

**Reference Cohesion in Editorial Column of *The Jakarta Post*  
by Indonesian Native Writers**

**Annisa Yusti Desiyanti<sup>1</sup>, Heriyanto<sup>2</sup>, Sutiono Mahdi<sup>3</sup>**

English Linguistics, Faculty of Humanities  
Universitas Padjadjaran  
Jl. Raya Bandung-Sumedang Km. 21  
Jatinangor-Sumedang

**Abstract:** *Reference is cohesion created when an item in one sentence refers to an item in another sentence. This research focuses on two main points: (1) What kinds of reference cohesion can be identified in Editorial column of The Jakarta Post; (2) What is the function of reference cohesion which appears in the editorial column of The Jakarta Post? The method applied in this research is descriptive qualitative. Data in this study was obtained from the official website of The Jakarta Post. The writer collects and classifies the data based on Halliday and Hasan's theory of cohesion. The results of this study, shows that in the editorial column of The Jakarta Post contained reference cohesion and every type of reference cohesion has different function based on the type of reference and based on the content of the text.*

**Key Words:** *Reference, Cohesion, Editorial Column. Newspaper*

### **Introduction**

Analysing language in use is more important to linguists. They are of the opinion that instead of looking at the formal properties of a language, the linguist should begin an investigation of what that language is used for. The language consists of elements that are arranged regularly. Language is not the number of elements collected randomly or irregularly, but the elements of the language are systematically arranged. In addition, it can also be stated that the language consists of subsystems, it means the language is not a single system. This subsystem level in linguistics known as linguistic level.

In linguistic, Stubbs (1983: 1) states that discourse is a study of the organization of language above sentence or above clause, and therefore to study larger linguistic units, such as conversational exchanges or written texts. Discourse is a hidden purpose of the investigation of the subject which put forward a statement. There are two terms that are very fundamental in discourse analysis which studies the relation among a text within the other texts. The terms are cohesion and coherence.

To make a good and intact discourse, required the ability to understand the proper use of cohesion. Otherwise, the information to be conveyed through the discourse assumed to be unclear to the readers. It is evident that the news writers use various cohesive devices to produce

an authentic and well written news article. So it is more than appropriate to investigate the cohesive devices used by the news writers.

The text in editorial column of The Jakarta Post written by Indonesian writer in English standard language. It should certainly be a coherent text in order that the reader able to understand the intention of the writer well. The text in editorial column of The Jakarta Post deserves to be studied in order to know the cohesion aspects contained therein. Besides, by knowing the grammatical aspects that is reference in this editorial text, it can help the reader understand the text content of this editorial text.

According to Halliday and Hasan (1976) cohesion refers towards how words and various parts of a text are associated by the use of devices like conjunction, reference, substitution, ellipsis and lexical cohesion. Cohesion indicates the “non-structural text-forming relations” (Halliday and Hasan 1976: 7). In this study, the researcher will focus its research on reference. Because reference is the most common cohesive device in texts.

According to the reasons which have been described, the writer decides that the research entitled “**Reference Cohesion in Editorial Column of The Jakarta Post by Indonesian Native Writers**” is worth doing.

## **Review of Literature**

### **Cohesion**

Cohesion is created by the signer in the surface text through a variety of linguistic devices. It is a reflection of the underlying coherence of the emerging text (Schiffrin, 1987). Only with such a cohesive relationship, elements in the discourse can be interpreted in accordance with the dependence with other elements. Cohesive relationship is often characterized by the presence of specific language markers (lingua formal).

Halliday and Hasan stated that “*There are five sources of cohesion can be found in English: cohesion through reference, cohesion through substitution, cohesion through ellipsis, cohesion through conjunction, and cohesion through lexical items. Of these various types of cohesive relations, the first four are grammatical, while the other is lexical.*” (Halliday and Hasan: 1989:4)

### **Grammatical Cohesion**

Grammatical cohesion is a semantic relationship between elements that marked by the grammatical tools – language tools used in those relation with grammar. Sumarlam (2003: 23-24) mentioned that parts of grammatical cohesion is as grammatical aspect. Successively grammatical aspects are described in detail as follows.

## Reference

In philosophy and semantics, Wales (1989: 396) observes that reference is concerned with the relation between words and extra-linguistic reality: what words stand for or refer to in the outside world or universe of discourse. So, the traditional semantic view of reference is one in which the relationship of reference is taken to hold between expressions in a text and entities in the world, and that of co-reference between expressions in different parts of a text (Brown & Yule, 1983: 204).

