An Exploratory Study of Cohesive features in Selected Excerpts from Sefi Atta’s News from Home

Innocent Sourou Koutchadé

Article history:
Received: 17 May 2017
Revised: 18 October 2017
Approved: 29 October 2017
Published: 22 November 2017

Abstract
This article aimed at providing a linguistic analysis of Sefi Atta’s novel entitled News from Home through the linguistic approach of cohesion drawn from Systemic Functional Linguistics. Two extracts were selected randomly from the novel and a descriptive mixed method of analysis was adopted. Aspects of cohesion studied in the text were reference, conjunction and lexical cohesion. The analyses revealed that various types of reference such as anaphoric, cataphoric, demonstrative, exophoric, and homophoric occurred in the selected texts. Features of conjunctions were used by the writer to display the logical relationships between elements of the texts. As for lexical cohesion, patterns of reiteration and collocation were used to point out the field of the study. The paper concluded that these cohesive patterns are organized to reveal the texture of the text.

Keywords:
Texture;
Cohesion;
Reference;
Conjunctions;
Linguistic Analysis;

1. Introduction
Language, whether written or spoken, is an effective tool for communication. In literature, writers organize their language to convey their message in various literary genres such as novels, plays, poetry, etc. In fact, one of the best ways to carry out a linguistic study of pieces of writings is to investigate their texture. As reported by Eggins (2004, p.24), texture is the property that distinguishes text from non-text. It is what holds the clauses of a text together. Halliday & Hasan (1976) contends that cohesion and coherence are the two elements of texture. This paper focuses on the study of cohesive patterns in selected extracts from Sefi Atta’s News from Home.

Actually, previous studies have dealt with the study of cohesion in texts. For instance, Koutchadé (2017) has analyzed some aspects of textual meaning in selected Nigerian news reports. Two texts have been selected for that purpose and features of textual meaning, i.e. Theme patterns and cohesion have been studied. The analyses reveal that there are high percentages of unmarked topical and textual Themes in the two texts. In addition, although marked Theme and dependent clauses as Themes have very low percentages, they are used to draw more attention on some aspects of the message provided. Through the cohesive analysis, it has been noticed that

* English Department, University of Abomey-Calavi, Republic of Bénin
anaphoric reference chains and features of lexical cohesion have made it easy to understand the meaning conveyed by the two texts.

Similarly, Kadiri, et al. (2015) have analysed the cohesive features and interlanguage in the written composition of ESL learners of Nusukka university in Nigeria. Their study reveals that pronoun, co-ordination, subordination, substitute and repetition are the cohesive elements mainly used by learners whereas synonyms and lexical sets are rarely used. This implies, according to them that ESL writing pedagogy must focus on using cohesive elements in the construction of texts and avoid overusing some elements and non-use of others’

Koussouhon and Koutchadé (2013) have studied some aspects of texture in the in “Death in the Dawn” and “In Memory of Segun Awolowo”, two poems by Wole Soyinka. Their analysis shows that the two poems display some features of cohesion which are used in a particular context to produce a significant and meaningful unit of language use.

On their part, Fakuade & Sharndama (2012) have carried out a comparative analysis of cohesive devices in two legal texts through Halliday & Hasan’s (1976) theoretical approach. The results of the analysis reveal that referred devices are used predominantly, thus making reference and information easy. Coordinators as well as lexical ties are combined to emphasize the meanings made by the texts.

This brief review shows that the concept of cohesion in texts has been inquired into by scholars. Nevertheless, previous study on cohesive patterns from News from Home by Sefi Atta is hardly found. Therefore, this article aims at filling in the gap. The paper provides a brief account of the cohesive approach and draws from the approach to study some aspects of the writer’s language.

2. Research Methods

Theoretical framework

Cohesion has to do with the internal property of the text. In Eggins’ (2004) terms, it is concerned with the way we relate or tie together bits of our discourse. Cohesive types are classified into four main types: reference, ellipsis, conjunctions and lexical cohesion. In this paper, aspects of reference, conjunctions and lexical cohesion are studied.

