

## **GRAMMATICAL COHESION IN *THAI CAVE RESCUE* NEWS IN INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPERS**

**<sup>1</sup>Rika Wahyuni Tambunan; <sup>2</sup>Ridwan Hanafiah; <sup>3</sup>Umar Mono**

<sup>1,2,3</sup>*University of Sumatera Utara*

*Corresponding author: ridwances@yahoo.com*

### **Abstract**

This research aimed to identify the types of grammatical cohesion, as well as to describe the realizations of grammatical cohesion used in international newspapers. The data of this research were clauses, phrases, and words. This study departed from the theory of grammatical cohesion from Halliday & Hasan (1976) and the theory of conjunctive system by Halliday & Matthiesen (2014). The sources of data were *Thai Cave Rescue* news in *British Broadcasting Corporation*, *Russia Today*, *France 24*, *Voice of America* and *China Central Television* newspapers. The method used in this research was qualitative. It provided the types that reference (43%) was predominant with personal and comparative reference, was realized by anaphoric and cataphoric. Conjunction (42%) with the additive, temporal, adversative, matter, clarifying, conditional, varying and cause conjunction, was realized by the conjunctive system. Substitution (10%) with nominal and verbal substitution was realized by replacing one item by another. Ellipsis (5%) with clausal and nominal ellipsis, was realized by eluding a noun, verb or clause and recovering it by referring to an element in the preceding text. The finding revealed that the news texts seldom use other types of the grammatical cohesion especially the use of ellipsis and substitution which were possible to be used in writing because most researchers stated that both ellipsis and substitution were commonly found in speaking.

**Keywords:** grammatical cohesion, Thai cave rescue news, international newspaper

### **INTRODUCTION**

Cohesion, in general, is the linking within a text that enables text to hold together by use of various means of cohesion. cohesion refers to relations of meaning that exists within the text and that define it as a text (Halliday & Hasan, 1976). Thus the main idea of cohesion, in general, is to create a text that is to be understood by its readers. Cohesion also refers elements of a text which form connections between parts of the text (Tanskanen, 2006). Cohesion is used for the analysis of text beyond the clause level. It is used not only to characterize the text structure but also to study language development and written composition, especially for the newspaper. There have been described two main types of cohesion and they are grammatical

and lexical. In grammatical cohesion, it contained of reference, conjunctive system, ellipsis and substitution.

#### *Reference*

We saw **Dodi** this morning. **He** was having breakfast in a new restaurant in front of our house.

(“**He**” is an endophoric reference since it refers to something already mentioned in the text, i.e. “**Dodi**”)

#### *Conjunctive System*

Anne never feels comfortable in this party. **So** she’s leaving.

(The conjunctive system “**so**” creates a causal relation between the state “*never feels comfortable*” and the event “*is leaving*”. The meaning of “**so**” is to introduce the consequence of the cause stated in the first sentence, “*because Anne never feels comfortable*”.)

#### *Ellipsis*

‘The other *messengers* called Hatta. I must have *two*, you know. One to come, and one to go.’

(the context allows the listener to understand what is eluded. However, as shown in the examples, the word ‘*messengers*’ is omitted and replaced by nothing in the sentences)

#### *Substitution*

‘I don’t *know the meaning of half those long words*, and, what’s more, I don’t believe you *do* either!’

(The verb ‘*do*’ is a substitute for the previous verbal group ‘*know the meaning of half those long words*’ and the presupposed item is in the same sentence).

In this research, the researcher uses international newspapers in *Thai Cave Rescue* news in Russia Today (RT), British Broadcasting Cooperation (BBC), Voice of America (VoA), France 24 (F24), and China Central Television (CCTV) as a source of research data because the language used is very concerned with the sentence congruence with each other in terms of form and meaning and also the grammatical cohesion aspects of a news topic about *Thai Cave Rescue*. This cohesiveness affects the reader's understanding of the information conveyed. In the newspaper itself, actually, the most dominant thing is how to make the content of news starting from preproduction-production-postproduction (Nellyullathil, 2011). In this research, it shows how meaning relations in the text contribute to its unity.

