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محتوى المحاضرة

Cohesion

Cohesion refers to the grammatical and lexical elements that link parts of a text together, creating a sense of unity and making the text easier to understand. In other words, cohesion is the **mechanism** by which sentences or ideas are connected to each other, helping the reader or listener follow the flow of information throughout a discourse.

Without cohesion, a text would appear disjointed, with ideas or sentences seeming disconnected. It's a key feature of **discourse** that ensures sentences or parts of a larger text are not isolated but instead form a cohesive whole.

Types of Cohesion

Cohesion can be achieved in several ways, and these are often divided into different types based on the kind of links or devices used. Here are some key types of cohesion:

Reference

Reference involves using **pronouns** or **definite descriptions** to point back to or forward to something mentioned earlier or later in the text. These references help to avoid repetition and connect ideas.

Anaphoric reference: Refers back to something mentioned earlier.

Example: "**John went to the store. He bought some milk.**" +
"He" refers back to "John".

Cataphoric reference: Refers to something that will be mentioned later in the discourse.

Example: "**He arrived late, but John was already there.**"

+ "He" refers to "John", though the name comes later in the sentence.

Exophoric reference: Refers to something outside the text or conversation.

Example: "**Look at that!**" (Refers to something the speaker is pointing to or referring to outside the conversation.)

Substitution

Substitution involves replacing a word or phrase with another word or phrase that serves the same function, helping to avoid repetition.

- Example: "**I need a pen. Do you have one?**" ○ Here, "one" substitutes for "pen" to avoid repeating the noun.

Substitution is commonly seen in the use of "do," "so," or "one(s)" in sentences.

Ellipsis

Ellipsis occurs when part of a sentence is omitted because it is understood from the context. The missing part is often inferred from the previous or following parts of the text.

Example: "**She likes ice cream; he, cake.**" ○ The part "likes ice cream" is omitted in the second clause, but it is understood from the context that "he" likes cake in a similar manner.

Conjunctions (or Connectives)

Conjunctions are words or phrases that link clauses, sentences, or parts of sentences, creating cohesion between them. These include coordinating conjunctions like **and**, **but**, **or**, as well as subordinating conjunctions like **because**, **although**, and **since**.

Example:

"I was tired, but I kept working."

✦ **"But"** creates cohesion between the two contrasting ideas. ○

"She went to the store because she needed some milk."

✦ **"Because"** connects the reason for going to the store.

Conjunctions can also include **correlative pairs** such as **either... or**, **neither... nor**, and **not only... but also**, which join elements in a coordinated manner.

Lexical Cohesion

Lexical cohesion occurs when words within a text are related to each other in terms of meaning. This is often achieved through repetition, synonyms, antonyms, hyponyms, and collocations.

Repetition: Repeating a key word to maintain a sense of continuity.

Example: **"She bought a car. The car is red."**

Synonymy: Using synonyms to connect related concepts.

Example: **"The child is playful. The little boy is energetic."**

Collocation: Words that frequently occur together, helping to establish meaning through common usage. ○ Example: **"Make a decision"** (where "make" and "decision" often go together in English).

Parallelism

Parallelism involves using a consistent grammatical structure to create a smooth and cohesive flow of ideas. It often appears in lists, comparisons, or structures that are repeated for emphasis or balance.

Example:

"She enjoys hiking, swimming, and running."

✦ The parallel structure of the verbs (enjoys + verb-ing) helps to connect the ideas in the list.

Why Is Cohesion Important?

Cohesion plays a key role in ensuring that a text or discourse is **easy to follow** and **makes sense** to the reader or listener. Without cohesion, ideas could feel scattered or disjointed, making it difficult to understand the overall meaning or to identify relationships between different pieces of information.

Some key reasons why cohesion is important include:

Clarity: It helps the reader or listener understand how different parts of a text or conversation are related.

Flow: Cohesion provides a smooth flow of ideas and ensures the narrative or argument progresses logically.

Coherence: It aids in maintaining the overall coherence of the text, ensuring that it holds together as a unified whole.

Conclusion

Cohesion is an essential aspect of discourse that ensures a text or conversation is structured, logical, and comprehensible. By using reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunctions, lexical cohesion, and parallelism, speakers and writers can create meaningful connections between different parts of their discourse, making their communication more effective and easier to understand.

Coherence refers to the overall **logical flow** and **understandability** of a text or discourse. It is what makes a text feel like a unified whole, rather than a random collection of ideas or sentences. While **cohesion** is about the grammatical and lexical ties between sentences or parts of a text, **coherence** is about the **overall meaning** and **interpretability** of the text in its entirety.

In other words, coherence ensures that the ideas presented in a text are **connected logically** and that the reader or listener can easily follow the progression of those ideas. It's a mental construct—something that the reader or listener creates by connecting the dots between ideas, themes, and concepts within the text.