

## THE ANALYSIS OF COHESIVE DEVICES IN THE DONALD TRUMP'S CONCESSION SPEECH TRANSCRIPTS

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### Abstrak

*Perangkat kohesif memainkan peran penting dalam penyusunan pidato yang baik. Penggunaan bahasa yang tertata dan mudah dipahami dalam menyampaikan pidato akan berdampak pada komunikasi yang berjalan dengan baik sehingga dapat menghindari kesalahpahaman antara pembicara dan pendengar. Oleh karena itu, penelitian kualitatif ini bertujuan untuk menyelidiki kemunculan, fungsi, dan pola dari tipe dominan perangkat kohesif yang digunakan dalam Pidato Kekalahan Donald Trump. Teori yang digunakan untuk melakukan penelitian ini adalah teori perangkat kohesif Halliday & Hasan. Ada 362 perangkat kohesif yang ditemukan dalam pidato Donald Trump. Referensi pribadi sebagai penggunaan terbanyak dalam pidato memiliki 181 item, sedangkan yang paling sedikit digunakan adalah elipsis dan substitusi dengan masing-masing 1 item. Terdapat 2 kohesi gramatikal dan 1 kohesi leksikal sebagai tipe dominan yang ditemukan dalam pidato, yaitu referensi pribadi yaitu 'kita' sebanyak 57 item, konjungsi aditif yaitu 'dan' sebanyak 46 item, dan repetisi sebanyak 27 item yang digunakan dalam pidato Donald Trump. Trump menggunakan pola dengan lebih banyak menggunakan 'kita' dibanding "saya" untuk menciptakan gambaran bahwa Trump juga bagian dari warga negaranya, sedangkan pola yang digunakan Trump dengan kata 'dan' adalah sebagai penghubung atas informasi tambahan yang Trump berikan, dan penggunaan beberapa repetisi oleh Trump lebih merujuk pada penekanan atas poin yang ia sampaikan.*

**Kata kunci:** *Perangkat Kohesif, Pidato, Donald Trump.*

### Abstract

Cohesive devices play an important role in forming a good speech. The use of language that is organized and easy to understand by others in delivering a speech will have an impact on communication that runs well, so it can avoid misunderstanding between speakers and listeners. Therefore, this qualitative study aimed to investigate cohesive devices' occurrence, function, and the pattern of the dominant grammatical and lexical cohesion used in the Donald Trump's Concession Speech. The theory used was cohesive devices by Halliday & Hasan. There were 362 cohesive devices found in the Donald Trump's speech. Personal reference was the most used in the speech which had 181 items, while the least was ellipsis and substitution which only contained 1 item each. There were 2 grammatical cohesion and 1 lexical as dominant types found in the speech, they are personal reference "we" which contained 57 items, additive conjunction "and" which contained 46 items, and repetition which contained 27 items used in Donald Trump's Speech. Trump used a pattern by using the word "we" more than "I" to create an image where he belongs to his people, while the pattern used by Trump by using "and" is as a connector of the additional information Trump given, and the use of some repetitions by Trump referred to emphasize on the points discussed.

**Keywords: Cohesive Devices, Speech, Donald Trump.**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Social beings need to interact to each other, they need a tool called language. Language is a main medium to share our ideas, opinion, feeling and mind. In communication case, people should pay attention to two things that affect what they try to convey, cohesion and coherence. Cohesion refers to the relation of meaning that exists in the text and defines it as the text. Halliday and Hassan (1976, p.4) state that, “Cohesion occurs where the interpretation of some elements in the discourse depends on others”. Halliday and Hassan (1976, p.23) state coherence refers to the way to relate a group of clauses or sentences to the context.

Discourse is a unit of language that is greater than a sentence or a clause. Discourse divided into two types; written discourse and spoken discourse. Both types of communication can be formal or informal. Yet spoken discourse can be performed openly in public for example, presentation or speech. Speech is defined as a communication method through talking to deliver messages to the audience. Speech has been used as an important and powerful way to influence others since long ago. There are some examples of speech such as graduation speech, leadership speech, oration, campaign speech, president official speech, or even speech of victory or defeat in the election.

