



An Analysis of Lexical Cohesion on the Students Thesis at the English Teaching Department of HKBP Nommensen University

Innesti Sihombing¹, Usman Sidabutar², Sahlan Tampubolon³

^{1,2,3} University OF HKBP Nommensen, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

This study uses the type of lexical cohesion to analyze the writing of the background of study thesis. The purposes of this study are to find the type of lexical cohesion and what type of lexical is dominant in the background of the study thesis. This study was conducted using a qualitative method. The data collection method used document analysis because the data has taken from the text or document of the background of study thesis. The object of this research has the writing of the background of study thesis by students graduating in 2023. The results of this study are data on 10 background of thesis studies of students graduating in 2023. The researcher found 333 data on the use of lexical cohesion in the background of thesis of students graduating in 2023 consisting of 304 repetitions (91.6%), 3 synonyms (0.9%), 7 antonyms (2.1%), 9 hyponyms (2.7%), 10 meronyms (3.0%). From the results of the calculations above, the dominant type of lexical cohesion is repetition (91.6%).

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received

04 August 2024

Revised

20 September 2024

Accepted

26 October 2024

Keywords

Lexical Cohesion, Background of Study Thesis.

Corresponding

Author :

innesti.sihombing@student.uhn.ac.id

INTRODUCTION

In previous research (Sidabutar, 2021) with the title " An Analysis of Lexical Cohesion on the Students' Writing" These problems affect some EFL students' poor writing performance with their writing results stubborn, and difficult to take in information and grasp it the meaning of their writing, writing in English is more of a purely pedagogical role. This strengthens ongoing learning through listening, speaking, and reading skills. In writing skills, teachers often find mistakes in students' writing, for example in grammar problems. The students also have difficulty writing grammatically correct and they lack design vocabulary. The research method used is qualitative research because the results of this research identify and analyze students' lexical cohesion in narrative text. According to Creswell (2009:4) "Qualitative research is a means to explore and understand the meaning ascribed to an individual or

group for social or humanitarian issues." How it works Qualitative descriptive, namely collecting data, compiling data, and interpreting data. Qualitative research related to description. The analysis is based on data taken from students' writing from the third semester HKBP English Department Nommensen University Medan. As a result of the research all types of lexical cohesion were found in high and low level essays. Specifically, at high altitudes multilevel essays, repetition, synonymy, and hyponymy found in all five high-scoring essays; antonyms found in four high-value essays, and superordinate only found in one high-value essay; also meronymy is found in two high-value essays. Meanwhile at a low level essay, repetition, synonymy, antonymy, and hyponymy, 66 found in all five low-scoring essays; and each superordinate and meronymy are only found in one low graded essays.

In the research (N. E. P. Sari & Anindita, 2020) with the title "Lexical Cohesion Analysis On Adele's Songs Lyrics In The Album 25" In this study, the researcher has a reason for choosing lexical cohesion as the research title because the researcher wants to analyze how many types of lexical cohesion are found in Adele songs in the album "25". Then, the researcher looks for the dominant, submissive impact of the song on hearers. In the album "25", there are 11 songs that are very interesting to be analyzed. However, the researcher only took 6 songs from the album. The type of music in this album is pop and most of the songs tell a love story. Adele collaborates with other musicians to organize good music using several instruments to support the song such as; percussion, guitar, piano, drum and recorder. This type of research is qualitative descriptive research. As stated by Bogdan and Tylor in Widyaswara (2012: 31), qualitative descriptive research is a type of research that produces descriptive data in the form of written and oral words from people or observed behavior. In this study, descriptive research was used to explain the types of lexical cohesion, dominant, submissive and impact found in Adele's song lyrics. From the data above, the researcher can conclude that repetition is the most dominant of lexical type which appear in Adele's songs in the album 25. Repetition reaches 47%, meanwhile the other types are lower than that. The second dominant type is synonym or nearsynonym as much as 21%, then collocation and super ordinate reach 12%. General word is the lowest percentage as much as 8%.

(Sitepu, 2009:98) An abstract is a summary the brief indicates that abstract has similarities, but is also different from summary. Both deliver information to readers about the contents of a manuscript (book, thesis, thesis, dissertation, or paper). Viewed In terms of length or number of words, abstracts are shorter which means the information provided through the abstract less than the

summary. The aim is to provide a sufficient overview of research without reading the entire scientific work. Since the abstract is often the first section a potential reader reads, it is important to structure it carefully so that it piques interest and provides a solid understanding of the essence of the research being conducted.

