

LEXICAL COHESION ANALYSIS OF PRESIDENT PRABOWO SUBIANTO'S SPEECH AT AL-AZHAR UNIVERSITY CAIRO DECEMBER 2024

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ABSTRACT

This research analyzes lexical cohesion in Prabowo Subianto's presidential speech at Al-Azhar University Cairo in December 2024. By using descriptive qualitative method, this research aims to identify and analyze the types of lexical cohesion applied, including repetition, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, collocation, and equivalence. The data of this research comes from the transcription of speeches uploaded through the YouTube channel Kompas.com. The analysis shows that repetition is the most dominant type of lexical cohesion used. Out of 78 data, repetition is found as much as 50 data, synonymy 3 data, antonymy 3 data, hyponymy 1 data, collocation 13 data, and equivalence 8 data. The dominant use of repetition reflects President Prabowo's efforts to strengthen his message and ensure the listeners' deep understanding. The key points in the repetition reflect the fundamental principles and identity of the Indonesian nation in the context of international relations, including mutual respect, rejection of hostility, and the essence of inclusive cooperation regardless of differences in order to realize unity and prosperity. This study concludes that lexical cohesion plays a significant role in building discourse cohesion and clarifying meaning in President Prabowo's speech. The careful selection of words based on semantic relationships contributes to the effective delivery of the message and the meaning of the speech.

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a multilingual country with linguistic richness that plays a central role in social interaction. In various contexts, language becomes the main means of conveying interpersonal and intergroup messages. The existence of language cannot be separated from humans because of their basic need for social interaction. (Aisyah, 2018). One form of language use in the context of public communication is speech.

Speech is a form of oral communication that aims to convey information, views, or invitations to an audience (Zulfa et al., 2023). Speech functions can be in favor of or against a statement (Windayani, 2023). Effective speech is characterized by the comprehension of the message by the audience (Asif et al., 2020). Most speeches are also persuasive and inspirational, and are designed to generate optimism (Malah, 2021). In politics, speeches are an important instrument for a president to convey his vision, build his image, and garner public support.



As a political discourse, the president's speech requires a cohesive and coherent structure so that the message is conveyed effectively (Fauzi & Sabardila, 2023). Lexical cohesion, which involves meaning relationships between lexical elements in a text, plays an important role in forming the unity of discourse. This research specifically reviews aspects of lexical cohesion in President Prabowo Subianto's speech.

Prabowo Subianto is an Indonesian political figure with an assertive and distinctive communication style. Since taking office as President of the Republic of Indonesia, his rhetorical style and speech structure have been in the public spotlight. Although there have been many studies on cohesion in political discourse, the analysis of Prabowo Subianto's speech as president is still limited. Therefore, this study is important to understand how lexical cohesion is utilized in building arguments, strengthening political messages, and influencing audience interpretations.

This study aims to identify the types of lexical cohesion used in President Prabowo Subianto's speeches, determine the most dominant forms of lexical cohesion, examine how these cohesion structures contribute to the cohesiveness and effectiveness of political messages. This study is expected to contribute to the development of linguistic studies of political discourse, especially in the context of Indonesian presidential communication.

Some previous studies have explored the use of lexical cohesion in public speeches. Research by Nuraini (2024) entitled *Lexical Cohesion in Shereen Salama's Speech* identified 26 synonymy data, 1 superordinate, 1 collocation, and 57 repetition data. Repetition functions as a reinforcement of the motivational message in the speech. Meanwhile, Fauzi (2023) in his research *Political Rhetoric in the President's Speech on August 16, 2023* found four types of grammatical cohesion and six types of lexical cohesion in President Joko Widodo's speech. The findings show that the existence of lexical and grammatical cohesion plays an important role in shaping effective and quality speeches.