2.1 Reference

According to Halliday and Webster (2009), reference refers to resources for referring to a participant or circumstantial element whose identity is recoverable. Bloor & Bloor (2004) contend that “a characteristic of reference is that, on the second and subsequent mention, instead of being named, the person or thing referred to may be indicated by means of a pronoun, demonstrative […] or a comparative” (p. 93). Reference falls broadly within three categories, viz. exophoric, homophoric and endophoric. However, there are some other types such as demonstrative reference, comparative reference, etc.

a) Endophoric reference includes anaphoric reference (when the referent has appeared at an early point in the text), cataphoric reference (when the referent has not yet appeared, but will be provided subsequently) and esphoric reference (when the referent occurs in the phrase immediately following the presuming referent item). Eggins (2004) observes that this type of reference creates cohesion since it creates the internal texture of the text.

b) Exophoric reference: this is the one retrieved from shared immediate context of situation. Halliday (1985) contends that it is used as a means of linking outwards to some person or object in the environment.

c) Homophoric reference: it is the reference that can be retrieved from the shared context of culture.

Other forms of reference include: personal reference (dependent on the use of personal pronouns), demonstrative reference (dependent on the use of determiners) and comparative reference (which uses adjectives or their adverbial counterparts) (Bloor & Bloor, 2004).

2.2 Conjunctions

According to Bloor & Bloor (2004, p. 97), "conjunction is the term used to describe the cohesive ties between clauses or sections of text in such a way as to demonstrate a meaningful relationship between them. It is also possible to perceive this process as the linking of ideas, events or other phenomena". As for Eggins (2004), she contends that the cohesive patterns of conjunctions or conjunctive relations, refers to how the writer create and expresses logical relationships between the parts of a text. Following Bloor & Bloor (2004), there are four classes of conjunctions are identified by Halliday & Hasan (1976). These are:

https://sloap.org/journals/index.php/ijllc/article/view/3
2.3 Lexical cohesion

Lexical cohesion has is the cohesive effect of the use of lexical items in discourse where the choice of an item relates to the choices that have gone before (Bloor & Bloor, 2004). Halliday (1985) observes that it comes about through the selection of items that are related in some way to those that have gone before. The two main categories of lexical cohesion are reiteration and collocation.

a) Reiteration: This is a form of lexical cohesion which may be a repetition, a synonym or near-synonym, antonymy, hyponymy, meronymy (Halliday and Hasan, 1976, p. 278).
b) Repetition: It involves the occurrence of the same lexical item
c) Synonymy or near synonymy: Synonymy is the relationship between two words which have the same or almost the same meaning.
d) Antonymy: the relationship of contrast between two lexical items
e) Hyponymy: It is a relation that holds between a general class and its sub-classes (Halliday and Hasan, 1976, p.84)
f) Meronymy: when two lexical items are related as whole to part (or vice-versa)
g) Collocation: This is the co-occurrence of the same lexical item. It covers two or more words which can be said to ‘go together’ in the sense of frequency of occurrence (Bloor & Bloor, 2004).

As said earlier, the paper aims at analyzing some excerpts from the novel News from Home. For that purpose, two extracts have been selected randomly and they represent the data to be analyzed thoroughly through the approach suggested in the previous section. The research design is descriptive and a mixed method, i.e. quantitative and qualitative approaches, has been used. Before providing the proper analysis, linguistic features have been identified according to the following keys below.

Keys:

a) References in bold: END= Endophoric Reference; ANA= Anaphoric Reference; CAT= Cataphoric Reference; EXO= Exophoric Reference ; HOM= Homophoric Reference; DEM= Demonstrative Reference; COM= Comparative Reference;
b) Conjunctions in bold and italics; ADD= Additive Conjunction ADV= Adversative Conjunction; CAU=Causal Conjunction; TEM= Temporal Conjunction
c) Lexical cohesion in italics; REL=Reiteration; Col= Collocation; Rep= Repetition; Syn= Synonymy; Ant= Antonymy; Mer=Meronymy; Hyp= Hyponymy

3. Results and Analysis

Analysis of cohesive properties in the selected texts

3.1 Cohesion Analysis in text1

3.1.1 Identification of the cohesive elements in text1

Extract one: Last Trip

This (DEM) time (Rep/ Hyp), he(ANA) wants her (CAT) to deliver a hundred(Hyp) and twenty(Hyp)-seven(Hyp) balloons of heroin(Hyp) to London.\(^1\) He (ANA) counts them (ANA) on her (CAT) table (Ant/MER/Rep) to make sure there(DEM) is no (Ant) question about the (DEM) number (Hyp/Col).\(^2\) The (DEM) balloons are multicolored, a little (Syn/Rep) smaller (COM) than her (CAT) thumb(Mer).\(^3\) She (CAT) is capable of swallowing(Rep) every (Ant) one of them (ANA), but(ADV) she (CAT) bargains for extra pay (Rep), a thousand(Hyp) US dollars more(Rep) (COM).\(^4\) “I (CAT)’ll do it (ANA) for five (Syn/Hyp),” she (CAT) says (Rep).\(^5\) She (CAT) speaks in broken Yoruba because(CLA) she (CAT) has to be careful about eavesdroppers.\(^6\)

