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**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

## Study of Lexical Cohesion in a Tirto.Id Online News Themes of the Covid-19 Pandemic

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**ABSTRACT**

The writing of news must pay attention to the element of cohesion in terms of cohesive, interrelated forms and from its inner structure in terms of coherent meaning. The purpose of the present study is to determine the use of the relationship among sentences (lexical cohesion) used in an online news discourse *Tirto.id*. The writing of news must pay attention to the element of coherence so that analysis is needed to find out whether news writing has the coherence of the text or not. In order to maintain the texts go coherence, it should be both cohesive and coherent. That is, it should utilize cohesive devices such as Reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunctions, and lexical cohesion, the last one of which accounts for the state of coherence in a text. The focus of this study is the collection of lexical cohesion in the form of reps, synonyms, and lexical equivalents. The use of lexical cohesion in a discourse in the form of lexical cohesion consists of (i) word repetition, including repetition of words with replacement, (ii) synonyms in the form of words synonyms, and (iii) equivalent, the equivalent form which have changed in to process of changing affix and confix morphemes in the online news *Tirto.id* of the Covid-19 Pandemic edition.

**KEYWORDS**

Lexical cohesion, discourse, online news, *Tirto.id*

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### 1. Introduction

Media is one of the important tools in daily activities for disseminating information. With the development of technology nowadays, online media is becoming more and more popular among the public, both youth and elderly. Online media that are often used and become popular include *Facebook*, *YouTube*, *Instagram*, *bloggers* and even *online newspapers*. Online newspapers provide news services that are flexible against time and easy to access at any time. There are various online news sites such as *Tribunnews.com*, *Kompas.com*, *Tirto.id*, *Viva.com*, *Merdeka.com*, *Detik.com*, and *Kapanlagi.com*. *Tirto.id* is Indonesia's news, article, opinion, and infographic website. The *Tirto.id* website comes from the name of a national hero who was the father of the press, namely *Tirto Adhi Soerjo*, who was at that time founded the newspapers *Menad Prijai*, *Soenda Berita*, and *Poetri Indies*.

Mass media is a means of transmitting various information such as newspapers in the form of various discourses with various topics, one of which is opinion. Discourse messages must be persuasive. The messages must be interesting, and it always convinces the reader of the news content. So writing news must use interesting language. Language as a communication tool is not specified only in the form of sounds, phrases, or separate sentences but is used in the form of interrelated sentences. The form of a series of related sentences will connect other propositions and form a unity called discourse. Discourse is a unit of language above the sentence level used for social context communication. In written communication, discourse acts as a result of expressing ideas. Discourse must have coherence, the coherence of discourse can be seen in terms of the relationship of meaning, or its inner structure is coherent (Utami & H, 2019). Halliday, M.A.K., Hasan, (1976) divides cohesion into two types, namely grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion. Grammatical cohesion in discourse is in terms of meaning or outward structure, while lexical cohesion in discourse is in terms of meaning or inner structure. Cohesion relates to textual components and surfaces, i.e., the connectivity of 'text syntax' (Tistcher, 2009)

Based on the background of the problem, the formulation of the research problem is how to use lexical cohesion markers in the discourse on *Tirto.id* online news. In this study, the problem is limited to the lexical cohesion of the types of repetition, synonymy, and equivalent. This problem limitation aims to limit the scope of the research to be carried out so that it is more focused and directed. In addition, the use of repetition, synonymy, and equivalent types tends to be more dominantly used in discourse. In general, the purpose of this study is to describe the lexical cohesion of the types of repetition, synonymy, and equivalent in the online news *Tirto.id*. The news that is the object of this research is about issues and polemics currently happening, namely the news about Covid-19 or the coronavirus, which is endemic throughout the world and is currently hitting Indonesia. *Tirto.id* is one of the online media which is a site for news, articles, opinions, and infographics in Indonesia. The online media *Tirto.id* was launched on August 3, 2016; the writings provided by *Tirto.id* include a mild report, in-depth, hard news, current issue, and *Tirto* visual reports.

