

A Cohesive Harmony Of Reader's Letters Column In "Time" And "The Jakarta Post"

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Abstract

This research is done by using cohesive harmony analysis. It is to describe how the two letter texts written by native (TIME) and non-native (The Jakarta Post) senders can be rated coherent and readable by the native readers. Then to compare how the two non-native letter texts can enjoy the same degree of linguistic coherence as the two native ones. Based on the analyses, the two letter texts in English newspaper written by native and non-native are judged and determined coherent by native readers. the texts are readable and comprehensible by general readers. The evidences of the coherence are those two-letter texts have fulfilled all the measures of coherence in cohesive harmony analyses.

Key words: *cohesive harmony, tokens, breaks.*

Introduction

The first thing that needs to be known is what the relationship and the difference between cohesion and coherence are. Cohesion has been shown to play a central role in reading. Cohesion connects a string of sentences to form a text rather than a series of unrelated statements. Cohesion is one of centrals to readable writing.

Coherence refers to the ways in which the parts of a piece of writing are linked together to form a whole. The determination of coherence is fundamentally an interpretation by a reader. It is part of a transaction between text and reader between the reader's world and the writer's language. Coherence comes from cohesion. Cohesion comes from the writer's language.

The term "cohesive harmony analysis" is one of the ways to analyze cohesion and a coherence of a text. Cohesive harmony analysis is basically designed to measure in text, although it needs to be kept in mind that the measure is only a partial one (Martin: 1992: 418, *see also* Hasan's: 1976: 23). Furthermore cohesive harmony analysis is measured as either high or low depending on the degree of similarity among the 'token elements'. There are three types of tokens in the analysis. They are peripheral, relevant and central tokens. The main purpose of the analysis is to judge the coherence of a text. The researcher would like to restrict

the attention here on cohesive harmony analysis focused on systems and structures that belong to Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG). SFG is introduced by Halliday, where syntax and semantic system is combined here, i.e. in discourse analysis.

Therefore, a study of cohesion and coherence, by using cohesive harmony, is that they make a substantial contribution to readability, and this is the reason cohesion and coherence cohesive harmony analyses are of interest. The importance of cohesion is in reading and comprehending. Moreover, increasing the level of cohesion in text improves reading comprehension as measured by the coherence of the text as the whole.

This research focuses on using and applying cohesive harmony discussion (including reference chains, lexical strings and chain interaction), in which it is used to analyze the four letter texts in English newspaper sent by native and by non-native writers. It is to describe how the four letter texts in English newspaper can be rated as relatively coherent and readable by readers using cohesive harmony, to find out evidences of the cohesive harmony, and to compare the two non-native degree of linguistic coherence as the two native ones.

Cohesion and Coherence

The basic construal of the meaning, according to *Oxford Dictionary* (1995: 217), Cohesion is the tendency or the state of sticking together, unity, and coherence is the state of sticking together in a mass or group to form a whole. The term "cohesive harmony" is one of the ways to analyze cohesion and a coherence of a text. Halliday (1976: 2) stated "the concept of cohesion is a semantic one; it refers to relations of meaning that exist within the text, and that defines it as a text".

Cohesion:

- connecting a string of sentences to form a text rather than a series of unrelated statements
- coming from the writer's language

Coherence:

- refers to the ways in which the parts of a piece of writing are linked together to form a whole.
- comes from cohesion.

A study of cohesion and coherence, by using cohesive harmony, is that they make a substantial contribution to readability.

Analysis

***Time's* Letter Text**

The key to winning in Iraq is to find ways to instill a unifying sense of nationalism in the country's ethnic, tribal and religious factions. Iraqis could build a first-class military to protect themselves from potential enemies and help defend freedom and liberty throughout the Middle

East. They could rebuild their nation into economic dynamo, just as Japan did after World War II. A united Iraq would have no fear of external threat like Iran and would be able to fend off Islamo-Fascism from within and without. Baghdad was once the cradle of civilization and it can rise from the ashes of war and tyranny to become great again.