Based on these findings, this research focuses on analyzing lexical cohesion in President Prabowo Subianto's speeches. The results of this study are expected to provide a deeper understanding of the political communication strategies used and how linguistic aspects support the achievement of rhetorical and ideological goals in presidential discourse.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Discourse analysis is the study of how language is used in a social context (Nuzulia & Wulandari, 2020). Discourse analysis focuses more on language as communication. As a complete linguistic unit, discourse is built by various elements such as structure, diction, meaning, topic, context and so on (Subandi et al., 2022). Discourse has a structure that is larger than sentences and is used to interact in certain social situations (Goziyah & Sari, 2021). Discourse is a sequence of sentences that are interrelated so as to create a harmonious meaning in these sentences (Aloysia & Utami, 2022). A perfect discourse is a complete discourse, which consists of elements that are connected and interrelated. These elements include cohesion, coherence, discourse topic, lexical aspects, grammatical aspects, phonological aspects, and semantic aspects (Nirwana & Ratna, 2023). Discourse practices can be oral or written (Pitoyo, 2021).

2.1 Cohesion

Cohesion in a linguistic context is the relationship between text elements realized through writing (Tanskanen, 2021). Cohesion is determined by the relationships of meaning present in the text and



it is that meaning that defines it as text (Malah, 2021). Cohesion is the way sentences are organized so that they are related and easy to follow. It helps readers understand the writing better (Farida & Turistiani, 2023). Cohesion in a discourse creates the meaning of a text element in relation to the meaning of other elements (Pujasari & Utami, 2023). A linguistic device to signify the relationship between sentences and between sections in a text/discourse (Megaiab, 2023).

Cohesion is generally defined as explicit linguistic cues or devices in a text that allow readers to establish connections between textual messages (Zhang, 2023). A sentence that has cohesion will be closely related to each other and form a unified whole that contributes to the readability of the text and has an impact on the understanding and clarity of the argument (Mahlberg, 2006). Halliday and Hassan argue that in revealing that as a concept of meaning in discourse, cohesion shows the relationship between sentences (Dehbi, 2025). This relationship can be grammatical or related to language structure, and can also be lexical or related to word choice. Therefore, cohesion is linguistically divided into two main types: grammatical and lexical (Alotaibi, 2015). Grammatical cohesion consists of reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction (Kafes, 2012).

2.2 Cohesion Lexical

According to Halliday and Hasan, lexical cohesion is a cohesive effect created by discourse producers through the selection of lexical items that encode related propositional content in discourse (Malah, 2021). Lexical cohesion is a cohesive effect obtained through the selection of vocabulary in the text (Megaiab, 2023). Words in lexical meaning are words that have inherent meaning, without requiring the help of other words to be understood (Wadhi et al., 2021). Halliday and Hassan divide lexical cohesion into six types, namely Repetition, Synonym, Antonym, Hyponym, Collocation, and Equivalence (Octaviani et al., 2023). Cohesion markers are not only a means of connecting structural units, but also function semantically in a discourse (Putri et al., 2020).

Lexical cohesion consists of repetition, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, collocation, and equivalence (Megayatma & Pratiwi, 2022). To produce a cohesive and comprehensible text, lexical cohesion plays a central role by ensuring that each word chosen contributes to the overall meaning. Repetition is defined as the repetition of parts or elements of language such as syllables, words, or parts of sentences carried out to produce a stress in an appropriate context (Juliyanti & Sabardila, 2023). The use of similar words, phrases, or clauses in several parts of the text to establish coherence relationships between sentences (Rahmawati, 2024). For example, "We must work hard. Working hard is the key to success."

The second type of lexical cohesion is synonymy. Synonymy means the identity of meaning shared by two or more different forms in a particular context (Mubarak, 2006). Synonyms can also be called word similarities (Fauzi & Sabardila, 2023). For example, "happy - joyful." Synonym means a language that has a similar meaning in a word even though the same is only the meaning (Nurkholifah et al., 2021). Synonyms work by using a number of related words to replace other words (Danglli & Abazaj, 2014). The third type of lexical cohesion is opposite words or antonyms. Antonyms are words that have opposite or contrasting meanings between one constituent and another (Ndruru & Johan, 2024). Antonyms can be interpreted as another name for another object or thing (Suhendra et al., 2019). For example, "big - small" and "life - death."



Hyponymy is a language element whose meaning is included in a broader part of another language element (Rimbawati et al., 2024). Hyponymy is a class of lexical elements with general similarity and special similarity between them, which is referred to as hyponymy (Nuraini et al., 2024). For example, “rose, jasmine, and orchid” are hyponyms of “flower.”

