

CHAPTER I

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1.1 Background of the Study

According to Harris (1969:9), writing, which belongs to the one of the four language skills, is the encoding process whereby we communicate our ideas, thought, or feeling through one or the other forms of language. However, Lee (1985:75) argues that since writing is intended for the sake of communication it does not have an intermediate interlocutor since the interlocutor may be far removed; consequently the writer is forced to play the dual role of the writer and the reader for he has no resource to immediate feed-back. In brief, the writer should make his composition clear, unambiguous and readable for the reader. In order to make a clear, unambiguous and worth-reading composition, a writer should pay attention to, among others, coherence and cohesion.

This thesis concentrates on cohesion or the overt structural links between sentences as formal language items, usually referred to as cohesive devices. Ideally speaking, a newspaper as a mass media of high influence is expected to achieve the manifestation of the usage of the cohesive devices accurately in the news presented.

The correct usage of the devices will help the writer to express his idea smoothly, continuously and logically as they hold the text together and bridge the thought gaps between sentences within a paragraph as stated by Palmer (1968:2), Rid (1988:69) and Medleeman (1968:56). The inaccuracy of the using of the

devices, as elucidated by Shaughnessy (1979) can give disturbance in the process of the message delivering.

There have been a number of previous studies settled in the field of cohesive devices in the English Department, such as a study by Puteri (1988) which talks about recognizing cohesive devices as a means to help SMA students understand reading text, Djunaedi (1989), on the other hand, in his thesis reveals the correlation between the achievement of cohesive devices and reading comprehension, Kho (1989), in her thesis, discusses the achievement orders of cohesive devices encountered in the free compositions of the S-1 students of the English Department, Swatan (1995) relates the effect of using cohesive devices through the treatment of the subject in its relationship with the reading comprehension, and Donohadi (1996) whose thesis exposes the teaching of logical relationship by recognizing and analyzing cohesive devices.

On the contrary, it is noteworthy that the number of the analysis of the cohesive devices encountered in the area of journalism is still worth questioning. Correspondingly, the writer would like to reveal the use of cohesive devices as manifested in the field of journalism by investigating how far the journalists of The Indonesian Daily News have used appropriate cohesive devices as manifested in the headline articles.

1.2 Statement of the problems

In accordance with the background of the study, the major problem to be answered in this study is:

What cohesive devices were used in the headline articles of the Indonesian Daily News?

The major problem is then spelt out according to the types of cohesion into the following minor problem statements:

1. How many references were used?
2. How many substitution were used?
3. How many ellipsis were used?
4. How many conjunctions were used?
5. How many lexical cohesion were used?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

Derived directly from the above formulated problems, the objective of the study is to find out what cohesive devices are used in the area of journalism, especially in the headline articles of The Indonesian Daily news.

The major objective is then subdivided into the following minor objectives.

1. To see how many references were used
2. To see how many substitutions were used
3. To see how many ellipsis were used
4. To see how many conjunctions were used
5. To see how many lexical cohesion were used

1.4 the Significance of the Study

In the field of discourse analysis, the result of the study are expected to give contribution in the form of insight of how cohesion is manifested in the area of journalism to write a solid paragraph. This thesis is dedicated to the editors of The Indonesian Daily News and observers of mass media as well as the readers and students in writing classes, especially those who are deeply interested in journalism discourse.

1.5 Assumption

This study is carried out under the assumption that the writers of the headline articles have used the cohesive devices correctly.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

This thesis is making use of two theories. They are the theories of composition and cohesion and cohesive devices. The writer used the theory of composition to analyze the news on the headline articles as well as to give a background knowledge of how to compose a solid piece of written output.

The theory of cohesion and cohesive devices were utilized as the means to analyze the news while the theory of cohesive devices was utilized as the means to analyze the usage of the cohesive devices in the selected headline articles.

Furthermore, this study also involved elements concerning the insights on journalism report, which the writer divided into three section, namely: news values, function of media, and press freedom.

1.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study

Due to the limited time, the subjects of this study were limited to the headlines of The Indonesian Daily News issued in March and April. The March issues were dated on 5th, 16th, 25th, and 30th, meanwhile the April issues were 6th, 15th, 16th, and 21st. They were selected randomly from the population of all issues in these two months.

The cohesive devices analyzed include; reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction and lexical cohesion.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

In order to eliminate any misinterpretation of the terms used in the study, the writer feels it necessary to define the following terms, namely; cohesion, cohesive devices, accuracy, and The Indonesian Daily News.

Cohesion is the connection which results when the interpretation of a textual element is dependent on another element in the text. (Renkema 1993)

Cohesive Devices are devices that help to hold the text together and therefore that gives the text cohesion. The devices cause the surface elements to show progressive occurrence so that their sequential connectivity is maintained. The cohesive devices or connectors analyzed in this study are: reference, substitution, ellipsis , conjunction, and lexical cohesion. (Palmer 1980)

Accuracy is the quality, state or degree of being accurate, or free from mistake or error. It also means correctness. (Hornby: 1995)

Indonesian Daily News is the name of a foreign-language media, in this case English, which is issued by Jawa Pos Group as the manifestation of Dutch-language newspaper once labeled as De Vrije Pres.