Sent by SERAFFIN Quintanar Jr, Fresno, California

Description of the Text

- i. The key to winning in Iraq is to find ways to instill a unifying sense of nationalism in the country's ethnic, tribal and religious factions.
- ii. Iraqis could build a first-class military to protect themselves from potential enemies
- iii. and help defend freedom and liberty throughout the Middle East.
- iv. They could rebuild their nation into economic dynamo,
- v. just as Japan did after World War II.
- vi. A united Iraq would have no fear of external threat like Iran
- vii. and would be able to fend off Islamo-Fascism from within and without.
- viii. Baghdad was once the cradle of civilization
- ix. and it can rise from the ashes of war and tyranny to become great again.

Reference Chains Analysis

The key is assumed as an addition here, because the presumed information is neither recovered nor implied (bridged). *The country's...* is bridging. It is bridged from Iraq, implying Iraq's country. Ø symbol explains that the chains are ellipsed. *The Middle, East* is like number 2. It is bridged from Iraq, implying Iraq's geographical position. *Within and without*, is assumed as relevance phoricity, presuming the information from Iraq. It includes two chains. *The cradle of civilization* is also an addition. The presumed information is not recoverable. *The ashes of war and tyranny*, is bridging, it bridged from the whole text from i to vii, implying that Iraq was destroyed by war.

The reference chains in the letter of *TIME* February 5, 2007, sent by SERAFFIN Quintanar Jr, Fresno, California, are described in the outlines above. Some phoric groups are explained in the notes of analyses, such as esphoric group, relevance, bridging and ellipses. This text has only one major participant and it is introduced non-phorically here. It is *Iraq*. In addition, the minor chain participants are *the key* and *the ashes of war*.

Lexical strings realizing people, things and places

Nationalism is not a kind of the country, but it has strong lexical relations to nation itself. *Iraqis* shows the meaning of Iraq people, so that it can be related lexically to the nation relations.

In the analysis, there are two major participant strings realizing people, things and places in the text of *TIME* February 5, 2007. They deal with nation or country relations, including their people in the world and human group relation. And there are also two minor strings that deal with human sense relations and place relations.

Lexical strings realizing action and quality

Unifying is taken as metaphorical application of the action "unify". The derivational involved here is "-ing". *Defend*, is metaphorically assumed as action "defend", however its position is as 'A noun'. *Did*, is a realization of substitution and ellipses, it implied the sentence "*just as Japan rebuild their nation*". *Have*, is treated as an action. *Have* here is to support the succeeding thing, functioning as linking verb, i.e. *have no fear*, for *fear* cannot stand as an action here. So that *have no fear* can be meant "being not afraid". *Become*, is an action, it functions as copula in relational process, or as linking verb. And it has a relation with *have* in co-meronymy.

In the letter text *TIME* February 5, 2007, the string realizing action participants realizing action and quality involve major and minor participants. The major ones have the relations to establishment and defendant. And the minor ones deal with linking verb, high quality and occasion. Also there are experiential metaphors of actions that are explained in notes of the analysis.

Chains Interaction Analysis

In chain interaction analysis of the letter text *TIME* February 5, 2007, the transitivity roles are applied clause by clause. The transitivity participants are abbreviated as attached in chapter III, for example, *process* become *Pro*. This chain interaction analysis just concerns on reference chains and lexical strings members realizing action and quality. Since the reference chains has priority in this cohesive harmony analysis. And lexical rendering of ellipsis chains and substitution will be italicized. The description of the text will be lexically rendered as follows:

- i. The key to winning in Iraq is to find ways, (*Iraq*) instill an (*Iraq*) unifying sense of nationalism in the country's ethnic, tribal and religious factions.
- ii. *Iraqis* could build a first-class military (*Iraqis*) protect themselves from potential enemies
- iii. And (*Iraqis*) help (*Iraq*) defend freedom and liberty throughout the Middle East.

- iv. They could rebuild their nation into economic dynamo, just as Japan did (*rebuild their nation*) after World War II.
- v. A united Iraq would have no fear of external threat like Iran
- vi. And (*Iraq*) would be able to fend off Islamo-Fascism from within (*Iraq*) and without (*Iraq*).
- vii. Baghdad was once the cradle of civilization
- viii. and it can rise from the ashes of war and tyranny (*Baghdad*) become great again.