The (DEM) room (Mer/Rep/Col) she (CAT) rents(Col) for her (CAT) trips(Syn) has thin(Syn) walls (Mer/Col).\(^7\) It (ANA) contains the wooden table (Rep/Col), a couple of collapsible iron chairs (Mer/Col), and a new mattress(Rep/Mer/Col) that smells vaguely like urine because(CLA) she (CAT) sweats more (COM) than usual on the night(Hyp) before (DEM) she(CAT) travels.\(^8\) Her (CAT) son, Dara, is asleep on the (DEM) mattress(Rep), face(Mer) up.\(^9\) He (ANA) rubs the (DEM) eczema patches around his (ANA) eyes(Rep/Mer) and
wheezes. A miniature(Syn) oscillating fan(Col) blows dust over (COM) him (ANA). She (CAT) has considered leaving her (CAT) windows(Mer/Col) open(Col) to give him (ANA) some relief. The (DEM) heat indoors(Col) is unbearable, but (ADV) the (DEM) air in this (DEM) part of Lagos has a sour taste. For now (DEM/Hyp), she (CAT) is more worried (Syn/about sounds(Col) that escape(Col) her (CAT) room(Rep)). Even on afternoons like (COM) this (DEM), with the (DEM) horns(Col) and engines(Col) of the (DEM) traffic(Col) on nearby streets(Col), she (CAT) can hear(Syn/Col) her (CAT) neighbors(Col) talking. She (CAT) guarantees they (ANA) are listening (Syn). They (ANA) know she (CAT) has a man in her (CAT) room(Rep). “Since when five(Rep)?” he (CAT) asks (Syn). He (CAT) goes (Ant) by the (DEM) name of Kazeem. He (20) has a lisp that is amusing, potentially. In the (DEM) past(Hyp), he (ANA) has hired killers(Rep) to dispose of difficult couriers(Rep) who have double-crossed him (ANA). After thirteen year of loyalty to their (EXO) organization, she (CAT) is not worried about the (DEM) consequences of betrayal. She (CAT) is scared(Syn/Col) of him (ANA) the (DEM) way people are of little (Rep) dogs(Col) that jump and bite(Col). His (ANA) eyes (Rep) are a sickly shade of pink and (AD) the sun (HOM) seems to have roasted him (ANA), the (DEM) fat(Syn) in his (ANA) body(Mer) melting to oil(Syn). His (ANA) skin/Rep/Mer/Col) is too shiny(Col) and clings(Col) to his (ANA) bones(Mer). The (DEM) veins(Mer) in his (ANA) arms(Cat) protrude. He (ANA) crunches on kola nut(Rep) and occasionally stops to smack his (ANA) lips(Mer). This (DEM) habit of his(ANA) irritates her(ANA). “You (CAT) can’t just demand (Syn) five (Rep) like (COM) that (DEM),” she (ANA) says(Rep). “Why not?” She (ANA) asks(Rep), sitting up. “My (CAT) life is not worth five(Rep)??” She (CAT) is taller (COM) than he(ANA) is, robust, especially with the (DEM) broad boubous she (CAT) favors for international flights(Syn/Col). They (ANA) give her (CAT) stomach(Mer) enough space to expand and make her (CAT) chest(Mer) look as sturdy as (COM) a shelf. Many times (Rep) before, she (CAT) has concealed bags strapped around her (CAT) torso(Mer). She (CAT) eats well to keep her(CAT) weight up, bleaches(Col) her (CAT) skin(Rep) with hydroquinone creams(Col) to freshen her(CAT) complexion(Col). In her (CAT) latest passport photograph she (CAT) appears much younger (COM) than she (CAT) is, and can pass for her (CAT) fake age. Her (CAT) alias is Simbiyat Adisa. He (CAT) sucks a piece of kola nut(Rep) out of his(CAT) teeth(Mer). “I (ANA) pay(Rep) you (ANA) in kind, nothing more(Rep)(COM).” “No!” she (ANA) says, waving her (ANA) hand. “Not in kind! (Rep)” She (ANA) tells (Syn) him (ANA) in a whisper, even though (ADV) he(ANA) already knows this (DEM) about her(ANA), that she(ANA) doesn’t push drugs(Hyp). He(ANA) shrugs. “So(CLA), it(ANA)’s four(Hyp) as usual.” “Five (Rep),” she(ANA) repeats, spreading her(ANA) fingers(Mer). The (DEM) man sees her(ANA) as walking storage. He(ANA) will pay(Rep) her(ANA) more(Rep)(COM) only if (CLA) she(ANA) swallows(Rep) more(Rep)(COM). “Take (Ant) it(ANA) or leave (Ant) it(ANA),” he(ANA) says(Rep). “There (DEM) are many where you(ANA) came(Rep) from.”

