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## **The Correlation Between Register And Cohesive Devices Of The Text - A Comparative Approach In English And Albanian Language**

### **Abstract**

*The paper presents a study of the use of cohesive devices (their distribution and frequency) across different registers. The topic was chosen due to the fact that the correlation between register and cohesive devices has not been thoroughly investigated in linguistics. In addition to the fact that each language has general preferences for certain cohesive devices, it also has specific preferences for certain cohesive devices that are sensitive to text type. Different genres and registers are characterized by particular kinds of cohesive devices and may make different uses of them.*

*The work consists of two parts. The first part deals with the theoretical background on the concept of cohesive devices. The second part which is the practical part deals with the results of an analysis of cohesive devices across registers. Three different registers were analyzed: fiction (a novel), technical and scientific style (legal text), newspaper style (Daily Telegraph). The results obtained prove that distribution of different types of cohesive devices is influenced by register.*

**Keywords:** *text, cohesive devices, register, frequency, register-dependent,*

## 1-Introduction: What are cohesive devices?

The concept of cohesion is linked with the process of text -formation. There have been studies in this area and different linguists have expressed their ideas on this concept and on cohesive devices. Its simplest definition made by Halliday and Hasan in their book "Cohesion in English" is that it "refers to relations of meaning that exist within the text and that define it as a text" <sup>1</sup>. It is realized through such relations as reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction (grammatical cohesion) and repetition, synonyms and antonyms collocations, superordinate's/hyponyms (lexical cohesion.) Lexical cohesion is not taken into account in this research.

Cohesion occurs where the interpretation of some element in the discourse is dependent on that of another. The two elements presupposing and the presupposed are potentially integrated into a text making it a unified whole.eg:

**Doctor Foster** (*presupposed*) went to **Gloucester** (*presupposed*) in a shower of rain. (**Doktor Foster** shkoi ne **Glocester** ne nje rrebeshe shiu)

**He** (*presupposing*) stepped in puddle right up to his middle

( $\Delta$  Hodhi hapin ne nje pellg deri ne gjysem)

And never went **there** (*presupposing*) again. (*grammatical cohesion*)

(Dhe kurre  $\Delta$  nuk shkoi me **atje**)

Alice caught **the baby** with some difficulty, as it was a queer-shaped little creature, and held out its arms and legs in all directions, `just like a star-fish`, thought Alice. The poor **little thing** was snorting like a steam-engine when she caught it. (*lexical cohesion*)

(Elisa e kapi **foshnjen** me veshtersi ,sepse dukej nje krijese me forme te cuditshme, dhe

i hapte krahët dhe kembet në të gjitha drejtimet, tamam si peshk-yllmendoi Elisa.

**Gjeja e vogël e gjore** po gerhiste si një makine me avull kur ajo e

1 A.K,Halliday & Ruqaiya Hasan "Cohesion in English" Longman 1976 p 4

*mori ne krahe.)*

Different linguists explain the elements of cohesion with the economy of the language. A. Martinet speaks about the economy of speech. In his book "Elements of General Linguistics" he says that "the linguistic development "can be conceived dictated by the permanent contradiction between communicative needs of the human and his tendency to minimize his physical and mental process"<sup>2</sup> Quirk and Greenbaun in their interpretation of the elements of cohesion consider them not only "economy" but also as a means of clarity. In their book "A Student`s Grammar of English Language" they point out that these elements make the message more clear because the new information is on focus.<sup>3</sup>

Cohesive relations are found in texts as "particular features—repetitions, omissions, occurrences of certain words and constructions—which have in common the property of signaling that the interpretation of the passage in question depends on something else. If that 'something else' is verbally explicit ex: "*Did the gardener **water my flowers?** He said **so***" then there is cohesion"<sup>4</sup>

The unit of analysis for cohesion is the cohesive tie. One simple example of a cohesive tie is a pronoun and its antecedent. Pronoun/antecedent ties and other cohesive ties may occur within a single sentence, but they also occur across sentences.

Reference is a device which allows the reader or hearer to trace participants, entities, events, etc. in a text.ex:

*"People still very much enjoy living in Hong Kong." He says .**This** is a city of many choices.*

*(Njerezit akoma pelqejne te jetojne ne Hong Kong" Ai thote ." Ky eshte nje qytet i shume mundesive)*

2 Andre Martinet "Elemente të gjuhësisë së përgjithshme", Dituria, Tiranë 2002 p149

3 Sidney Greenbaun Randolph Quirk "A Student`s Grammar of English Language"1993 Longman p 247

4 M.A.K,Halliday & Ruqaiya Hasan "Cohesion in English" Longman 1976 p 3

Reference is textual or situational. What is essential to every instance of reference is that there is a presupposition that must be satisfied . In textual reference the full form is recoverable from a neighboring part of the text.eg:

Tell **Mary** I miss **her**.

