the cohesive devices within the three Jakarta Post news editorials which is necessary to answer the second research question.

The cohesive devices found within the three Jakarta Post news editorials

In order to answer the first research question, a cohesion-based coding was necessarily carried out. The results are based on each type of the cohesive devices which are divided into the percentage of the overall cohesive devices (see Table 1), reference (see Table 2), conjunction (see Table 3), lexical cohesion (see Table 5).

To begin with, the analysis was begun with the identification of the cohesive devices found within the three news editorials. The result of the cohesive devices found within the three Jakarta Post news editorials is shown on the following table.

Table 1 The percentage of cohesive devices found within the three news editorials

Types of Cohesive Devices	Amount	Percentage
Reference	147	71%
Substitution	0	0%
Ellipsis	0	0%
Conjunction	32	15%
Lexical Cohesion	29	14%
Total	208	100%

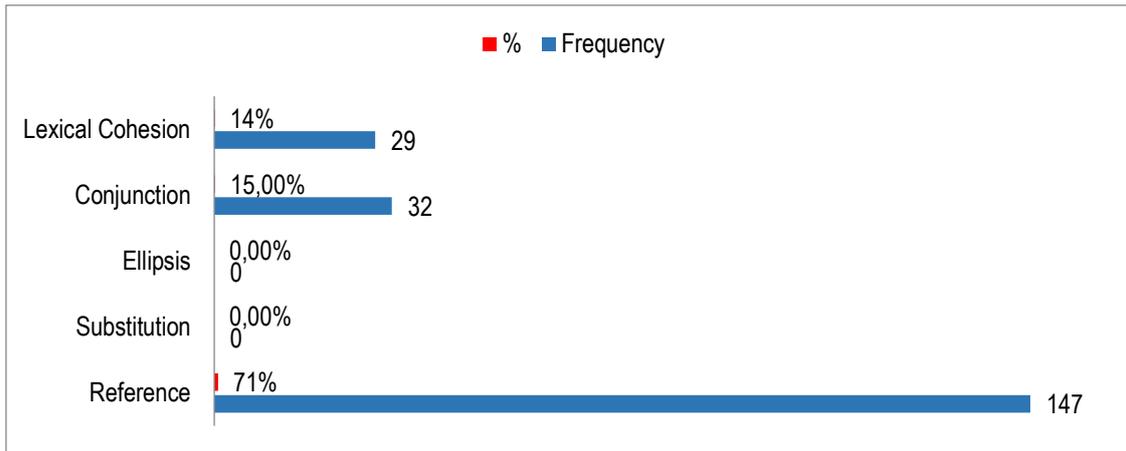


Chart 1 The percentage of cohesive devices found within the three news editorials

From both of the table and chart, it can be seen that the most dominant type of cohesive devices found is reference (71%) followed by conjunction (15%) and lexical cohesion (14%) which are only slightly different in amount. However, substitution (0%) and ellipsis (0%) were found none within the three selected news editorials.

Furthermore, the next analysis of the frequency count (percentage) was the reference. The table is divided into three; Editorial 1 refers to the *Respecting Boundaries*, Editorial 2 refers to the *Freedom of Religion at Risk*, and Editorial 3 refers to the *Honesty the Best Policy*. The results of the reference found within the three news editorials are presented in the following table.

Table 2 The distribution of reference of the selected editorials

Editorial	Types of Reference	Amount	Percentage
1	Personal	35	24%
	Demonstrative	28	19%
	Comparative	3	2%
Total		66	45%
2	Personal	19	13%
	Demonstrative	20	14%
	Comparative	3	2%
Total		42	29%
3	Personal	13	9%
	Demonstrative	19	13%
	Comparative	7	5%
Total		39	27%
Overall Total		147	100%

As seen on the above table, there are 147 references found within the three editorials overall. The percentage of each type of reference used was varied. In Editorial 1, the most dominant type of reference found is personal reference, which is 35 (24%) items found of the total amount. On the other hand, the most dominant type of reference found in Editorial 2 is demonstrative reference, which is 20 (14%) items of the total amount. Similar to Editorial 2, there were 19 (13%) demonstrative reference found in Editorial 3, which makes it the most frequent and dominant type of reference found of the total amount.