Therefore, there are many types of the research that have been done has contributed a lot in researching the usage of grammatical cohesion. Alarcon & Morales (2011) investigate the types of grammatical cohesion used by undergraduate students’ argumentative essay dominant types of cohesive device used is reference with 90.67% and the least used is a

substitution with 0.25% of the total of the cohesive device. Suningsih (2016) examines the use of cohesive devices in writing by the third, fifth, and seventh-semester students of Pre-Intermediate, Advanced, and Academic writing course that ellipsis and substitution are the lowest, then reference and conjunction is the highest percentage of cohesive devices used.

Bahaziq (2016) analyzes the types of grammatical cohesion of the sample examination of a student's essay writing in Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB). In line with that research, Hidayat (2016) analyzes the types of grammatical cohesion in the Short Story the Little Match Girl by Hans Christian Andersen. This research pick reference as the main focus to analyze and have 87 (eighty-seven) references, in which 81 (eighty-one) references belong to the anaphoric category and 6 (six) references belong to a cataphoric category.

Based on the previous studies above, every text has different grammatical cohesion to link the meaning relations in the text contribute to its unity. Newspaper as a discourse consists of many texts that present different grammatical cohesion. In line with them, this study focuses on the use of grammatical cohesion in *Thai Cave Rescue* news in International Newspaper that has not done by the previous studies. Almost previous research more used the classification of conjunction in general rather than in detail as what has been classified by Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) to identify the types of grammatical cohesion and to describe the realizations of grammatical cohesion used in the data.

## **METHODS**

This research used the descriptive method. Descriptive method was used to describe the phenomena which are related to other phenomena (Farkhan, 2007). Furthermore, this research was analyzed, described and found the result of grammatical cohesion (reference, substitution, and ellipsis) in the data by applying the Halliday & Hasan and Halliday & Matthiessen's concept of cohesion. The data used in this study were the words, phrases, and clauses that contained grammatical cohesion in *Thai Cave Rescue news*. The sources of data in this study were in the document of news. The document used as the main data source in this study was the *Thai Cave Rescue* news text. The data was collected by applying a documentary technique. The document was read and analyzed by choosing the online international newspapers that published the topic of *Thai Cave Rescue* news and then elaborating the passage by breaking down the text into clauses.

The completion in the process of collecting data ended up by identifying grammatical cohesion in each clause and rewrites the data which were words and phrases in bold or italic in order to headline the

grammatical cohesion found. Data analysis techniques used in this study were Interactive Model Techniques by Miles & Huberman (1994).

## FINDINGS

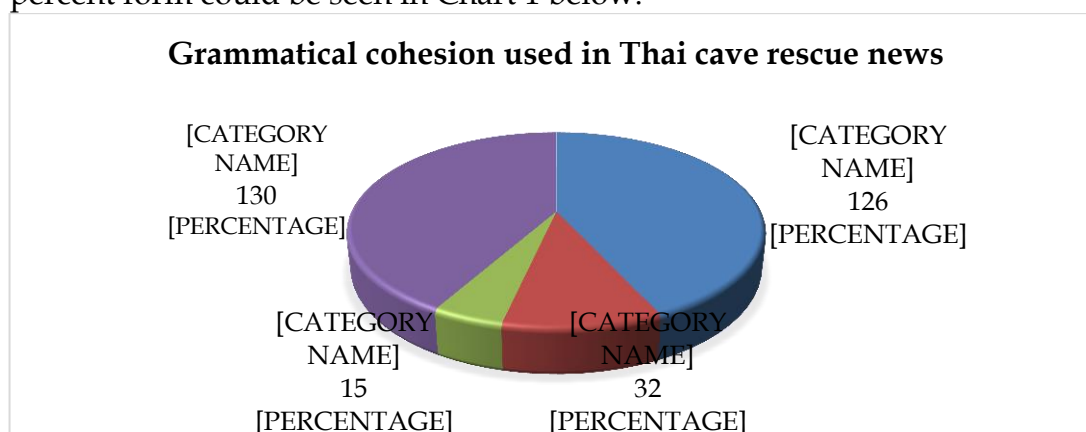
### Grammatical Cohesion: The Types Used

There are four types of grammatical cohesion, namely reference, conjunctive system, ellipsis and substitution. In this sense, the researcher tabulated and displayed the data in Tables and Chart below to give a concise description of the entire data and help the reader easily interpreted the data as described below.