(Thuaji **Merit** se kam mall per **te**)

In situational reference the full form is recoverable from the extra- linguistic situation. In the example :

Is **she** badly hurt?

(Eshte demtuar (**ajo**) rende)

One can imagine someone saying **she** on arriving at the scene of an accident in which a girl has been struck down by a car The identity of **she** is then obvious from the situation.

The items used for reference are personals, demonstratives and comparatives

According to Halliday and Hasan personal reference is reference by means of function in the speech situation through the category of person. Demonstrative reference is reference by means of location on the scale of proximity and comparative reference is indirect reference by means of identity or similarity.The referential element is not identified but compared with the presupposed item.

Ten per cent of **insomniacs** sleep soundly when **they** come to a sleep clinic

(personal reference)

(10 perqind te tepagjumeve flejne rende kur (ata) vijne ne nje klinike gjumi.)

I read **his first novel** ,and **that** was boring too.(demonstrative reference)

( E lexova romanin e tij te pare . Ajo ishte e merzitshme gjithashtu)

Who would be the king? **The strongest** among us.( comparative reference)

( *Kush do te ishte mbret? **Me i forti** ne mes nesh* )

Substitution and ellipsis, unlike reference, are grammatical rather than semantic relationships. They are processes within a text. Ellipsis is interpreted as a form of zero substitution. Some linguists consider them as variants of the same type of cohesive relation. When ellipsis is used, we presuppose something by means of what is left out. A substitute serves as a place-holding device or some pro-form, showing where something has been omitted and what its grammatical function could be.

In substitution, an item is replaced by another item eg:

*She might **sing tonight** but I don't think she will **do so**. (do so - sing tonight)*

*(Ajo mund të këndojë sonte, por unë nuk mendoj kështu) [zëvendësim( substitution)]*

In the above example, *do so* is a substitute for *sing tonight*. Items commonly used in substitution in English include *do*, *so*, *not* and *the same*.

*Yesterday I **felt under the weather** and today I feel **the same**. (Dje nuk ndjehesha mirë, njësoj ndjehem dhe sot.)*

There are three types of substitution. Nominal Substitution, Verbal Substitution ,Clausal substitution

There are three nominal substitutes: one, ones, same. Ex:

*I've heard some strange **stories** in my time. But this **one** was perhaps the strangest of all.*

*A: I'll have two **poached eggs** on toast, please. B: I'll have **the same**.*

*The verbal substitute is **do**. This operates as head of a verbal group .ex:*

*The words **did not come the same** as they used to do .*

In clausal substitution the presupposed is not an element within the clause but an entire clause. *So* and *Not* are clausal substitutes Ex:

*Is there going to be an earth quake? - it says **so***

Ellipsis involves the omission of an item. In other words, in ellipsis, an item is replaced by nothing. This is a case of leaving something unsaid which is nevertheless understood. It does not include every instance in which the hearer or reader has to supply missing information, but only those cases where the grammatical structure itself points to an item or items that can fill the slot in question.

*Joan **brought** some carnations, and Catherine? Δ some sweet peas.*  
(Δ brought in second clause is elliptical<sup>5</sup>)

*(Xhoana **bleu** disa karajfila dhe Katerina disa bizele te embla)*

*What have you been doing? Δ working non-stop all day*

*(Cfarë ke bërë? - Δ Kam punuar pa pushim tërë ditën.)*

There are also three types of ellipsis: Nominal , Verbal and Clausal ellipsis.

*Ten Δ Δ killed in gun attacks (Δ = people Δ = were) ) (nominal ellipsis)*

*(Dhjetë Δ të vranë në sulm me armë)*

*Have you been swimming - Yes I have Δ(Δ=been swimming). (verbal ellipsis) (Po notoje?-Po. Po notoja.)*

*Is your sister alright, is she safe? - I don't know Δ*

*(Mirë është motra, është jashtë rrezikut?-nuk e di.Δ)*

Conjunction involves the use of formal markers to relate sentences, clauses and paragraphs to each other. Unlike reference, substitution, and ellipsis, the use of conjunction does not instruct the reader to supply missing information either by looking for it elsewhere in the text or by filling structural slots. Instead, conjunction signals the way the writer wants the reader to relate what is about to be said to what has been said before.

