

# COHESION

## **Cohesion is:**

- The relations of meaning that exist within a text;
- Expressed partly through the grammar and partly through the vocabulary;
- A semantic relation between an element in the text and some other element that is crucial to the interpretation of it;
- The range of possibilities that exists for linking something with what has gone before.

**Note:** text/ discourse: any passage, spoken or written, of whatever length, that does form a unified whole.

**Cohesion occurs** where the interpretation of some elements in the discourse is dependent on those of another.

Examples:

*Wash and core six cooking apples. Put **the apples** into a fireproof dish.*

*Wash and core six cooking apples. Put **them** into a fireproof dish.*

*It's raining. Then let's stay at home.* (non-structural)

*Since it's raining, let's stay at home.* (structural)

There are five types of cohesive devices: **reference**, **substitution**, **ellipsis**, **conjunction**, and **lexical cohesion**.

**Reference:** relationship between an item with another referred by the item

- A. Situational (exophora)
- B. Textual (*endophora*)
  - a. *anaphora* (to preceding text)
  - b. *cataphora* (to following text)

Three types of reference:

*Personal:* reference by means of function in the speech situation, through the category of person;

*Demonstrative:* reference by means of location, on a scale of proximity;

*Comparative:* indirect reference by means of identity or similarity.

Ex: *John has moved to a new house. He had built it last year.*

**Substitution:** replacement of one item by another

Three types of substitution: *nominal*, *verbal* and *clausal*

Ex:

*These biscuits are stale. Get some fresh ones.*

*John thought it was impossible. – Yes, I thought the same.*

**Ellipsis:** ‘substitution’ by zero => there is no implication that what is unsaid is not understood.

Three types of ellipsis: *nominal*, *verbal*, and *clausal*

Ex:

*Would you like to hear another verse? I have twelve more.*

*We’re not late. -- No*

## Conjunction

Conjunctive elements express certain meanings which presuppose the presence of other elements.

Four important categories: additive, adversative, causal, and temporal

Ex:

*For the whole day he climbed up the steep mountainside, almost without stopping.*

- a. *And in all his time he met no one.* (additive)
- b. *Yet he was hardly aware of being tired.* (adversative)
- c. *So by night time the valley was far below him.* (causal)
- d. *Then, as dusk fell, he sat down to rest.* (temporal)

## Lexical Cohesion

Two types: *reiteration* (repetition, synonym, superordinate, and general word) and *collocation* (cohesion that is achieved through the association of lexical items that regularly co-occur)

Ex:

*There is a boy climbing the old oak. That tree isn't very safe.*

*Why does the little boy wriggle all the time? (girls don't wriggle)*