Cohesive harmony will be analyzed concerning on the following chains and strings interaction, they will be sorted out to represent a listing of 27 relevant tokens in this text. It means that not all the member of chains and strings are involved in this analysis, and the involved ones are described in indexes picture below:

Reference chains (12 tokens):

- ◆ Iraq (*Iraq, Iraqis, Iraqis, themselves, they, they, their, United Iraq, Baghdad, it* = 10 items).

Lexical strings (15 tokens):

- ◆ Quality (*a first-class, potential, great*)
- ◆ Establishment or development (*instill, unifying, build, rebuild, rebuild, rise*)
- ◆ Defendant or assistance (*protect, help, defend, and fend off*)
- ◆ Linking verb (*have, become*)
 1. Iraq.
 2. Establishment or development.
 3. Defendant or assistance.
 4. Linking verb.

It needs to be noted that there are four indexes showing the interaction between chains and strings above. The process of interaction is shown by the horizontal line with double arrow according to the member of transitivity participants. It seems that there are two process involved here. They are material process and relational process. The member of chains and strings italicized are lexical rendering realization of ellipses or non-finite clause.

In the analysis indexes above, interaction occurs among one (1) strings and three (3) chains. This analysis finds out twenty-two (22) central tokens of twenty-seven (27) relevant ones. Iraq chains occur throughout the text with the number of the action strings interacts across a large domain of establishment (i-ix), defendant or assistance (ii-vii) and linking verb (vi).

***The Jakarta Post* ' Letter text**

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's effort to assist in Iraqi reconciliation will show America's policymakers, that America's future will not be determined by battles in the streets of Baghdad and other war-torn cities. It will depend on diplomacy and negotiation. It is sad to hear cynical worry that the burden of Iraq's problem will switch from Washington to Jakarta. It's not true because Indonesia prefers to resolve the problems by negotiating with Iraq's conflicting groups, rather than by force. Furthermore, fortunately, we are not part of the conflict. Indonesia achieved such a success story in Cambodia a couple years ago. We reached peace accord with separatists in Aceh as well. We hope we can do the same thing in Iraq. If we can make Iraq a safe and peaceful place, then what next? We can ask for a little help from former president Megawati Soekarno Putri. She's a close friend of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il. Our next job is the Korean Peninsula.

Received from; Iwan Satyanegara Kamah, Jakarta.

Description of the Text

- i. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's effort to assist in Iraqi reconciliation will show America's policymakers,
- ii. that America's future will not be determined by battles in the streets of Baghdad and other war-torn cities.
- iii. It will depend on diplomacy and negotiation.
- iv. It is sad to hear cynical worry
- v. that the burden of Iraq's problem will switch from Washington to Jakarta.
- vi. It's not true
- vii. because Indonesia prefers to resolve the problems by negotiating with Iraq's conflicting groups, rather than by force.
- viii. Furthermore, fortunately, we are not part of the conflict.
- ix. Indonesia achieved such a success story in Cambodia a couple years ago.
- x. We reached peace accord with separatists in Aceh as well.
- xi. We hope
- xii. we can do the same thing in Iraq.
- xiii. If we can make Iraq a safe and peaceful place,
- xiv. then what next?
- xv. We can ask for a little help from former president Megawati Soekarnopurti.
- xvi. She's a close friend of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il.
- xvii. Our next job is the Korean Peninsula.

Reference Chains Analysis

The reference chains in the letter of *The Jakarta Post* January 10, 2007, received from; Iwan Satyanegara Kamah, Jakarta, are illustrated above. Some phoric groups will be explained in the notes of analyses, such as esphoric (extended and text reference) groups, relevance, bridging and ellipses. However some bridging are not explained in the notes of the analysis. In the picture, bridging are marked with BR, and relevance phoricity are marked with RL. This text has two major participants and these are introduced non-phorically here. They are *Indonesia* and *Iraq*. In addition, the minor chain participants are *America* and *North Korean*.