Source: News from Home, pp.149 -150

3.1.2 Analysis of Reference

Various kinds of reference are identified in the text. They include: anaphoric, cataphoric, demonstrative, homophoric and exophoric references.


In addition, the text displays chains of cataphoric reference. The first one includes “she” in S1, S6, S7, S8, S9, S13, S14, S15, S16, S17, S18, S19, S20 and “my” in S32. They are used to point forward to the information the writer is providing concerning Simbiyat, one of the characters in the selected excerpts. Another chain also gathers the pronouns “her” in S1, S2 and “she” in S4. They are used cataphorically to refer to Simbiyat Adisa in S38. Likewise, the pronoun “he” in S1, S2, S3, S8, S9, S10, S11, S12, S13, S14, S15, S16, S17, S18, S19, S20, S21, S22, S23, S24, S25, S26, S27, S28, S29, S30, S31, S32, S33, S34, S35, S36, S37, S38, S39, S40, S41, S42, S43, S44, S45, S46, S47, S48, S49 and “he” in S50. Another anaphoric reference chain includes “Dara” in S10 which is anaphorically referred to as “his” in S10 and “him” in S11 and S12.

In addition, the text displays chains of cataphoric reference. The first one includes “she” in S1, S6, S7, S8, S9, S13, S14, S15, S16, S17, S18, S19, S20, S21, S22, S23, S24, S25, S26, S27, S28, S29, S30, S31, S32, S33, S34, S35, S36, S37, S38, S39, S40, S41, S42, S43, S44, S45, S46, S47, S48, S49 and “he” in S50. Another anaphoric reference chain includes “Dara” in S10 which is anaphorically referred to as “his” in S10 and “him” in S11 and S12.

3.1.3 Analysis of conjunctions

Three types of conjunctions have been identified in the text. There is one case of additive conjunction. In S24, “and” is used to link one idea to another. In addition “but” is used in S4:13 and “though” in S43 to “point out a contrastive relationship between two propositions within one sentence” (Bloor &Bloor, 2004, p.98). The causal-result relationship is exemplified by such conjunctions as “because” in S6.8, “so” in S13 and “only if” in S49.

3.1.4 Analysis of lexical cohesion

Lexical cohesion patterns are mostly predominant in this text. Features that occur in the text are repetition, synonymy, antonymy, meronymy, hyponymy and collocation.

Items that are repeated are listed as follows:


Likewise, items that are synonymous are identified in the text and displayed as follows:

says and tell (S2-S3); worried and scared (S14-S23); fat and oil (S25-S2); trips and flight (S7, S33); little and thin and miniature (S3, S5, S11); ask and demand (S18, S29); hear and listening (S15, S16).

Very few cases of antonymy are noticed in the text. These are: no and every in (S2 -S4); take and leave (S49 -S49); goes and came (S20, S30).

Features of meronymy are used as follows:


Patterns of hyponymy are identified as the following: Drugs and heroin (S47, S1), time and night, now, past (S1, S6:14:21), Number and hundred, twenty, seven, a hundred and twenty, seven; (S2 - S1:1-1.1), thousand one thousand, five thousand, four thousand, thirteen thousand (S2-S4:5:45:22).

Finally, the above text displays items that co-occur. These are:


3.2. Cohesion analysis in text 2

3.2.1 Identification of the cohesive elements

The same keys suggested in the previous section are used to carry out the identification.

