



## Types of Lexical Cohesion in Song Lyrics of the Greatest Showman Movie Soundtrack Album

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### Abstract

This research aimed to find out types and the most dominant of lexical cohesion used in the song lyrics The Greatest Showman movie soundtrack album. The methodology of this research is descriptive quantitative method. The objects of this research are 5 song lyrics in The Greatest Showman movie soundtrack album namely "A Million Dreams, Never Enough, This Is Me, The Other Side and Rewrite The Stars. The data were collected by using observation sheet and table checklist. The collected data were analyzed by using statistical formula. The result of this research showed that: 1. All types of lexical cohesion namely repetition, synonym, superordinate, general words and collocation were found in the song lyrics The Greatest Showman movie soundtrack album. 2. The most dominant type of lexical cohesion is Repetition. It was concluded that repetition occurred dominantly because the composer or writer want to tell the reader and listener that the focus of discourse is in the words which have been repeated to emphasize certain meanings in order to attract attention listeners and to enhance beauty in songs.

**Keywords:** Discourse analysis; lexical cohesion; song lyrics.

### Introduction

Many people use cohesion in daily conversations but they don't realize that they have used cohesion. People know and understand what they read and listen in spoken or written texts. They can find and create cohesion in the text, where in the text must have cohesion because, without cohesion, a sentence in the text cannot stand

alone. A sentence relates to another sentence by cohesion. An example of text is lyrics. Lyrics express the feelings and emotions of the composer through the notes and contain vocal parts performed with the song and feature words (lyrics), usually accompanied by a musical instrument.

Lexical cohesion is a group of words that is lexically cohesive when all of the words are semantically related. For example when they are all concerned with the same topic according to Halliday and Hasan (1976). A good discourse or text must be cohesive. Lexical cohesion has two functions: first, to link word and word, phrase and phrase within a text then it can be divided into indicating a repetition, indicating synonym, indicating superordinate, and indicating general word; second, it is used to indicate co-occurrence of words whose meanings are related in the same environment.

Lexical cohesion is part of the semantic concept which refers to the correlation of meanings that come out of the text and which defines it as a set of words that constitute a lexical text. Lexical cohesion can help the writer to create text by giving it texture. Halliday and Hasan (1976) stated that lexical cohesion is divided into two types, grammatical cohesion, and lexical cohesion. Grammatical cohesion is the way grammar features are attached across sentence boundaries. It consists of references, substitutions, ellipsis, and conjunctions. While lexical cohesion is the way vocabulary relates to parts of the text. It consists of reiteration (repetition, synonym, close synonym, superordinate, general word) and collocation. Cohesion sees the relationship or bond of discourse, while coherence sees the overall meaning conveyed by a discourse.

Lexical cohesions usually appear in songs. The song is a musical work performed by one voice or team, with or without an accompanying instrument. The functions language in songs song is a way to communication to convey idea, message, intention, opinion and tell people's feelings or emotions (Sembiring, B, Imranudin and Derli, E.P. 2019). A composer generally conveys a message and meaning through song. Usually, with the song, they want to express their feelings through the lyrics to the song to listeners. The lyrics are part of the song. The composer creates beautiful lyrics by putting forward the nuances and harmony supported by music to entertain his listeners.

To write the lyrics, the song-writer could write the words in a figurative or simple phrase or simple sentence to attract the listener.

The lyrics are written with the aim of interacting between the writer and the listeners. The lyrics in a song are poetry that emphasizes expression individual feelings of singers, whether solo or group singers. Lots of song lyrics contain poetic language and are sometimes difficult to understand. Sometimes, sentences in the lyrics also lack grammar, and sometimes, certain lyrical sentences are also shortened and not completed. To compose lyrics, a composer can make up words figuratively or simply to appeal to the listener. In songs the writer often uses repetition, synonym, antonym, and imagery in words or sentences.

In this research, the song lyric in the soundtrack album of *The Greatest Showman* movie is the object of the research. This movie theater has played in December 2017 which was written by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul. The movie of *The Greatest Showman* is a movie based on the true story of the history of one of the circus founders in America, namely Phineas Taylor Barnum (P.T Barnum). The movie *The Greatest Showman* is set in the late 1800s, where PT Barnum (Hug Jackman) is a survivor on the streets who then builds a circus by elevating people who have 'strange' physiques to become part of the circus show. Barnum is a father and husband who really loves his family and has a dream to make his family happy.

Every research must include previous research so they could be used as reference and guide especially for the novice researchers. From the previous research by Jaya and Marto (2019) and Nuzulia and Wulandari (2020), these previous research used descriptive quantitative method as a research design. The object and research design is also different from the previous research. This research is also different from the previous research by Nuzulia and Wulandari (2020) which uses the Renkema theory (2004) while this research uses the theory from Halliday and Hasan (1976). Therefore, this research is different from previous research. In this research, the researcher used songs as the object of research and used descriptive quantitative methods.

So based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in analyzing the types of lexical cohesion in the lyrics of the songs *The Greatest Showman* soundtrack album. The researcher is particularly interested in researching the song's lyrics for several

reasons. First, because the song is part of discourse so it's possible to analyze. The song is a famous way to communicate and tell people's feelings or emotions. The songs in the soundtrack album of The Greatest Showman movie have good moral values, such as those about struggles, passion in reaching dreams, and ideals of life. The second reason for choosing these songs because most English learners, especially beginners or students, used English song as the media for learning and knowing cohesion, will help them to understand what the messages are sent by the composer or singer.