The next analysis of the frequency count (percentage) was the conjunction. Similar to the previous analysis, the table is divided into three as well, following the number of the editorials. Thus, the results of the conjunction found within the three news editorials are presented in the following table.

Table 3 The distribution of conjunctions of the three news editorials

Editorial	Types of Conjunction	Amount	Percentage
1	Additive	6	21%
	Adversative	4	14%
	Causal	2	7%
	Temporal	5	10%
Total		17	53%
2	Additive	-	0%
	Adversative	2	7%
	Causal	2	7%
	Temporal	1	3%
Total		5	17%
3	Additive	2	7%
	Adversative	1	3%
	Causal	1	3%
	Temporal	6	21%
Total		10	34%
Overall Total		32	100%

As shown in the above table, there are 32 conjunctive elements found within the three editorials overall. The percentage of each type of conjunction used was varied. In Editorial 1, the most frequent type of conjunction found is additive, in which there are 6 (21%) items found of the total amount. On the other hand, in Editorial 2, the most frequent types of conjunction found are adversative and causal, in which both of them share the same amount of 2 (7%) items. As in Editorial 3, the most frequent type of conjunction found is temporal, in which there are 6 (21%) items found.

The next analysis of the frequency count (percentage) was lexical cohesion. Similar to the previous analysis, the table is also divided into three, following the number of the editorials. Thus, the results of the lexical cohesion found within the three news editorials are presented in the following table.

Table 4 The distribution of lexical cohesive devices of the selected editorials

Editorial	Types of Lexical Cohesion	Amount	Percentage
1	Synonymy	2	7%
	Hyponymy	-	0%
	Meronymy	-	0%
	Antonymy	-	0%
	Collocation	7	24%
2	Synonymy	4	14%
	Hyponymy	-	0%
	Meronymy	1	3%
	Antonymy	3	10%
	Collocation	6	21%
3	Synonymy	-	0%

	Hyponymy	-	0%
	Meronymy	-	0%
	Antonymy	-	0%
	Collocation	6	21%
Total		29	100%

As shown in the above table, there are 29 lexical devices found within the three news editorials which include collocation (19 items), synonymy (6 items), antonymy (2 items), and meronymy (1 item) overall. It is also apparent that hyponymy was barely found from each of the editorials. It is obvious that collocation (65%) is the most frequently found lexical devices within the three news editorials, followed by synonymy (21%), antonymy (9%), and lastly, meronymy (3%).

The discursive realization of the cohesive devices within the three Jakarta Post news editorials

In order to answer the second research question, a discursive description and interpretation were carefully carried out to see how the writers' of the three selected news editorials utilize the cohesive devices in order to construct the viewpoints so as to aid the intended readers in comprehending the messages conveyed in the editorials. The explanation of the discursive realization are divided into each type of the cohesive devices found in the editorials. Moreover, due to space limitations, only several most fundamental cohesive devices realizations of the three selected editorials are presented to support the analysis.

Reference

First, reference is likely the most crucial element in the cohesive relations since it is the particular nature of the information signaled for retrieval (Halliday & Hasan, 1976). It holds the relationship between words and things in the universe of the discourse (Yule & Brown, 1986), by extension, the words that refer to things. That is, in news editorials, the existence of reference is necessarily required because each referential element denotes any 'thing' that has previously been said or will be said in the preceding or following sentence, so generating cohesiveness and construct well-structured points of view.

As reference is the most frequently used type of cohesive devices within the three selected Jakarta Post news editorials, it was analysed that the writers of the editorial present clear indications and information of the linguistic entities that refer to the same thing by utilizing the referential devices such as shown in the following excerpt from Editorial 1 (*Respecting Boundaries*):

“[...] **Indonesia** not only sought to protect **its** sovereignty and national interests, but **it** also chose to conduct a delicate balancing act in a region [...].” (The Jakarta Post, *Respecting Boundaries*).