Extract two: News from home

It (EXO) is not a good day (Rep/An/Mer) to tell her (CAT).1 This (DEM) morning (Rep/Mer) she (CAT) quarreled with Dr. Darego (Rep) again. 2 They (CAT) were upstairs in their (CAT) bedroom (Mer/Col) on the (DEM) second floor (Rep). I (CAT) was on the (DEM) sofa bed (Mer/Col) in the (DEM) basement (Syn) where I (CAT) slept (Col) every night (Ant/Mer). 3 I (CAT) heard (Col) their (CAT) voices (Col) clear as if (COM) I (CAT) pressed my ear (Col) to their (CAT) door (Syn/Mer/Col). 4 Mrs. Darego (Rep) called (Rep) him (CAT) a selfish man. 5 Dr. Darego (Rep) said (Rep), “Listen (Col), I (ANA) work (Col) very hard (Col)”. 6 Mrs. Darego (Rep) said (Rep) she (ANA) was overworked (Col). 7 “What are you (ANA) harassing me (ANA) for?” 8 Dr. Darego (Rep) asked (Rep). 9 “You (ANA) wanted help (Rep), I (ANA) got (Rep) you (ANA) help (Rep/Col). 10 You (ANA) have your (ANA) nanny downstairs (Syn/Mer). 11 call (Rep) the (DEM) Kids (Syn) ready, take the (DEM) keys to the (DEM) jeep. 12 All of you (ANA) drive to wherever you (ANA) feel like spending your (ANA) July (HOM) fourth. 13 I (ANA)’m not going. 14 Finish (Ant) 15 Mrs. Darego (Rep) must have been the (DEM) one who slammed the (DEM) door (Rep). 16 Perhaps this (DEM) is why houses (Syn/Mer) like (COM) theirs (ANA) in America are called (Rep) “dream homes (Rep/Syn)”. 17 They (ANA) are not built (Col) with unhappy couples in mind; their (ANA) walls (Mer) are too thin. 18 I (ANA) fold up the
(DEM) sofa bed and(ADV) replace the(DEM) cushion(Mer), which are in a pile by the(DEM) concertina-shaped floor(Rep) lamp(Syn).19 I(ANA) unite my(ANA) black satin scarf(Col) to let my(ANA) braids(Col) down, slap lint off my(ANA) shorts, then listen to a world news broadcast as(COM) usual.20 It(EXO) is Independence day (Syn) (HOM) here(DEM) in America.21 Hopefully, there (DEM) will be an update on the(DEM) demonstrators from my(CAT) hometown.22 Mrs. Darego(Rep) is wearing(Rep) a flowery housecoat(Hyp).23 Her(ANA) face looks freshly washed.24 She (ANA) has the(DEM) kind of dark skin I(ANA) admire, almost indigo.25 This(DEM) morning(Rep) (HOM) she(ANA) appears gray under her(ANA) fluorescent kitchen(Mer) lights(Syn).26 She(ANA) narrows(ANT) her(ANA) eyes as she(ANA) speaks.27 “I(ANA)’m sorry, Eve,” she(ANA) says.28 “It(DEM)’s me(ANA) and you(ANA) today(DEM)/Rep).29 We(ANA) have to take the(DEM) children(Syn/Col) to the(DEM) barbecue(HOM/Rep).30 Their (ANA)father (Col) doesn’t want to go, and I (ANA) don’t know what else to do(Rep).”31 She(ANA) was going to give me(ANA) a day (Rep) off and spend her (ANA) time shopping for groceries(Col) and cooking(Col).32 I (ANA) was looking forward to doing(Rep) nothing(Ant) useful.33 “Shall I(ANA) get them(ANA) ready?”34 I (ANA) ask(Rep).35 “Yes, please,” she(ANA) says.36 “I(ANA)’ll pack the(DEM) cooler(Col) and make sandwiches(Col)”.37 I (ANA) head for the(DEM) children(Rep)’s room, but she(ANA) stops me (ANA) by the fridge.38 “Is everything(Ant) all right?”39 She(ANA) asks(Rep).40 I (ANA) smile(Col) to assure her(ANA).41 She(ANA) has sensed(Rep) my(ANA) mood(Col).42 The(DEM) barbecue(Rep) we’re going to is for a community of Nigerians who live in New Jersey, mostly doctor and their(DEM) families(Col).43 Mrs. Darego(Rep) is in a yellow sundress(Hyp).44 She(ANA) wishes her(ANA) stomach were flatter.45 She (ANA) had both children(Rep/Col) by C-section.46 Today(Rep), they(ANA) are in their usual coordinated Old Navy and Gap clothes(Hyp).47 We(ANA) stop at a traffic light.48 This part of New Jersey(HOM) is all mountains and expressways.49 She(ANA) taps the(DEM) steering wheel.50 “Eve”, she(ANA) says(Rep), “you(ANA) forgot to give me(ANA) your(ANA) passport again.”51 “Sorry”.52 But I (ANA) didn’t.53 Her(ANA) nails are clipped for work.54 She(ANA) is not wearing(Rep) her(ANA) wedding band.55 “No, no”, she (ANA) says(Rep), “don’t worry.”56 I(ANA) just need to send off your(ANA) renewal by tomorrow(DEM), understand?57 Immigration is tough these(DEM) days (Rep).58 Me(ANA), myself(ANA), when I(ANA) came, I (ANA) made the mistake of applying on my(ANA) husband(Col)’s visa(Rep).59 Seven years, and I(ANA)’m yet to see a green card.60 Everything(ANT) is delayed since September 11”.61 She(ANA) has just started a pediatric residency program and needs me(ANA) to be at home(Rep) with her(ANA) children(Rep).62 She(ANA) is hoping to have my (ANA) visa(Rep) extended(Ant).63 I (ANA) can’t tell her(ANA) I (ANA) am looking for a green-card sponsor now(DEM).64 I(ANA) am ready to work as a nurse65 What will she(ANA) say(Rep) to that after flying me(ANA) over(DEM) to America?66


