

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. The Background of the Study

A text is distinguished from non-text in a way that the former forms a unified whole whereas the latter is no more than a group of unrelated sentences (Ahmed, 2013:12). In the field of linguistics, Halliday and Hasan (1976:1) define the word text as “any passage, spoken or written, of whatever length, that does form a unified whole”.

Text has its own structure or texture. A text which is too difficult and employs too complex grammatical constructions and lexical items, is likely to cause frustration. Texts must be properly graded and sequenced so that they can meet the abilities and develop the reading comprehension of the students (Broughton, et al., 2003:102). A text has “linguistic features” which can be identified as contributing to its total unity and giving it texture” (Halliday and Hasan, 1976:2). In applying a semantic tie between one sentence and another sentence, it can produce cohesion.

Cohesion is an aspect of discourse legitimately open to analysis. There is another aspect of language that also relates to a text's connectedness and wholeness, though: one which is usually distinguished from cohesion - coherence.

Where cohesion looks at the textual, semantic and syntactic connectedness of an utterance, coherence looks at the functional connectedness of the utterance. Thus it involves the study of such factors as the language users' knowledge of the world, the inferences they make and the assumptions they hold. According to

Halliday and Hasan, text is not merely sentences in sequence, instead it is “a semantic unit; a unit not of form but of meaning” (Halliday and Hasan, 1976:1).

As a partial requirement to obtain a bachelor degree in English and Literature department Faculty of Languages and Arts, State University of Medan, The bachelor candidate should write an article based on their research in collaboration with the thesis consultant(s) to be published in a certain journal. There are three academic covering many fields managed and published by this department namely: Register, Genre, and Linguistica. Writing a scientific paper should follow some rules in academic writing such as template, language, citation style, plagiarism, and word limitation. It also inevitably requires appropriate cohesion and coherence in order to be accepted as academic writing.

Additionally, from the writer’s initial observation when reading some articles in Linguistica: Journal of Linguistics of FBS Unimed, writer found out that there are many use of reference in background of the study of the article as exemplified in the following:

“Culture recognized as the universal fact of human life, *and* there is no human group society without culture (Damen, 1987:88). **It** means that culture is as a result of human activities, **it** may be as habits, traditions, ways of life, *and* all of what a society does *and* thinks. In many cases, the culture bump might happen where an individual from one culture finds **himself or herself** in a different, strange *or* uncomfortable situation when interacting with persons of a different culture. To avoid **this** case, ones use language to communicate *their* culture to **others**”. (Sitorus & Murni, 2017)

From that example, we can observe that the writer use cohesive devices such as **reference**, substitution, and *conjunction* to give texture to the texts. The use of personal reference such as “**their**” in “their culture” is to avoid repetition of the word **ones**. The use of cohesive devices is one of many things to be considered in writing as Halliday and Hassan (1976:28-30) argue that the importance of cohesion as well as coherence discourse in order to achieve well-constructed and understandable writing. This makes sense that the language used in the article should be effective in terms of quantity and quality so that it is easily understood by the readers.

There were some previous researches related to this research such as Tsareva (2010), Ahmed (2013), and Kuncahya (2015). Tsareva conducted a research about grammatical cohesion in argumentative essays by Norwegian and Russian learners. The findings present that the examination of grammatical cohesion in the texts of Norwegian and Russian learners shows that argumentative essays do not differ greatly in the number of cohesive items. A difference is, however, observed in the way these items signal different types of cohesion. Another research, Ahmed (2013) deals with A Systemic Functional Investigation of Lexical Cohesion and Schematic Structure in Research Articles on Islam and Science. Kuncahya also conducted a research about Cohesion in Narrative Texts Presented in the Electronic Textbook of Senior High School Grade X Entitled “Developing English Competence”. Those researches stated in advance have differences with the research which will be conducted by writer. The differences are in the form of object of the study and the limitation of the study. By considering the differences from the previous research and the phenomenon

observed in the research article written by English and Literature department of FBS Unimed, the writer is interested to conduct a research about Cohesive Devices in English Department Students' Research Article.

### **1.2. The Problems of the Study**

In accordance with the background of the study, the problems of the study are formulated as the following.

1. What kinds of cohesive devices are used in English department students' research articles?
2. Why are the cohesive devices used as they are in English department students' research articles?

### **1.3. The Objectives of the Study**

In line with the problems formulated in advance, the objectives of this study are

1. to discover types of cohesive devices used in English department students' research article, and
2. to explain the reason of the use of cohesive devices in English department students' research articles.

### **1.4. The Scope of the Study**

With reference to the background of the research, this study is limited to the analysis of cohesive devices specifically grammatical cohesive devices covering reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction. The limitation of part of

the article to be analyzed is only background of the study part since this part must be appear and sine qua non for every article.

### **1.5. The Significance of the Study**

It is expected that the findings of this study will be beneficial both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the findings of this study are expected to be relevant as references for further studies, and to enrich the field of discourse analysis. Practically, it is hoped that the findings of this study will be beneficial for:

1. Students; they can get valuable information about the importance of cohesion in a text specifically in research article as a product of scientific writing.
2. The thesis consultants, they can encourage students to produce a good writing so that the article can be easily comprehended by the readers.

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