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**COHESIVE DEVICES IN DONALD TRUMP'S FIRST SPEECH AS  
THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT**

**Rezi Fauzi Rahman,\* Dadan Firdaus, Erlan Aditya Ardiansyah**

English Literature, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Gunung Djati  
Bandung, Indonesia

\*Corresponding author: xia3.rezifauzi@gmail.com

**ABSTRACT**

The presence of cohesive devices in speech plays a crucial role in representing the functioning of language. Beyond enhancing the effectiveness of written communication, cohesive devices guide listeners into the realm of context, fostering a shared understanding of meaning. This research focuses on analyzing grammatical and lexical cohesions in Donald Trump's inauguration speech from the 2016 United States presidential election, which took place on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The objective of the study is to explore the representation of both grammatical and lexical cohesions. A qualitative method was employed, and data were extracted from pauses in Trump's speech, specifically noting cohesive devices. The findings reveal that grammatical cohesion encompasses references, substitutions, ellipsis, and conjunctions. Lexical cohesions identified include repetition, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, and collocation. Repetition was observed in 29 pauses, substitutions in 6 pauses, ellipsis in 8 pauses, and conjunctions in 31 pauses. Regarding lexical cohesion, the study identified repetition in 32 pauses, synonymy in 10 pauses, antonymy in 5 pauses, hyponymy in 3 pauses, meronymy in 2 pauses, and collocation in 6 pauses. However, it was noted that incohesive instances occurred in the case of conjunctions, potentially influenced by the situational or contextual factors. In conclusion, this study sheds light on the diverse cohesive devices employed in Trump's inauguration speech, emphasizing the significance of context in understanding language use.

**Keywords:** cohesive device, conjunctions, ellipsis, grammatical cohesion, lexical cohesion, substitutions

## INTRODUCTION

Language serves as a conduit for humans to attain life objectives and comprehend the goals of others. Given the necessity for communication in daily activities, it holds a paramount position. The practical application of language involves a systemic structure utilized in both written and spoken forms, contingent on functions and systems (Irianti, 2019). The inherent value of language, dictated by its functionality, plays a pragmatic role in human life.

There is a configuration that must be built in the form of fields, tenor and mode which in representation always appear to be presented together so as to form the context of the situation or the most real picture of the context for the meaning of the text. With this configuration, linguistic expressions such as the use of grammar and lexical selection will be presented and describe the meaning or social context that seems real and related to the text being spoken.

Lexical cohesion establishes semantic connections between elements within a discourse, contributing to the overall coherence of the text, distinct from grammatical cohesion. Tools of lexical cohesion encompass synonyms, antonyms, equivalence, repetition, and collocation (Aisah, 2017). The purpose of employing these cohesion tools is to enhance the intensity of meaning, linguistic aesthetics, and information clarity. The achievement of lexical cohesion involves carefully selecting words based on their form or meaning relationship with previously used words (Arifin, 2010). On the other hand, grammatical cohesion is established through the utilization of grammatical components and relationships between elements. Grammatical cohesion tools encompass references, substitutions, ellipsis, and conjunctions (Aisah, 2017).

Lexical cohesion is prevalent in various domains, including politics, where both people and language play pivotal roles. Within the realm of language, there exist numerous essential branches that demand exploration to comprehend how spoken and written language effectively convey the intentions and advantages within the political context. A significant linguistic branch closely associated with political concepts is semantics, delving into the nuanced discussions between speakers and audiences and emphasizing the mutual understanding of meaning.

Based on provided overview above, the researchers were intrigued by examining a crucial aspect of global political events through the lens of language, specifically within the realm of semantics. Their focus was on analyzing the cohesion present in the inauguration speech of the 45th President of the United States, Donald Trump. The rationale behind this study stemmed from Trump's worldwide popularity and the inherent linguistic interest in his inauguration speech. The research aimed to assess both grammatical and lexical cohesions within the speech, choosing cohesive devices due to their relevance to the studied object in textual form. This emphasis aligns with the discussion of cohesive devices, which delves into the internal cohesion and integrity of the text.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Semantics, in accordance with a widely accepted theoretical framework, is a linguistic branch focused on exploring the meaning within language or textual content (Loe, 2017). Typically linked with two other dimensions—syntax, concerned with constructing complex symbols from simpler ones, and pragmatics, involving the practical application of symbols by humans in specific contexts (Muzaqqi, 2016)—semantics serves to comprehend the intricacies of the human mind as expressed through language or embedded in text, constituting the study of meaning.