In a speech, of course it has cohesive devices in it. Cohesive devices sometimes called linking words, connectors, discourse markers or transitional words. Halliday and Hassan (1976, p.6) divided the cohesive devices into two types; grammatical and lexical devices. Grammatical deals with the structure of the text. While lexical deals with connections based on the words used. Halliday and Hasan (1976, p.39) identified five types of cohesion, they are reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction, and lexical cohesion.

According to Brinton (2000, p. 10) defined linguistics as the study of language systems. Language systems here refer to four elements, those are phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics. Lyons in Syarifuddin and Hasyim (2020, p.2) stated that semantics assumed as a study of the meaning of sentences. It is a piece of general knowledge to know that a sentence built from classes of speech, such as adjective, verb, or noun. Halliday & Hassan (1976, p.14) cohesion is a semantic relation between a text and another text that is important to the interpretation of the text. Cohesion can be defined as unity, which means cohesion refers to the entity of meaning within a text or discourse.

According to Halliday and Hasan (1976, p.6), there are two broad categories of cohesion: grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion. Grammatical cohesion is the kind of cohesion that deals with grammatical aspects. Meanwhile, lexical cohesion is the kind of cohesion that deals with lexical components. Grammatical cohesion classified into four types; references, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction. Meanwhile, lexical cohesion is classified into two types; reiteration and collocation.

**a. Reference**

Maryati (2018, p.34) states that the characteristic of reference is a specific item of the information that signaled to be retrieved. There are three types of references; 1) personal reference (through the Category of person), 2) demonstrative reference (a form of verbal pointing and refer to location, on a scale of proximity), 3) comparative reference (reference by means of identity or similarity).

For example: *My mom and my dad are working. They are working in the different place.* The word ‘*they*’ refers to ‘*my mom and my dad*’. It becomes personal pronoun because ‘*they*’ refers back to the information mentioned in the previous sentence that is ‘*my mom and my dad*’.

**b. Substitution**

Halliday (2000:79) state that substitution is a replacement of one to another item. It might replace nouns, verbs, or clauses then replace the information that announced in the previously. There are three types of substitution; 1) nominal substitution (happens in the nominal or numeric terms), 2) clausal substitution (happens in the group of clause), 3) verbal substitution (happens in the verb term). For example: *I want to help you. But I cannot do it.* The word “*want to help*” substitute into “*do*”. Both of them are the terms of verb.

**c. Ellipsis**

Ellipsis is defined as a disappearance of clauses or words. It is the effectively utilization in sentences. There are three types of ellipsis; 1) nominal ellipsis (happens in the nominal or numeric terms), 2) verbal ellipsis (happens in the verb term), 3) clausal ellipsis (happens in the group of clause). For the example: *Is Tya going home? She is.* The word “*going home*” is missing because the word “*is*” already symbolizing the verbal group.

**d. Conjunction**

John Hopkins School (2010, p.132) defines that conjunction is a word connected elements of the words, phrases, clauses, or sentences. There are four types of conjunction; 1) additive conjunction (used to connect two clauses and sentences that have the same or equivalent position), 2) adversative conjunctions (a contradictory function, a clause that has the opposite meaning to the main clause), 3) causal conjunction (to explain reason and why or cause and effect, where one thing can cause another thing to happen.), 4) temporal conjunction (a conjunction that signifies time). For example: *She always listens to me whenever I come to her to talk.* The word *whenever* refers to temporal conjunction.

### e. Lexical Cohesion

Halliday and Hasan (1976, p.275) divided lexical cohesion into two; reiteration and collocation. For the example: Mia has a *kitten*. The *kitten* is very cute. The repetition of the sentences above is “*kitten*”. This example is classified into wholly repeated because “*kitten*” in the both of first and second sentences are same.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses descriptive qualitative method. This study is called descriptive because this study explains the objects that are being studied by describing or parsing them, while mentioned as qualitative because this study does not deal with numbers, but it is written words in the form of an explanation of the object being analyzed. The object of this study uses a speech delivered by Donald Trump on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, as he departed the White House for the last time and gave the last speech as a president as a form of his defeat of Joe Biden. By using this method, this study describes the types, functions and the pattern of cohesive devices found in Donald Trump’s concession speech.

