

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is divided into five parts, which include the background of the study, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and definition of key terms. The first section gives the overall explanation of the topic being discussed in this present study. The second section states the research questions formulated in this study. Then, the following section elaborates on the purpose of analyzing the research questions. The fourth section gives a detailed explanation of the importance of this study, both theoretical and practical. The last section explains the key terms of this study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Text cohesiveness is of great significance in the written form of a text to connect the idea within every passage of a text; one of the examples is the cohesiveness in the news article. As Afzaal, et al. (2019) stated, cohesion is a fundamental concept for the writer of news articles to create interest and consistency in written text. Indeed, the existence of cohesive devices in the news articles is essential to verify the news articles' good quality and credibility. Likewise, as the only Indonesia's national news agency, *Antara*, has the purpose of fulfilling the rights of the public in obtaining accurate, complete, and useful information immediately (Rosida 2017). *Antara* also provides an online news portal for the readers, which can be accessed through *Antaranews.com*. This online news portal provides two languages on its website, Indonesian and English, because the

target readers are Indonesian citizens and all internet users around the world. Rosida (2017) added that the information published by *Antara* would determine the image of Indonesia internationally. Thus, as a credible news agency, *Antara* must maintain the quality of the news, which can be observed through the text's cohesiveness.

According to Yin (2015), improving the cohesion of the news writing will contribute to the quality of the news articles. It corresponds with Halliday and Hasan's statement (1976) about the concept of cohesion which refers to the relations of meaning within the text to define it as a text. It means that the presence of cohesive devices supports the development of a meaningful text and the quality of the news itself. In accordance with that statement, Picard (2004) also mentioned that the content, methods of journalism, and news information are involved in the news quality, generating the readers' understanding of the news. This suggests that the more cohesive the text is, the more efficiently the readers will grasp the information in it.

Previous paragraphs already mentioned that the text's cohesiveness will be beneficial for the readers in comprehending the information stated on the news and defining the quality of the news articles. Marashi (2020) also noted that in addition to the study of texture, cohesion also comprises understandings and assumptions about the social context that is interpreted in a text. Therefore, the text's cohesiveness is intended to help readers understand the meaning of the text.

As has been mentioned previously, the presence of cohesion will improve the quality of the written text. Thus, in order to determine the quality of news articles

based on the text's cohesiveness, the degree of cohesiveness introduced by Hartnett 1986, as cited in (Wendra 2003), can be used. The degree of cohesiveness is calculated by comparing the number of cohesive devices present in the text with the total topic units in the text. That calculation will show the percentage of the degree of cohesiveness. Then, the results will determine text cohesiveness categories from very low, low, medium, high, and very high. According to those categories, the more cohesive devices present in the text will establish the high-quality news based on the text's cohesiveness. Mokoginta (2019) analyzed lexical cohesion in a news article published on BBC E-Newspaper. Her research showed that the presence of 61 cohesive devices in a total of 80 sentences indicated the high category of degree cohesiveness. That high category shows a great quality of the news articles, which also indicates that the text is easy to understand by the readers.

The analysis of cohesive devices in the news article is quite abundant. A study conducted by Fadillah (2018) and a recent journal article by Cahyono, Suryaningtyas, and Nugroho (2020) analyzed a similar topic about cohesive devices in news articles. They revealed the most dominant type of cohesive devices present in their object of study. Fadillah found that conjunction is the most dominant type appearing in the news articles published on *The Jakarta Post*. Whereas Cahyono, et al. discovered that reference is the most frequent type of grammatical cohesion used in the news article published by TIME Magazine. Another study conducted by Mokoginta (1986) discussed lexical cohesion and the degree of cohesiveness in a news article published by BBC E-Newspaper to determine the category of cohesiveness degree. In her study, Mokoginta found that repetition is the dominant

type of lexical cohesion that appeared in news articles. Moreover, Mokoginta revealed that the news articles published on BBC E-Newspaper are considered a high category for the degree of lexical cohesion. Meanwhile, a study conducted by Ambarwati (2020) and Ramadhana (2020) also observed grammatical and lexical cohesion in the online news article to reveal the most frequent grammatical and lexical cohesion types that appeared in their selected news articles. The study conducted by Ambarwati showed that conjunction and reiteration are the most dominant types of grammatical and lexical cohesion that appeared in the news articles published by *The Jakarta Post*. While in Ramadhana's study, he found that demonstrative reference is the most used type of grammatical cohesion in the news articles issued by *The Guardian*. And for lexical cohesion, synonymy became the most frequent type that appeared in that news articles.