The editorial writer uses the possessive personal reference 'its' and subjective personal reference 'it' to refer to Indonesia as the main actor in the sentence. Both pronouns bridge the points of what Indonesia protects and chooses to do, yet still make focus on the entity being discussed (Indonesia). Functionally, both referential elements perform the relationship between words and reality (Eun & Jeon, 2009; Gutwinski, 1976). Discursively, through the utilization of the referential devices in the editorials,

readers may be able to identify the newsworthy participant or entity being discussed. Hence, the editorial writers are able to persuade their intended readers to think the same way as they do. Since, editorials are meant to influence public perception, foster critical thinking, and, in certain cases, motivate people to take action upon an issue (Singh & Singh, 2006).

The utilization of such referential devices are quite abundant within the three news editorials. Not only personal reference such as *he, his, it, its, them, and their*, but also both demonstrative such as *this, that, these, and those* and comparative reference such as shown in the following excerpt from Editorial 3 (*Honesty the Best Policy*):

“[...] **a series of mass protests** have since ensued. **Some** have gone so far as resorting to acts of vandalism, but **many others** have vented their anger at the contentious law in a peaceful manner [...]” (The Jakarta Post, *Honesty the Best Policy*)

In the above sentences, it can be seen that the editorial writer uses the comparative referential elements ‘some’ and ‘many others’ referring to the entity of ‘a series of mass protests’ mentioned in the previous sentence. Simultaneously, both words function to compare two types of communities; the ones who have committed vandalism and those who have shown their displeasure with the contentious law peacefully. They seem to take over the specificity of the entity being discussed (a series of mass protests) by dividing it into two distinct things, yet actually the same (Halliday & Hasan, 1976). Discursively, the utilization of both words makes a confirmation that the mass who made protests against the contentious law is divided into two sides of the community. Meaningfully, readers will get the direct point of the issue being discussed in the editorial.

Conjunction

Conjunction is somewhat different from the other cohesive devices (Gutwinski, 1976; Halliday & Hasan, 1976). Conjunctions, as mentioned by Yule & Brown (1986), are linguistic components that links words together, phrases together, clauses together, sentences together, and paragraphs together. They are considered to be one of the most important cohesive devices, since they connect ideas between sentences and paragraphs (Arifianto, 2020; Halliday & Hasan, 1976; Mohammed, 2015).

From the frequency count (percentage) analysis, it was found out that conjunction is the second most frequently used cohesive devices after reference. It is assumed that the editorial writers are aware that the use of conjunctive elements may make their argumentative writings become persuasively more effective. Structurally, conjunctions enhance the topics and opinions presented in the news editorials by giving cohesiveness and flow to it such as in the following excerpt from Editorial 1 (*Respecting Boundaries*):

“**Up to this time**, the Navy has for the most part only talked about incursions by Chinese vessels, but **since last week**, after it became official that the US has officially entered the game [...]” (The Jakarta Post, *Respecting Boundaries*).

In the above sentence, we can notice that the editorial writer intends to discuss about a sequence of time and events by utilizing the temporal conjunctive ‘up to this time’ and ‘since last week.’ Functionally, the utilization of such temporal conjunctive elements may surely make more specific temporal ideas and time relations in the discourse (Halliday & Hasan, 1976). Therefore, readers may conceive that the newsworthy event(s) being discussed is contextualized in a sequence of time, by extension, it indicates a specific span of time. The above sentences may be temporally cohesive not because it stands in any specific time relation to the preceding sentence, but because it indicates the beginning and end of certain processes or set of processes (Halliday & Hasan, 1976; Martin, 2005).

Not only temporal conjunction contextualizes and constitutes cohesiveness within the three news editorials, but also causal conjunction which is abundantly found and construct the writers’ argumentative statement and points of view such as in the following excerpt of Editorial 2 (*Freedom of Religion at Risk*):

“We, **therefore**, support calls for the revocation of a 2008 joint decree signed by the home minister, the religious affairs minister and the attorney general [...]”. (The Jakarta Post, *Freedom of Religion at Risk*).