In collecting the data, the first step is reading the speech text through the transcript that this study already stored, then identifying the words which are relevant to be data. Second, taking notes of the data that has been identified. Third, classifying the identified data into its types and make them as the data. The data that has been found will be organized into each type by marking it with rounding or underlining it. The last step is ensuring the validation of the data that have been obtained by matching the data in the note with the types of cohesive devices one by one.

After collecting the data, it continued by processing the data collected. First, watching the video while reading each paragraph of the speech transcript carefully to obtain the appropriate data by approaching them with Halliday and Hasan’s theory, consisting of grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion. Second, selecting the words that relate to the theory and make them bold as a marker, then put them into a table according to each type. Third, counting the number of cohesive devices in each paragraph and make a total at the end of the table.

After the data are classified, the next step is analyzing each finding into its functions by rewatching the video every once in a while, then applying the grammatical and lexical cohesion theory of Halliday and Hasan (1976). Continued to find out the dominant grammatical and lexical cohesion in the speech by counting the word mostly used, then describing the pattern used by Donald Trump in the speech.

### 3. FINDINGS

The data are taken from the speech transcript which published by www.aljazeera.com in their website. This study uses Halliday and Hasan's theory of cohesive devices to identify the types and to describe the function of grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion that used in the Donald Trump's concession speech.

#### Paragraf 7

*“We also got tax cuts, the largest tax cut and reform in the history of our country by far. I hope they don't raise your taxes. But if they do, I told you so!”*

Table 1. Types of Cohesive Devices in Paragraph 7

	Occurrences	Total of Occurrences
Grammatical Cohesion	<b>Reference</b>	
	Personal Reference	8
	Demonstrative Reference	2
	Comparative Reference	1
	<b>Total of Reference</b>	11
	<b>Substitution</b>	
	Verbal Substitution	1
	<b>Total of Substitution</b>	1
	<b>Conjunction</b>	
	Additive Conjunction	2
	Adversative Conjunction	1
	<b>Total of Conjunction</b>	3
<b>Total of Cohesive Devices in Paragraph 7</b>		15

From the table 1 above, the word ‘we’ as personal reference in the sentence ‘**We** also got tax cuts, the largest tax cut and reform in the history of our country by far.’ refers to the speaker and the audience. The word ‘our’ as personal reference in the sentence ‘We also got tax cuts, the largest tax cut and reform in the history of **our** country by far.’ refers to the speaker and the audience. The word ‘I’ as personal reference in the sentence ‘**I** hope they don't raise your taxes.’ and in the sentence ‘**I** told you so!’ refers to the speaker. The word ‘they’ as personal reference in the sentence ‘I hope **they** don't raise your taxes.’ and in the sentence ‘But if **they** do, I told you so!’ refers to the tax cuts stated in the previous sentence. The word ‘your’ as personal reference in the sentence ‘I hope they don't raise **your** taxes’ refers to audience.

The word ‘*the*’ as demonstrative reference in the sentence ‘*We also got tax cuts, **the** largest tax cut and reform in **the** history of our country by far.*’ refers to definite article to the noun that has been known by both the speaker and the audience. The word ‘*largest*’ as comparative reference of epithet particular comparison in the sentence ‘*We also got tax cuts, **the largest** tax cut and reform in the history of our country by far.*’ refers to the biggest quantity of tax in the history. The sentence ‘*I hope they **don’t raise** your taxes. **But if they do, I told you so!***’ as verbal substitution since the term of ‘*don’t raise*’ substitute into ‘*do*’ which happens in verb term. The word ‘*also*’ and the word ‘*and*’ as additive conjunction in the sentence ‘*We **also** got tax cuts, **the largest** tax cut **and** reform in the history of our country by far.*’ refers to an adding statement to the other information. The word ‘*but*’ as adversative conjunction in the sentence ‘***But if they do, I told you so!***’ refers to an expressing contrast to the previous statement.