That, is a kind of text reference presuming the projection *that America's future will not be determined by battles in the streets of Baghdad and other war-torn cities* as a fact. *The streets of Baghdad*, is a relevant phoricity, presuming from *Iraq* as the reference. And it can be as bridging, implying a city in *Iraq*. *Other war cities*, is relevant phoricity, presuming the information from *Baghdad* or probably from *Iraq*. *It*, presumes the information from *America's future*. *That*, as number 1, presumes the projection *that the burden of Iraq's problem will switch from Washington to Jakarta* as a fact (text references). *The burden* is bridged from sentence [i], implying the complaint and disagreement towards SBY's effort to help the reconciliation in *Iraq*. And it has a relevant to the presumed information. *Jakarta* is assumed as a phoric here. It is as a relevant phoricity, presuming President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. *Washington* is assumed as a relevant phoricity, presuming the information from *America*. *It* presumes the preceding sentence [v] *the burden of Iraq's problem will switch from Washington to Jakarta*, as a fact (text reference). *We*, is a realization of relevant reference, showing interlocutors involved. *Aceh* is bridged from *Indonesia* and a realization of relevant reference. *Former president Megawati SP* is relevant phoricity to *Indonesia* and a realization of instancial reference from *we*.

Lexical Strings Realizing People, Things and Places

In the picture of the analysis, *Reconciliation* is a noun, although it can be as a metaphorical realization of the action "reconcile", here it functions as a noun. There are only two minor participant strings realizing people, things and places in the text of *The Jakarta Post* January 10, 2007. They deal with president, including its names (i - xvi), efforts (i - xvii) and future (ii - xvii) relations. And the rest of the string participants deal with country including its city relation (i - xvii), such as *America*, *Washington*, *Iraq*, *Baghdad*, *Indonesia*, *Jakarta*, etc, and the relations of reconciliation (i - xvi). There are also group (vii - ix) and place strings (xiii - xvii) relations.

Lexical Strings Realizing Action and Quality

In the analysis of the letter text *The Jakarta Post* January 10, 2007, the string realizing action participants realizing action and quality involve major and minor participants. The major ones have the relations with solution (i - xv) and delivery (v - xiii). The minor ones deal with indication (i - iii), fortunate (viii - ix) and factual (vi - x). There are two strings that are taken up in the notes of the analysis.

Negotiation, is a metaphorical realization of the action "negotiate", however, it is placed as an action here to have a repetition relation with negotiating. *Conflicting* is like number 2 above. It is a metaphorical realization of the action "conflict". It is also taken as a noun, for making the strong lexical realization with *conflict*. *Force* is metaphorically taken as an action for being lexically rendered in "contrast" relation with negotiating. *Conflict*, is a noun here. It is taken up as a metaphorical realization of the action conflict. *Do*, is a realization of substitution, it implied the sentence *we reached peace accord with separatists in Aceh as well*. *Ask for help*, is assumed as an action, in which "help" is a locative elaboration of the Process "ask for".

Chains Interaction Analysis of the Text

In chain interaction analysis of the letter text *The Jakarta Post* January 10, 2007, the transitivity roles will be presented clause per clause, as well as lexical rendering will be done as follows:

- i. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's effort assist in Iraqi reconciliation (*SBY's effort*) will show America's policymakers,
- ii. that America's future will not be determined by battles in the streets of Baghdad and other war-torn cities.
- iii. It will depend on diplomacy and negotiation.
- iv. It is sad to hear cynical worry
- v. that the burden of Iraq's problem will switch from Washington to Jakarta.
- vi. It's not true
- vii. because Indonesia prefers to resolve the problems by (*Indonesia is*) negotiating with Iraq's conflicting groups, rather than by (*Indonesia*) force (*Iraq's conflicting group*).
- viii. Furthermore, fortunately, we are not part of the conflict.
- ix. Indonesia achieved such a success story in Cambodia a couple years ago.
- x. We reached peace accord with separatists in Aceh as well.
- xi. We hope
- xii. we can *reached peace* in Iraq.
- xiii. If we can make Iraq a safe and peaceful place,
- xiv. then what next?

- xv. We can ask for a little help from former president Megawati Soekarnopurti.
- xvi. She's a close friend of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il.
- xvii. Our next job is the Korean Peninsula.