**Table 1. Grammatical Cohesion Used in Thai Cave Rescue News in BBC, RT, VoA, F24 and CCTV newspapers**

Thai Cave Rescue News	R	%	S	%	E	%	C	%	Total
RT	17	5,6	4	1,3	4	1,3	13	4,3	38
BBC	57	18,8	6	1,9	6	1,9	49	16,1	118
VoA	18	5,9	5	1,6	0	0	13	4,3	36
F24	26	8,6	10	3,3	3	0,9	18	5,9	57
CCTV	12	3,9	7	2,3	2	0,6	33	10,9	54
Total	130	42,8	32	10,4	15	4,7	126	41,5	303

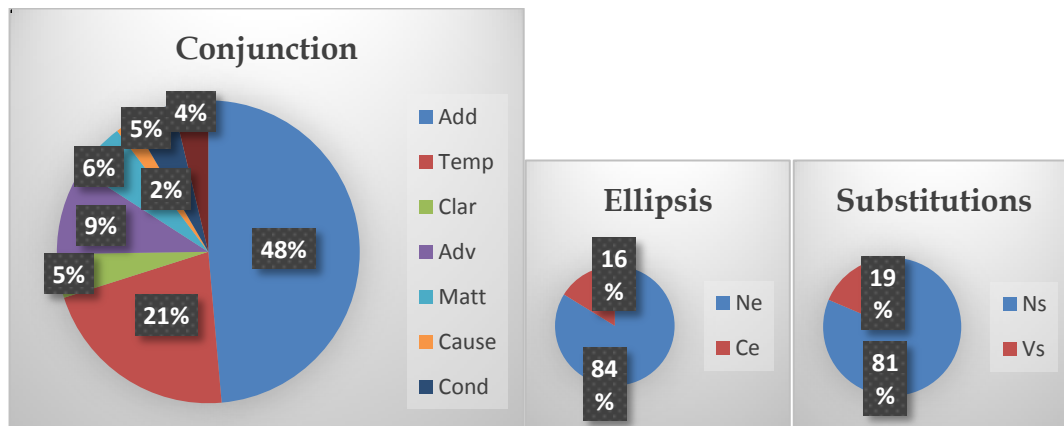
Based on Table 1 above it could be seen that the grammatical cohesion contained in the data was 303 data. Reference was the most dominant type with 130 data and followed by conjunction with 126 data. This meant that ellipses and substitution were the lowest types found in the data. Further explanation about grammatical cohesion which packaged in percent form could be seen in Chart 1 below.



**Chart 1. Grammatical Cohesion in Thai Cave Rescue News**

Chart 1 above indicated the numeric results of the use of grammatical cohesion in Thai Cave Rescue news. The researcher used a chart as the

numerical data in order to give a precise description of the data. It was the percentage. From the chart 4.1 above, it could be seen that reference (43%) was the most frequently used of grammatical cohesion by Russia Today (RT), British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Voice of America (VoA), France 24 (F24) and China Central Television (CCTV). Meanwhile, the ellipsis (15%) gained the lowest percentage of the grammatical cohesion used by those international newspapers. In detail, the grammatical cohesion based on the per-type of each type found in the international newspapers were described in Chart 2 as follow:



Charts 2. Grammatical cohesion per types

### Grammatical Cohesion: The Realization

There were four charts representing per types of grammatical cohesion such as reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction. Actually, each type embraced some sub-types such as reference (personal, demonstrative and comparison), substitution (nominal and verbal), the ellipsis (nominal and clausal), and conjunction (clarification, additive, adversative, verificative, comparison, temporal, condition, cause, and matter).

#### Reference

In the reference, the chart as in the Chart 2, it could be seen that personal reference (89%) was the dominant one followed by demonstrative (2%) and comparison (9%). It implied that the *Thai Cave Rescue* news tend to use personal reference items as examples below.