The next type is collocation. Collocation is a pairing of words that have almost the same strength of meaning (Rimbawati et al., 2024). Collocation occurs when a word or phrase reappears in a writing, but its appearance is not identical because it is usually surrounded by similar words (Sakuntala et al., 2025). For example: “make a decision” and “sweet tea”.

The last marker of lexical cohesion is equivalence. Equivalence is related to the equivalence between other lingual units in a word (Nurkholifah et al., 2021). Equivalence is basically equality or compatibility. In linguistics, equivalence indicates an equivalent relationship between one language unit and another in a system (Octaviani et al., 2023). For example, the use of “currency” as the equivalent of “rupiah” in an economic context.

Lexical cohesion devices are essential in forming discourse coherence. Without these devices, the text would lose the internal linkages necessary to achieve clear and consistent meaning (Dang, 2020). Lexical cohesion also improves readability and reader comprehension of the structure and content of discourse. (Mahlberg, 2006).

Research that specifically examines the use of lexical cohesion in Indonesian-language political speeches in the international sphere is still very limited. In fact, this kind of context has a distinctive pragmatic and ideological content, especially when politicians speak before foreign audiences. Therefore, this study aims to fill the gap by analyzing lexical cohesion in President Prabowo Subianto's speech at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, December 2024, as a representation of contemporary Indonesian political discourse at the global level.

3. METHODOLOGY

The approach used in this research is descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive research serves to present a true picture of a situation, event, or certain area as it is (Fauzi & Sabardila, 2023). Qualitative research aims to deeply understand the experiences and perspectives of research participants. This method explains that the data is presented in detail based on actual facts, as they are in the object of research. The data source in this study is President Prabowo Subianto's speech at Al-Azhar University in Cairo in December 2024, which was uploaded by the Kompas.com YouTube channel on December 19, 2024 with the title "Prabowo's Speech in Cairo: Alluding to Gus Dur, Counting Arrested Corruptors". The data in this study are lexical cohesion contained in President Prabowo Subianto's speech at Al-Azhar University in Cairo in December 2024.

Data collection techniques were carried out with data transcription. The video data was converted into written text using the listening and note-taking technique. After the transcription was completed, the text was analyzed to identify lexical cohesion units based on Halliday and Hasan's (1976) classification, which includes six types: repetition, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, collocation, and equivalence. The identification of cohesion devices was done manually through open coding, namely by marking lexical units in the text that show meaning relations between discourse units. To maintain the validity and reliability of the data, the results of lexical cohesion identification were reviewed by two other researchers independently, then the perception was equalized through open discussion.



The agih method is used to analyze the data as this research is concerned with language. In this context, the agih method is used to examine the types of lexical cohesion based on the internal structure of the speech text, without considering external factors such as the situational or psychological context of the speaker.

The analysis steps are carried out as follows:

1. Classify the types of lexical cohesion that appear in the text based on the predetermined categories.
2. Calculating the frequency of occurrence of each type of cohesion.
3. Interpreting the function and contribution of each type of cohesion to the unity and acceptability of the meaning of speech discourse.

With this method, it is hoped that an accurate picture can be obtained of how lexical cohesion is used in President Prabowo Subianto's speech to create discourse cohesion and strengthen the rhetorical power of the political message conveyed.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents an analysis of lexical cohesion in Prabowo Subianto's presidential speech at Al-Azhar University Cairo in December 2024. The things discussed are the types of lexical cohesion, among others: repetition, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, collocation, and equivalence. In the analysis, 78 lexical cohesion data were found. The following table shows the number of data for each lexical cohesion.

Table 1. Number of Lexical Cohesion in President Prabowo Subianto's Speech at Al-Azhar University Cairo December 2024

No	Types of Lexical Cohesion	Data Amount
1.	Reps	50
2.	Synonymy	3
3.	Antonymy	3
4.	Hyponymy	1
5.	Collocation	13
6.	Equivalence	8
	Total	78

Repetition

Repetition is a sentence that consists of several words and the words used are repetitions or reiterations of words that previously existed. The following are excerpts of sentences that contain repetition:

- 1) *"The Indonesian nation is a nation that respects all nations in the world, respects all countries and does not want to engage in hostilities with anyone."*
- 2) *"Let us cooperate with each other, cooperate with all nations, cooperate with all other religions, cooperate with all ethnic groups and races."*

In data 1 there is repetition in the form of the word respect which intends to emphasize the basic attitudes and principles of the Indonesian people in establishing international relations, namely upholding mutual respect between nations and countries regardless of background, and rejecting all forms of hostility. Indonesia is committed to maintaining world peace by not



interfering in other countries' conflicts, and prioritizing harmonious and equal cooperation. This attitude reflects the spirit of Indonesia's free and active foreign policy, which is free from any influence or bloc, but remains active in realizing peace and justice in the world.

