

Grammatical Cohesion in Children Novel “The Velveteen Rabbit” by Margery Williams

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to find out the grammatical cohesion in the children’s novel “The Velveteen Rabbit” by Margery Williams. The researcher used the grammatical cohesion concept of Halliday and Hassan as the framework to investigate the grammatical cohesion used in the children’s novel “The Velveteen Rabbit” by Margery Williams. In English, cohesion consists of two kinds of cohesion, they are grammatical cohesion (reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction) and lexical cohesion (repetition, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, collocation). This study focuses on the grammatical cohesion used in the data. This study used qualitative methods to get a better understanding. The researcher used a children’s novel by Margery William the titled “The Velveteen Rabbit” as the data. The collected data of grammatical cohesion has a total of 292 words, they are; 226 references; 4 substitutions, this category divided into two and there are 3 nominal substitutions and 1 verbal substitution; and there are 62 conjunctions, this category divided into four, there are 7 temporal conjunctions, 4 causal conjunctions, 35 additive conjunctions, and 16 adversative conjunctions.

INTRODUCTION

The novel is a part of literature. A novel is a book that contains a story that consists of some chapters. According to Alexey Aliyev (2021), the novel is written in 80-100,000 words. Alexey Aliyev also states that a novel has the following characteristics features, a novel is a verbal object, the novel is being written, for the most part, in prose, the novel is having at least m words, the m words mean the number in the 30,000-word range, the novel is being intended by its author to tell a fictional story and novel realizing this intention at least to some extent (Alexey Aliyev, 2021, p.21). In this study, the researcher uses kids’ novels as the data, this novel is written by Margery William with the title “The Velveteen Rabbit”. This Children’s novel is about The Velveteen Rabbit and a magical story about childhood toys and the power of love.

Discourse analysis is about analyzing and studying the uses of language (Brian David Hodges; Ayelet Kuper; Scott Reeves, 2008). According to David J. Harper, Discourse Analysis (DA) is a qualitative research method and DA is an umbrella term for a number of different approaches to language study.

Cohesion is related to discourse. Halliday (1994) stated that cohesion can be defined as resources set for building relations in a discourse that surpass the structure of grammatical (J.K Martin). In English, Cohesion consists of two kinds of cohesion, they are grammatical cohesion (reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction) and lexical cohesion (repetition, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, collocation). In this study, the researcher analyzed the grammatical cohesion in the kids’ novels with the title “The Velveteen Rabbit”. The researcher use theory of M.A.K. Halliday & Ruqaiya Hasan (1976) about cohesion. M.A.K. Halliday & Ruqaiya Hasan state that grammatical cohesion in English consists of five major sorts as follows:

1. Reference

1. Reference refers to resources, these resources for referring to a circumstantial element whose identity is recoverable. The resources in English include; definite articles, pronouns, demonstrative, comparative, and euphoric adverbs. (J.K Martin). This part consists of endophoric reference and exophoric reference.

2.

2. Ellipsis

3. Ellipsis refers to resources, their resources for relieving a clause, or some part of a group or clause (J.K Martin). This part consists of a nominal ellipsis, verbal ellipsis, and clausal ellipsis.

4.

3. Substitution

5. Substitution refers to resources of placeholders, they are reference, ellipsis, and substitution and have accordingly been referred to as grammatical cohesion. (e.g. Hasan 1968; Gutwinski 1976). This part consists of nominal substitution, verbal substitution, and clausal substitution.

6.

4. Conjunction

7. Conjunction refers to connectors that link clauses in discourse. This part consists of temporal conjunction, causal conjunction, additive conjunction, and adversative conjunction.

In this study, the researcher focused on grammatical cohesion in children’s novels with the title “The Velveteen Rabbit”. This novel was written by Margery Williams Bianco and illustrated by William Nicholson. This novel was from the United Kingdom and this children’s novel was first published in 1992. This study aims to find out the grammatical cohesion in the children’s novel “The Velveteen Rabbit”.

Previous studies have discussed cohesion, especially grammatical cohesion. Setyo, Valentina, and Raden (2020) investigated cohesion in a TIME magazine article with the title “How covid-19 will shape the class of 2020 for the rest of their life”. The previous researchers investigated the types of cohesive devices and the relationship between them which was found in an article in TIME magazine. The previous researchers also analyzed the grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion in the article in TIME magazine. Angelina, Chitra, Puspalata, Caroline, and Sulia (2013) investigated cohesion in news articles with a discourse analysis approach. This previous study investigated the macro-structure of the two texts (news articles) and the cohesion that was used to achieve the purpose of the text. Blanka and Sarka (2013) also investigated grammatical cohesion in Abstracts. This previous study had the purpose to address the problem of grammatical cohesion in English-written abstracts of British origin. Josephine and Katrina (2011) investigated grammatical cohesion in students’ argumentative essays. This previous study used essays as the data. The previous researcher analyzed the essay using Halliday and Hasan’s concept of grammatical cohesion as a framework. Siti Maulidah (2015) investigated grammatical cohesion in a speech by J.K. Rowling. This previous study is a thesis that had the purpose to find out the functions and types of grammatical cohesion devices of references used in the speech of J.K. Rowling.

The difference between previous studies and a recent study is the recent study investigated grammatical cohesion used in a children’s novel with the title “The Velveteen Rabbit” by Margery Williams. The recent researcher still uses the same framework as previous studies which is Halliday and Hassan’s grammatical cohesion concept.

