

## Lexical and grammatical cohesion analysis in “clouds” song lyrics

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**Abstract** - The objective of the study is to investigate and describe the lexical and grammatical devices as cohesion in Zach Sobiech's song "Clouds". The subject of the study is the lyrics of the "Clouds" song. The data was conducted by using qualitative description by following the techniques of the study. The data collected is about the lexical cohesion (repetition, a synonym, and antonym) and the grammatical cohesion (reference and conjunction) found in "Clouds" song lyrics. YouTube and earphones helped the writer in collecting data. The study exhibits the types of lexical and grammatical cohesion. It starts with repetition, synonym, antonym, the reference, and conjunction. The element that appears most in the data is the conjunction and the repetition.

**Keywords:** cohesion; lexical grammatical; song lyrics

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Higher education is part of national education which has a very important role in improving the quality of human resources, providing basic skills to students such as knowledge and skills. According to Ihsan (2010) Education for developing nations such as the Indonesian nation today is an absolute necessity that must be developed in line with the demands of development in stages. To achieve the objectives of national education, one way that can be taken is through the implementation of education in schools in order to improve the quality of education. The quality of education is an important thing to improve the output of the world of education in the form of human beings who are intelligent, creative, innovative, and able to contribute to the development of the country of Indonesia to be a strong country, which has high competitiveness.

Moving on from the problem of science gap with reality in the school environment (including universities), to improve the quality of education, especially in universities, is to activate the learning process through various lecture methods, which is by group discussions, involving 4 - 6 students to play an active in motivating, giving each other material, asking each other, and solving problems faced together as well. Efforts to improve this learning achievement, pragmatically can include concepts of speaking (when discussing material), arguing in forums, practicing organizing speeches arranged word for word, sentence by sentence, paragraph by paragraph, and being trained to respect different opinions in in a special forum during the lecture, the final objective of this discussion was to shape the subject of students to become good citizens, of high quality, ready to face the challenges in the modern era (Widdowson, 1978; cf. Wajdi, 2018; Susanto & Wajdi, 2022. Putra et al, 2022).

The study of figurative language usage (Gunawan et al, 2021) and critical discourse analysis on Biden's speech (Siregar, 2021) drove the present research to do more especially the study of lexical and grammatical cohesion (cf. Rahmanu et al, 2020) and the study of interpersonal function of language (Lauren, 2020; Witte & Faigley, 1981; Yang, 2014; Sari, 2016; Ekowati et al, 2019; Teja et al, 2022).

## **II. METHOD**

According to Lambert & Lambert (2012), qualitative descriptive research purposes to provide a complete summary of specific events that individuals or groups of individuals have encountered in everyday words. According to some scholars, there is no such thing as qualitative design. Compared to other qualitative designs, this is a very abstract depiction of the data. Of all the qualitative research methodologies, qualitative descriptive studies are the least "theoretical." Furthermore, qualitative descriptive investigations are the least hampered by a pre-existing, theoretical or philosophical commitment as compared to other qualitative methodologies (Lambert & Lambert, 2012). In conclusion, when a straightforward description of a phenomenon is required, a qualitative descriptive method should be the design of choice (Lambert & Lambert, 2012).

It's a great strategy for academics who want to know who was involved in events, what was involved, and where events occur. Researchers might openly refer to their study as qualitative descriptive research (Lambert & Lambert, 2012). The research follows the frame of work (Sugiyono, 2005, cited in Pratiwi et. al, 2019), the techniques used to collect the data are: 1) finding the data that will be used for the research object. 2) establishing what is the focus of research. 3) recognizing the data that contained in the research object, such as repetition, synonym, antonym, reference, and conjunction 4) Grouping the data 5) Accumulating and counting the frequency of the repetition, synonym, antonym, reference, and conjunction in the data 6) Analyzing and describe the findings of repetition, synonym, antonym, reference, and conjunction.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The finding showed the analysis of lexical and grammatical cohesion in “Clouds” song lyrics by Zach Sobiech. This song was released along with the movie in 2020. There are some elements discovered in this song, namely repetition, synonym, antonym, reference, and conjunction.

More details of the finding of the element of lexical and grammatical cohesion (repetition, synonym, antonym, reference, and conjunction) that appears in the “Clouds” song will be explained in the table below.

Table 1 The occurrences of repetition, synonym, antonym, meronymy, reference, and conjunction

Category of Lexical and Grammatical Cohesion	Frequency
Repetition	3
Synonym	1
Antonym	1
Reference	2
Conjunction	3
Total	10

Table 2 Data Identification

Song Lyric	Number
I fell down, down, down	1
Into this dark and lonely hole	2
There was no one there to care about me anymore	3

And I needed a way to climb and grab a hold of the edge	4
You were sitting there, holding a rope	5
And we'll go up, up, up	6
But I'll fly a little higher	7
Go up in the clouds because the view's a little nicer	8
Up here my dear	9
It won't be long now; it won't be long now	10
When we get back on land	11
Well I'll never get my chance	12
Be ready to live and it'll be ripped right out of my hands	13
And maybe someday we'll take a little ride	14
We'll go up, up, up and everything will be just fine	15
We'll go up, up, up	16
But I'll fly a little higher	17
Go up in the clouds because the view's a little nicer	18
Up here my dear	19
It won't be long now, it won't be long now	20
If only I had a little bit more time	21
If only I had a little bit more time with you	22
We could go up, up, up	23
And take that little ride	24
We'll sit there holding hands	25
And everything would be just right	26
And maybe someday I'll see you again	27
We'll float up in the clouds and we'll never see the end	28
We'll go up, up, up	29
But I'll fly a little higher	30
Go up in the clouds because the view's a little nicer	31
Up here my dear	32
It won't be long now, it won't be long now	33

### 3.1. Repetition

According to Paltridge (2000, cited in Wahyuni & Oktaviany, 2021), repetition is the word that appears repetitively in the text. These are the examples that appear in the "Cloud" song.