The causal conjunction ‘therefore’ serves the idea to the reference ‘we’, which refers to the Ahmadiyah followers mentioned in the preceding paragraph, that they support the act of revocation of a 2008 joint decree signed by both the home minister and the ministry of religious affairs in consequence of upholding the rights of religious minorities in Indonesia. Semantically, it shows how several reasons for something are summed up as a result of the issue (Yule & Brown, 1986). Halliday & Hasan (1976) says that ‘therefore’ functions to refer to a logical consequence or result. Discursively, such a causal conjunction as ‘therefore’ will make clear the logical and semantic relationship between sentences in the news editorials, which may result to the comprehension of the readers.

Besides temporal and causal types of conjunction, there are two other types of conjunction found within the three news editorials as well. Overall, all conjunctive elements of each type found within the news editorials are shown in the following table.

Table 5 The conjunctive elements found within the three news editorials

Types of Conjunction	Conjunctive Elements	Location
Additive	• Additionally	• Editorial 1 (line 10)
	• And	• Editorial 1 (line 14, 21) Editorial 2 (line 20) Editorial 3 (line 35)
	• Moreover	• Editorial 2 (line 39) Editorial 3 (line 45)
	• Similarly	• Editorial 3 (line 15)
Adversative	• But	• Editorial 1 (line 6, 30) Editorial 2 (line 6, 22) Editorial 3 (line 3, 10)
	• However	• Editorial 1 (line 42) Editorial 3 (line 32)
Causal	• In fact	• Editorial 3 (line 25)
	• Because of	• Editorial 1 (line 18)

Temporal	• So	• Editorial 1 (line 11)
	• Therefore	• Editorial 2 (line 40)
	• Thus	• Editorial 2 (line 34)
	• Then	• Editorial 3 (line 7)
	• In respect to	• Editorial 3 (line 24)
	• Up to this time	• Editorial 1 (line 13)
	• Since	• Editorial 1 (line 17)
	• Finally	• Editorial 1 (line 30)
	• Meanwhile	• Editorial 2 (line 14)
	• Then	• Editorial 2 (line 25)

Lexical Cohesion

The last type of cohesive devices found within the three news editorials is lexical cohesion. Lexical cohesion, as asserted by Halliday & Hasan (1976), is cohesive effect achieved by the selection of vocabulary. According to Taboada (2019), lexical relation may exist between two cohesive elements that are connected to one another because they belong to the same general class. Halliday & Hasan (1976) classify five types of lexical devices; synonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, antonymy, and collocation.

As analyzed, the editorial writers utilized the lexical cohesive devices quite often. One type of lexical cohesion used is synonymy, which can be seen in the following excerpt from Editorial 2 (Freedom of Religion at Risk):

“[...] the religious affairs minister has condemned **the act of religious violence**. At least 22 people have been named suspects and will face charges of collective violence and incitement to commit **criminal acts** for their role in the incident.” (The Jakarta Post, *Freedom of Religion at Risk*).

Synonymy is the semantic properties or sense relations that exist between closely related words (lexemes) (Trask, 2013). It is an essential linguistic component of the collection of logical relations that occur in a language (Yule & Brown, 1986). As seen in the above sentences, the editorial writer uses the term ‘criminal acts’ in order to refer to the previous synonymous term ‘the act of (religious) violence’. Semantically, both lexemes are synonymous in meaning since ‘criminal act’ constitutes a meaning of involving illegal activity which relating to crime, destruction, and destruction (Bufacchi, 2005; Thornborrow & Wareing, 1998; Trask, 2013), and thus, ‘the act of violence’ also constitutes the meaning of any act involving infliction, damage, and destruction (Bufacchi, 2005; Thornborrow & Wareing, 1998). Discursively, through the realization of such synonymous terms may affect readers’ comprehension of the issue(s) being discussed in the news editorials. By utilizing synonymous terms, it may assist editorial writers in making the writing more vivid and creating a more intriguing image in the readers’ mind.

