



**Using Halliday's and Hasan's cohesion
framework to analyze Trump's speeches**

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Abstract

This study is designed to find out the main linguistic features of the political speeches of the current president of the United States; Donald Trump.

It aims to uncover the main cohesive devices used in his discourses that he delivered in his visits to the Saudi Arabia and Jerusalem respectively.

To this end, a sum of two speeches is downloaded from different web sites. The data were analyzed using Halliday's and Hasan's (1967) framework of cohesion. The analysis has showed that Trump has used cohesive devices heavily in Jerusalem while he has used them a little in Saudia Arabia. It is hoped that this study will contribute to cross cultural understanding, multi modality, and critical discourse analysis.

What is Halliday's and Hasn's cohesion framework?

Halliday and Hasan (1976) describe text connectedness in terms of reference, substitution, ellipses, conjunction, and lexical cohesion. Cohesion occurs when the interpretation of some element in the discourse is dependent on that of another. The following types of cohesion have been distinguished:


Reference: two linguistic elements are related to what they refer to

Substitution: a linguistic element is not repeated but replaced by a substitution item

Ellipses: one of the identical linguistic elements is omitted


Conjunction: a semantic relation is explicitly marked

Lexical cohesion: two elements share a lexical field (collocation)

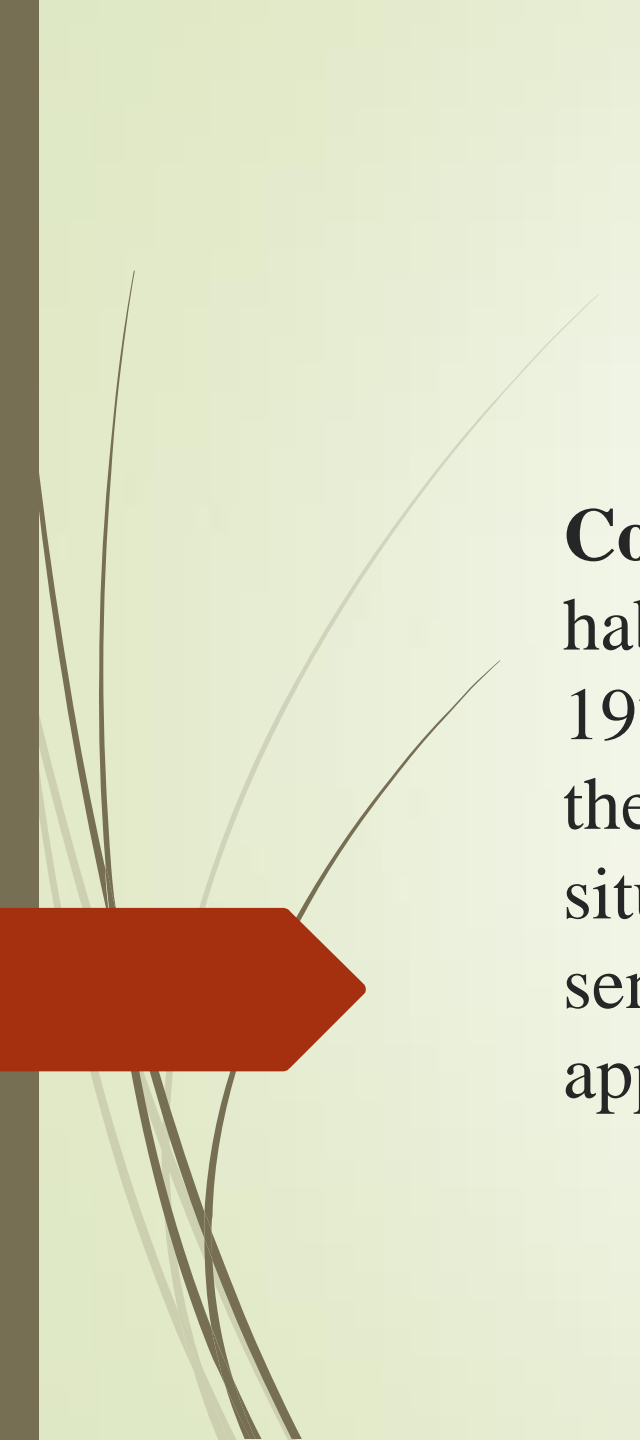


While lexical cohesion is obviously achieved by the selection of vocabulary, the other types of cohesion are considered as grammatical cohesion.

Halliday and Hasasn (1976) model of lexical cohesion is based on a division of the various lexical cohesive devices into two main categories; reiteration and collocation.



Reiteration is a form of lexical cohesion which involves the repetition of a lexical item ,at one end of a scale ; and a number of things in between- the use of synonym or a near synonym, super ordinate (Halliday and Hasan,1976:278).
Repetition is implied in reiteration. It is a basic figure in every verbal communication.



Collocation is achieved through the association created by habitually co-occurring lexical items (Halliday and Hasan, 1976). The items occur in similar environments because they describe things or happenings that occur in similar situations. For example, when one sees the noun *music* in a sentence, it is more probable that the verb *to listen* will also appear in the sentence.

Results:

The analysis of these two speeches is carried out comparatively. By putting Trump's speeches under scrutiny, we can figure out the use of the following cohesive devices.