In data 2 there is repetition or repetition in the form of the word cooperate, even repeated four times. The sentence invites all parties to cooperate widely regardless of differences within the country and abroad. This invitation emphasizes the importance of unity and collaboration between individuals, nations, religions, tribes, and races in order to create a harmonious and peaceful life. By working together, all forms of differences are no longer a source of conflict, but rather a strength to build an inclusive, just and prosperous society. This sentence reflects the values of tolerance, gotong royong, and the spirit of togetherness that are an important part of the Indonesian identity.

Synonymy

Speakers or writers use similar words with the aim of creating a cohesive discourse that is easily understood by readers or listeners. Synonyms function to support a discourse that has the same meaning. Some of the data found are as follows:

- 1) *"If there is no unity, there is weakness and if it is weak, it cannot protect and maintain the safety of its people."*
- 2) *"I believe you are steadfast, resolute, and resilient in the face of difficulties."*

In data 1 there is a form of lexical cohesion in the form of synonyms in the form of the words protect and safety. The sentence emphasizes the importance of unity as the foundation of a nation's strength. Without togetherness and a sense of one goal among the people and leaders, what emerges is division, conflict, and weakness in facing various challenges. Therefore, unity is not only a moral value, but also a strategic necessity so that the country remains strong and able to withstand all situations. In data 2, we see synonymy in the form of the words steadfast, resolute, and resilient, all three of which contain the meaning of a strong heart, not easily shaken. The word is an expression of trust and encouragement to a person or group of people who are facing various challenges or difficulties.

Antonymy

Opposite words, also known as antonyms, are words that have contrasting meanings or are in opposition to other words. Quotes in speeches that contain antonyms include the following:

- 1) *"I don't know if the professor is smart or stupid. Maybe he has a smart brain but his heart, his heart is not, he can't feel that if the children are hungry to go to school, he can't feel."*
- 2) *"Not only in foreign policy, but also in the domestic policy that I have been running."*

Data 1 shows lexical cohesion in the form of antonyms, namely the words smart and stupid. The words are opposed to each other. Smart means an adjective that means having intelligence, cleverness, or the ability to understand, learn, and do something well. On the other hand, stupid means an adjective that means not having knowledge, not understanding quickly, or being slow in thinking and learning. The statement criticizes someone who may be academically or intellectually very intelligent but is considered to lack empathy or social sensitivity, especially towards the suffering of others. The speaker emphasized that brain intelligence is not enough if it is not accompanied by heart intelligence, which is the ability to feel and understand the difficulties experienced by others, such as children who go to school hungry.



Data 2 antonyms are seen in the words foreign politics and domestic politics. Domestic politics refers to policies, actions, and decisions taken by the government of a country in managing its internal affairs, such as law, education, economy, and social welfare. Meanwhile, foreign policy is a policy taken by a country in relation to other countries, which includes aspects of diplomacy, international trade, political alliances, and defense. Foreign policy aims to safeguard national interests in a global context, maintain good relations with other countries, and ensure the security and welfare of the country in the international arena.

Hyponymy

Hyponymy describes the relationship of a word's meaning contained in another word. A hyponym can be said to be a specialized word that is part of a broader word. The broader word is called a hypernym. Below is an example of hyponymy found in Prabowo Subianto's presidential speech at Al-Azhar University in Cairo.

- 1) *"Tomorrow we will have a summit meeting, a summit conference between eight countries called D8. The D8 is the developing eight for economic cooperation established in 97 to continue economic and development cooperation among eight developing countries namely Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Turkey and Pakistan.*

The data above show 1 realm of hyponyms, the country in the sentence refers to an example or member of a larger category, namely developing countries. Here, D8 (The Developing Eight for Economic Cooperation) is a group of countries belonging to the category of developing countries that share the common goal of enhancing economic cooperation and development. The countries mentioned, namely Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Turkey and Pakistan, are examples or hyponyms of the term D8 group of developing countries. In other words, developing countries are a general category, while Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Turkey and Pakistan are specific examples or hyponyms that fall under the category.