3.2.2 Analysis of reference

Just like the previous text, this text also shows instances of anaphoric, cataphoric, demonstrative, homophoric and exophoric reference.

Anaphoric reference types are the most predominant ones in this text. Some of them include: “Dr. Darego” in S2 is anaphorically referred to as “him” in S5, “I” in S6, S9a and S3a, “me” in S8. As for “Mrs. Darego”, she is anaphorically referred to as “she” in S1 in 25-27, 28-32, 36-38, 40-42, 45-46, 50-51, 55-56, 62-63, “her” in S24, S26-27, 32-34, 41-45, 54-55, 62-64, “I” in S28, S31, S37, S66, “you” in S6, S10-11, “me” in S29, S51, “my” in S59, “myself” in S39, and “your” in S11. This means that the two people are the main characters in the excerpt and the story is constructed around them. Other cases of anaphoric references are the following: “theirs” in S17 refers to “Dr and Mrs Darego”, “their” in S4, S31 and “them” in S34, “they” in S7 are used for “children”. Similarly, “Eve” in S18 is anaphorically referred to as “you” in S29, “me” in S2, S10, “I” in S13-33, S35-38, S41-51, S64-65, “my” in S42, S63 and “your” in S57.

There are three main chains of cataphoric reference in this text: “her” in S1 and “she” in S2 which are used for “Mrs Darego” in S2, “they” in S3 and “their” in S3, whose referents are Dr. and Mrs. Darego in S1 and “I” in S4, S9, S20, “your” in S42-44, whose referent is “Eve” in S29.

Instances of homophoric reference identified are the following: “July the fourth” in S13; “Independence day” in S21, “New Jersey” in S43, and “the barbecue” in S30. There are also cases exophoric reference types: These are: “it” in S1, “one” in S16, “this morning” in S26.

As regards demonstrative references, they are used in great number: examples are: “this” in S2, 27, 26-49, “that” in S3, 12-16, 19-22, 25-30, S37, S38, S39 and “there” in S21, “under” in S26, “it” in S29, “today” in S29, “tomorrow” in S57.
“these” in S38, “now” in S64 and “over” in S66. Finally, although less predominant, comparative references occur in the text. These are: “as if” in S4, “like” in S17, “in”, and “flatter” in S45.

3.2.3 Analysis of conjunctions

Three different kinds of conjunctions are used in the text: First, “and”, a case of additive conjunction, occurring in S19, S26, S37, S62 to link or coordinate events of the text together. Then, the adversative conjunction “but” is used in S38 to point out the contrastive relations between propositions within one sentence (Bloor and Bloor). The third kind of conjunction is the one expressing the temporal-sequential relationship. It is exemplified through “then” in S20, “as” in S27, “when” in S59, and “after” in S6.