### Paragraph 9

“*What we started had we not been hit by the pandemic, we would have had numbers that would never have been seen. Already our numbers are the best ever.*”

Table 2. Types of Cohesive Devices in Paragraph 9

		Occurrences	Total of Occurrences
		<b>Reference</b>	
Grammatical Cohesion	Personal Reference	4	
	Demonstrative Reference	2	
	Comparative Reference	1	
<b>Total of Reference</b>			7
<b>Total of Cohesive Devices in Paragraph 9</b>			7

From the table 2 above, the word ‘*we*’ as personal reference in the statement ‘*What **we** started had **we** not been hit by the pandemic, **we** would have had numbers that would never have been seen.*’ refers to the speaker and the audience. The word ‘*our*’ as personal reference in the statement ‘*Already **our** numbers are the best ever.*’ refers to the speaker and the audience.

The word ‘*the*’ as personal reference in the sentence ‘*What we started had we not been hit by **the** pandemic, we would have had numbers that would never have been seen.*’ and in the sentence ‘*Already our numbers are **the** best ever.*’ refers to definite article to the noun that has been known by both the speaker and the audience. The word ‘*best*’ in the sentence ‘*Already our numbers are the **best** ever.*’ refers to a comparative reference.

**Paragraph 15**

*“And we just got 75 million votes and that’s a record in the history of – in the history of sitting presidents. That’s an all-time record by a lot. By many millions. In the history of sitting presidents, it’s been really just an honor.”*

Table 3. Types of Cohesive Devices in Paragraph 15

	Occurrences	Total of Occurrences
Grammatical Cohesion	<b>Reference</b>	
	Personal Reference	2
	Demonstrative Reference	5
	<b>Total of Reference</b>	7
	<b>Conjunction</b>	
	Additive Conjunction	2
	Clausal Conjunction	1
	<b>Total of Conjunction</b>	3
Lexical Cohesion	<b>Reiteration</b>	
	Repetition	1
	<b>Total of Reiteration</b>	1
<b>Total of Cohesive Devices in Paragraph 15</b>		11

From the table 3 above, the word ‘we’ as personal reference in the sentence ‘*And we just got 75 million votes and that’s a record in the history of – in the history of sitting presidents.*’ refers to the speaker and the audience. The word ‘it’ as personal reference in the sentence ‘*In the history of sitting presidents, it’s been really just an honor.*’ refers to the previous sentence. The word ‘the’ and the word ‘that’ as demonstrative reference in the sentence ‘*And we just got 75 million votes and that’s a record in the history of – in the history of sitting presidents.*’, in the sentence ‘*That’s an all-time record by a lot. By many millions.*’, and in the sentence ‘*In the history of sitting presidents, it’s been really just an honor.*’ refer to definite article to the noun that has been known by both the speaker and the audience.

The word ‘and’ as additive conjunction in the sentence ‘*And we just got 75 million votes and that’s a record in the history of – in the history of sitting presidents.*’ refers to an adding statement to the other information. The words ‘by many millions’ as clausal conjunction in the sentence ‘*By many millions, in the history of sitting presidents, it’s been really just an honor.*’ refers to show cause and its relation from one to another. The sentence ‘*And we just got 75 million votes and that’s a record in the history of – in the history of sitting*

*presidents.*’ indicates a repetition. *just got 75 million votes and that’s a record in the history of – in the history of sitting presidents.*’ indicates a repetition.

Based on the findings of previous studies, the results show that the grammatical and lexical cohesion used dominantly in Donald Trump’s Concession Speech used more dominantly is grammatical cohesion which consists of references with the highest percentage of 66.8% or 242 items, conjunction with 24% percentage or 87 items, and lexical cohesion with 0.85% percentage or 31 items found in Donald Trump’s Concession Speech. The following table represents the occurrence of the dominance of cohesive devices.

Table 4. The Occurrence of the Dominance of Cohesive Devices.