In grammar and text linguistics, reference is used in a much broader sense to mean any kind of designation, textual as well as situational. Even in semantics it is recognized that not all elements of a language refer to specific objects in the outside world, chiefly the grammatical or function words (e.g. prepositions, conjunctions, determiners and pronouns). Pronouns, however, like other classes of words, can point to something in the environment, whose semantic reference will yet change from situation to situation. In a text, the terms reference and refer are convenient to describe the function of words like pronouns and determiners to designate a noun phrase they identify within the immediate co-text (Wales, 1989: 397).

Morley (1985: 76) for his part, sees reference as the meaning relationship which links full lexical expression of an entity or circumstance with the pro-form/substitute to which it refers. Lyons cited by Brown and Yule found "The relationship between words and the which holds things is the relationship of reference: words refer to things" (1983: 28), Reference is a relation between the meaning of a word and its environment, where the environment can be the text or the real world" (Salkie, 1995:65).

Finally, Halliday and Hasan (1976: 31-32) who stress that "*Reference is the specific nature of the information that is signalled for retrieval. In the case of reference the information to be retrieved is the referential meaning, the identity of the particular thing or class of things that is being referred to;*". Accordingly, "cohesion lies in the continuity of reference, whereby the same thing enters into the discourse a second time".

From the discourse analysis's point of view, the object of reference referred by a word can be outside and within the language. Reference with the object of reference outside the text called exophoric reference, while the reference with the object reference within the text is called the endophoric reference. As stated by Halliday and Hasan (2013: 33). "As a general rule, therefore, reference items may be exophoric or endophoric; and, if endophoric, they may be anaphoric or cataphoric."

Morley stated that:

*"The various markers refer either back to something that has already been mentioned (or implied), in this case they have anaphoric reference or forward to something which is about to be said, in this case they have cataphoric reference. (Morley, 1985: 76)."*

So, based on the reference direction, endophoric reference divided into two types, that are anaphoric and cataphoric reference. Where interpretation lies outside the text, in the context of situation, the relationship is said to be an Exophoric relation which plays no part in textual cohesion. Where the interpretation lies within a text, they are called Endophoric relations and do form cohesive ties within the text. What is essential is every instance of reference whether endophoric (textual) or exophoric (situational) is that there is a presupposition that must be satisfied, the thing referred to has to be identifiable somehow. Further, a reference item is not of itself exophoric or endophoric; it is just 'phoric' it simply has the property of reference. Any given instance of reference may be either one or the other, or it may even be both at once. There are tendencies for particular items or classes of items to be used exophorically or endophorically; but the reference relation is itself neutral: it merely means 'see elsewhere'. (Beaugrande and Dressler, 1981: 63). To illustrate the dichotomy mentioned above, it seems appropriate to give Halliday and Hasan's (1989: 33) diagram:

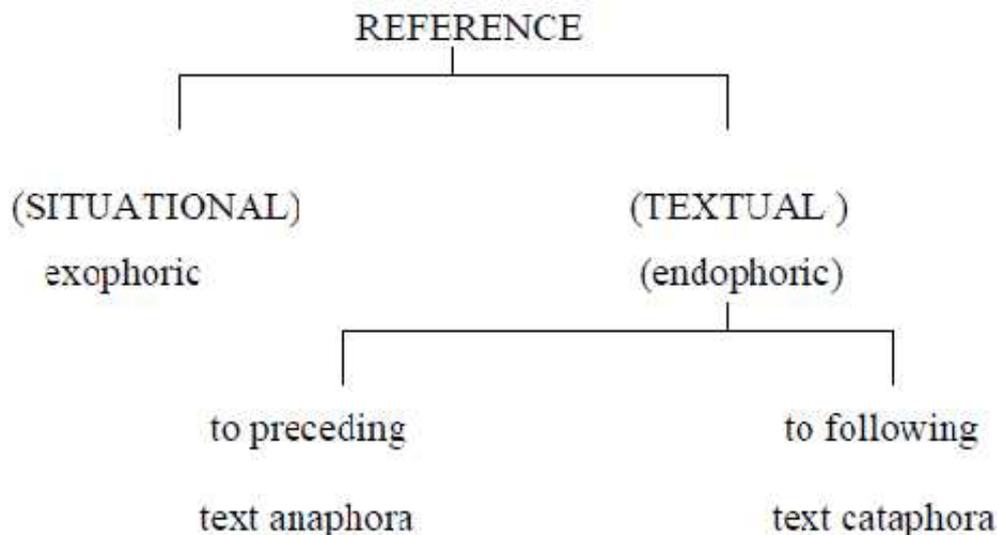


Diagram 1: Types of Reference (Halliday and Hasan, 1989: 33)

Based on Halliday and Hasan, reference divided into three types. There are three types of reference: personal, demonstrative, comparative. Personal reference is reference by means of function in the speech situation, through category of person. Demonstrative reference is reference by means of location, on a scale of proximity. Comparative reference is indirect reference by means of identity or similarity. (Halliday and Hasan, 1989: 17) Demonstrative reference relates to the reference which is referring to the place, time, deed, matter, circumstance, or the contents from the discourse. Semantically this reference sub-categorized into demonstrative selective and non-selective demonstrative. Comparative reference compares identity, similarity, and difference. Comparison contained in comparative reference includes general and particular comparison. General comparison involves the comparison of identity

(*same, equal, identical, identically*), similarity (*such, additional, likewise, similar, so, similarly*), and the difference (*other, different, else, differently, otherwise*). While the particular comparison (*more, fewer, less, further, better, so-, as-*).