*I fell down, down, down (1) And we'll go up, up, up (6)*

Those phrases contain epistrophe repetition which there are two words (down and up) that are repeated at the last of the phrases.

*And I needed a way to climb and grab a hold of the edge (4) And we'll go up, up, up (6)*

*And maybe someday we'll take a little ride (14)*

*And take that little ride (24)*

*And everything would be just right (26) And maybe someday I'll see you again (27)*

The phrases above have anaphora repetition because the word "and" always occurs in the beginning of the phrases.

*If only I had a little bit more time (21)*

*If only I had a little bit more time with you (22)*

The phrases "If only I had a little bit more time" had mentioned twice at first, so there is anaphora repetition there.

### 3.2. Synonym

According to Maulida et al (2020), synonymy refers to a word that has the same meaning as another word. Synonym uses in song to make the words varied and add aesthetic elements (Lidinillah & Meinawati, 2021). According to Kreidler (2019, cited in Wahyuni & Oktaviany, 2021), a synonym is the truth value of predications with the same reference expression is the same.

But I'll *fly* a little higher (17)  
Go *up* in the clouds because the view's a little nicer (18)

The word "fly" in the line 17 has the same meaning with the word "go up" in the line 18. Go up has the same identical meaning with the word fly.

### 3.3. Antonym

Antonym refers to the relationship of the words that has opposite meaning or has different meaning (Wahyuni & Oktaviany, 2021). In line with (Paltridge, 2000, cited in Wahyuni & Oktaviany, 2021) antonym has contrary meaning, such as black and white, cry and laugh, cheap and expensive. In the following phrases is the antonym that found in the song.

And I needed a way to *climb* and grab a hold of the edge (4)  
You were *sitting* there, holding a rope (5)

The word "to climb" in line 4 has a meaning of steep or move higher, meanwhile "sitting" in line 6 can be represented as one activity that does not need doing something. Therefore, the words above are classified as an antonym because the meaning of each other is different.

### 3.4. Reference

According to Cook (1989, cited in Maulida et al, 2020), references are words that have meaning only for a few other words that can be attributed to the recipient. A word or phrase can be cohesive because the two words or phrases have meanings that can be linked into the same context (Bloor and Bloor, 2004, cited in Maulida et al, 2020). According to Maulida et al (2020), three kinds of reference are personal reference, demonstrative reference, comparative reference. First, Personal reference is intended for discourse that is intended for personal things or individuals (Maulida et al, 2020).

Three groups of personal references are personal pronoun, possessive determiners, and possessive pronoun (Maulida et al, 2020). Second, the demonstrative reference refers to the situation that is influenced by location (Maulida et al, 2020). Demonstrative reference has two classes, namely adverbial demonstrative (then, there, now) and nominal demonstrative (these and those). Third, comparative reference is reference that indirectly shows the equation and the comparison of things (Maulida et al, 2020). For more details of the reference analysis in the "Clouds" song, it will be explained below.

Up here my dear (9)  
It won't be long now, it won't be long now (10)  
Well I'll never get my chance (12)

Be ready to live and it'll be ripped right out of my hands (13)

Those phrases are personal reference when the word "it" in every phrase point out to the previous phrase.

### 3.5. Conjunction

According to Maulida et al (2020), conjunction is a word that link another phrase, sentence, and text. There is some conjunction that used in the song, namely.

Into this dark *and* lonely hole (2)  
*And* I needed a way to climb and grab a hold of the edge (4)  
*And* we'll go up, up, up (6)  
Be ready to live *and* it'll be ripped right out of my hands (13)

*And* maybe someday we'll take a little ride (14)  
*And* take that little ride (24)  
*And* everything would be just right (26)  
*And* maybe someday I'll see you again (27)  
We'll float up in the clouds *and* we'll never see the end (28)

Based on the data, it showed that there is additive conjunction by the use of conjunction “and” in “Clouds” song in the line (2), (4), (6), (13), (14), (24), (26), (27), (28).

Go up in the clouds *because* the view's a little nicer (8)

Causal conjunction detected by the use of “because” as conjunction than continued with explaining about reason.

*But* I'll fly a little higher (7)

The phrase in the line (7) contains adversatives conjunction that showed an opposite meaning. The opposite meaning is shown by the use conjunction “but” in the example above.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

This article shows that there is lexical cohesion, and grammatical in the song with the title "clouds" which was created and popularized by Zach Sobiech. From the results of the analysis, it is shown that the elements in this song are repetition, synonym, antonym, reference, and conjunction. The repetition investigated in this song is three types of repetition with the number per item being ten items. Then, there are synonyms and antonyms, each of which has only one data. Switch to grammatical cohesion starting from reference. Many references were identified as many as two cases only. Finally, there are three types of conjunctions in this song with a total of eleven items. Then the elements that appear the most in this cloud song are conjunction and repetition. Therefore, it can be concluded that lexical and grammatical cohesion is important in discourse, one of which is through song. With the lexical and grammatical cohesion in this song, it gives something new and more meaningful to the song.

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