Chains and strings interaction in cohesive harmony will be analyzed concerning on the following strings and chains, in which they will be sorted out to represent a listing of 46 relevant tokens in this text:

Reference chains (28 tokens):

- ◆ Indonesia and its president (*President SBY, Jakarta, Indonesia, we, Aceh, Indonesia, we, we, we, we, we, former president Megawati SP, she, our* =14 items).
- ◆ Iraq (*Iraqi, Baghdad, Iraq...* = 6 items).
- ◆ America (*America, America, it, Washington* = 4 items)
- ◆ North Korean (*North Korean and Korean peninsula* = 2 items)

Lexical strings (18 tokens):

- ◆ Factual (*true and well* = 2 items)
- ◆ Fortunate (*fortunately, success* = 2 items)
- ◆ Delivery, (*switch, achieved, reached, do, make* = 5 items)
- ◆ Solution (*assist, resolve, negotiation, negotiating, conflicting, conflict, ask for help* = 6 items)
- ◆ Indication (*show, determined, depend on* = 3 items)
 1. Indonesia and its president
 2. Iraq
 3. America
 4. North Korean
 5. Delivery
 6. Solution
 7. Indication

Again there are seven indexes showing the interaction between chains and strings above. The horizontal line with double arrow shows the process of interaction with respect to the member of transitivity participants. It seems that there are three processes involved here including their participants. They are behavioral, material and relational process. The member of chains and strings italicized are lexical rendering realization of ellipses or non-finite clause.

In the analysis above, interaction occurs among four (4) chains and three (3) strings. This analysis finds twenty-six (26) central tokens out of forty-six (46) relevant ones. Indonesia chains occur throughout the text (i - xvii) with the number of the action strings interacts across a large domain; solution (i - xv), indication (i - x), desire (vii - xi) and achievement (v - xiii). The other chains are Iraq (i - xii) and America (i - v).

Discussion

In the analyses of *TIME* letter text February 5, 2007, sent by SERAFFIN Quintanar Jr, Fresno, California, the result of reference chain analysis shows that the chain members are *Iraq, Iraqis, Iraqis, themselves, they, they, their, United Iraq, Baghdad, it*. And the result of lexical string analysis indicates that the members of strings realizing people, things and places are *Iraq, country, Iraqis, Middle-East, nation, world, Japan, United Iraq, Baghdad, factions, ethnic, tribal, religious, economic, Islamo-fascism, civilization, sense, nationalism, fear, external, within, without, cradle and ashes*. And the members of realizing action and quality are *a first-class, potential, great, instill, unifying, build, rebuild, rebuild, rise, protect, help, defend, fend off, have and become*. From both references chains and lexical string analyses, relevant and peripheral tokens can be determined. For the strings realizing people, things and places are not concerned in this analysis, the members of relevant tokens have potentially twenty-seven. They are *Iraq, Iraqis, Iraqis, themselves, they, they, their, United Iraq, Baghdad, it, a first-class, potential, great, instill, unifying, build, rebuild, rebuild, rise, protect, help, defend, fend off, have and become*. And the members of peripheral tokens here have potentially six items. They are *winning, dynamo, ways, II, once and again*. In which *II* is a number of periods, and *once* and *again* are not taken as contrast relation. On the basis that the lower the proportion of peripheral tokens to relevant ones, the more coherent the text is, this text can be judged coherent by native.

The result of chain interaction analysis shows that the numbers of the central tokens are higher than the non-central ones. It can be seen from the interaction among four chains and strings indexes, in which the interaction can occur if only one member of chain stands in the same transitivity role with another member of string, there are twenty-two central tokens from twenty-seven relevant tokens. They are; *Iraq as actor* (lexically rendered) interacts with *instill as process*; *Iraq* (lexically rendered) interacts with *unifying*; *Iraqis* interacts with *build*; *Iraqis* (lexically rendered) interacts with *protect*; *Iraqis* (lexically rendered) interacts with *help*; *Iraqis* (lexically rendered) interacts with *defend*; *they* interacts with *rebuild*; *united Iraq* with *have*; *Iraq* (lexically rendered) with *fend off*; *it (Baghdad)* with *rise*; *Baghdad* (lexically rendered) with *become*. So that native readers can determine that the letter text *TIME* February 5, 2007 is coherent.

The final measure of coherence concerning on cohesive harmony analysis, is to find out "breaks" in the indices picture of interactions. The breaks almost do not happen in this picture. Based on the measure of coherent that the fewer the breaks occur in the picture of interaction, the more coherent the text is, this text (the letter text *TIME* February 5, 2007) can be judged coherent by native readers.