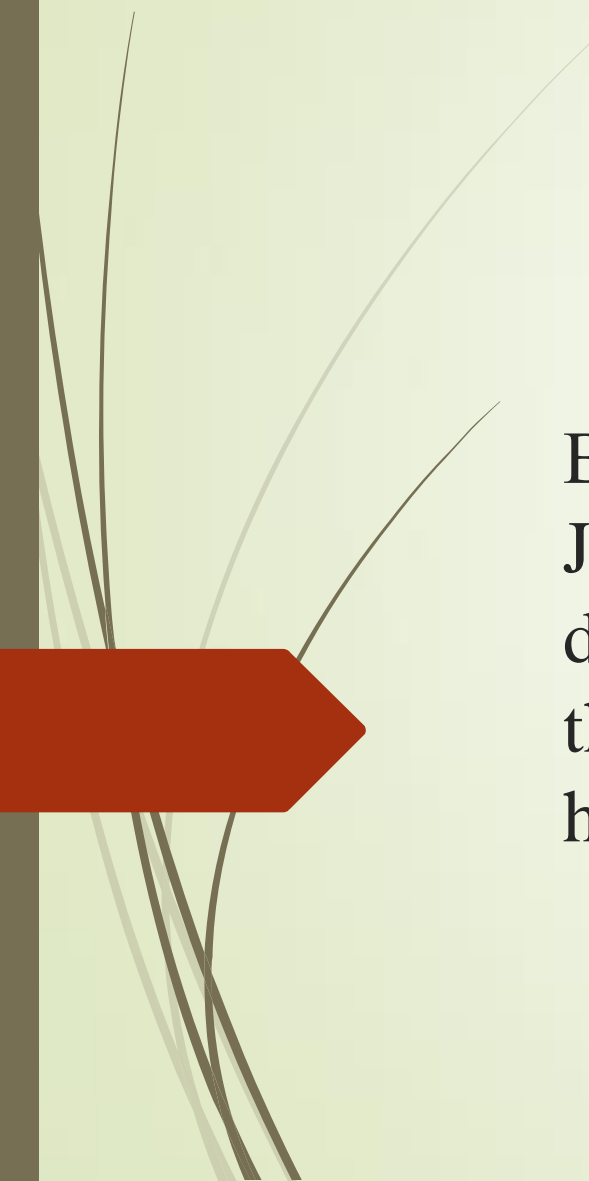
3.1 Reiteration

3.1.1 Repetition

Generally speaking, there are two kinds of repetition; total repetition and partial repetition.

Total repetition includes the repetition of the same word exactly like *general-general*.

Partial repetition includes the repetition of just the stem with different affixes like *free-freedom*. We have seen them both in Trump's speeches but in different ratio. In his speech in Jerusalem, the first paragraph has witnessed the use of "I" three times while in his speech in Saudi Arabia it has been used only twice. This is a reiterative device of repetition that brings about lexical cohesion in the text and expresses that Trump in Saudi Arabia has more authority than in Jerusalem.



Besides, he has mentioned “Thank you” four times in Jerusalem while just once in Saudi Arabia. This reiterative device of repetition in use is deployed to convey emphasis that he is happy and thankful to those who stand by him in his quest for leadership in the Middle East.



Synonymy

Synonymy is a common lexical cohesive device in political speeches. Apparently, Trump's speeches are no exceptions. To meet this, germane examples need to be brought to the floor. Trump has described America's relation with Israel as “unshakable bond” and “unbreakable spirit”. By using these phrases, he describes the strong bond between these two countries. This synonymous use is also found in “sectarian differences” and “religious differences” to depict the difference among people, Jews, Christians, Muslims, and every faith, living in Jerusalem. He has also used the following phrases “friends’, ‘partners’, ‘leaders’ and ‘heads of states’ to recognize distinguished world leaders present in the occasion.



Superordinate/ Hyponymy

This is a relationship of entailment or inclusion. Examples: lions, fish, and ants are co-hyponyms of the superordinate item- animals.

When we examine Trump's speech in Jerusalem, we do not notice a lot of superordinate examples. In his speech in Saudi Arabia, there are three though. He has urged the speech community to stamp terrorists out of

your place of worship, your community, your holy land, this Earth

Collocation

Collocations have to do with accepted co-occurrence relationship of lexical items. Osisawa (2003) identifies seven collocational types: antonyms, complementaries, converses, part/part, part/whole, co-hyponyms, and links (cited by Enyi & Chitulu, 2015). For the purpose of this study, it suffices to explain just the major types.

Antonymy

Antonymy is used to express contrast between words and serves the purpose of emphasizing ideas. There are three types of distinct semantic oppositeness:

- A) Complementary opposition
- B) Gradable opposition
- C) Relational opposition or converses.

In complementary opposition, if one member of the pair is true, then the other must be false. Example:

Pass-----fail

Happy-----sad

In gradable opposition, there is a possibility of presenting intermediate items such as

Hot-----warm-----cool-----cold

In relational opposition, if Nina is Linda's mother, the opposite will be that Linda is Nina's daughter. Other examples include :

Husband.....wife

Give-----take

By examining Trump's speech in Jerusalem, we can not find a lot of examples. There are only two as written below.

The Jewish people have *suffered persecution and oppression*.....they have *endured and thrived*

The use of this complementary opposition highlights the strength of the Jewish people that all other nations should be afraid of.

This oppositeness is also included in this example:

“We pledge to stand by you and *defend* our shared values so we can *defeat* terrorism.

This opposition refers to the resolve of America and Israel to get rid of terrorism.

Conclusion

By analyzing Trump's speeches in Jerusalem and Saudi Arabia contrastively, the researcher has tried to scrutinize the main devices used to bring about the lexical cohesion. Everything considered, Trump in his speeches has employed reiteration with all its components namely partial and total repetition, synonymy, superordinate and various shades of opposition in language use. By doing so, he has not only hung sentences together, rather, he has tried to sell himself and the agenda of his regime to the perceived stake-holders, on the one hand, and the general public on the other.