## 2. Literature Review

Halliday and Hasan (Yeh, Yang, & Wong, 2010) state that "Cohesive devices present a necessary semantic continuity among sentences to interpret and comprehend a text" cohesion in the text is determined by the relationship of the meaning in the text, and defines it as a text. Hoey in (Alotaibi, 2015) explains that cohesion is how certain words or grammatical features of a sentence can relate to its predecessors (and successors) in a text. Carter (Alotaibi, 2015) also gives a similar definition, which states that cohesion links texts linguistically. Cohesion is a manifestation of certain aspects of coherence and a pointer to it, not a necessary cause or result.

Cohesion is a series of meanings to connect one component that has been mentioned previously in the text. The function of cohesion is as a liaison between the parts in the discourse so that the discourse becomes a unified meaning. Cohesion is the relation between positions that are stated explicitly between grammatical and semantic elements in sentences that form discourse. (Sukriyah, Sumarlam, & Djatmika, 2018) Cohesion has two categories that have been agreed upon, namely lexical and grammatical cohesion. Halliday and Hasan (Sukriyah et al., 2018) said that lexical cohesion has two main subclasses: reiteration and collocation. In the form of repetition of cohesion used by repeating prepositions or parts of prepositions, reiteration includes repetition, synonyms, superordinate (hyponyms), antonyms, conjunctions. The word collocation shows the closeness of the place (location) (Ardiyanti, D. Ririn, 2019).

Lexical cohesion is a cohesive bond that appears in discourse because of word choice. The cohesive bonds of lexical elements are more difficult to identify directly because the lexical system of language is opened, while the grammatical system is closed, so the cohesive bonds that are more visible and consistent are grammatical elements. The connection and orderliness in the language system are known as cohesion and coherence. The correct discourse contains elements of cohesion and coherence; discourse will have harmonious relations between elements with one another in a discourse called cohesion. Cohesion and coherence must be present in the discourse so as to make the discourse easy to understand and read. As previously explained, lexical cohesion in discourse can be divided into six types, namely 1) repetition, 2) synonyms (words match), 3) collocation (words pairing), 4) hyponymy (up-down relationships), 5) antonyms (opposite words), 6) equivalent (equivalence). Keraf and Sumarlan (Hutahean, 2015) discuss lexical aspects of lexical discourse in the form of repetition, synonyms, antonyms, hyponymies, collocations, and equivalents.

Repetition is certain lingual units that are considered important to give pressure in a context. Sumarlan states that the types of repetitions consist of epizeukis, tautotes, anaphora repetitions, epistropa repetitions, simpleke repetitions, and epanalepsis repetitions, mesodiplosis repetitions, complete repetitions, and anrepetitions. (Chaer, 2012) states that a synonym is another name or expression whose meaning is more or less the same as another meaning. Synonyms can be divided into free morpheme synonyms with bound morphemes, word synonyms with words, phrase synonyms with phrases, and clause or sentence synonyms with clauses or sentences (Sukriyah et al., 2018) Furthermore, namely the type of lexical cohesion in the form of antonyms, (Verhaar, 2012) explains that antonyms are expressions (usually in the form of words, can also be in the form of phrases or sentences) which are considered to have different meanings or the opposite of other expressions. Antonyms are parts of lexical cohesion that are related to other names for other objects or things: or lingual units whose meaning is opposite/opposite to other lingual units (Sukriyah et al., 2018). Hyponymy or superordinate is a unit of expression of words or phrases whose meaning is considered to include the meaning of other expressions. (Sumarlam, 2008) argues that hyponymy is a lingual (word, phrase, sentence) whose meaning is considered part of the meaning of other lingual units. Meanwhile (Chaer, 2007) describes that hyponymy is a semantic relationship between another form of speech. Collocation is a relationship between words that are in the same environment or field (Yuwono, 2005). (Halliday, M.A.K., Hasan, 1976) also states that lexical cohesion is caused by two words or more often appearing together in a language construction or the same discourse context.