METHOD

In this study, the researcher used the qualitative method. Qualitative work is expressed in natural language, this work also employs small samples and it draws on cases chosen in an opportunistic sampling (Gerring, 2017, p. 18). The data source of this study was a children's novel with the title "The Velveteen Rabbit" by Margery Williams. In this study, the researcher analyzed grammatical cohesion in this children's novel. The researcher collected the data from the website "American literature". The researcher analyzed all novels from the beginning until the end of the children's novel. The steps for collecting data are as follow:

1. The researcher discovered the children's novel titled "The Velveteen Rabbit" by Margery Williams on the website "American literature".
2. The researcher read all text in the novel, from the beginning until the end.
3. The researcher analyzed the grammatical cohesion in the children's novel.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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Table 1 Grammatical Cohesion in the children's novel "The Velveteen Rabbit"

The Types Grammatical Cohesion	Frequency	Percentage
Reference	226	77%
Ellipsis	0	0%
Substitution	4	2%
Conjunction	62	21%
Total	292	100%

1. Reference

a. Anaphoric

This category signifies a phrase or a word that refers to another phrase or word used earlier in the text.

Excerpt 1

There was once a velveteen rabbit, and in the beginning **he** was really splendid. **He** was fat and bunchy, as a rabbit should be; **his** coat was spotted brown and white, **he** had real thread whiskers, and **his** ears were lined with pink sateen. On Christmas morning, when **he** sat wedged in the top of the Boy's stocking, with a sprig of holly between **his** paws, the effect was charming.

Based on the example above, the words in the bold are classified as anaphoric references. This category signifies a phrase or a word that refers to another phrase or word used earlier in the text. A Velveteen Rabbit has been mentioned in the earlier, so, "he" and "his" in here refer to a Velveteen Rabbit. In this text, the writer focused on The Velveteen Rabbit, about his appearances.

2. Substitution

This category is another device of cohesion that is very similar to the ellipsis. The difference is in the text, when the phrase needs to be repeated, the more specific mentioned words are missed out. And in substitution, instead of leaving a phrase or a word out, it is substituted for another, more general word.

a. Verbal Substitution

Excerpt 2

"Why don't you get up and play with us?" one of them asked.
"**I don't feel like it,**" said the Rabbit.

Based on the example above, this example is classified as a substitution. This category is another device of cohesion that is very similar to the ellipsis. The difference is in the text, when the phrase needs to be repeated, the more specific mentioned words are missed out. And in substitution, instead of leaving a phrase or a word out, it is substituted for another, more general word. In the example above is classified as verbal substitution, the verb "get up and play with us" is substituted by "it".

b. Nominal Substitution

Excerpt 3

"How about his old Bunny?" she asked.
"**That?**"

Based on the example above, this example is classified as a substitution. This category is another device of cohesion that is very similar to the ellipsis. The difference is in the text, when the phrase needs to be repeated, the more specific mentioned words are missed out. And in substitution, instead of leaving a phrase or a word out, it is substituted for another, more general word. The example above is classified as nominal substitution, the noun "his old Bunny" is substituted with "that".

3. Conjunction

a. Temporal conjunction

Excerpt 5

But the little Rabbit sat quite still for a moment and never moved. **When** he saw all the wild rabbits dancing around him he suddenly remembered about his hind legs, and he didn't want them to see that he was made all in one piece.

In the example above, this example is categorized as temporal conjunction. This conjunction is the kind of conjunction in the form of a word or phrase that has the function to tell the readers when the occurrences happen. The word included in temporal conjunction is after, when, before, until, while, since, once, as, and as soon as. In the example above the word, "when" is a temporal conjunction.

b. Causal conjunction

Excerpt 6

But these things don't matter at all, **because** once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."

In the example above, this example is categorized as causal conjunction. This conjunction is the kind of conjunction in the form of a word or phrase that has the function to tell the readers the reason or cause and effect. The word included in causal conjunction is so, then, because, therefore, thus, nevertheless, consequently, hence, it follows that and for this reason. In the example above, the word "because" is a causal conjunction.

c. Additive conjunction

Excerpt 7

But wild rabbits have very sharp eyes. **And** this one stretched out his neck and looked.

In the example above, this example is categorized as additive conjunction. This conjunction is the kind of conjunction that simply add more information. The word included in causal conjunction is and, in addition, and also, moreover, or, or else, additionally, for instance, further, furthermore, alternatively, in other words, by the way, similarly, and in the same way. In the example above, the word "And" is an additive conjunction.

d. Adversative conjunction

Excerpt 8

It was a long weary time, for the Boy was too ill to play, and the little Rabbit found it rather dull with nothing to do all day long. **But** he snuggled down patiently; and looked forward to the time when the Boy should be well again, and they would go out in the garden amongst the flowers and the butterflies and play splendid games in the raspberry thicket like they used to.

In the example above, this example is categorized as adversative conjunction. This conjunction is the kind of conjunction that contains a contradictory meaning between a sentence and other sentences. The word included in causal conjunction is, however, but, in any case only, yet, instead, despite this, on the other hand, on the contrary, anyhow, in fact, nevertheless, and though. In the example above, the word "But" is an adversative conjunction.

CONCLUSION

Based of the result and discussion of this study, the researcher can draw conclusions, the collected data of grammatical cohesion has a total of 292 words, they are; 226 references; 4 substitutions, this category divided into two and there are 3 nominal substitutions; and 1 verbal substitution; and there is 62 conjunctions, this category divided into four, there are 7 temporal conjunctions, 4 causal conjunctions, 35 additive conjunctions, and 16 adversative conjunctions. In this novel, the researcher did not find the Ellipsis.

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