*She was never really happy here . **So** she is leaving.*

*(Ajo nuk ishte shume e lumtur ketu . **Keshtu** po largohet)*

5 “URL:<http://accurapid.com/journal/28edu1.htm>”

Four are the categories of conjunction: additive, adversative, causal and temporal

*a- For the whole day he climbed the steps mountainside almost without stopping! And in all this time he met no one (additive)*

*(Gjate gjithë ditës ai ju ngjiti malit në këmbe pa ndaluar, Dhe gjatë kësaj kohe nuk takoi njeri)*

*b-Yet, he was hardly aware of being tired.(adversative)*

*(Megjithatë, nuk e kuptoi se ishte lodhur.( kundërshtuese)*

*c-so by night time the valley was far below him(causal)(Kështu afër natës luginë ishte shumë larg poshtë tij).( shkakore)*

*d- Then, as dusk fell, he sat down to rest(temporal)(Pastaj me rënien e muzgut u ul për të pushuar).( kohore)*

As it can be seen from the examples conjunctions reflect the writer's positioning of one point in relation to another in creating a text.

## **2-What is the frequency of cohesive devices across registers**

In addition to the fact that each language has general preferences for certain cohesive devices, it also has specific preferences for certain cohesive devices that are sensitive to text type. Different genres and registers are characterized by particular kinds of cohesive devices and may make different uses of them.

The results of the analysis of cohesive devices in fiction and scientific texts as well as newspaper articles prove that cohesive devices depend directly on the type of register chosen for a particular situation or audience. The texts were chosen taking into consideration the fact that registers vary from an open-ended register, to a restricted register, and something in the middle. The cohesive devices taken into account were referential cohesive devices, ellipsis /substitution-type cohesive ties, and conjunction or discourse markers i. e. grammatical cohesion

**a- The frequency of cohesive devices across registers.**

	Novel	Newspaper texts	Legal text
Reference	41%	12%	4%
Ellipsis/Substitution	3%	1%	2%
Conjunction	4%	5%	3%

**Figure 1**

The figures in figure 1 show that : Reference comprises 41% of all cohesive devices in the novel , 12% in the newspaper article, and 4% in the legal text.

**b- The frequency of referential items across registers**

	Novel	Newspaper texts	Legal text
Personal pronouns	49%	51%	25%
Possessives	14%	7%	2%
Comparatives	3%	20%	50%

**Figure 2**

Figure 2 shows that the prevailing type of referential items in the novel( 49%) and newspaper texts( 51%) is personal pronouns, while in the legal text their percentage is twice lower.( 25%) Ex:

*1 But now **Doug Hamilton** `s voice starts to impinge on my consciousness.What `s **he** saying?*

*“Can you keep a secret?”*

*( Por tani zeri i Dag hamiltonit fillon te trazoje vetedijen time.C`po thote?*

2 **Dawn Mullany ,71,and Laurence Mullany-Mills** died in the pond in Holywell village after spending the holiday together. Police believe **they** stopped to feed ducks before driving back home less than 10 miles away in Ketton. *Daily Telegraph, Feb, 18, 2012*

( **Don Mullani ,71 dhe Lorenc Mullani-Mills** humben jeten ne pellg ne fshatin Holiuell pasi kaluan pushimet se bashku. Policia beson se **ata** ndaluan per ti dhene ushqim rosave ndersa ishin duke u kthyer ne shtepi me pak se 10 milje larg ne Ketton.)

3 **The constitution** guides American society in law and political culture .**It** is the oldest charter of supreme law in continuous use and it influenced later international figures establishing national constitutions.

“History of the United States Constitution”

Literary text, as well as a newspaper article, being more person-centred, involves more personal pronouns compared to other referential items. Personal pronouns he, she, it, they, etc. most often refer to characters, people described, items discussed. But the scientific text (legal document) due to its nature ( involving comparison) gives preference to comparative reference(50%).(fig 2) In the newspaper the percentage is lower (20%)(Fig 2) and in the novel it is even lower (3%).( Fig).Eg:

*It is **the oldest** charter of supreme law in continuous use and it influenced **later** international figures establishing national constitutions*  
“History of the United States Constitution”

(Ajo eshte karta **me e vjeter** e ligjit suprem ne perdorim te vazhdueshem dhe ka influencuar figurat **e mevonshme** nderkombetare te theme- lojne kushtetutat e vendeve te tyre.)