Cohesion pertains to the explicit relationship between propositions, as conveyed through grammatical and semantic elements within sentences, thereby shaping discourse. It constitutes a formal grammatical aspect, particularly in the syntactic organization of sentences to create coherent speech (Nurfitriani, *et al.*, 2018; Tarigan, 1987). The realization of cohesion extends across four language systems: semantics (meaning), lexicogrammatical system (form, grammatical, lexical), morphological, and phonological elements (writing and sound) (Arifin, 2010). The concept of cohesion involves the interplay between sentences, encompassing both grammatical and lexical cohesion, as highlighted by Nurfitriani, *et al.*, (2018), Tarigan (1987), and Wahyuni & Oktaviany (2021). Thus, this study specifically focuses on examining grammatical and lexical cohesion.

## METHOD

Research requires a design that outlines how the researcher structures and conducts their study. In this particular research, a qualitative method was employed. According to Creswell (2009: 160), the application of the qualitative method entails generating data in the form of words and sentences, specifically pauses in this context. Qualitative procedures involve distinct steps in data analysis and utilize various inquiry strategies, drawing upon text data (Creswell, 2009: 173).

In this research, the researchers focused on the subject; Donald Trump's Inauguration Speech on Presidential Election 2016 (Source: TVEyes; Federal News Service; White House, while the Top photo was taken by Chang W. Lee/The New York Times (2017). The data which were analyzed were text/sentence/paragraph in every pauses text that related to the cohesive devices, such as the pauses texts contain reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction, and the lexical cohesion elements. The data were collected by taking note the paragraphs which were indicated to have cohesive device. The data were then classified into categories in grammatical cohesion.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The study reviewed the data and found 39 pauses in the text of Trump's inauguration speech. From those 39 pauses. Four elements of grammatical

cohesion were discovered as follows: reference, substitution, ellipsis and conjunction, and found six which are included in lexical cohesion; repetition, synonymy, antonym, hyponym, meronymy, and collocation.

**Table 1. Grammatical Cohesion; Reference**

No	Pause	Reference
1	2	We (the citizens of America)
2	3	their & they (president Obama and first lady Michelle Obama)
3	4	one administration, one party (outside text), & you (the people).
4	5	a small group, their, & they (politicians), there (outside text).
5	6	it (moment)
6	7	it (moment), your (audiences), this (united states of America)
7	8	our (I/Trump & audiences/American citizens)
8	9	the day (January 20th, 201)
9	10	men & women (outside text)
10	11	everyone (American citizens) & you (audiences)
11	12	their (American citizens)
12	13	our (I/Trump & audiences/American citizens)
13	14	their (American/ many lives) our (trump and the audience)
14	15	other (outside text) & our (Trump and audience)
15	16	other & our
16	17	our (I/Trump & audiences/American citizens)
17	18	our (I/Trump & audiences/American citizens)
18	19	our (I/Trump & audiences/American citizens)
19	20	our (I/Trump & audiences/American citizens)
20	21	our (we)
21	22	our (we)
22	23	our (we)
23	26	their & our
24	28	our & your (I/Trump & audiences/American citizens)
25	29	our (I/Trump & audiences/American citizens)
26	30	our (I/Trump & audiences/American citizens)
27	33	our (I/Trump & audiences/American citizens)
28	35	they
29	37	your (audiences)

### Grammatical Cohesion in the Speech

There were 29 pauses that contained grammatical cohesion as references. Reference as a means of cohesion relates to matters of reference, namely the use of language used to refer to other parts of the text, especially the previous part (Table 1). Reference is directly related to each other (sentences before and sentences after). Sentences that contain references will always refer to other sentences, especially the previous sentences.