All the above studies used the theory proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976) to analyze the cohesive devices that appeared in news articles. Besides, most previous studies focused on determining the frequently occurring types of grammatical and lexical cohesion or only concentrating on the lexical cohesion in defining the degree of cohesiveness in a news article. Thus, by considering the previous studies, the writer of this current study decided to further analyze cohesive devices in both grammatical and lexical cohesion to determine the quality of news articles by using the degree of cohesiveness. Therefore, this study chose to analyze the presence of cohesive devices in the news articles published by *Antaranews.com* to determine the quality of the news articles issued by that news agency, which is known as only Indonesia's national news.

In this present study, the writer analyzed English news articles published on *Antaranews.com* using the theory proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976) about cohesion in English. That theory classified grammatical cohesion into four types: reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction. Also, it divides the lexical cohesion into reiteration and collocation. Furthermore, as mentioned previously, this study also aims to determine the text's cohesiveness of the news to reveal the news quality published by *Antaranews.com*. Thus, that text's cohesiveness is analyzed using the degree of text cohesiveness introduced by Hartnett 1986, as cited in Wendra (2003). It helps to determine the quality of the news articles by measuring the number of cohesions presence within the text against the number of sentences forming the news articles. Then, the result can determine the degree of cohesiveness based on the categories from very low to very high.

As an online news portal, *Antaranews.com* is responsive to every issue happening at national and international levels. The English news portal of *Antaranews.com* consists of many sections that provide news regarding current issues, business, world information, and Indonesia's culture. In order to focus the analysis, this present study used the news topic of Covid-19 since this pandemic topic has become the current issue around the world. Wang (2021) mentioned that the pandemic topic had become a global problem; therefore, throughout the Covid-19 pandemic phase, *Antaranews.com* has published a substantial number of news articles. Moreover, the news articles about Covid-19 published on *Antaranews.com* mainly focus on the current pandemic situation happening in Indonesia. Therefore, the Covid-19 English news published on *Antaranews.com* was chosen because the

information only discussed the Covid-19 situation in Indonesia. Thus, the writer decided to focus on the topic of Covid-19 news to analyze the cohesive devices present in the news articles to determine the text's cohesiveness.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the explanation of the background of the study above, three questions are established in order to guide this present study. The questions are stated below:

1. What are the types of grammatical cohesion found in the news articles about Covid-19 published by *Antaranews.com*?
2. What are the types of lexical cohesion found in the news articles about Covid-19 published by *Antaranews.com*?
3. What is the degree of cohesiveness in the news articles about Covid-19 published by *Antaranews.com*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In relation to the research questions above, the purposes of this present study can be stated as follows:

1. To find out the types of grammatical cohesion used in the news articles about Covid-19 published by *Antaranews.com*.
2. To find out the types of lexical cohesion used in the news articles about Covid-19 published by *Antaranews.com*.
3. To reveal the degree of cohesiveness in the news articles about Covid-19 published by *Antaranews.com*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This present study is intended to provide both theoretical and practical implications. Theoretically, this study is expected to give further development and new insights into the discourse study, particularly on the grammatical and lexical cohesion in news articles. This study may also give other perspectives in analyzing cohesive devices, which can determine the written text's quality based on the degree of cohesiveness. Furthermore, for practical significance, the information contained in this present study about cohesive devices and its relation to the quality of the written text may be helpful to be a guide for students who are interested in conducting similar research about cohesive devices. And eventually, this study could be used as a reference for other researchers in the future.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

- Cohesion : The relation of words or phrases presupposes another element in a passage, which cannot be effectively interpreted except by referring it to another aspect (Halliday and Hasan 1976).
- Degree of Cohesiveness : A tool to examine the text quality based on the text's cohesiveness, according to the presence of cohesive devices and the total number of topic units in a passage (Hartnett 1986).
- Covid-19 : A severe health crisis that causes a pandemic and has become a global problem since it is expanding around the world (Wang 2021).

News Article : A mass media tool that serves information on certain issues in written form to get the public's attention (Koundal and Mishra 2018).