Equivalence is the equivalence relationship between one particular lingual unit and another lingual unit in a paradigm (Sumarlam, 2008). In the Big Indonesian Dictionary, equivalent has the meaning of the word comparable, equal, or equivalent. (Hutahean,

2015)] added that equivalence or equivalence is a commensurate relationship between one lingual unit and others. In this case, a number of words resulting from the affixation process of the same origin morpheme show an equivalence relationship. Affix is a morpheme attached to another morpheme so that it can be said that affix is a bound morpheme, affix consists of six types of affix processes, namely; a) prefixes, b) confixes, c) infixes, d) clofixes, e) suffixes and f) simulfixes, (Ashari Ayu, 2015) Prefixes are affixes that are affixed at the beginning of the base form; infix is an affix that is affixed in the middle of a word usually at the beginning of a syllable; the suffix is an affix that is affixed to the right of the base form; confix is an affix that is affixed around and to the right of the base form simultaneously because this affix is a single affix; clofik is a word that is affixed with affixes on the left and right, but the affixation is not all at once but gradually; and simulfixes are nasals which are realized with nasal *m-*, *n-*, *ny-*, *ng-*, and *nge-*.

### 3. Methodology

This research adopted the qualitative approach. Krik and Miller (Moeleng, 1997) explain that qualitative research is a particular tradition in social science that is fundamentally dependent on observing humans in their own area and relating to these people in language and in terms. This research is included in qualitative descriptive research because it tries to describe lexical cohesion markers, especially repetition, synonym, and equivalent in news discourse.

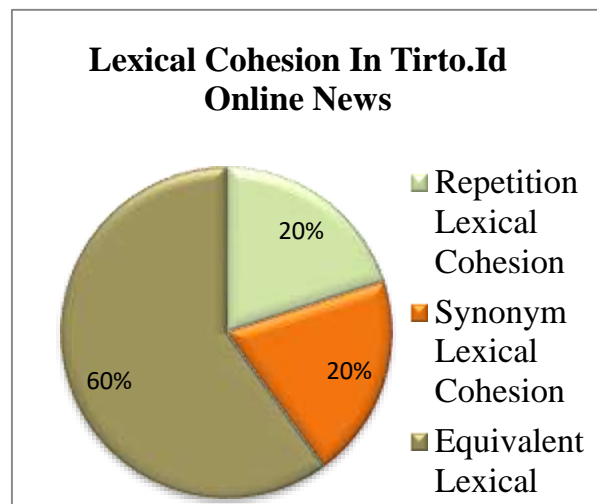
The subject of this research is online news on the *Tirto.id* website, which contains news about covid-19. By taking numerous news written by different authors, the object of the research is the aspect of lexical cohesion in the form of repetition, synonym, and equivalent. The data collection methods and techniques used in this study were to use the note-taking method. The note-taking method is carried out by listening to the research subject, namely the online news *Tirto.id* and then recording the lingual units, which are the lexical cohesive markers in the form of repetitions, synonyms, and equivalents.

The data analysis method used was the distributional method with the basic technique for Direct Elements or *Bagi Unsur Langsung* (BUL), a technique that divides a construction into the direct elements that make construction. The analysis techniques in *Tirto.id* online news on the topic of the Covid-19 Pandemic are as follows; (1) presenting the data obtained through the process of looking at notes; (2) choosing words in the *Tirto.id* news rubric that have repetition, synonyms, and equivalent forms; (3) copy and record according to category; (4) analyzing lexical cohesion markers; and (5) describe the research results that have been obtained from the online news rubric of *Tirto.id*.

### 4. Results and Discussion

The results of this study are presented in the categories of lexical cohesion with the types of repetition, synonyms, and equivalents. This study indicates the use of lexical cohesion tools on the use of repetition, synonyms, and equivalents in the online news site *Tirto.id* with the news topic of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021. The use of lexical cohesion markers on the type of repetition is repetition with substitutes. Type of synonym markers used synonyms words of words. And in the use of lexical cohesion, the equivalent type used is in the form of an affixation process consisting of prefix-konfix, confix, and prefix-confixes. The results of the study will be described as follows.

**Tabel 1.**



#### 4.1 Repetition Lexical Cohesion

The use of repetition lexical cohesion markers on the online news site Tirto.id found the use of repetition with replacement. Reshaping with substitutions used in the online news site Tirto.id edition of "Corona New Variant Edition Is The Cause of Soaring Cases in Indonesia" by Irwan Syambudi found the use of repetition in words increase and surge, along with a description of the use of lexical cohesion repetition with replacement.