**Table 2. Grammatical Cohesion; Substitution**

No	Pause	Substitution
1	13	stolen too many lives <> robbed our country of so much unrealized potential (This American carnage)
2	17	One by one (the factories <> the wealth)
3	18	City <> capital
4	25	Two simple rules <> buy & hire
5	32	time <> hour
6	33	unlock <> to free

There is also a similar opinion, Chaer (2002: 62) mentioned that if a word has a referent, that is something outside the language to which the word refers, then the word is called a referential meaningful word. So, these two opinions say that referential is a word that refers to another word. References can be divided into two parts, namely exophora (situation) and endophora (textual) references and endophores can be further divided into two, the first is anaphora and the second is cataphora.

**Table 3. Grammatical Cohesion; Ellipsis**

No	Pause	Ellipsis
1	1	thank you
2	3	thank you
3	13	stops right now (This American carnage stops right now)
4	23	We will build new highways, We will build new bridges, We will build new airports, We will build new tunnels and We will build new railways.
5	33	Do not allow anyone to tell you (I forbid not to allow anyone to tell you)
6	38	Thank you, God bless you, & God bless America.
7	39	Thank you
8	40	God bless America

Actual references can also refer to references outside the so-called text (exophores). As a means of cohesion, references refer to other parts of the text

(which are called endophores) either those that precede it (which is called anaphora) or sometimes to the part of the text that follows it (cataphora). The grammatical cohesion in the form of a reference emphasizes the relationship between the word and its object. Objects outside the text indicate an exophoric reference, while objects inside the text indicate an endophoric reference. References, according to the type of object, can be classified into personal references (marked by personal pronouns like *I* or *you*), demonstrative references (marked by demonstratives that, this, there, and here), and comparative references (marked by; the same, similar, like, and different from).

**Table 4. Grammatical Cohesion; Conjunction**

No	Pause	Conjunction
1	1	and
2	2	and
3	3	and & but
4	4	but & and
5	5	while, but, & and
6	6	And & because
7	7	and
8	8	but
9	10	and
10	12	and
11	13	But & and
12	15	while
13	16	And & while
14	17	And, that & but
15 to 22	18 to 25	and
23	26	And & but
24	27	And & which
25 to 27	28 to 30	and
28	31	And, that, & but
29	33	And & that
30	34	and
31	35	and
32	36	So & and
33	37	and
34	38	And

There were six grammatical cohesion as substitution. Substitution is a grammatical relationship, the relationship lies not in the meaning, but in the grammar and vocabulary (Table 2). Wahyuni & Oktaviany (2021) explained

regarding substitution that there is a relationship between different lexical meanings. Even though the form is not the same, this has the same meaning but is not included in the synonym category because the words used do not belong to the same category. The function of substitution is as a counter so that repetition does not occur which makes it redundant in a text. As the data shows above the use of lexical *city* is changed to be *capital*.

Eight of grammatical cohesions as ellipsis were discovered (Table 3). Ellipsis is the writing of a clause or sentence which in its basic form does not have completeness in terms of subject, predicate and/or object but always has basically complete meaning. This is grammatically permissible as long as it is generally agreed upon. According to (Halliday and Hasan 1976: 143). There are three ellipsis: normal ellipsis, verbal ellipsis, and clause ellipsis. As an example; found in Trump's speech: thank you. It is a grammatical cohesion of clausal ellipsis on the statement of thank you. In that statement, "thank you" was grammatically not suitable, but it would be better to use "I say thank you".

The last from grammatical cohesion is conjunction. In this section, there were 34 pauses that contain conjunction as data above (Table 4). Conjunctions are the last grammatical cohesion on this. As a tool of cohesion, conjunctions that connect ideas in a sentence are called intra-sentence conjunctions (Afrianto, 2017). Meanwhile, conjunctions between sentences are cohesion tools that connect ideas in different sentences. A conjunction is a link between a sentence and another sentence that has been stated previously. Conjunctions are known as connecting words. In terms of its function, conjunctions can be divided into four kinds in Trump's speech: coordinating conjunctions indicate the relationship of addition, selection and resistance, correlative conjunctions are not in the form of a single word/phrase, subordinating conjunctions are used at the beginning of a clause (sub clause) and serves to connect the clause with the main clause, conjunctions between sentences are conjunctions that connect one sentence to another. Therefore, it showed that the meaning of this conjunction is a continuous series of words, phrases, clauses or sentences between one and another.