This study focuses on the analysis of lexical cohesion in the theses of students of the English Language Education Study Program, HKBP Nommensen University. In this study, researcher will take 10 examples of background of study in the theses of students who graduated in 2023. This study will explore how students use lexical cohesion in their writing, as well as identify patterns of word usage that can improve cohesion and continuity in their theses. The researcher chose this title because in the previous study the researcher found one student who was less precise in using lexical cohesion. In addition, this study also aims to provide insight into the level of mastery of students' academic writing skills in the context of using lexical cohesion. This study will present an analysis of the use of lexical cohesion in the theses of students of the English Language Education Study Program, HKBP Nommensen University, and provide a better understanding of how students integrate concepts in their scientific writing through the use of lexical cohesion. This study will also highlight common patterns in the use of lexical cohesion, as well as provide recommendations to improve students' ability to write cohesive and high-quality texts.

The Problems of the study. Based on the research background above, the author formulates the research problem as follows. What types of lexical cohesion are found on the students thesis at English Teaching Department of HKBP Nommensen University? What types of lexical cohesion is dominantly used on the students thesis at English Teaching Department of HKBP Nommensen University?.

The Objective of study. To find the types of lexical cohesion used in student theses. This objective aims to categorize and describe various forms of lexical cohesion (such as repetition, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, collocation, and meronymy) that appear in the background of study theses written by students. To find the dominant lexical cohesion in students' theses. This objective seeks to analyze and identify which forms of lexical cohesion students use most frequently in their academic writing.

RESEARCH METHODE

This research used qualitative research because the data is analyzed in a way explain descriptively. Somantri, (2005:58) The aim of qualitative research is

to understand the nature and structure of reality. Thus, qualitative research in general pays great attention to process, validity, and attention to detail. This analysis needs to be carried out qualitatively, involving a small number of subjects. The presence of researcher values is explicit in limited situations.

Dwiyanto, (2021:2) In qualitative research, it is also known as a common data collection method, namely using field studies and literature studies. Literature studies (differentiated from library reviews) are carried out by analyzing written materials such as documents, transcripts, laws and certificates.

In this data, sentences that had contained lexical cohesion had been searched for in each thesis for types of lexical cohesion such as Antonyms, Synonyms, Meronyms, Hyponyms, and Repetition. The data source for this study was students of the English study program at HKBP Nommensen University who graduated in 2023 which were collected in the library. The researcher only used the English background of the English version of the thesis research. The population of the background of the thesis research written by students graduating in 2023 was 64 thesis. So researchers took ten thesis from other thesis randomly as the data from the other 64 thesis. The background of this thesis research was chosen as a sample because the researcher wanted to conduct an in-depth analysis of the lexical cohesion used by participants in their theses.

After the data were collected, the data analyzed using the following steps.

1. Mention is the sentences that contain types of lexical cohesion. Researcher analyzed the types of lexical cohesion sentence by sentence in one paragraph.
2. Classifying is the group of sentences into five types of lexical cohesion found in the background of the thesis, consisting of repetition, synonymy, hyponymy, metonymy, and antonyms.
3. Tabulating the classified data in a table.
4. Tabulating the types of lexical cohesion to answer the second question about the dominant types of lexical cohesion that occur in the thesis background of the study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The data presented includes various forms of lexical cohesion, such as repetition, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, and meronymy, which are found in the analyzed student theses.

Tabel 1.
Recapitulation of data that Containing Lexical Cohesion

No.	Clauses / Sentences	Types of lexical cohesion
1.	<p><i>Language</i> is to express everything that is in a person, both in the form of ideas or information that one has, <i>Language</i> is also use to express and introduce one's self to others in various places and situations...</p>	Repetition
	<p>Error is an instance of language that is unintentionally deviant and is not self-correctible by its author, These error will lead to the mispronunciation. For example, an Indonesian student frequently says the sound similar to the way it is said in Indonesia.</p>	
	<p>Morphology is the study of how words change Gyatmi (2017:3). Morphology is the study of word formation, including how new words are created in different languages as well as how word forms change based on how they are employed in sentences Lieber (2009:2).</p>	
	<p>The more globalized the world we live in, the more being able to speak English is needed to take parts in the world's business.</p>	
	<p>A metaphor is a particular kind of phrase or figure of speech; the word "metaphor" derives from the words "meta" and "spheres" (metaphors).</p>	
	<p>Metaphors make literary works more interesting, especially when it comes to songs, songs are fun to listen to, and they can touch the soul and emotions.</p>	

	<p>IELTS tests are a kind of english test that is designed to measure English proficiency of non-native English speakers in terms of four skills (Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking). IELTS is a written text that is collaborated with a various regulations of knowledge and insightful information that has been examined scientifically.</p>	
--	---	--

Repetition

The researcher found that there were 27 repetitions that occurred in the background of thesis study 1 written by students who graduated in 2023. The following data is in table. 2 Three examples of repetitions found in the background of thesis study 1.