- (1) The boys had to be brought out the **same** way. (**British Broadcasting Corporation**- Line 3).

The anaphoric reference also found in **British Broadcasting Corporation**. From the bold "*same*" represents the comparative reference items to identity the general comparison that "*the way*" of "*the boys*" has the equal position.

- (2) **Saman Gunan, a former Navy SEAL**, ran out of air and drowned on **his** swim back out of the cave. (**Voice of America** – Line 8)

In the example above, it was taken from **Voice of America** which the bold word “*his*” refers the previous word “*Saman Gunan, a former Navy SEAL*” that shows the possession to indicate “*swim back*” in the phrase “*his swim back*” is referred to “*Saman Gunan, a former Navy SEAL*”.

- (3) In a letter of **his** own, **the coach, Ekapol Chanthawong**, apologized to the boys' parents for the ordeal. (France 24 – Line 15).

While, in example (5) above was taken from France 24 that showed the cataphoric reference since vice versa by which it looks forwards in the text to indentify the elements where the reference item refers to Halliday & Hasan:1976.

From the bold “*his*” represents the personal reference items. The bold word “*his*” refers to the next word “*the coach, Ekapol Chanthawong*” that indicate the phrase “*in a letter of his own*” is referred to “*the coach, Ekapol Chanthawong*”.

### **Conjunction**

In conjunction, it showed that additive conjunction (48%) was more dominant than the others. Meanwhile, cause (2%) was the least one. It implied that conjunction matter basically less used in news writing. The conjunction of additive was mostly used in the news writing otherwise. It implied the news writing tend to use the conjunction of additive since it conveyed and explained information to inform or educate your reader (Nazario, Borchers, & Lewis, 2013). To see the realization of conjunction in this research is easier than the other types of grammatical cohesion. Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) had attached the table of conjunction system in his book which eases the researcher to match the conjunction found in the data to the table of conjunction system in Halliday & Matthiessen’s book.

- (1) Rescuers have been racing against the weather **ever since** they discovered the stranded football squad on Monday. (Russia Today – Line 5).

In the example above, was temporal conjunction that was taken from Russia Today. That temporal conjunction “*ever since*” is to create cohesion by linking between “*Rescuers have been racing against the weather*” and “*they discovered the stranded football squad on Monday*”. The conjunction “*ever since*” represented time of the events. That was “*on Monday*”.

- (2) The path out is considered **especially** complicated **because of** twists (France 24 – Line 3).

The example above was taken from France 24 which the first bold conjunction system “*especially*” is clarifying conjunction to mark the value of the word “*complicated*”. While the conjunction “*because of*” marked the

relationship between “*The path out is considered especially complicated*” and “*twists*”. It showed the reason why the path out is considered complicated in the clause.

### **Ellipsis**

In the ellipsis, it can be seen that nominal ellipsis (84%) was mostly found in the data compared to clausal ellipsis meanwhile verbal ellipsis was not found in *Thai Cave Rescue* news in the international newspapers. It implied that the ellipsis was rarely used in those *Thai Cave Rescue* news.

- (1) Coach Ekkapol said **they** brought no food into the cave and  $\emptyset$  survived with clean water from the rocks of the cave. (China Central Television - Line 6).

In the example above was taken from China Central Television. The nominal ellipsis of personal pronoun “*they*” was followed by “ *$\emptyset$  survived with clean water from the rocks of the cave*”. The pronoun used in the subordinative clause is omitted to fulfill the sentence. **The pause “ $\emptyset$ ”** that found in the clause is used to elude the repeated use of the noun phrase “*they*”.

- (2) **Monsoon storm** clouds could bring rain at any moment which  $\emptyset$  would further flood the cave where the 12 boys, aged 11 to 16, and their 25-year-old coach have been cut off by rising water. (Russia Today - line 5).

Same with the previous example, in example (2) which was taken from Russia Today, the nominal ellipsis of noun phrase “*monsoon storm*” was followed by “ *$\emptyset$  would further flood the cave where the 12 boys, aged 11 to 16, and their 25-year-old coach have been cut off by rising water*”. **The pause “ $\emptyset$ ”** that found in the clause is used to elude the repeated use of the noun phrase “*monsoon storm*”.

