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ROLE OF LEXICAL COHESIVE ELEMENTS IN WRITTEN DISCOURSE

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Gulbakhor Abdukadyrova

A senior teacher of UzSWLU, Uzbekistan

Qizlaroy Abduxalilova

A student of UzSWLU, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

The goal of this study is to determine how lexical elements affect writing quality, make understandable to the reader and differences of using them in descriptive and narrative essays. The investigation includes essays of second year students in the field of ESL and finds the most dominant lexical cohesion by analyzing the relationship between types of the essays and coherence and consistency based on reiteration (repetition, synonym, near-synonym, superordinate and meronymy) and collocation as well.

KEYWORDS

Lexical cohesive elements, writing quality, descriptive essay, narrative essay.

INTRODUCTION

English is considered to be full of vocabulary. Since when we write essays, we choose words carefully, especially related to the theme, revealing every aspect of it. An English native speaker can easily familiarize words whether it would be a combination of words or fixed. However, English learners must pay attention to

its meaning, using it in context or combining it with other words. Because, some of them come with the same word, in a text, but the meaning is different in the sentence. In relation to this, scholars in text linguistics focus on identifying the lexical elements used to achieve writing quality. They divide them into two:



reiteration and collocation. The most prominent scholars, Halliday and Hasan (1976) regarded that “cohesion is the relations of meaning, which exists within a text and provide the semantic unity required in the structure of that text”. It is clear from that words and sentences must be connected through grammatical links and vocabulary. For example:

She went to the concert yesterday.

It is grammatically correct. Because, it is a collocation, as the verb "go" is commonly paired with "to the concert" to describe attending a live performance.

However, when we say:

She went to the concert yesterday. And she heard her favorite music.

It is semantically incorrect. As, it means perceiving music unintentionally or without focus. We use “hear music” when we are not actively paying attention to the music or it happens naturally.

I could hear loud music playing from inside of the car while crossing the sidewalk.

METHOD

The concept of cohesion

Cohesion is created by lexical elements when they collaborate on cohesive text with other elements

(Halliday & Hasan, 1976). The role of cohesion holds the unity and the meaning of the text.

Lexical cohesive elements

This research sorts words according to six lexical cohesive elements in descriptive and narrative essays. They are repetition, synonym (near-synonym), antonym, superordinate, meronym and collocation.

Repetition

Repetition can be described as the word is repeated for holding the readers’ attention on one thing. It is used more in narrative essays rather than in descriptive essays. As students want to emphasize the main weight on the topic they write.

Ex: Being an only child offers living as a princess in the world. I always found it amusing when people assume that being an only child must be lonely and boring.

Synonym (Near-synonym)

Synonym or near-synonym are morphemes to mean another word in the same language. It is used to create more vivid pictures. It is nearly the same in both types of essays, although we use less in descriptive writing for not repeating only features of the topic.

I always recognize my dear husband from the sound of his voice. I hear his voice in a soft, soothing tone every time.



Antonym

Opposites are words that contrast ideas. Antonyms are involved in narrative essays mostly, when we discuss our experiences of changing into unforgettable memories.

If one of the special and essential things in their life slips from their mind, it can turn their life upside down, even can turn friends into strangers.

Superordinate

Superordinate is a word whose meaning includes a group of other words. When we share our story, we can add phrases related to the story to speak more general or specific in narrative essays.

The pines, junipers and other wild trees organize the forest's "national" look.

Meronym

Meronym is a semantic relationship as a concept of whole-part relation (Afnan Bahaziq, 2016). Students use quite adequate meronym in both of their essays. However, descriptive essays play a dominant role in employing it.

I have observed gatherings where individuals watch moving images on large screens, a practice they call "television".

Collocation

Collocation is a combination of words or terms that frequently occur together, forming a natural connection. Unlike the other lexical cohesive elements, pairings of collocations are not random but are culturally and linguistically established, making them sound natural to native speakers.

I'm convinced that every person makes mistakes during their lifetime or teenage years that make them feel like an idiot every time they remember those moments.

We can see the differences of using cohesive devices depending on the essays. The analysis of the 103 repetitions of data established shows clear evidence that this type of lexical element is proposed to narrative essays. Furthermore, alike repetition, narrative essay takes a leading role of using other cohesive elements, antonym and superordinate, in utilizing. Even though descriptive essays use synonym, near-synonym, meronym and collocations effectively like narrative essays.

Findings

In this section, we can see the differences of using of cohesive devices depending on the essays. The analysis of the 103 repetitions of data established shows clear evidence, that this type of lexical element is proposed to narrative essays. Furthermore, alike repetition, narrative essay takes a leading role of using other cohesive elements, antonym and superordinate, in



utilizing. Even though descriptive essays use synonym, near-synonym, meronym and collocations effectively like narrative essays (see Table 3)

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that the study has helped to highlight the key points and the importance of the lexical cohesive elements, how they make effective writing. Also, it is observed there is a significant relationship between cohesion and consistency, all words are connected to each other semantically and fixed.

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Appendix

Table 1 (Descriptive essays)

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Repetition	23	19	8	9	9	17
Synonym near- synonym	2	9	3	7	5	8
Antonym	-	1	-	3	-	1
Superordinate	5	2	1	2	1	4
Meronym	2	2	-	2	2	2
Collocation	17	19	6	14	20	17

Table 2 (Narrative essays)

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Repetition	14	15	12	23	21	18
Synonym near- synonym	4	5	5	3	10	9
Antonym	7	3	7	4	8	4
Superordinate	6	3	6	5	4	3
Meronym	-	1	1	-	2	4
Collocation	9	16	13	18	23	17

Table 3

	Table 1 (Descriptive essays)	Table 2 (Narrative essays)
Repetition	85	103
Synonym, near-synonym	34	36
Antonym	5	33
Superordinate	15	27
Meronym	10	8



Collocation	93	96
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