## Methodology

The method applied in this research is a qualitative descriptive method since it tries to describe the real condition of a phenomenon. It means that the research is descriptive. This is in line with Denzin and Lincoln's (2005: 3) statement that "qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them".

The data of this study will be collected through note taking and observation technique. In note taking technique, the first step is to collect the data is reading closely and thoroughly the sources in order to identify and collect the reference cohesion. The next step is written down the collected data as the corpus data to be analyzed in this study. In observation technique, the researcher continuously observes the abstract thesis by keep referring to the theoretical references over reference cohesion.

After being collected, the reference cohesion will be classified according to their types and functions as proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976). Next, the classified data will be displayed as a whole. Then, the classified data will be analyzed in terms of types and functions conveyed by the reference cohesion by giving description and conclusion on each data.

## Findings

The data are analyzed based on reference cohesion. The data taken from editorial column of The Jakarta Post. The writer has collected 8 data analyzed based on two major classifications: Personal Reference and Demonstrative Reference. The data consist 3 personal reference data and 5 demonstrative reference data which are related to Reference Cohesion in Editorial Column of The Jakarta Post.

### Personal Reference

We will know this data classified as Personal Reference with the type of cohesion marker. The category of reference includes the three classes of personal pronouns, possessive determiners (usually called possessive adjectives) and possessive pronouns. This system of reference is known as *person* where 'person' is used in the special sense of 'role'; the traditionally recognized categories are *first person*, *second person*, and *third person*, interesting with the *number* category of *singular* and *plural*.

In this part, the writer has collected 3 Personal Reference data to be analyzed and to be described below:

(1) *The administration of then president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono established in 2009 a task force assigned with fighting the judicial mafia following the arrest of tax officer Gayus Tambunan, who had managed to evade the law thanks to bribes **he** paid to people responsible for upholding justice. After two years, the task force, which answered directly to the President, was dissolved although its duties were taken over by the presidential delivery unit.*

*He* is a singular personal reference shows the third person, male. *He* on the data above is the shape of the object endophoric reference which the object reference is within the text, *He* refers to *Gayus Tambunan* in the previous sentence. Personal pronoun *He* in the data is the form of the anaphoric references, which the markers of these type of reference cohesion refers either back to something that has already been mentioned (or implied).

(2) *Credit should go to the task force, whose former secretary Denny Indrayana is ironically under police investigation for corruption allegedly committed when **he** served as deputy law and human rights minister; but repeated arrests of law enforcers and judges for bribery prove that the judicial mafia continues to exist.*

*He* is a singular personal reference shows the third person, male. *He* on the data above is the shape of the object endophoric reference which the object reference is within the text, *He* refers to *Denny Indrayana* in the previous sentence. Personal pronoun *He* in the data is the form of the anaphoric references, which the markers of these type of reference cohesion refers either back to something that has already been mentioned (or implied).

(3) *Hence, the examination of candidates' integrity would be more complete if the tax audit process could also crosscheck the tax returns and asset reports against their bank accounts. Examining only the annual tax returns would not be able to capture the whole picture about the candidates' actual income because **they** could understate the tax due on their real income with fake documents*

*They* is a plural personal reference shows the third person. *They* on the data above is the shape of the object endophoric reference which the object reference is within the text, *They* refers to *The Candidates* in the previous sentence. *They* in the data is the form of the anaphoric references, which the markers of these type of reference cohesion refers either back to something that has already been mentioned (or implied).

### **Demonstrative Reference**

Demonstrative reference is essentially a form of verbal pointing. The speaker identifies the referent by locating it on a scale of proximity. Demonstrative reference refers to the place, time,

action, circumstance, or contents from the discourse. We will know this data classified as Demonstrative Reference with the type of cohesion marker.