<b>Grammatical Cohesion</b>		<b>Occurrence</b>
1.	Personal Reference : “we”	57
2.	Additive Conjunction : “and”	46
<b>Lexical Cohesion</b>		
1.	Repetition	27

### 1. Personal Reference : “we”

- (1) “*We have the greatest country in the world. We have the greatest economy in the world...*”
- (2) “*This has been an incredible four years. We’ve accomplished so much together.*”

As can be seen from the examples above, the context of Trump’s speech mostly deals with many compliments of their great achievements that they have done during his administration. Likewise, when expressing his pride, Trump uses the pronoun “we” more than “I” as a form of solidarity between him as a president and his people. Therefore, it can be interpreted that the “we” used by Trump is an *inclusive we* which means he connects himself or aligns himself as a team with the public audiences or other American people. In (1), Trump declared that America is the greatest country and has the greatest economy in the world. The way Trump declared it with pronoun “we” in which it is including him and his people instead of “I”, it is considered as *inclusive we* since he tried to motivate and to create solidarity with his people. In (2), “we” is used by Trump as an appreciation of what he, his administration, and his people have done over the incredible past four years. Trump stated it proudly because he had accomplished everything with his people and also had made a lot of achievements in those incredible four years.

### 2. Additive Conjunction : “and”

- (3) “*We have another one coming almost immediately, and it really is a great achievement.*”

(4) *“One of the things we’re very, very proud of is the selection of almost 300 federal judges **and** three great Supreme Court justices.”*

(5) *“**And** we just got 75 million votes **and** that’s a record in the history of – in the history of sitting presidents.”*

(6) *I wish the new administration, great luck **and** great success.*

As can be seen from the sentences above, Trump used the word “*and*” in two ways, in the middle and in the beginning of the sentence. In (3), Trump used “*and*” in the middle of sentence to express a continuous explanation of the preceding statement that is about the another one (vaccine) coming almost immediately, then he used “*and*” to affirmed the preceding statement by saying that it is a great achievement. In (4), Trump informed about the selection of the apparatus of America. In the sentence, he used “*and*” to mentioned the 300 federal judges and the three great supreme court justices as to indicate the mentioned two things are in the same context or the equal thing.

In (5), as can be seen, Trump used the “*and*” in the beginning of the sentence. The placement of conjunction “*and*” to start a sentence is grammatically improper. Nevertheless, in this case, the word “*and*” that delivered is in the form of spoken. In the context of spoken, grammar is not a serious thing since it delivered spontaneously without thinking about many rules in the language so it is considered legitimate. In the Trump’s speech, he several times used the word “*and*” as an opening sentence. The use of the word “*and*” given by Trump at the beginning of a sentence has its own pattern, such as it may be a word used to signify Trump is thinking about continuing his conversation, also, it is considered as Trump aimed to connect issues of his opinion that have a similar context, or even in a form Trump wants to add other new information that although not related to the previous thing. According to the example sentence (5) based on the transcript, Trump used “*and*” in the beginning of the sentence because he wanted to add other new information that is not related to the previous talk. In (6), the use of “*and*” is aimed to emphasize the Trump’s wish for his country that is great luck and great success which the word of “*luck*” and “*success*” have the same degree of meaning.

### 3. Repetition

(7) *So be very careful. Be very, very careful.*

(8) *And despite that, despite that, the things that we’ve done have been just incredible.*

(9) *So, have a good life. We will see you soon. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Thank you.*

In (7), it is clear that Trump has repeated the phrase “*be very careful*” to express his concern to his people of Corona Virus. He said “*be very careful*” twice to emphasize that he really worried about his people. The reason why he made this repetition because it could be analyzed from the context of his speech, he mostly talk about the pandemic that already hit America so bad, so he warned his people to be careful of that horrible thing. In (8), Trump repeated the phrase

“*despite that*”. The phrase “*despite that*” is repeated exactly the same as it appeared firstly in the sentence. In this context, Trump didn’t have any special intention to stress what did he meant but it is only natural repetition, without using any script for speech, and it is purely his own thought. Additionally, he repeated the phrase “*despite that*” to recall his memory. In (9), it is clear that Trump has repeated the phrase “thank you” to express his deepest gratitude to his people. The reason why he made this repetition because it could be analyzed from the context of the situation at that time, it is the last sentence of his last speech as a president, so he emphasized the phrase four times to make sure his gratitude is accepted by his people.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that Trump’s speech contains so many cohesive devices in it, also with its pattern used, but this study only focused on the dominant of grammatical and lexical cohesion to discussed. The pattern that used by Donald Trump in his speech, he mostly used inclusive “we” as to indicate that Donald Trump attempts to create an image where he belongs to the group of American people. He tried to show his closeness to his people although he is not the president anymore, but he expects all the best for his people.

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