Grammatical cohesion is prevalent throughout Trump's inauguration speech on January 20th, 2017, with the exception of pause 21. Among the identified grammatical cohesions, four types were observed: references, substitutions, ellipsis, and conjunctions. Notably, instances of incohesion were observed in conjunctions like "but" and "and," possibly influenced by the surrounding situation or context. It is essential to note that the presence of incohesion does not necessarily imply incoherence.

Speech, being in the domain of direct expression, may not stand out significantly from a grammatical standpoint due to various factors such as sense, emotion, tone, and intention. Nevertheless, it is established that Trump's inauguration speech exhibits a cohesive language level,

demonstrating a complementary alignment between the realms of text and context.

### Lexical Cohesion in the Speech

In the section on lexical cohesion as repetition, 31 repetitions were found, the repetitions of words used by Trump considering that in politics (Table 5). There are many points that are the same and are aimed at various specific things so that repetition often occurs. As shown by the data above there is a single use of *we will*.

**Table 5. Lexical Cohesion; Repetition**

No	Pause	Repetition
1	1	President
2	3	we will + V1 (we will determine, We will face, & we will confront)
3	4	transferring power from... to... and transferring power from...to....
4	5	victories-victories, triumphs-triumphs, celebrated-celebrate
5	6	moment-moment, belongs-(to next)
6	7	belongs (from previous), This is your-this is your
7	8	government - government, Controls-controlled
8	9	January 20th and the day
9	10	forgotten-forgotten
10	12	righteous - righteous.
11	13	right-right
12	14	pain-pain, dreams-dreams, success- success, one heart-one home- one glorious, and oath-oath
13	15	industry-industry
14	16	trillions-trillions
15	18	in every..., from this day forward, America first.
16	19	on + noun & v-ing + possessive
17	20	I will - I will
18	21	winning-winning
19	22	s + will + v + possessive
20	23	s + will + v
		(we will build & we will get)
21	24	we will follow,
22	25	we will seek, we will shine
23	26	we will reinforce, we will eradicate
24	27	we will rediscover



25	29	S + to be / will + verb participle
26	33	the same-the same
27	34	the same-the same
28	35	mountain-mountain, ocean-ocean
29	36	your + noun & s + will + verb + adjective + again
30	37	Thank you, God bless-God bless
31	38	Thank you
31	39	God bless

In term of synonym, 10 data of pauses were discovered that contained synonym (Table 6). As stated by Wang & Hirst (2012) synonyms have a function to establish a relationship between equivalent meanings between certain words and other words. Based on the form of the language unit, synonyms can be divided into five, namely: synonymy between morpheme (free) and morpheme (bound), word for word, word for phrase or vice versa, phrase with phrase, clause/sentence with clause/sentence.

**Table 6. Lexical Cohesion; Synonymy**

No	Pause	Synonymy
1	3	face - confront
2	5	Victories - triumphs
3	9	January 20th - the day
4	13	stolen - robbed
5	16	rich - wealth
6	28	speak - debate
7	30	no action - never doing anything,
8	31	The time for empty talk is over - Now arrives the hour of action,
9	32	to unlock - to free,
10	33	glorious - great

Five lexical cohesion as antonym in this part were found. Antonym is a relationship between two words that express opposite or contradictory meanings as stated by Putri & Fitrawati (2021). Antonyms are words that contrast with each other, presenting opposing meanings. In simpler terms, an antonym is a word that holds the opposite meaning to another word, often referred to as its counterpart or opposite word. Antonyms are actually easy to understand if the synonyms of a word are known first. That is, antonyms can give the sense that the forms of two words have opposite meanings or opposite meanings. Antonym always refers to a clash of meanings that can never be friendly or always opposite. In English there many as well as in the data above, such as *men* >< *women* on pause 10.