### **Substitution**

In the substitution, there were only two substitutions occurred in *Thai Cave Rescue* news, that was verbal and nominal substitutions. It was similar to the ellipsis. The relation between substitution and ellipsis is very close because it is merely that ellipsis is substitution by zero (Halliday & Hasan, 1976)

- (1) Experienced cave rescue experts consider an underwater escape a last resort, especially with people untrained in diving, as the boys **are**. (France 24 - Line 3).

In example above was verbal substitution which taken from France 24. The substitutes “*are*” in the example represent the cohesive relation to what has been mentioned. That substitute showed possession of the verb “*untrained in diving*”. Hence, the full form of clause is supposed to be “*as the*

*boys are untrained in diving*". In order to make an effective clause, the same word is replaced by the auxiliary verb to be "*are*".

(2) Talking on their dreams, most of the boys said they want to be professional footballers. **Some** said they want to become one of the Navy SEALs. (China Central Television - Line 8).

In example above is nominal substitution "*some*" which was taken from China Central Television. That nominal substitution substitutes the nominal group "*the boys*" in the clause to represent the part of the boys wants to be one of the Navy SEALs. Hence, the full form of clause is supposed to be "*the part of the boys said they want to become one of the Navy SEALs*". In order to make an effective clause, the same word is replaced by the word "*some*".

## DISCUSSION

The grammatical cohesion in the data showed the results based on determining the types and the realizations of grammatical cohesion in the data. Based on the findings, it was revealed that numerous grammatical cohesions were found in RT, BBC, VOA, F24, and CCTV in which reference (43%) was the most frequently used of grammatical cohesive features by the data. Meanwhile, the ellipsis (5%) gained the lowest percentage of the grammatical cohesion in *Thai Cave Rescue* news.

This finding of this research was similar with the finding of Alarcon & Morales (2011) revealed that the reference (90.67%) was the highest frequency of the cohesive features while substitution (0.25%) was the least used type of cohesive features from the total of the cohesive features. The news texts seldom use ellipsis and substitution which were possible to be used in writing because most researchers stated that both ellipsis and substitution were commonly found in speaking (Halliday, 1994 & Tsareva, 2010). Referring to Chart 2, the reference, it showed that the use of a personal pronoun (89%) was dominant.

It was due to cohesive items were important because it provided the concept of identifiability (Alarcon & Morales, 2011) to create links anaphorically and metaphorically between elements in the text (Halliday & Hasan, 1976). Most of the news texts tended to use personal reference. It implied that most news texts were familiar with the reference and more used it to create cohesion by creating links between elements (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014) rather than other types of cohesion. It denoted that the news texts were a lack of using other types of cohesion. In addition, "substitution and ellipsis are more characteristically found in dialogues (Halliday, 1994 as cited in Ghasemi, 2013).

Furthermore, if it was compared with the reference result, the use of conjunction (42%) was almost equal to the use of reference. Referring to



Chart 2 of conjunction, the use of additive was the dominant use of other types of conjunction. Therefore, the use of the types of grammatical conjunction takes over the text to make it cohesion so that it had trustworthiness to convey the information written in the news.

In detail, reference (43%) was the predominant of the appropriate use of grammatical cohesive features while ellipsis (5%) was the least one due to it less defined in Thai Cave Rescue news. Then, news language might contain grammatical ambiguities that arise because of the use of technical terms that might cause confusion among the readers. Because news texts were written, they had more complex grammars and did not use pauses, stresses, intonations, and tones of speech as those in spoken language.

### **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

After analyzing the data, there are 4 types of grammatical cohesion found in the data namely reference, conjunctive system, substitution and ellipsis. In relation to the realization of grammatical cohesion, it can be seen that the reference (43%) which was the predominant of grammatical cohesive features used by in Thai Cave Rescue news in the international newspapers compared to other types.

