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# LEXICAL COHESION ANALYSIS ON ADELE'S SONGS LYRICS IN THE ALBUM 25

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### ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study are to identify the kinds of lexical cohesion used in Adele's song lyrics in the album 25 and to find out the impact of the most type to hearers. This research is a descriptive qualitative research. Data analysis was performed by categorizing data based on the theory from Halliday and Hasan consisting of reiteration (repetition, synonym, superordinate, general word) and collocation. The final step is to present data and make conclusions. The research findings show that repetition has 34 data with 47%, followed by synonym has 15 data with 21%, superordinate and collocation have 9 data with 12% and general word has 6 data with 8%. Repetition dominates the lexical type of cohesion and general word is the least appear. The impacts of the most type to hearers are repetition makes the meaning of the song deeper and hearers will be deeper in enrolling their emoticons in the song.

Keywords: Lexical cohesion, lyrics song, adele'song

#### ABSTRAK

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis kohesi leksikal yang digunakan dalam lirik lagu Adele pada album 25 dan untuk mengetahui dampak dari tipe yang paling dominan bagi pendengar. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif deskriptif. Analisis data dilakukan dengan mengelompokkan data berdasarkan teori dari Halliday dan Hasan yang terdiri dari reiteration (repetition, synonim, superordinate, general word) dan collocation. Langkah terakhir adalah mempresentasikan data dan membuat kesimpulan. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pengulangan memiliki 34 data dengan 47%, diikuti sinonim memiliki 15 data dengan 21%, superordinate dan kolokasi memiliki 9 data dengan 12%, dan general word memiliki 6 data dengan 8%. Pengulangan kata mendominasi jenis kohesi leksikal dan general word paling sedikit muncul. Sebagai dampak dari jenis kohesi leksikal yang dominan adalah pengulangan kata membuat makna lagu menjadi lebih dalam dan pendengar akan lebih bisa menghayati emosi mereka dalam lagu.

Kata kunci: Kohesi leksikal, lirik lagu, album adele

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Discourse is meaning (systematic) between parts in any language. As a unity of meaning, discourse is read as a whole language because every part of the discourse is related to unity. In addition, the discourse also discusses the context. As an abstract unity, discourse is distinguished from text, writing, reading, speech, or inscription, which contains the same meaning, namely 'concrete manifestations that are visible, legible, or seen (Pesona bahasa 2007: 92). A discourse must have full cohesion between the text and the concepts that surround it.

Cohesion is a form of syntactic organization, place of sentence that is solid in arrangement, to result the speech. Cohesion is the formal links that mark various types of inter-clause and inter-sentence relationship within discourse (Nunan, 1993:116). Halliday and Hasan (1976:4) divided it into two kind's namely grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion includes reiteration (repetition, synonym, near synonym, substitution and general words) and collocation. Grammatical cohesion is combination of shape between sentences formed in lexical system.

Lexical cohesion refers to the relationship in meaning between lexical items in a text, in particular, content words and the relationship between them (Paltridge 2008:133). The principle behind this lexical type is the cohesive effect achieved by the continuity of lexical meaning (Halliday and Hasan, 1976:320). According to Halliday and Hasan, there are two classifications of lexical cohesions; 1) Reiteration applies the words that have the same or near the same meaning to produce the semantic relation within sentences. Therefore, reiteration decides the semantic connection using the same words. It repeats the words that are used before. Reiteration embodied of repetition, synonym, superordinate, and general word, 2) Collocation is lexical cohesion that is achieved through the association of lexical items that regularly co-occur. It also includes pairs of words drawn from the same ordered entries such as colours, numbers, months, days of weeks and the like (Halliday and Hasan, 1976:285).

Song is an act of art singing. It can be said that the song is a record of human activity, human experience, and also human feelings because the composer documented his thoughts into song lyrics. This can represent the realities of life such as love, hope, violence, friendship, sadness, happiness, etc. In songs, lyric is the most important part of giving a harmonious feel. Based on Oxford Dictionary (2003: 257), the lyric has meanings as the words of the song to express strong emotions with an imaginative way. In addition, a song lyric is written for different purposes such as to entertain, to inspire or comment on the people around us. Because words and ideas are songs that have a story and it is part of the time when they write songs that are similar to poetry. In addition, the lyric also reveals personal feelings (Frederick, 1988: 114). According to Kennedy (1983: 502), the song lyric is such as poetry.

In this study, the researcher has a reason in choosing lexical cohesion as the research title because the researcher wants to analyze how many types of lexical cohesion found in adele songs in the album "25". Then, the researcher looks for the dominant, submissive and impact of the song to hearers. In the album "25", there are 11 songs that are very interesting to be analyzed. However, the researcher only took 6 songs in the album. The type of music in this album is pop and most of the songs tell 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.

#### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

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.

Object of the research is attributes or properties or values of people, objects or activities that have certain variations set by the researcher to be arranged and then concluded (Sugiyono, 2009:38). In this study, the object of research is Adele's song lyrics in the album "25". The data source was taken from 6 song in the album "25". The songs are : All I ask / ALA, I Miss You / IMY, Hello / HL, Send My Love / SML, Love in the Dark / LITD and Million Years Ago / MYA.

In this study, the data are collected though documentation. Documentation is the method used in scientific research in order to collect the data by using document. The document is written substance (Moleong, 2009:216). The researcher presents the data by giving code in each datum in classification and analysis. The example of datum number is below :

Datum (S.1/Sz.17/LC/Rp)

S.1 : refers to the number of the song

Sz.17 : refers to stanza number of song lyrics

LC : refers to lexical cohesion

Rp : refers to repetition

After the data has been collected, the researcher classified the data such as follows identifying the data which contain lexical cohesion from the songs, classifying the data related to lexical cohesion based on the theory, finding every kinds of lexical cohesion devices from the data, finding the dominant and submissive of the lexical cohesion from the data, finding the impact of the lexical cohesion to hearers, making conclusion.

# FINDING AND DISCUSSION

# FINDING

This chapter presents the research findings and discussion. In finding, the researcher provided the table of intensity in using lexical cohesive devices in all six songs. The following table is the table of the types of lexical cohesion found in Adele's songs lyrics in the album "25".

Type of lexical cohesion	Total data	Persentase
1. Repetition	34 items	47%
2. Synonym or Near-synonym	15 items	21%
3. Superordinate	9 items	12%
4. General words	6 items	8%
5. Collocation	9 items	12%
Total	73 items	100%

 Table 1: Statistical table of Lexical Cohesion

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 near-synonym as much as 21%, then collocation and super ordinate reach 12%. General word is the lowest percentage as much as 8%.

# DISCUSSION

After presenting the data, it is necessary to analyze the types of lexical cohesion such as follows:

# 1. Repetition

There are 34 items of repetition. They are grouped into this category because Adele wants to make the listener more emotionally absorbed in the meaning of the song by repeating the words in the lyrics.

# SONG 1 (AIA) :

### Datum (S.1/Sz.01&03/LC/Rp)

Sz.01 - I won't say a word

Sz.03 - They've all been said before you know

# Analysis data:

Based on the data above, the researcher found the repetition from the word **say** twice. The word which is mentioned more than one is called repetition. The word **say** formal repetition because it uses the simple word and repeat in the same word. However, the word **said** is the past form of the word **say**. The word **say** here is verbs.

# SONG 2 (IMY) :

# Datum (S.2/Sz.01,02&04/LC/Rp)

Sz.01 - I want every single piece of you Sz.02 - I want your heaven and your ocean's too

Sz.04 - I wanna teach you things you never knew, baby

# Analysis data:

In song 2, the researcher found the repetition data from the second song. In this data the researcher found the repetition from the word **I want** more than twice. The word **I want** in stanza 01 and stanza 02, the form kind of repetition is belongs to into formal repetition, because the repeated word still stays in the same category which is verb. However, the word **Wanna** in stanza 04 is informal because the word is abbreviated (want to). The reason behind the author keep repeating the same word is to make a text connected to each other.

#### 2. Synonym or near-synonym

Instead of repetition in the same word, the author uses the similar words with similar means which is called synonym. There are 15 items of synonym or near synonym. The author of the song deliberately uses different words even though he means the same in order to vary the vocabulary in the lyrics of the song.

### SONG 1 (AIA)

# Datum (S.1/Sz.01&06/LC/Sn)

Sz.18 - And I'm sure my eyes, they **speak** for me Sz.21 - **Tell** me who do I run to?

# Analysis data :

The researcher found some words from the data above that has similar meaning. In the first example in the song 1, the researcher found the word **speak** in stanza 18 has similar meaning with the word **tell** in stanza 21. The second meaning of the word **speak** is synonymous with the word **tell**.

# **SONG 2 :**

# Datum (S.2/Sz.18&19/LC/Sn)

Sz.18 : - I was too **strong** you were trembling

Sz.19 : - You couldn't handle the hot heat **rising** (rising), umm

# Analysis data :

The next data of synonym was found in song 4. In the song 4, the word **strong** and **rising** is synonym because both words have the same meaning. The word **strong** means that she is a weak woman and she is able to get through this problem. The word **rising** means the same meaning as the word **strong**, definition of the word **rising** and **strong** is synonym. The author uses synonym in the text because the author wants to use various word.

