

## **An Analysis of Lexical Cohesion Used by Donald Trump's Inauguration Speech “*The United States will be The First*” (2017)**

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### **Abstract**

*In this research, the researcher discusses the using of lexical cohesion in inauguration speech by Donald Trump on January, 20, 2017. This research aimed to know kinds of lexical cohesion appear in inauguration text, and also to know the associative meaning used in inauguration speech. The researcher used a descriptive qualitative method in this research and applied Halliday and Hasan's theory of cohesion to find out the lexical cohesion devices utilized in the speech text. And then, the researcher applied Geoffrey Leech's theory of types of associative meaning to find out types of associative meaning used in the inauguration speech. Spredley's domain analysis, taxonomic and componential analysis used for analyzing the data. The result of this research show the lexical cohesion devices utilized in the inauguration speech text are reiteration (repetition, synonym, near synonym, and superordinate) and collocation. While, the associative meaning types utilized in inauguration speech text are connotative meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning and collocative meaning.*

**Keywords:** Donald Trump, Lexical Cohesion, Speech.

### **Introduction**

Speech is one form of communication activity or given thinking of mind for people that is very necessary in everyday life. According to Hadinegoro (2003), speech is an expression of the mind in form of words addressed to the people or the discourse prepared to be uttered in front of the audiences, with the intention that the hearers can know, understand, accept and applying everything that is delivered to them.

A good speech is a word address can be understood very well by the listener. There are at least two factors that influence the speech text, cohesion and coherence. According to Gutwinski (as cited in Suwandi, 2003) Cohesion is the relationship between sentence and between clauses in text, either in grammatical phase and lexical phase. Moreover, Richard et al (as cited in Suwandi, 2003) state that coherence refers to the relationship, which the relationship between meanings of speech in a discourse or between meanings in a text.

The definitions above give clear explanation the concept of coherent and cohesion. Coherence is different from cohesion. Cohesion refers to the connecting of grammatical or lexical within a text or sentences that holds a text together and gives it meaning. Cohesion means relationships between sections in text marked by the use of language. Meanwhile, coherence is semantic property of discourse which is formed by interpretation of each relative sentence to other sentences. The coherent text is cohesive, meaningful, unified, and understandable to readers. Therefore, in the presence of cohesion, a speech text may become coherent.

Based on the statement of Halliday and Hasan (as cited in Afiriani, 2016) cohesion is divided into two parts, grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion. This study only focus on lexical cohesion in which, lexical cohesion is the way vocabulary links to the parts of the text. It consists of reiteration (repetition, synonym, near synonym, superordinate, general word) and collocation.

In this research, the researcher interest to complete the lexical cohesion devices and types of associative meaning in the text of inauguration speech by Donald Trump held last year in America. The inauguration speech of Donald Trump as 45<sup>th</sup> President of United States marks the commencement of Donald Trump's four years term as President and Mike Pence as Vice President. A public ceremony was held on Friday, January 20, 2017, on the West of the Capital Building in Washington, DC, and being the oldest and richest person inaugurated as president, he was the first president without prior government or military experience.

From the above explanation, the researcher gets the limits of research that is concerning about analyze of the lexical cohesion that is used in the speech text firstly and secondly, this research also analyzes the types of associative meaning in speech text. Therefore, the researcher is interested in analyzing the speech entitled *An Analysis of Lexical Cohesion Used by Donald Trump's Inauguration speech "The United States will be The First" (2017)* as an object of this research.

## **Research Design and Methodology**

This research was conducted by using qualitative method. The qualitative method means that the research is analyzed with the descriptive method to describe the lexical cohesion devices with cohesion in English theory applied in Donald Trump's speech. According to Siswantoro (2010), there were two source research used in this

research, there were primary and secondary data. The primary data were inauguration speech text of Donald Trump entitled *The United States will be The First*. The secondary data were objects to complete this research which were taken from related journals and books. This research applied data analysis technique according Spredley (as cited in Onwuegbuzie et al, 2012) divided into three stages, they are; domain analysis, taxonomic analysis and componential analysis.

## **Findings and Discussion**

In analyzing inauguration speech by Donald Trump, the researcher focused on lexical cohesion device and types of associative meaning. Furthermore, the findings that have been completed and classified into several types, it is then, to be interpreted. The lexical cohesion devices there were reiteration (repetition, synonym, near synonym, superordinate) and collocation. Meanwhile, the types of associative meaning there were connotative meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning and collocative meaning.

### ***Lexical cohesion***

#### ***Repetition***

Repetition is the speaker uses the same word and phrase that is repeated in the text. In inauguration speech by Donald Trump, there were 54 repetitions for example below:

*Chief Justice Roberts, **President** Carter, **President** Clinton, **President** Bush, **President** Obama, fellow Americans and people of the world, thank you. (p.1)*

In the opening sentence of his speech, Donald Trump repeated the president's word to emphasize that he is giving homage to the guests, especially the name of the president.