As analyzed previously, the most frequently found lexical devices used is collocation (65%), followed by synonymy (21%), antonymy (9%), and lastly, meronymy (3%). Furthermore, the lexemes of each type of lexical devices can be seen in the following table.

Table 6 The lexemes of lexical items of the selected editorials

Types of Lexical Cohesion	Lexemes	Location
Synonymy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United States – Superpower Nation • Credibility – Integrity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editorial 1 (line 15-16) • Editorial 1 (line 30, 38, 45)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform Movement – Post-Order Movement • Mosque – Place of Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editorial 2 (line 1, 7) • Editorial 2 (line 11, 14)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act of Violence – Criminal Act • Faith – Belief 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editorial 2 (line 9, 20) • Editorial 2 (line 8, 13)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USS Carl Vinson, Tanker KRI Bontang, Haizhag Dizhi 10 → Vessels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editorial 1 (line 5, 8,9)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minority – Majority • Principle – Implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editorial 2 (line 4) • Editorial 2 (line 28, 31)
Antonymy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right - Wrong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editorial 2 (line 13)
Collocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depend on • Up to • Talk about • Intend to • Make clear • Stoke tension • Lead to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editorial 1 (line 2) • Editorial 1 (line 6) • Editorial 1 (line 4) • Editorial 1 (line 4, 11) • Editorial 1 (line 8) • Editorial 1 (line 29) • Editorial 2 (line 2,7, 12)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand by • Keen to • Call for • Due to • Lack of • Submit to • Was about to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editorial 2 (line 17) • Editorial 2 (line 25) • Editorial 2 (line 22) • Editorial 3 (line 4, 10) • Editorial 3 (line 14) • Editorial 3 (line 22) • Editorial 3 (line 26)

Discussion

A continuing question of interest to discourse scholars and researchers is what internal linguistic characteristics exist in any news editorial. The results of current study can answer it by stating that such characteristics are distinctive from one writer to another. Based on the analysis, it was found out that almost all types of cohesive devices are utilized by the writers of the three news editorials. However, both substitution and ellipsis are found to be absent within the three selected news editorials. Since the utilization of both substitution and ellipsis is implying a rigid division into watertight compartments (Halliday & Hasan, 1976), they are mostly found academic writings (Abdul Rahman, 2013; Leupold, Klinger & Jarren, 2018; Michael et al., 2013; Richardson, 2017). Studies such as conducted by Michael et al. (2013) and Thipwatee & Lerdpisalwong (2021) found out that both substitution and ellipsis are absent in the news editorials they analyzed.

The results of the current study has also revealed that reference is abundant and the foremost element in realizing cohesiveness in the news editorials (Abdul Rahman, 2013; Desiyanti & Heriyanto, 2015; Nijat, Karimi & Monib, 2022; Robert, 2019). It functions to reveal and make clear the precise entities and details in any news editorial (Hallock, 2007; Nijat, Karimi & Monib, 2022). Furthermore, the realization of conjunctive elements within the editorials is also crucial in bringing together ideas, building flowing complex sentences, and most importantly, contextualizing the cohesiveness within the texture (Arifianto, 2020; Gutwinski, 1976; Mohammed, 2015; Richardson, 2017; Trask, 2013).

Lastly, the discursive realization of the lexical cohesion has revealed that lexical devices help forming more valid description and elaboration of the issue(s) being discussed in each of the editorials. In line with Batubara, Rahila & Ridaini (2021), Tanskanen (2006), and Zuraiq & Alshboul (2019), the utilization of lexical devices such as synonymy, antonymy, meronymy, and collocation offers a more comprehensive, exclusive and persuasive statements in the editorials.

CONCLUSION

The current study has analysed the cohesive devices and their discursive realization within three The Jakarta Post news editorials. Through the analysis and interpretation of the cohesion-based discursive realization of the news editorials, it can be fairly stated that the three news editorials being analyzed constitute cohesive textures that lead to persuasive and comprehensive points of view. They have also adequately succeeded to bring up argumentative and meaningful opinions as well as purposively convey them to the intended readers.

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