Tabel 2.
Repetition in Background of study 1

No.	Code	Sentences	Repetition
1.	B1.P1.S2&S3	<p><i>Language</i> is to express everything that is in a person, both in the form of ideas or information that one has, <i>Language</i> is also use to express and introduce one's self to others in various places and situations...</p>	Language
2.	B1.P2.S3	<p>Error is an instance of language that is unintentionally deviant and is not self-correctible by its author, These error will lead to the mispronunciation. For example, an Indonesian student frequently says the sound similar to the way it is said in Indonesia.</p>	Error

3.	B1.P4.S2	According to (Yusuf et al., 2022:1-16) pronunciation is the first thing that native speakers will aware of along the conversation, they can perceive that a person is bad in english simply because they have poor pronunciation .	Pronunciation
----	----------	--	---------------

In the first example in code B1.P1.S2 & S3 lexical cohesion is shown by the repetition of the phrase "language". The word "language" in sentence 2 is repeated again in sentence 3. The repetition here is to emphasize the word "language", in addition in the second example in code B1.P2.S3 there are two repetitions of the word "error" in one sentence. the word "error" and the last example in code B1.P4.S2 there are two repetitions of the word "pronunciation" in one sentence.

Synonymy

The researcher only found one synonym in the background of thesis study 1, One examples of synonymy found in the background of thesis study 1. The data can be seen in table 3 below.

Tabel 3.
Synonymy in Background of study 1

No.	Code	Sentences	Synonym
1.	B1.P2.S1&S3	Diagnosing is the act of discovering or identifying the exact cause of an illness or a problem. According to (Supriyanto & Setiawati, 2018:22-44) diagnosing is a field of science that helps teacher to solve problems in the classroom. So it can be concluded that, diagnosis is one way to identify students carefully, regarding learning or knowledge received so far whether it can be applied or not or when students experience learning difficulties in class.	Diagnosing = Diagnosis

In the first example with the code B1.P2.S1&S3. the words "Diagnosing and diagnosis" have similar meanings. The meaning of both words is the same even though the words in the sentence are different.

Antonymy

The following type of lexical cohesion found in the background of study thesis 1 written by students graduating in the academic year of 2023 is antonyms. The researcher only found 1 antonym item that appeared in the background of study 1. The data is presented in table.4 below.

Tabel 4.

Antonymy in Background of study 1

No.	Code	Sentences	Antonymy
1.	B2.P3.S2	It means error can be happen because the learner does not know what is correct and incorrect by themself.	Correct = Incorrect

Antonyms are two or more words that have different meanings. Based on the data code B1.P3.S2, The researcher of the background of study 1 gives opposite meanings to two words by using the word in to distinguish them. Here, the word correct meaning is the antonym of the word in-correct meaning.

The researcher presents findings based on the research problems stated in Chapter One. Contains categories of lexical cohesion found in the background of study thesis and the dominant types of lexical cohesion. The data of this study were taken from the background of study thesis written by students who graduated in 2023 from the English Education Study Program, HKBP Nommensen University. The researcher analyzed the data according to 5 types of lexical cohesion, namely repetition, synonyms, antonyms, hyponymy, and meronymy.

After analyzing 10 background of study theses, researchers found 333 data on the use of lexical cohesion in the background of study thesis of students graduating in 2023 consisting of 304 repetitions (91.6%), 3 synonyms (0.9%), 7 antonyms (2.1%), 9 hyponyms (2.7%), 10 meronyms (3.0%). researchers calculated the percentage based on the formula shown in chapter 3. the types of lexical cohesion found in 10 background of study theses are repetition, synonyms, antonyms, meronyms, and hyponyms, from the calculations above, the dominant type of lexical cohesion is repetition (91.6%).

Details of the frequency of each lexical cohesion are presented in table below.