#### ***Synonym***

A synonym is different words that have similar meaning and understanding. The speaker used different words which have similar meaning. In the speech there were 11 synonyms. One of them were;

*Chief Justice Roberts, President Carter, President Clinton, President Bush, President Obama, fellow **Americans** and **people** of the world, thank you.*

(p.1)

In this paragraph, the Donald Trump used word “American” that have similar means with word “people”.

### **Near synonym**

Near synonym is the connection in the two words that doesn't have exactly same meaning. There are 14 near synonym are founded in inauguration speech. For an example;

*Today's ceremony, however, has very special meaning because, today, we are not merely transferring power from one **administration** to another or from one **party** to another, but we are transferring power from Washington, D.C., and giving it back to you, the people. (p.3)*

Word “administration” doesn't have exactly same meaning with “party”. But the word “administration” refers back to “party”.

### **Superordinate**

Superordinate or hyponym is the relation of the meaning between more general term and more specific term. In speech, superordinate are founded 2 data, an example:

*That all changes starting right here and right now because this moment is your moment. It belongs to you. It belongs to everyone gathered here today and everyone watching all across America. This is your day. This is your celebration, and this, the **UnitedStates** of America, is your **country**. (p.5)*

The word “United states” is superordinate from word “country”.

### **Collocation**

Collocation is a word or phrase that is used or combined with another word or phrase that sounds true and reasonable by the speaker. Collocation also included opposites in various kinds. There are 15 collocations in inauguration speech. An example:

*But, that is the **past** and now we are looking only to the **future**. We assembled here today, are issuing a new decree to be heard in every city, in*

*every foreign capital, and in every hall of power. From this day forward, a new vision will govern our land. From this day forward, it's going to be only America first. America first. Every decision on trade, on taxes, on immigration, on foreign affairs will be made to benefit American workers and American families. (p.11)*

In this paragraph, there is one complementary collocation and antonym collocation, "past" and "future". Past and future are pair words which have opposite meanings.

### **Types of Associative Meaning**

#### **Connotative meaning**

Connotative meaning is what is communicated by virtue of what language refers to.

Example:

*The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer. (s.18)*

Based on the sentence above, the bold word "women" is called connotative meaning since the word "women" is defined purely conceptually as "human, female, and adult". Then, typical (rather than invariable) of womanhood connotes (frail, prone to tears, emotional, friendly, motherhood, experience in cookery). So that, "women" have various meanings more than in dictionary or conceptual meaning. According to Leech (1974), connotative meaning is a communicative that has value and it can refer to other additional. Thus, in this sentence the bold word "women" shows a higher sense of value than other words in the same meaning, like female, lady or girl.

#### **Affective meaning**

Affective meaning is what is communicated of feelings and attitudes of the speaker/writer.

Example:

*Every four years we gather on these steps to carry out the orderly and peaceful transfer of power and we are grateful to President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama for their gracious aid throughout this transition. (s.6)*

The bold word in the sentence above is affective meaning, because the meaning of word "grateful" and "gracious" here is the expression of impression by speaker's feel for former president and his wife. According to Leech (1974), affective meaning (as

one of associative meaning types) is the meaning that arises from the personal feelings of the speaker or the writer also with the attitudes. Hence, the personal feeling in the speech is Donald Trump. The Donald Trump feels happy for his inaugurate become president of United States and give thanks to former president Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle Obama for aid in process transition.

### **Reflected Meaning**

What is communicated through association with another sense of the same expressions it is called reflected meaning.

Example:

*You came by the tens of millions to become part of an historic movement, the likes of which the world has never seen before. (s.20)*

The bold word in the sentence above is called reflected meaning because the meaning of word “millions” here is not indicated to “the number of 1.000.000,” however, it represents the meaning of “much, many, most of or a lot of.” Based on the context of the sentence above, this word does not show us about something counted but it shows something uncounted. This sentence refers to “you came with the many of people to become part of an historic movement, the likes of which the world has never seen before”.

### **Collocative Meaning**

What is communicated through association with words which tend to occur in the environment of another word, word and phrase that is used or combined with another word or phrase that sounds true and reasonable by the speaker it is called collocative meaning.

Example:

*From this day forward, it's going to be only America first. America first. (s.37)*

The bold phrase in the sentence above is called collocative meaning because the noun word “America” in the phrase “America first” has different character when it is going together with another noun. Perhaps, we know that America is the name of the country in American continent. In this context sentence, the speaker used another

word in one phrase. Therefore, the phrase America first is used in the context of the sentence above. It is caused by co-occurrence happens in linguistics. Here, America first means an activity which has to do in seriously to reach their satisfying.