2 **Benjamin Franklin** summed up addressing the Convention, “There are **several parts of this Constitution** which I do not at present approve , but I am not sure I shall never approve **them.**” **He** would accept the Constitution ,” because I expect no **better** and because I am not sure that it is not **the best.** “History of the United States Constitution”

( **Benxhamin Frenklin** perfundoi perpara Konventes.” Ka **shume pjese te kesaj Kushtetute** me te cilat une nuk bie dakort, por nuk jam

*i sigurte se nuk do te jem gjithmone dakort me to.” Ai do ta pranonte Kushtetuten,” Sepse une nuk shpresoj per nje me te mire dhe sepse nuk jam i sigurte se kjo nuk eshte me e mira.)*

*The following figure show the distribution of possessives in the three registers:*

A major difference among registers can be noticed in the case of possessives which also predominate in the novel(14%).( Fig 2)These referential items express either the relationship of “ownership” between two lexical items, e.g.

*Emma had to quickly cut all the labels out of her clothes( **Em**a preu me shpejtesi te gjitha etiketat e rrobave **te saj**) .“Can you keep a secret?” or the so-called “inalienable part”, eg.*

*Career advancement . At the thought , **Emma** feels a familiar stab of longing in **her** chest*

*( Te besh kariere. Kur i shkon mendja atje, Emes i duket se nje sem-bim i njohur i pervelon gjoksin)*

But a much lower percentage of possessive pronouns in the newspaper article( 7%)( Fig 2) and legal text(2%)(Fig 2) can be accounted for by the fact that they cannot allow ambiguities. Instead, the nouns in the genitive case are used eg:

***The Constitution of the United States** is the supreme law of the United States of America.The first three articles **of the Constitution** establish the rules and separate powers of the three branches of the federal government. “History of the United States Constitution”*

*(**Kushtetuta e Shteteve te Bashkuara** eshte dokumenti ligjor suprem i Steteve te Bashkuara te Amerikes.Tre nenet e para **te Kushtetutes** perbejne rregullat dhe pushtetet e ndara te tre degeve te qeverise federale.)*

Demonstrative reference is more typical of the newspaper(22%)(Fig2) and legal discourse(25%)( Fig2). For example, in the newspaper article demonstratives function as devices connecting bigger portions of discourse, e.g. That means..., This compares...

In the novel the use of demonstratives is less frequent (7 %) (Fig 2). Eg:

*The Preamble sets out the origin ,scope and purpose of the Constitution. Its origin and authority is in “ **We ,the people of the United States**”. **This** echoes the declaration of Independence. “History of the United States Constitution”*

*( Parathenia percakton origjinen, vendin dhe qellimin e Kushtetutes. Origjina dhe autoriteti i saj eshte ne “ **Ne, populli i Steteve te Bashkuara**” Kjo perserit Deklaraten e Pavaresise.*

As it is seen the difference in the percentage depends on the registers texts belong to. More restricted registers require clarity and avoidance of ambiguity which can easily occur with referential items because they tend to be connected to the wrong antecedent<sup>1</sup> Thus the language of the newspaper article and the documentary demonstrates a lower percentage of referential links. Consequently, unlike the language of the novel which allows greater variation in the choice of cohesive devices, both the newspaper article and the scientific text rely more on lexical cohesive devices to ensure textual cohesion.

***Congress** could print **money** ,but by 1786, **the money** was useless. **Congress** could borrow **money** ,but could not pay **it** back. “History of the United States Constitution”*

*( **Kongresi** mund te priste **para**,por nga viti 1786 **paraja** ishte e pavlefshme.**Kongresi** mund te merrte **para** borxh ,por nuk mund ti kthente ato )*

### c-The Distribution and Frequency of Ellipsis /Substitution-type Ties

Ellipsis as well as substitution help to avoid repetition and depend entirely on the hearer’s / reader’s ability to retrieve the missing information from the surrounding context. But they both can only be used when there is no doubt as to what is being substituted or ellipted. Otherwise, the result might be a total confusion. As it can be seen from Figure 1, the need to be precise and avoid confusion accounts for fewer cases of ellipsis / substitution in scientific (2%) (Fig 1) and newspaper (1%) (Fig 1) styles in order to avoid ambiguity and misunderstanding, while this type of cohesion is more typical

of conversation and literary texts. (3%)(Fig1) A higher percentage of this type of cohesive devices in the novel demonstrates that it is more characteristic of conversation, dialogue, or the representation of thought in fiction.eg