- (1) "The government claims that increasing the mobility of the community during eid al-Fitr or Eid 2021 is the cause of the surge in Covid-19 cases in all regions" 8/6/2021

In the data above, repetition lexical cohesion is used in the "Corona New Variant Edition Is The Cause of Soaring Cases in Indonesia" on June 8, 2021. The form of repetition is in the form of repetition with replacements for the words increase and surge. The word increase is repeated using other words, namely spikes. Repetitions as a proposition by using other forms of pronouns that have the same meaning, the words increase and surge both have the meaning of the process of increasing.

- (2) "After the highest spike on January 30, 2021, with 14,518 positive cases of Covid-19 and decreased dramatically to 2,385 cases on May 15, 2021, or three days after Eid al-Fitr, the increase in cases again gradually rose." 8/6/2021

Moreover, from the data above, repetition lexical cohesion is used in the "Corona New Variant edition as the Cause of the Soaring Cases in Indonesia" on June 8, 2021. The form of repetition is in the form of repetition with replacements for the words spike and increase. The word spike is repeated by using another word, namely addition. Repetition as a proposition by using other pronouns that have the same meaning, the words spike and increase both have the meaning of a process or way of increasing, in this case, an increase in Covid-19 cases.

#### 4.2 Synonym Lexical Cohesion

The results of the research on the cohesion of lexical cohesion in the online news site Tirto.id indicates the use of synonymous lexical cohesion in news discourse. Synonyms function is to establish a commensurate meaning relationship between one particular lingual unit and others. The results of the research were obtained from the online media site Tirto.id edition of "Knowing the Causes of Emotions Labyrinth to Slow After Healing" by Nur Hidayah Perwitasari 18/8/2021. Synonym lexical cohesion is contained in the discourse in the form of word synonyms with words. The following is a description of the use of lexical cohesion in synonyms of words with words.

- (3) "Decreased cognition function whose symptoms include forgetting until the mind slows or slows down can be experienced by those who recover from covid-19" 18/8/2021

The news discourse above shows the use of words that are meaningfully expressing synonymous relationships because they refer to the same meaning. The slows or slows down both have the same meaning. Slow has the meaning of "slowly (movement, process, etc.), while the word slows down has the meaning of "something that has a long performance" of the two words still have the same meaning, which is related to an activity that is not carried out quickly.

- (4) "According to Puvokisa, people do not need to be worried and anxious. Health experts will help with the program's tailoring in accordance with the asa cognitive problem." 18/8/2021

Then, the news above shows the use of words that are meaningfully expressing synonymous relationships because they refer to the same meaning. The words worried and anxious both have the same meaning. The word worries means a state of fear, anxiety, and anxiety about something unknown with certainty. Meanwhile, the word anxious means a state of anxiety because of fear. From the two meanings of the word, the words worried and anxious have the same meaning relationship.

#### 4.3 Equivalent Lexical Cohesion

Based on the results of the analysis on the online news site Tirto.id, there is the use of equivalent lexical cohesion. The use of equivalent lexical cohesion is found in the editions of "Corona New Variant Edition Is The Cause of Soaring Cases in Indonesia" and "Indonesia's July 2021 COVID Chart: Far From Target & Out of Control". The analysis results found the use of equivalent forms of affixation of prefixes, forms prefiks-konfiks, konfiks, and konfiks-prefiks; the study results will be described as follows.

- (5) "VoC is scientifically proven to be transmitted quickly and is indicated to be transmitted to people who have been vaccinated. According to Pandu, the current cases that cause spikes, such as in Kudus and Bangkalan, are indicated to be caused by VoC." 8/6/2021

Cases in Indonesia" 8/6/2021 there are equivalent forms of the words "infectious and transmitted" in Bahasa language is "menular dan menularkan", both words are formed from one basic word, namely "contagious". Infectious words undergo an affixation process in the form of affixes with the addition of the affix "me-". The word transmits are a confix process in the form of "me-kan" and a change in the phoneme /t/ of the infectious word so that it becomes (meN-) transmits. The words Infectious in the news quoted above has the meaning of "affecting a disease" while the word pass has the meaning of "making infectious".