# 3. Superordinate

There are 9 items of superordinate. The author of the song uses words that include more specific meanings of words. Superordinate is the second part of reiteration. According to Fromkin, (2003), superordinate is the connection of the meaning between more general term and more specific term.

# SONG 1 (AIA) :

# Datum (S.2/Sz.24&25/LC/Spr)

Sz.24 - Towards me from across the room

Sz.25 - Brushing past my every groove

Analysis data :

Based on the data above, the researcher found superordinate. The word **toward** which is found in stanza 24 is superordinate with the word **groove** which is found in stanza 25. In the data above, there are several authors who use words that encompass other words so that they are seen interrelated with one another.

# 4. General word

There are 6 items of general word. The author of the song uses a special word or phrase that is contained in a certain type or unit of words in one of the songs in the album 25. **SONG 1 (AIA) :** 

# Datum (S.1/Sz.13&15/LC/Gn)

Sz.13 - Take me by the hand while we do what lovers do

**Sz.15** - 'Cause what if I never **love** again?

# Analysis data :

The researcher found general word or usually known as general noun. In the above lyrics song, the researcher found the word **Love** which can be more general than the word **lover**. **Lovers** are always synonym with the word love, like, dear, etc. The word **love** refers back to **lovers**.

# SONG 2 (IMY) :

# Datum (S.2/Sz.08&26/LC/Gn)

Sz.08 - Your body standing over me Sz.26 - Bring your heart, I'll bring my soul

#### Analysis data :

The reseacher found general word in stanza 8. The reseacher found the word **Your body** above which is more general than the word **Limbs**. Limbs can be anything such as mouth,eyes,ear,hand,etc. In this context, the word **your body** that the author means above is **your heart**.

### 5. Collocation

There are 9 items of collocation. The author of the song uses words that tend to be used in a dominant one in some of the lyrics in the album 25. According to McCarthy (2000, p. 65), collocation is the cohesion that is achieved through the association of a lexical item that regularly co-occur.

# SONG 1 (AIA) :

# Datum (S.1/Sz.07,08&10/LC/Cl)

Sz.07 – Now, don't get me wrong

Sz.08 – I know there is no **tomorrow** 

Sz.10 – If this is my last night with you

# Analysis data :

The researcher found three different kinds of collocation in three different stanzas. In the song 1, the researcher found collocation in stanza 07, stanza 08, and stanza 10 which are the words like **Now, Tommorow,** and **Last night.** These words belong to collocation because this collocation explains the adverbs of time sequentially. This kind of collocation has its own purpose in the song lyrics. The reason that author used this kind of collocation is that the author wants to explain the situation that happen in every time.

## **SONG 5 :**

# Datum (S.5/Sz.19/LC/Cl)

Sz.19 : - I can't face your **breaking heart** 

# Analysis data :

Based on the data above the collocation item in the song lyrics are **breaking heart** because the word are fix connection. **Breaking heart** means that someone who feels betrayed. In the lyrics song this collocation shows that she is broken heart with her lover.

# CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, the researcher found that there are many lexical cohesion items in the six Adele's lyrics songs in the album "25". In analyzing data, the writer applied theory of cohesion introduced by Halliday and Hassan (1976). The lexical cohesion makes cohesion in the songs. Based on the result of the study, it can be concluded that all types of lexical cohesion are appeared in the text. The types are repetition, synonym or near-synonym, superordinate, general words and collocation.

After the researcher analyzed the lyrics, the results showed that repetition is the most dominant in the lyrics songs. Repetition is 47%, synonym or near synonym is 21%, superordinate is 12%, collocation is 12% and the lowest one is general word 8%. Then the submissive data obtained from the analysis of the data is general word. In the study, the researcher obtained data on 6 items of general word type from 6 songs on the album. General word is the smallest percentage 8% of the data.

The reseacher found 2 impacts after analyzing data. First, impact is the most type of repetition. Hearers will have deeper meaning of the song. The second impact, hearers will be

more deeper in enrolling their emoticon in the song because there are lots of repetitions. Hence, they can dramatize the meaning of the song.

Some suggestion can be made for this study. This study does not cover all aspect of cohesion. The researcher only chose one type of cohesion which is lexical cohesion. For further research, the researcher expects that all aspect of cohesion should be analyzed (grammatical and lexical). In this study, the researcher selected written material to be analyzed. For the next researcher, she or he can select spoken material as an object of analysis. Due to this study is only about analyzing the types and dominant type of lexical cohesion, the next study is expected to develop more about cohesion such as explores the function of cohesion and analyzing the cohesion in deeper analysis.

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