*The thing is I propably will **get to like jazz one day** .In fact I am positive .I will **Δ**” Can you keep a secret?”*

*( E di si eshte puna, mbase nje dite **do ta pelqej xhazin** .Ne fakt kam shprese se **do ta pelqej**.)*

*Some **delegates** left before the ceremony,three **Δ** remaining refused to sign. “History of the United States Constitution” (Disa **delegate** u larguan perpara ceremonise,tre **Δ** u refuzuan te firmosin. I had wet in one eye and dry in the other and they **had to do these injections** and I think it`s arrested it .I hope **so**. “ Daily Telegraph” Feb 18,2012*

*( Nje sy me lengeshtohet dhe tjetri me thahejdhe me duhej te beja injeksione dhe mendoj se e kane ndaluar .Keshtu shpresoj.*

#### **d-The Distribution and Frequency of conjunctions (discourse markers).**

The last group of analyzed cohesive devices is conjugation or discourse markers. Some linguists argue that discourse markers are purely conversational but there are language researchers who claim that the term discourse markers embrace not only conversational words but also conjunctions. They connect ideas in the text. They are categorized into four groups to express additive adversative casual and temporal relations between sentences .They have almost the same distribution in the analyzed texts : 4%(Fig1) in the novel , 5%(Fig1) in the newspaper article, and 3%(Fig1) in the scientific text.. eg

*So it`s Christmas eve ,**and** we are exchanging presents and I unwrap this pair of gorgeous pale pink knickers, size eight **and** I basically have two options. “ Can you keep a secret?”*

*(E pra, ishte mbremja e krishtlindjeve ,**dhe** ne po shkembenim dhurata, **dhe** une zbulova kete pale breckash roze te celur,prej mendafshi. **Tani** kam vetem dy variantwe.)*

*The navy commander did not say how many vessels had crossed the canal or what missions they were planning to carry out ,but said flotilla had previously docked in the Saudi port city of Jeddah “Daily Telegraph” Feb.18,2012.*

*( Komandanti marines nuk raportoi se sa anije kishin kaluar kanalin ose c`far misionesh kishin planifikuar te kryenin ,por tha se flotilia ishte futur ne dokun e qytetit portual Saudi te Xhedahut.)*

*3 The new national Constitution would not take effect **until** at least nine states ratified. “History of the United States Constitution”*

*(Kushtetuta e re kombetare nuk do te hynte ne fuwi derisa te pakten nente shtete te ratifikonin.)*

The lowest percentage of discourse markers in the documentary could be explained by the fact that since it is a material on legal system and has to do with rules , the need of discourse markers to connect different parts of discourse is not so relevant.

### 3-Conclusions

The distribution and frequency of cohesive devices depend directly on the degree of “openness” of a register, i.e. the more open the register, the more various cohesive devices are being employed and vice versa.

Reference, constituting the first major group of grammatical cohesive devices, is clearly register-dependent: restricted registers employ more lexical ties at the expense of referential cohesive devices, while in open registers reference is used extensively. The novel belonging to a relatively free register, naturally employs a higher number of referential cohesive devices and appeals more to the reader’s emotions than to precision, while the newspaper article, being more restricted, and the documentary, the most closed register type, employ considerably fewer reference items. The prevailing type of referential items is personal pronouns, while possessive pronouns are much fewer due to the fact that they are restricted in their grammatical distribution: they require a recoverable head noun, or they are limited to special construction types. This explains the overall frequency of these forms in relation to personal pronouns.

Demonstrative pronouns refer, mostly in more restricted registers, back to bigger parts of discourse – preceding sentences or paragraphs – relating them in this way.

Substitution and ellipsis type ties are also register-dependent – more usually employed in open registers and avoided in the restricted ones. The analysis also shows that ellipsis / substitution tend to occur in open registers more often than in restricted ones. It is universally acknowledged that substitution and ellipsis belong to the realm of conversation, dialogue or fiction. Consequently, it is predictable that the language of the novel includes more instances of ellipsis / substitution.

Conjunctions (Discourse markers) are used more or less equally in all registers because they do not hinder the interpretation of the message and can be considered neutral in comparison to other cohesive devices. All the discourse markers in the texts of analyzed registers demonstrated a unified tendency to connect larger parts contrasting, linking parts within a sequence or presenting some result.

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