Collocation

Another meaning to facilitate understanding of collocation is pairs of words that feel natural or common. Collocation or can be called word sanding. Words that tend to be side by side will be used as associations in word choice and have almost the same meaning. Some sentences that contain collocations are as follows:

- 1) *"Soon we will not only be self-sufficient in food but in a few years I say Indonesia will become the world's food barn."*

The data shows lexical cohesion in the form of collocation in the phrase food self-sufficiency. The collocation that refers to the phrase is the world's food barn, which is a condition in which a country is able to meet its domestic food needs independently, without relying on imports from other countries.

Equivalence

Equivalence is the state or condition of a word or phrase that has the same or comparable value, meaning, function, or effect as another phrase in a context. Some of the data found are as follows:

- 1) *"Gus Dur I know, I know Gus Dur very well, a Muslim leader, the chairman of Nahdlatul Ulama came from the family of our great Sheikh, the Tebuireng family, but he has a very broad mind, he has a very good soul, he embraces all, he became a figure,*



I think a very famous Muslim figure as a figure of inclusivism, a figure who protects all minorities."

- 2) *"Indonesia will be the food barn of the world, we are so great gifted by the Almighty, vast land, fertile water availability, also three quarters of our country's territory of the sea, we have the second largest reserves in the world, we have the third longest coastline in the world."*

Data 1 is a type of lexical cohesion in the form of equivalence. Overall, this statement describes Gus Dur as a figure widely known for his humanitarian vision that prioritizes unity and protection for all groups. The equivalence of the statement can be understood as an appreciation and recognition of Gus Dur as a highly respected leader, not only in his capacity as a Muslim and chairman of Nahdlatul Ulama, but also in terms of his broad thinking and good character. Gus Dur was known to be close to the speaker, which emphasized his personal connection and emotional closeness to the figure. He came from a respected family, that of the Sheikh of Tebuireng, which provided a strong foundation for his position in society.

The equivalence in the sentence of data 2 refers to the depiction of the great potential possessed by Indonesia in achieving the status as the world's food barn. In the sentence, Indonesia is described as a country endowed with various natural gifts that are very supportive of realizing this goal. These include an abundance of natural resources, such as vast and fertile land, sufficient water availability, and an area that is mostly made up of sea. Indonesia also has the world's second-largest food reserves and the third-longest coastline, indicating a natural wealth that strongly supports the fisheries and agriculture sectors. With all this potential, this sentence states that Indonesia has all the conditions to become a global food provider, utilizing its natural resources optimally.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the data that has been found, it is concluded that President Prabowo often uses repetition to emphasize important points in his speech. This is proven by the presence of 50 data types of repetition found from a total of 78 data found. synonymy 3 data, antonymy 3 data, hyponymy 1 data, collocation 13 data, and equivalence 8 data. The data shows that President Prabowo often uses word repetition to emphasize important points in his speeches such as the importance of unity, cooperation, tolerance, and mutual respect, as well as Indonesia's potential as the world's food barn.

In addition to repetition, the speech also uses other types of lexical cohesion, such as synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, collocation, and equivalence, although with a lower frequency. The various lexical cohesion strategies make Prabowo's presidential speech more structured and cohesive so that the message is easy to understand, accepted and persuasive for listeners. Word choice based on these diverse semantic relationships contributes significantly to the effectiveness of communication in his speeches. It shows an attempt to create variety and cohesiveness in the discourse.

Overall, lexical cohesion is an important mechanism in building cohesion and clarifying meaning in a discourse. Proper selection of words based on semantic relationships such as repetition, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, collocation, and equivalence helps writers convey messages effectively and easily understood by readers or listeners. Thus, a deep understanding of lexical cohesion is necessary, especially in the context of academic writing, journalism, and



literary works. The ability to identify and apply various forms of lexical relationships allows writers to not only maintain continuity of ideas, but also create a logical and interesting flow. In addition, lexical cohesion plays a role in avoiding ambiguity and strengthening arguments, so that the resulting text has high communicative power and is able to reach a wide audience.

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