While, in the analyses of *The Jakarta Post* January 10, 2007, received from Iwan Satyanegara Kamah, Jakarta, the members of chains are *President SBY, Jakarta, Indonesia, we, Aceh, Indonesia, we, we, we, we, we, former president Megawati SP, she, our, Iraqi, Baghdad, Iraq, Iraq, Iraq, Iraq, America, America, it, Washington, North Korean and Korean peninsula*. The members of strings realizing people, things and places are *president, policymakers, separatists, president, leader, SBY, Megawati S.P, Kim Jong il, effort, burden, problems, job, America, America, Baghdad, cities, Iraq, Washington, Jakarta, Indonesia, Iraq, Indonesia, Cambodia, Aceh, Iraq, Iraq, Korean, Korean, reconciliation, battle, war-torn, diplomacy, peace, accord, safe, peaceful, friend, part, couple, place, peninsula, future, age, next, former and next*. From both reference chain and lexical string analyses of the letter, however the strings realizing people, things and places are not concerned, the member of relevant and peripheral tokens are determined. In which the members of relevant tokens have potentially forty-six items. They are *President SBY, Jakarta, Indonesia, we, Aceh, Indonesia, we, we, we, we, we, former president Megawati SP, she, our, Iraqi, Baghdad, Iraq, Iraq, Iraq, Iraq, America, America, it, Washington, North Korean and Korean peninsula, true, well, fortunately, success, assist, resolve, negotiation, negotiating, conflicting, conflict, ask for help, show, determined and depend on*. And the members of peripheral tokens have potentially nine items; *hear, prefer, hope, sad, cynical, worry, years, little and close*. In which *prefer* and *hope* are not taken up as co-meronymy. The results of the analysis show that the proportions of peripheral tokens are lower than the relevant ones. Thus, native readers can judge this text coherent.

Based on the measure of coherence that the higher the proportion of the central tokens to the non-central ones, the more coherent the text is, the letter text *The Jakarta Post* January 10, 2007, can be determined coherent by native readers. It can be proved from the results of chain interaction analysis that there are twenty-six central tokens of forty-six relevant tokens occur among seven strings and chains indices. They are; *President SBY's effort* interacts with *assist, SBY's effort* (lexically rendered) interacts with *show, America's future* interacts with *determined, it (America's future)* interacts with *depend on, the burden of Iraq's problem* interacts with *switch from, Indonesia* interacts with *resolve, Indonesia* (lexically rendered) interacts with *negotiating, Indonesia* (lexically rendered) interacts with *force, Indonesia* interacts with *achieved, we* interacts with *reached, we* interacts with *reached* (lexically rendered), *we* interacts with *make, we* interacts with *ask for help*.

The final measure of coherence concerning on cohesive harmony analysis, is to find out "breaks" in the indexes picture of interaction. There two breaks in this text analyzed. The breaks derive from indication (*show, determined, depend on*) strings followed by delivery (*switch, achieved, reached, do, make*) strings. It means that the 'indication' strings index

breaks down and continuously the 'delivery' strings index is under the line. Based on the measure of coherent that the fewer the breaks in the picture of interaction are, the more coherent the text is, this text (the letter text *Jakarta Post* January 10, 2007) can be judged coherent by native readers.

Conclusion

All the two letter texts in English newspaper sent by native and non-native writers are judged and determined coherent by native readers. As the result of this, the texts can be readable and comprehensible by general readers. It can be shown by the text's descriptions of lexical renderings. The evidences of the coherence are those four-letter texts fulfil all the measures of coherence in cohesive harmony analyses, which the measures are; the proportion of their peripheral tokens are lower than their relevant tokens; the proportion of their central tokens are higher than non-central ones; the proportion of their breaks are fewer in the analyses pictures.

Of the two letter texts, the letter belonging to *The Jakarta Post*, published on January 10, 2007, is written by non-native sender, one another belonging to *TIME*, published on February 5, 2007 is written by native sender. For either the non-native letter texts or the native one are judged coherent by native readers, the non-native one (*The Jakarta Post*) are able to enjoy the same degree of linguistic coherence as the native one.

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