3.2.4 Analysis of lexical Cohesion


Items that are synonymous are identified in the text and displayed as follows:
Basement and downstairs in (S1-S11), Kids and children in (S12-S30), Houses and home in (S17-S17), Lamp and lights in (S19-S26), Cooler and fridge in (S33-S38).

There are also instances of antonymy in the text. They include: Day and night in (S1-S1), nothing and everything in (S13-S39), finish and started in (S15-S62), narrow and extended in (S27-S65).

Moreover, there are three cases of meronymy in the text these are:
Day (morning; night) in S1, S2, S18, Houses (bedroom, floor, basement, door, downstairs, walls, upstairs, kitchen) in S17, S19, S31, S1, S1, S18, S6, S36 and bedroom (bed, cushions) in S3, S5, S19.

Only one case of hyponymy is found in the extract: That is clothes (housecoat and sundress) in S47 (S23 and S44).

Features of collocation are pointed out in this text. These include:
Bedroom, bed, sleep, door, built in (S1, S3, S18), work, hard, overworked, help in (S6, S7, S10), scarf, braids in (S20), Hear, voice, ear, listen in (S1, S6), groceries, cooking, cooler, sandwiches, fridge in (S17, S32, S37, S58), smile, sensed, mood in (S42) and families, children, father, husband in (S31, S43, S46, S59).

Discussion and Interpretation of findings

The different findings regarding the cohesive features in the two selected texts have been summarized in table 1 below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohesive Features</th>
<th>Text1</th>
<th>Text 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>ANA</td>
<td>CAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>34.04%</td>
<td>34.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conjunction</td>
<td>ADD</td>
<td>ADV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>12.50%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexical cohesion</td>
<td>REP</td>
<td>SYN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>10.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>66(100%)</td>
<td>94(100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the table above, it appears that text 1 contains 141 reference items distributed as follows: 01 homophoric reference (i.e. 0. 71%), 01 exophoric reference (0.71%), 13 comparative references (9. 22%), 29 demonstrative references (20.57%) and endophoric reference which consists of 48 anaphoric references (34.04%) and 49 cataphoric references (34.75%). As it appears, endophoric references rank first in the extract under study, almost equally distributed into the two sub-categories, viz: anaphoric and cataphoric.

This first extract displays a total number of 7 head items. However 02 chains are more significant as they span almost the entire extract. These two head items are “I” (Simbiyat Adisa) in S5 and Kazeem in S19. So, the extract is mainly constructed around these 02 participants. In fact, Simbiyat Adisa is bargaining with Kazeem about drug business. In the first long chain, “I” and its variant “my”, “she” and its variant “her” and you refer to the referent “I” (Adisa). Likewise, in the second long chain, “he” and its variants “him”, “his” and “I” refers to the participant Kazeem.

Because of the very few number of homophoric and exophoric references in this extract, they can be viewed as almost non-existent. Nevertheless, “the sun” in S24 as homophoric reference can be retrieved only through a context of culture, while the only exophoric reference item “their” can be retrieved from the immediate context of situation.

Dealing with the conjunctive items, table 1 shows a total number of 08 conjunctive items identified and distributed as follows: 01 additive conjunction (12.50%); 03 adversative (37. 5%); 04 causal (50%) and 00 temporal (00%). From the foregoing, it clearly appears that the dominant category of conjunction is that of causal. Thus, it can be inferred from this that extract one is, to a great extent, about indicating reason, purpose and result, which is an illustration of the use of written mode by the writer. The most used causal item in the extract mainly focuses on providing reason. Causal conjunctions are followed by adversative conjunction, indicating that the extract secondly raises the oppositional adversative points through the use of “but” and “though”. Additive conjunction ranks third in the extract, meaning that the writer does not concentrate too much on adding new points to what has gone before. Nevertheless, there is a single additive conjunction through the use of “and” in S24.