In the reference, it was found that personal reference (89%) was the dominant one followed by a comparative reference (9%) and demonstrative reference (2%) which meant that every types or reference was found in this research. While conjunction (42%) took the second position with additive (48%), Temporal (21%), Adversative (9%), Matter (6%), Clarifying (5%), Conditional (5%), Varying (4%) and Cause (2%) which meant that all types of conjunctions were not found in this study but only a few. The third one was substitution (10%) with nominal substitution (81%) and verbal substitution (19%) which meant that clausal substitution was not found in this research. Then, ellipsis took the fourth or last position with the clausal ellipsis (84%) and nominal ellipsis (16%) which meant that verbal ellipsis was not found in this research. Because this research is only focused on written text, it is also suggested that the further researchers are able to examine the grammatical cohesion in the spoken text. It can be used to explore deeper the use of ellipsis and substitutions since those types of grammatical cohesion are seldom found in the written text.

### **REFERENCES**

- Alarcon, J. B., & Morales, K. N. S. (2011). Grammatical cohesion in students' argumentative essay. *Journal of English and Literature*, 2(5). 114-127.
- Bahaziq, A. (2016). Cohesive Devices in Written Discourse: A Discourse Analysis of a Student's Essay Writing. *English Language Teaching Journal*, 9(7). 112-119.

- British Broadcasting Corporation. (2018). *Thai cave rescue: How the boys were saved*. Retrieved August 11, 2018, from [https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-44695232?intlink\\_from\\_url=https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/cnrxwmw1dzkt/thailand-cave-rescue&link\\_location=live-reporting-story](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-44695232?intlink_from_url=https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/cnrxwmw1dzkt/thailand-cave-rescue&link_location=live-reporting-story)
- China Central Television. (2018). *Thai footballers rescued from cave make public appearance*. Retrieved August 11, 2018, from <http://english.cctv.com/2018/07/19/ARTI4N7UATWDXtw3imnUB6aE180719.shtml>
- Farkhan, M. (2007). *Proposal Penelitian Bahasa dan Sastra*. Jakarta: Cella Jakarta.
- France 24. (2018). *Rescue operation of Thailand's trapped boys starts*. Retrieved August 11, 2018, from <https://www.france24.com/en/20180708-operation-rescue-thailands-trapped-boys-starts>
- Ghasemi, M. (2013). An Investigation into the Use of Cohesive Devices in Second Language Writings. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.4304/tpls.3.9.1615-1623>
- Halliday, M. A. (1994). *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*. London: Edward Arnold.
- Halliday, M., & Hasan, R. (1976). *Cohesion in English*. London: Longman Group Limited.
- Halliday, M. I., & Matthiessen, M. A. (2014). *An Introduction to Functional Grammar. An introduction to functional grammar*. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203431269>
- Hidayat, A. (2016). An Analysis of Grammatical Cohesive Device of the Short Story the Little Match Girl by Hans Christian Andersen 2016/2017. *English Education: Jurnal Tadris Bahasa Inggris*, 9(2). 232-244.
- Miles, M. B., & Huberman, M. a. (1994). *Qualitative data analysis: An expanded sourcebook. Evaluation and Program Planning*. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0149-7189\(96\)88232-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/0149-7189(96)88232-2)
- Nazario, A. L., Borchers, D. D., & Lewis, W. F. (2013). *Bridges to Better writing* (2nd ed.). Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.
- Nellyyullathil, M. (2011). *Mass Communication (Paper II: Electronic Media)*. Kerala. Retrieved from <http://www.universityofcalicut.info/syl/MassCommunication279.pdf>
- Russia Today. (2018). *Four children saved from flooded cave in Thailand, rescue op halted for night*. Retrieved August 11, 2018, from <https://www.rt.com/news/432300-thailand-rescue-operation-start/>
- Suningsih, S. (2016). *The Use of Cohesive Devices in Students' Writing*. Lampung University.
- Tanskanen, S. K. (2006). *Collaborating towards Coherence: Lexical Cohesion in English Discourse*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

- Tsareva, A. (2010). *Grammatical cohesion in argumentative essays by Norwegian and Russian learners*. The University of Oslo.
- Voice of America. (2018). *Rain Resumes, Thai Cave Rescue Effort Begins*. Retrieved August 11, 2018, from <https://www.voanews.com/a/rain-resumes-thai-cave-rescue/4473531.html>