**Analysis**

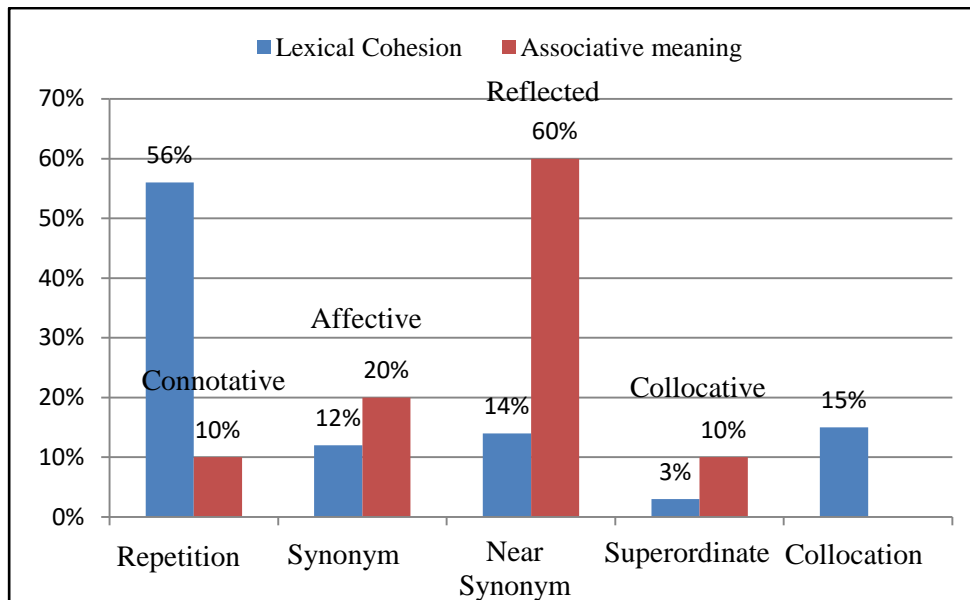


Diagram 4.2 statistical of data

Based on the diagram above, it can see that the most dominant used of lexical cohesion devices is repetition, second most dominant is collocation, third most dominant is near synonym, the next dominant is synonym and the smallest dominant used is superordinate. While, the most dominant used of associative meaning types is reflected meaning, second dominant used is affective meaning and the smallest dominant used are connotative and collocative.

In this research, the kinds of lexical cohesion most dominant used repetition in inauguration speech in which the repetition is one of types from reiteration, related to Halliday and Hasan (1976). Reiteration is the repetition of words or lexical elements or same equations of words in the context of reference where both terms have the same reference, using of general word to refer back to lexical item, at the other end of the scale, and a number of the things between of synonym, near synonym or superordinate.

The use of a lexical cohesion in a discourse is important to needs, in which lexical cohesion is the cohesive effect achieved in the selection word or vocabulary. The use of repetition in a speech is a matter of course, because the speaker in speech makes use of repetitions in speeches to emphasize or assert a sentence or word in speech. The president Donald Trump in inauguration speech “The United States will be

the first” which many repetition word for the audiences, repetition of words in a speech or discourse indicating that which serves as an affirmation of meaning and add aesthetic value to the sentence. Connected with the theory of Keraf (as cited in Murtafi et al, 2017) mentioned that, repetition is a repetition of sounds, syllables, words or parts of sentences that are considered important to put pressure in an appropriate context. In Speech, the Donald Trump is affirmed to the people of America for to become the first country in all aspects of the life of a developed and great country in the world.

Furthermore, second dominant used of lexical cohesion devices is collocation. According to Halliday and Hasan (1976), collocation is lexical cohesion that achieved through the association of lexical items that regularly co-occur. It is not only represented by synonym or superordinate, but also by pairs of opposites in various kinds. In Donald Trump’s inauguration speech, the Donald Trump used 15 collocations in speech, for example used collocation pairs opposite ‘past and future’ for describing the situation country of United States. At the past situation, the United states defended other’s nations borders, while refusing to defend them country and spent trillions and trillions of dollars overseas, while America’s infrastructure has fallen into disrepair and decay. So, Donald Trump invited the people of America to looking the future for be better life in all aspect.

The last, the third dominant used of lexical cohesion devices is near synonym. According to Halliday and Hasan (1976), near synonym is the connection in the words that doesn’t have exactly same meaning. For example of near synonym in inauguration speech of Donald Trump one of all is word ‘administration’ and ‘party’. In paragraph itself, Donald trump said the day, he was inaugurated was a special day because the day not only transferred power from one administration to another, one party to another, but he commanded power from Washington DC to giving back to the people of America. Word ‘administration’ doesn’t have exactly same meaning with ‘party’, but the word ‘administration’ refer back to ‘party’.

## **Conclusion**

In inauguration speech “*The United States will be The First*”, it has lexical cohesion devices and several types of associative meaning that used by Donald Trump. The lexical cohesion devices; most kinds of lexical cohesion dominant used in this speech is repetition, the second dominant used in this speech is collocation, the third



dominant used in this speech is near synonym, the next dominant used in this speech is synonym and the least dominant used in this speech is superordinate. Furthermore, types of associative meaning; the most dominant used in this speech is reflected meaning, the second dominant used in this speech is affective meaning and the least used in this speech dominant are connotative and collocative meaning.

The most dominant used repetition in inauguration speech indicated that the Donald Trump used repetition as affirmation of meaning and add aesthetic value to the sentence. Related with the theory of Keraf (as cited in Murtafi et al, 2017) it is mentioned that, repetition is a repetition of sounds, syllables, words or part of sentence that are considered important to put pressure in an appropriate context. In the speech, Donald Trump emphasized to the people of America to become the first country in all aspect of life.

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