Tabel 5.
The Frequency of each Lexical Cohesion

Type of Lexical Cohesion	Frequency	% percentage
Repetition	304	91.6%
Synonymy	3	0.9%
Antonymy	7	2.1%
Meronymy	10	3.0%
Hyponymy	9	2.7%
Total	333	100%

Discussion

In this sub-chapter, the researcher describes the discussion of the results of the analysis based on the research objectives which aim to find the types of lexical cohesion and the types of lexical cohesion that are dominant in the background of the study. Based on the results of the analysis, the researcher has answered the following questions: First, the researcher discusses the types of lexical cohesion found in the background of the study of the thesis written by students graduating in 2023 from the English language education study program at HKBP Nommensen University.

Based on the results, the researcher did not find all types of lexical cohesion in each background of the study thesis, but in all 10 backgrounds of the study, the researcher found all types of lexical cohesion. Here the researcher discusses the number of types of lexical cohesion in the background of the study thesis. The first type of lexical cohesion found is repetition.

Researcher found data on repetition in the background of thesis study as much as 304 (91.6%) percentage, repetition is the most dominant type of lexical cohesion found in the background of thesis study, Here, repetition can be in the form of words or phrases. Repeated words or phrases are used to create a relationship between one sentence and another to make the writing cohesive. it can be concluded that repetition is used to strengthen or emphasize the idea of a paragraph and also helps the writer to make sentences or paragraphs cohesive. However, often the use of repetition will make the writing less effective.

The second dominant type of lexical cohesion occurs in the thesis, namely meronymy (3.0%). meronymy is used to convey ideas by showing the relationship between the meaning of parts and the whole.

Hyponymy is also used in the abstract of the thesis which has a percentage (2.7%). Hyponymy refers to something general that is related to something

specific. Hyponymy is used to provide a specific example or a specific type of a general idea.

Another type of lexical cohesion found in the abstract of the thesis is antonymy (2.1%). The researcher of the background of the study thesis applies antonymy in the sentence to distinguish two words that clearly have different meanings. The researcher wants to show the difference in characteristics possessed by the objects being compared. antonymy is very useful for expressing opposite meanings in a sentence or paragraph.

The next type of lexical cohesion that is rarely used in this thesis is synonymy (0.9%). Synonyms are two or more words that have the same meaning. Instead of repeating the exact same word, the writer uses another word, because using too much repetition can make the paragraph boring and less interesting. Synonyms are also used to create variation in terms of words in the same meaning relationship. In this case, the authors use lexical cohesion in their thesis background of study although they do not use all types in each background of study.

Related to the theory By practicing lexical cohesion, the author will also not make his writing long-winded and less effective. Compared to the two previous studies, in the first previous study, namely This study was conducted by (Pratiwi et al., 2019) with the title "Lexical Cohesion Found in Never Say Never Lyrics". The results of the study showed the use of lexical cohesion, especially synonyms, repetition (anaphora antistrophic repetition), and antonyms. The song lyrics contain eleven forms of lexical cohesion, and consist of two synonyms, seven repetitions, and two antonyms. Another study was conducted by (Batubara et al., 2021) with the title "An Analysis of Lexical Cohesion In Jakarta Post News" This study discusses lexical cohesion and the types of lexical cohesion found in the Jakarta Post news. The research focuses on cohesive devices, namely grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion.

CONCLUSION

From the results of the analysis, it can be concluded that the researcher found all types of lexical cohesion in 10 thesis study backgrounds consisting of 304 repetitions, 3 synonyms, 9 hyponyms, 7 antonyms, 10 meronyms. The most dominant type of lexical cohesion used in the thesis study background is repetition, which amounts to 304 data or 91.6%.²

Suggestion

This study aims to contribute to increasing knowledge and deeper understanding of the types of lexical cohesion, especially using it correctly to create effective and good writing. The researcher hopes that this study can be a

valuable source of information and knowledge. This study is expected to provide suggestions to the following parties:

1. For Students; Students need to deepen their understanding of the concept of lexical cohesion, including variations in its use such as synonymy, antonymy, and meronymy, so that the thesis text becomes more varied and cohesive. It is recommended that students be more careful in using excessive repetition of the same words.
2. For the English Language Education Department; Periodic training or workshops that focus on the use of lexical cohesion are expected to help students develop their ability to write cohesively and coherently theses.
3. For other Researchers; The researcher suggests using other objects such as news articles, drama scripts, journals and so on. using them as objects may give different results. It is also suggested for further researchers to expand the subject by using both cohesive devices, grammatical and lexical cohesion, and using other theories to analyze it. In addition, the results of this study are not perfect due to the limitations of the researcher's ability and analysis, so it needs to be continued or improved by subsequent researchers.