- (6) "VoC is scientifically proven to be transmitted quickly and is caused to be transmitted to people who have been vaccinated. The current cases that occur that lead spikes such as in kudu and Bangkalan, according to Pandu, indicated caused by VoC" 8/6/2021

The news quotes in the edition of " Corona New Variant Edition Is The Cause of Soaring Cases in Indonesia " 8/6/2021 there is an equivalent form of the words lade and causing, in Bahasa Language is "menyebabkan dan disebabkan", these two words are formed from the same root word, namely "cause". The word leads the affixation process to add the confix affix "me-kan". The word is caused by the process of adding a confix affix to "di-kan". The root word cause is affixed with the confixes "me-kan" and "di-kan", which means "to cause something" and "to influence". In this case, the confix "me-kan" means to create a situation, namely a spike in Covid-19 cases, while the confix di-kan has the meaning in effect, namely that transmission occurs due to the presence of VoC.

- (7) "According to Masdalina, of these targets, one that is claimed to be successful by the government is able to reduce the mobility of citizens who were 30 percent of citizens' mobility to decrease by 50 percent" 30/7/2021

Based on news above, Indonesia's July 2021 COVID graphic: Far From Target & Out of Control" 30/7/2021 there is an equivalent form of the word "reduce and decrease", in Bahasa language "menurunkan and menurun" both words are formed from the root word turun. The reduce degrade undergoes an affixation process in the form of a confix with the addition of the affix "me-kan". In this case, the confix "me-kan" has the meaning of making or causing, in the form of a decrease in the spread of Covid-19 in July due to vaccination. Meanwhile, the decreased word undergoes an affixation process in the form of a prefix with the addition of the affix "me-to", the turun root word. The prefix "me-" has a meaning in a situation in the form of a decreased mobility of citizens.

- (8) "But it can't be seen by the public. Because on the highway is still jammed and people can still go to and fro. So that we think it's just a one-sided claim. But in general, pandemic control has not been controlled," Masdalina said. 30/7/2021

The news quote in the edition of "Indonesia's July 2021 COVID Chart: Far From Target & Out of Control" 30/7/2021 there is an equivalent form the word "control and controlled" in Bahasa language is "pengendalian and terkendali", these two words are formed from the same root word, namely "kendali". The word controls the affixation process to add the confix affix "peN-an". The word controlled forms a noun; the word controlled has the meaning of a process, method, act of control—the meaning a process, a way, an act of control. Meanwhile, the word controlled formed from the affixation process in the form of the prefix "ter-". The word terkendali as a form of the verb, this word terkendali has the meaning has (can) be controlled)

- (9) "Additional cases of Covid-19 on August 25, 2021, amounted to 18,871, a decrease of 435 compared to the previous day. While the death toll today again increased by more than 1,000 cases" 25/8/2021

The news quotes in the edition of "Corona Update of the Republic of Indonesia 25 August 2021: Positive 18,671, Died 1,041" 25/8/2021 There is an equivalent form of the words "addition and increased" in Bahasa language is penambahan and bertambah" both words are formed from the root add . The word addition undergoes an affixation process in the form of a confix with the addition of the affix "pe-an". The word addition as forming a noun has the meaning of a process, method, act of adding. Meanwhile, the word increase is formed from the affixation process in the form of the prefix "ber-". As a verb form, the word increase has the meaning of more or more.

## **5. Conclusion**

Based on the purpose of research in the form of coherence discourse in online media news Tirto.id.themed pandemic covid-19. Focus on the use of lexical cohesion. The use of lexical cohesion in online news texts Tirto.id consists of repetitions or forms of repetition, synonyms, and equivalents. The form of repetition in news text in the form of repetition of word replacement, with the amount of data obtained as much as 20%. The use of lexical cohesion in the form of synonyms consists of synonyms of words with words, with the amount of data being 20%. The most dominant use of lexical cohesion is the equivalent lexical cohesion. The amount of data obtained as much as 60% of the data of the leksical cohesion analysis of equivalent in the form of affixing process, addition prefix-confectionary affix, confix-prefix form, and prefix-prefix.

Researchers suggest to the next researchers that the kind of discourse coherence research is important to find out the integrated picture of various forms of language use, both the use of language in journalistic, literary works and the use of daily greetings. Researchers hope that the problems of discourse analysis can be developed. The analysis is related to lexical cohesion. Not only about repetition, synonyms, and equivalence, but on another kind of discourse more deeply.

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