(4) *Jakarta's magnetic force will attract the cream of the crop from all professions to come and work **here** and contribute to the city.*

On the data above, demonstrative reference used is *here*. *Here* is a demonstrative reference semantically categorized into selective demonstrative reference. *Here* on the data above refers to the place where people from all professions come to work, and based on the entire content of the text, *here* on the data above serves as a reference that refers to Indonesia, which previously mentioned, so *here* is an anaphoric reference, and because the object referred to is within the text, so *here* is a form of endophoric reference. Based on the scale of proximity, *here* that has a close relationship with the whole text content and also supports the notion that *here* on the data above refers to Jakarta.

(5) *The Jakarta Population and Civil Registration Agency has estimated that some 70,000 newcomers have streamed into **the city** since Idul Fitri. This figure represents a 3 percent increase from last year's mark of 68,500*

On the data above, demonstrative reference used is *'the'*, *'the'* is a form of neutral reference which semantically categorized into non-selective demonstrative reference. *'The'* followed by the word *'city'* serves as a reference that refers to *Jakarta* which previously mentioned. So *'the'* in the data above is categorized as an endophoric sentence because the object referred to is within the text and *the* in the data is the form of the anaphoric reference, which the markers of these type of reference cohesion refers either back to something that has already been mentioned (or implied).

(6) ***The President** was apparently not singling out the prosecutors because the AGO is only part of the country's justice system, which according to various studies is rife with corrupt practices.*

On the data above, demonstrative reference used is *'the'*, *'the'* is a form of neutral reference which semantically categorized into non-selective demonstrative reference. *The* followed by the word *President* refers to Joko Widodo as a president of Indonesia refer to the content of the text. Because the object referred by the reference is not mentioned in the text, so *the* in data above is a form of exophoric reference.

(7) ***The recent arrest of prominent lawyer Otto Cornelis Kaligis, his aide and three North Sumatra State Administrative Court judges in Medan for alleged bribery all but substantiates the long-standing perception that justice can be bought here***

Demonstrative reference used in the data above is *the* which is followed by the phrase *recent arrest of prominent lawyer*, which is used as a reference marker that refers to the name

mentioned afterwards, which refers to *Otto Cornelis Kaligis*, so here is a cataphoric reference. The object referred to in the data above is within the text, so *the* in the data above categorized as endophoric reference.

(8) *Thanks to the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), the public has seen state prosecutors, police officers, judges, court clerks and lawyers stand trial and be convicted of accepting and providing bribes — trials which in the past were rare, if not absent. When **those professionals** who deal with the law collaborate to undermine justice, they form a mafia-like mechanism that provides them not only with wealth but also protection.*

A demonstrative reference used in the data above is *those*. *Those* is plural demonstrative reference which semantically categorized into demonstrative selective reference. Based on the scale of proximity, *those* has a distant relationship related to text. '*Those*' followed by the word '*professionals*', the reference element that is used to refer to the *Prosecutors, police officers, judges, court clerks and lawyers who deal with the law collaborate to undermine justice*. The object referred to in the data above is within the text, so *the* in the data above categorized as endophoric reference.

## Conclusion

After the writer analyzed the data, the writer found the results related to Reference Cohesion in Editorial Column of The Jakarta Post by Indonesian Native Writers, as follows:

1. There are two kinds of reference cohesion can be found in Editorial Column of The Jakarta Post by Indonesian Writers. Personal reference can be seen as a reference which is refers to the person used in Editorial Column of The Jakarta Post. Demonstrative reference can be seen as a reference which is refers to a place or thing in Editorial Column of The Jakarta Post.
2. The writer conclude that from the three types of reference cohesion cited by Halliday, there are only two types of reference cohesion used in the editorial column of The Jakarta Post, that are personal and descriptive reference.

## Acknowledgement

Especially thank for my honour lecturer Heriyanto and Sutiono Mahdi.

## References

- Brown, G. Yule. 1983. *Discourse Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- De Beaugrande, R. A., & Dressler, W. U. 1981. *Introduction to text linguistics* (Vol. 1). London: Longman.

- Denzin, Norman K. & Lincoln, Yvonna S. (2005). *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Research*. United States of America: SAGE Publications, Inc.
- Halliday, M.A.K., Hasan, Ruqaiya. 1976, 1989, 1994, 2013. *Cohesion in English*. London: Longman Group Ltd.
- Morley, G. D. (1985). *An Introduction to Systemic Grammar*. London: Macmillan.
- Salkie, Raphael. (1995). *Text and Discourse Analysis*. London: Routledge
- Schiffrin, Deborah. 1987. *Discourse Markers*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Stubbs, M. 1983. *Discourse analysis: The sociolinguistic analysis of natural language (Vol. 4)*. University of Chicago Press.
- Sumarlam. 2003. *Teori dan Praktek Analisis Wacana*. Semarang: Pustaka Cakra.
- Wales, Katie (1989). *A Dictionary of Stylistics*. London: Longman.