REFERENCES

- Batubara, M. H., Rahila, C. D. I., & Ridaini, R. (2021). An Analysis Lexical Cohesion In Jakarta Post News. *Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Language Teaching (JLLLT)*, 1(1), 1-7.
<https://doi.org/10.37249/jlllt.v1i1.278>
- Baugh, A. C. (1943). Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms. In *College English* (Vol. 5, Issue 1). <https://doi.org/10.2307/371392>
- Brown, P. (2000). Penelope Brown. 9, 223-226.
- Cohesion, L., & Linguistics, C. (2006). Lexical Cohesion and Corpus Linguistics. *International Journal of Corpus Linguistics*, 11(3).
<https://doi.org/10.1075/ijcl.11.3>
- Cook, G. (2001). The Discourse of Advertising. In *The Discourse of Advertising*.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203978153>
- Dwiyanto, D. (2021). Metode Kualitatif: Penerapannya Dalam Penelitian. 0, 1-7.
- Edmonds, P., & Hirst, G. (2002). Near-synonymy and lexical choice. *Computational Linguistics*, 28(2), 105-144.
<https://doi.org/10.1162/089120102760173625>
- Halliday, M. A. K., & Hasan, R. (1976). *Cohesion in English* (Original work published 1976). 1-383.
<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/9781317869603>

- Hasdiana, U. (2018). No Title. In *Analytical Biochemistry* (Vol. 11, Issue 1).
- Kirana, R. P., Mukhrizal, M., & Jayanti, F. G. (2020). Types of Lexical Cohesion and Grammatical Cohesion in Thesis Abstracts. *Jadila: Journal of Development and Innovation in Language and Literature Education*, 1(1), 57–68. <https://doi.org/10.52690/jadila.v1i1.14>
- Mahlberg, M. (2009). Lexical cohesion: Corpus linguistic theory and its application English in language teaching. 3(2006), 103–122. <https://doi.org/10.1075/bct.17.07mah>
- Morris, J., & Hirst, G. (1991). Lexical cohesion computed by thesaural relations as an indicator of the structure of text. *Computational Linguistics*, 17(1), 21–48.
- Paul, J., & Handford, M. (2012). *The Routledge handbook of discourse analysis*.
- Pratiwi, V. Y., Jayanti, Y. D., & Syathroh, I. L. (2019). an Analysis of Lexical Cohesion Found in “Never Say Never” Song Lyrics. *PROJECT (Professional Journal of English Education)*, 2(3), 377. <https://doi.org/10.22460/project.v2i3.p377-384>
- Rashaad, R. D. (2022). A Literature Review on Antonym in English. 529–549. <https://doi.org/10.37654/aujll.2022.176324>
- Renkema, J. (1996). Cohesion analysis and information flow. *Linguistics in the Netherlands*, 13, 233–244. <https://doi.org/10.1075/avt.13.22ren>
- Sari, L. P., Asri, Y., & Ratna, E. (2016). Korelasi Penguasaan Kosakata Bidang Lingkungan dengan Keterampilan Menulis Teks Eksposisi. *Pendidikan Bahasa Dan Sastra Indonesia*, 5(2), 198–205. <https://ejournal.unp.ac.id/index.php/pbs/article/view/9945/7413>
- Sari, N. E. P., & Anindita, W. K. (2020). Lexical Cohesion Analysis On Adele’s Songs Lyrics In The Album 25. *Surakarta English and Literature Journal*, 3(1), 22. <https://doi.org/10.52429/selju.v3i1.360>
- Sidabutar, U. (2021). An Analysis of Lexical Cohesion on the Students’ Writing. *JETAL: Journal of English Teaching & Applied Linguistic*, 2(2), 62–67. <https://doi.org/10.36655/jetal.v2i2.533>
- Sitepu, B. P. (2009). Teknik Menulis Abstrak. *Perspektif Ilmu Pendidikan*, 19(X), 98–101. <https://doi.org/10.21009/pip.191.12>
- Somantri, G. R. (2005). Memahami Metode Kualitatif. *Makara Human Behavior Studies in Asia*, 9(2), 57. <https://doi.org/10.7454/mssh.v9i2.122>
- Susiati. (2020). SEMANTIK (Teori Semantik , Relasi Makna , Marked dan Unmarked). *Jurnal Bahasa Dan Sastra Indonesia*, 4(1), 1–14.
- Turap, T., Merupakan, T. B., Lebih, T. B., & Turap, T. D. (n.d.). No Title.
- Universitatis, F. (2009). COGNITIVE SYNONYMY : A GENERAL OVERVIEW Maja Stanojevi ć. 7, 193–200.