**Table 7. Lexical Cohesion; Antonym**

No	Pause	Antonym
1	10	men >< women
2	16	past >< future
3	17	past >< future
4	29	men >< women
5	35	near >< far & small >< large

There were 3 of hyponyms (Table 8). Hyponymy is a semantic connection between speech forms where the meaning of one form is encompassed within the meaning of another form, establishing a hierarchical relationship, as stated by Mufid and Simatupang (2022). This hyponymy relationship is close to synonymy. When a word has all the components of the meaning of the other words, but not preferably; then the relationship is called hyponymy. Conjunctions include husband, wife, children, uncles, and aunts (Trump; data 12) so that children are hyponymy of family or child is superordinate of family.

**Table 8. Lexical Cohesion; Hyponymy**

No	Pause	Hyponymy
1	12	children – families
2	13	the crime, the gangs, and the drugs (the crime)
3	15	armies-military

There were only two of meronymy (Table 9). Meronymy discusses something part of another, but does not include hyponyms or hypernyms. Meronymy is a term used to describe a part-whole relationship between lexical items. In addition, meronymy is a meaning relation that has similarities to hyponymy because the meaning relation is hierarchical, but does not imply unidirectional involvement, but is a relation between the meaning of the part and the whole (Zakiyah & Zakrimal, 2020). So, meronymy is a hierarchical classification in the lexicon which is the relation of the meaning of the part to the whole. Meronymy can be analyzed with the help of the formula X is part of Y, an example is a roof with a house. The hierarchy of meronymy and different taxonomies where meronymy emphasizes how important the “part” is to the whole.

**Table 9. Classification of Lexical Cohesion; Meronymy**

No	Pause	Meronymy
1	12	nation > citizens
2	13	mothers > children

**Table 10. Lexical Cohesion; Collocation**

No	Pause	Collocation
1	3	carry out
2	6	right here and right now
3	11	the likes of which
4	13	right here-right now
5	20	let down
6	21	like never before

There are two types of relationships in meronymy, namely canonical and facilitative (Cruse, 2004). Examples of canonical/necessary meronymy are eye and face. Eyes are an important part of the face that will form a good and perfect face. Even if the eyes are removed, they are still an inseparable part of the face. Examples of facilitative/optional meronymy are cushion and chair. There are chairs that have cushions (seat cushions) but there are also chairs that do not use cushions. Cushion can stand alone without a chair and the contrary.

Six instances of lexical cohesion collocations were identified (Table 10). Collocation refers to words sharing a common meaning in a specific context (Rachmi, Yassi, & Sukmawaty, 2023). Elements that consistently coexist are typically linked to create a unified whole. Therefore, collocation represents components that share the same meaning in various situations or within a specific scope. Collocation, or the pairing of words, signifies a specific association where certain words tend to be used together. The research demonstrated the presence of a speech text that is remarkably cohesive due to various lexical cohesion elements.

This section exhibits a wide range of lexical cohesion elements, encompassing repetition, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, and collocation. Trump employed a language style that was stern, satirical, and at times vulgar in expressing his thoughts during the speech. He exuded confidence, asserting that under his leadership, America would prosper and advance in alignment with the aspirations and dreams of its citizens.

## CONCLUSIONS

The grammatical cohesion observed in Trump's inauguration speech for the 2016 presidential election, held on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, was prevalent in nearly all the provided data, with the exception of pause 21. Among the identified grammatical cohesions, four types were identified: references, substitutions, ellipsis, and conjunctions.

Among the pauses, repetition was present in 29 instances, followed by 6 pauses containing substitution, 8 pauses with ellipsis, and 31 pauses with conjunctions. However, it's noteworthy that some instances were not cohesive, particularly concerning conjunctions, possibly influenced by the

situation or context. It's crucial to highlight that being labeled as incohesive doesn't necessarily imply incoherence. Examining the seven elements of lexical cohesion, Trump's inauguration speech showcased six of these elements. These include repetition in 32 pauses, synonymy in 10 pauses, antonymy in 5 pauses, hyponymy in 3 pauses, meronymy in 2 pauses, and collocation in 6 pauses. The study suggested forthcoming study to analyse cohesive device in a two-way communication. It will be more interesting, because the analysis could be further elaborated.

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