The third category of conjunctive features is the lexical cohesion. As indicated in table1, extract 1 is made up of 66 lexical cohesion items. Out of the 66 items, the first subcategory, reiteration consists of 42 repeated items (i.e., 63.66%), 07 synonyms (10. 61%); 03 antonyms (4.55%); 03 cases of meronymy (4. 55%) and 04 cases of hyponymy (6. 06%), showing that there are 59 occurrences of reiteration; the second subcategory, i.e., collocation is less predominant: 07 (10.61%). The most repeated item in the extract is “five”. It is repeated 05 times: S4, S18, S19, S32 and S46. It is then followed by “more” which is repeated 04 times in S1, S40, S48 and S48. Then comes “pay” repeated 03 times in S4, S40, and S48; “says” also mentioned three times in S5, S29, S49, and “room” repeated also three times in S7, S14 and S17. As a matter of fact, the field of the extract can be deduced from its major string(s) (Halliday and Hasan,1985/1989, Eggins 1994). Basing on the basic lexical string(s) in the extract, one can say that the extract develops an aspect of bargaining because of the item “five”, “pay”, “more”, “says”.

As for the second extract, it is made up of a total number of 151 reference items. Obviously, they are not evenly distributed. Out of the 151 items, there are only 04 homophoric reference items (2. 65%), 4 exophoric reference items (2. 65%). Endophoric reference items are distributed into 11 cataphoric references (7.28%) and 93 (61. 59%) anaphoric references. There are 35 items of demonstrative references (23.18%), while only 04 comparative reference items have been used (2. 65%). As it appears in the table, anaphoric reference is the most dominant followed by demonstrative reference. Cataphoric reference ranks third while homophoric, exophoric and comparative references rank equally fourth.

As far as conjunctions are concerned, there are 10 in this extract, distributed as follows: additive: 05 (50%), adversative 01 (10%), causal 00 (00%) and temporal 04 (40%). Thus, additive conjunctions are the most predominant in this category in the second extract, followed by the temporal and the adversative conjunctions.

Causal conjunctions rank last. Such a distribution shows that the second extract mainly concentrates on giving additional information to what has been mentioned by using the conjunctive items and however, it also raises some aspect of opposition through the use of the adversative conjunctions “but”. It then focuses on showing some sequences of events through the use of the temporal conjunctions “then”, “as”, “when” and “after”. Here, the extract does not provide any reason or consequence or even purpose for there is no presence of causal conjunction within it.
Lexical cohesion is the third aspect of cohesive features studied in the second text. In fact, out of the 94 items, 73 belong to the category of repetition (77.66%), 05 belong to the category of synonymy (5.32%); there are 04 antonymy (4.26%); 03 meronymy (3.19%) and 01 case of hyponymy (1.06%) and 08 instances are of collocation (8.51%). In other words, reiteration, made of repetition, synonymy, antonymy, meronymy and hyponymy ranks first: 86 (91.49%). The most repeated lexical item is “to say”. It is repeated six times: S6, S7, S8, S51, S56, and S66. It is followed by “Mrs Darego” and “to go”. Mrs Darogo is repeated in S5, S7, S16, S28 and S44 whereas “to go” occurs in S2, S14, S31, S33 and S43. Then comes “day”, “Dr Darego” and “children”, all repeated 4 times: “Day” in S1, S21, S32, and S38; “Dr Darego” in S2, S6, S9 and S28, “children” in S38, S46 and S62. It is important here to note that these lexical items refer to the field or area of focus of the extract.

4. Conclusion

From these findings, one can say that the lexical choices made by the writer especially those related to time and places such as “room” or “bedroom” in the first extract and “this morning” “barbecue”, “basement”, “upstairs” etc… in the second extract as well as the use of anaphoric reference types throughout the two texts adds to the field and experiential meaning of the piece of writing. Most of the participants used anaphorically are personal, showing that there are features of prose fiction in the selected passage. In addition, there is more to be saying through these findings beyond these features. In fact, in the usual way of using pronouns, the antecedent comes before the pronoun. That is what the writer mostly follows in her texts, especially in the second text. Nevertheless, the high frequency of cataphoric reference in the first extract shows that the writer simply wants to arouse reader’s curiosity concerning the sequence of events accounted for. By doing so, she is obliged to keep track of the reading until when the reader is able to identify the referent. Nevertheless, the use of anaphoric reference compared to that of exophoric and homophoric reference throughout the two extracts implies that these extracts draw mainly from situational and cultural context. The various reference chains are cohesive because they contribute to the thematic and metaphorical meanings the two texts are making (Eggins, 2004).

Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank the editors of IJLLC for their valuable time and advice.
References

Innocent Sourou Koutchadé holds a PhD in Applied Linguistics. He is currently a Senior Lecturer at the English Department of Abomey-Calabi University. His areas of research include: Stylistics, Discourse Analysis, Pragmatics and Didactics.