

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five subchapters. The first subchapter explains the background of the study. The second subchapter is the statement of the problems. The third subchapter presents the objectives of the study. The fourth subchapter is the significance of the study. Last, the definitions of key terms are presented.

1.1 Background of the Study

Newspaper companies started to operate their services digitally due to the rapid development of technology. Technological development such as the internet provides a new medium for news to be produced. This new medium is the World Wide Web (WWW), an information system which provides resources connected through hyperlinks (MDN 2021). This system allows news publications to reach a wide range of readers. Originally, newspapers were produced in printed forms and distributed in the local neighborhood. However, after the internet development, news can be published online through websites and spread worldwide. The internet's extensive range removes one of the printed newspaper limitations which is geographical boundaries (Patel 2010).

In recent times, some people prefer online newspapers to printed newspapers due to some aspects. This statement is supported by the results of a survey done by Gottfried and Shearer (2017), which stated that in 2017, a total of 43% Americans get their news online, while 18% get their news from printed newspapers. Firstly, compared to printed newspapers, online newspapers are more concised. According to a study by Thurman (2017), people spent an average of 30 seconds a day reading

online newspapers. They are suitable for people who do not have plenty of time. Furthermore, online newspapers are published in a span of minutes or hours with the range of news produced in a day starting from dozens to hundreds. Online newspapers can publish an average of 200 articles per day (Meyer 2016). It has a broad selection of news both locally and globally. Therefore, due to it being concised, varied and fast updated, online newspapers can be accessed flexibly any time. One of the online newspapers which covers both local and global news is the *News York Times*.

The *New York Times* is a news outlet from America which was founded in 1851 (Britannica 2021). It started as a news company which focused on certain readership such as intellectuals. However, after the changing of the owner, it changed its direction to a mass audience. It covers not only the local news but also the international news. As the world enters a digital era, the *New York Times* adapted by releasing a news website called *nytimes.com*. Since it was founded until the early 21st century, the *New York Times* has received 125 *Pulitzer* prizes, the highest number amongst other news outlets (Nafria 2018). The *New York Times* has a goal to cover news impartially. In 2019, *Pulitzer* bestowed an award to the *New York Times* entitled *Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting* for reporting a complex subject with a mastery of the subject and clear presentation, by revealing Donald Trump's financial fraud (The Pulitzer Prizes 2019). Recently, one of the issues published by the *New York Times* is about the Russia-Ukraine war.

On the early February 24, 2022, an invasion happened in several parts of Ukraine such as Kharkiv and Kyiv. This is not the first time Russia and Ukraine are

conflicted with each other. As a country, Ukraine has many divisions which are based on regionally-based patronal networks (Wilson 2016). Western Ukraine adopts European ideology. Meanwhile, the East and South Ukraine adopted Soviet ideology. A radical opposition among the divisions occurred in 2013. The demolition of the pro-Russia president in Ukraine led to the opposition from Russia (Pikulicka-Wilczewska 2016). In the recent invasion, Russia has a similar reason to oppose Ukraine as before. Ukraine's intention to join NATO, which is a Western alliance, was seen as a threat to Russia (Troianovski and MacFarquhar 2022). The war between Russia and Ukraine catches the attention of people around the world since many countries got involved in it. According to an economist at the University of Chicago, Blattman, Russia-Ukraine war has the potential to become a global issue due to the intervention of the superpowers such as the United States (Gharib 2022).

As the Russia-Ukraine war became an issue discussed by many people, news websites including the *New York Times* provided reports on the issue to keep the public updated. In delivering the information, news should be coherent and unified in order for the readers to comprehend the content. To construct a coherent and unified discourse, cohesive devices are needed. Halliday and Hasan (1976) describe cohesion as a concept of connecting ideas throughout the text. The existing elements should have relations with one another in order for them to be defined as a text. Cohesion can be differentiated into two types namely grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion (Halliday and Hasan 1976). The first type of cohesion, grammatical cohesion, expresses a general meaning. The distinctions include

reference, substitution, ellipsis and conjunction. In contrast to the first type of cohesion, lexical cohesion expresses a specific meaning. It only has two distinctions namely reiteration and collocation. Renkema (2004) categorized reiteration further into five different types which are repetition, synonymy, hyponymy or hyperonymy, meronymy and antonymy.

Many researchers have conducted studies on cohesive devices. One of which is Ramadhana (2020) who analyzed grammatical and lexical cohesion in The Guardian news website. He used articles with the topic of how the coronavirus pandemic caused racism in the west. The result of his study showed that demonstrative references were mostly used to show neutrality. In another study done by Malah, Tan and Rashid (2017), lexical cohesion in newspaper genres were used to build coherence in texts. However, unlike Ramadhana (2020) who applied the cohesion theory of Halliday and Hasan (1976); Malah, Tan and Rashid (2017) applied Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory along with Eggins' (2004). Another study on cohesive devices using Halliday and Hasan's theory was done by Musdiawardhani (2016). She conducted a comparative study in which she compared the use of cohesive devices in two newspapers, the *Jakarta Post* and the *New York Times*. The result of her study showed that both news websites rarely used substitution and ellipsis. Meanwhile, Abu Ayyash (2013) conducted a textual analysis by analyzing the cohesive devices, theme and rheme in newspaper editorials about Krauthammer's Free-lunch Egalitarianism. He found that cohesive devices, theme and rheme could help readers understand the text better.

The same with the four previous studies, this study also used news as the research object. Moreover, similar to Ramadhana (2020) and Musdiawardhani (2016), this study used Halliday and Hasan's (1976) cohesive devices as the leading theory. In addition, the theory of Renkema (2004) will be used as supporting theory for lexical cohesion. The difference between this study and the previous studies is the issue chosen as the topic. This study analyzed the cohesive devices used in the *New York Times* news articles about the Russia-Ukraine war which happened recently. The focus is on the articles about the United States position in the war between Russia and Ukraine, how the United States reacted to the war, and how they helped and who they sided with. The articles chosen were published several days after the first day of the war announcement by Russia with the total of 10 articles. For the cohesive devices' theory, both types of cohesion will be identified in this study.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the writer proposed two research questions below as the focus of the study:

1. What type of grammatical cohesion is mostly used in the news articles about the Russia-Ukraine war published by the *New York Times*?
2. What type of lexical cohesion is mostly used in the news articles about the Russia-Ukraine war published by the *New York Times*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions stated above, two objectives of this study can be determined as follows:

1. To examine the type of grammatical cohesion mostly used in the news articles about the Russia-Ukraine war published by the *New York Times*.
2. To examine the type of lexical cohesion mostly used in the news articles about the Russia-Ukraine war published by the *New York Times*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study of cohesive devices analysis is expected to give contributions both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study could provide additional knowledge on discourse analysis studies on news articles regarding war. This study may also contribute in providing knowledge on the cohesive devices analysis using a framework proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976) and also Renkema (2004). Practically, this study could provide information for readers on how the cohesive devices are used to construct news articles. Furthermore, it can also provide information for future researchers who want to conduct a study on cohesive devices analysis.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

Cohesive Devices : devices which link two or more elements in a text in order to create a unity within it (Halliday and Hasan 1976)

Grammatical Cohesion : cohesion that is realized by the use of grammar and consists of reference, substitution, ellipsis and conjunction (Halliday and Hasan 1976)

- Lexical Cohesion : cohesion that link content words used in the succeeding part of discourse which include reiteration and collocation (Renkema 2004)
- Online Newspaper : newspaper published online which can be accessed through desktop or mobile (Koundal and Mishra 2018)