### **Research Methodology**

This research used a descriptive quantitative research method. Quantitative research is a type of research that is explaining phenomena by collecting numerical data that are analyzed using a mathematically based method (Cresswell, 2002). The descriptive method is to answer the question and to test a hypothesis concerning the current situation of the object of the research when there is a certain phenomenon of situation happened.

The research populations were all songs in the soundtrack album of The Greatest Showman movie. There were 9 songs in the soundtrack album, they are A Million Dreams, Come Alive, The Other Side, Never Enough, This Is Me, Rewrite the Stars, Tightrope, and From Now On. The research samples were taken using a purposive sampling technique. The samples of this research were 5 song lyrics from the soundtrack album of The Greatest Showman movie they are A Million Dreams, Rewrite the Stars, The Other Side, Never Enough, This is Me. The songs were chosen because they were the most famous song of this time.

In the collecting data, the researcher used a table as a checklist instrument. These tables used to help the researcher to analyze the types of lexical cohesion and to find out the most dominant types of lexical cohesion in the song lyrics of the Greatest Showman movie soundtrack album based on theory Hasan and Haliday (1976).

To analyze the types of lexical cohesion in song lyrics of the Greatest Showman movie, there were 4 research procedures to analyze the data namely (1) Listening the song of the soundtrack the Greatest Showman Movie and checked the data based on transcription. (2) Identifying types of lexical cohesion found in the selected lyrics based

on theory Hasan and Haliday (1976) about types of lexical cohesion. (3) Classifying and determining lexical cohesion found in the lyrics. (4) Interpreting the cohesion devices found in the form of a table. (5) Drawing a conclusion based on the analysis.

For analyzing the most dominant of types of lexical cohesion the researcher used statistical formula from to find out the most dominant types of lexical cohesion in the song lyrics of the Greatest Showman movie soundtrack album.

## Findings and Discussion

### Findings

#### Lexical Cohesion

Based on the analysis, all types of lexical cohesion were found in song lyrics of the Greatest Showman movie soundtrack album, namely repetition, synonym or near-synonym, general word, superordinate, and collocation.

#### 1. Types and Percentages of Lexical Cohesion in Each Song Lyric

The data obtained from 5 songs lyrics of the Greatest Showman movie soundtrack album in order below:

**Table 1. Types and Percentage of Lexical Cohesion in Song Lyrics A Million Dreams of the Greatest Showman Movie Soundtrack Album**

No	Types of lexical cohesion	Total data	Percentage
1	Repetition	26	76%
2	Synonym	4	12%
3	Superordinate	2	6%
4	General Word	-	0%
5	Collocation	2	6%
	Total items	34	100%

Based on the table above, it can be concluded that there are 4 types of lexical cohesion in song A Million Dreams namely repetition, synonym, superordinate and collocation. There is no general world in this Song. The dominant type lexical cohesion in this song is Repetition with 26 data (76%).

**Table 2. Types and Percentage of Lexical Cohesion in Song Lyrics Never  
Enough of the Greatest Showman Movie Soundtrack Album**

No	Types of lexical cohesion	Total data	Percentage
1	Repetition	22	66%
2	Synonym	3	9%
3	Superordinate	-	0%
4	General word	1	3%
5	Collocation	7	21%
Total items		33	100%

Based on the table above, it can be concluded that there are 4 types of lexical cohesion in song Never Enough namely repetition, synonym, general word and collocation. There is no superordinate in this Song. The dominant type lexical cohesion in this song is repetition with 22 data (66%).

**Table 3. Types and Percentage of Lexical Cohesion in Song Lyrics The Other Side of the  
Greatest Showman Movie Soundtrack Album**

No	Types of lexical cohesion	Total data	Percentage
1	Repetition	8	30%
2	Synonym	10	39%
3	Superordinate	3	12%
4	General Word	-	0%
5	Collocation	5	19%
Total items		26	100%

Based on the table above, it can be concluded that there are 4 types of lexical cohesion in song The Other Side namely repetition, synonym, superordinate and collocation. There is no general world in this song. The dominant type lexical cohesion in this song is synonym with 10 data (39%).

**Table 4. Types and Percentage of Lexical Cohesion in Song Lyrics This Is Me of the  
Greatest Showman Movie Soundtrack Album**

No	Types of lexical cohesion	Total data	Percentage
1	Repetition	6	22%
2	Synonym	7	26%
3	Superordinate	-	0%
4	General Word	-	0%
5	Collocation	14	52%
Total items		27	100%

Based on the table above, it can be concluded that there are 3 types of lexical cohesion in song This Is Me namely repetition, synonym and collocation. There is no general word and superordinate in this song. The dominant type lexical cohesion in this song is collocation with 14 data (52%).

**Table 5. Types and Percentage of Lexical Cohesion in Song Lyrics Rewrite The Stars of the Greatest Showman Movie Soundtrack Album**

No	Types of lexical cohesion	Total data	Percentage
1	Repetition	9	25 %
2	Synonym	18	51%
3	Superordinate	4	12%
4	General Word	-	0%
5	Collocation	4	12%
Total items		35	100%

Based on the table above, it can be concluded that there are 4 types of lexical cohesion in song Rewrite The Stars namely repetition, synonym, superordinate and collocation. There is no general word in this song. The dominant type lexical cohesion in this song is synonym with 18 data (52%).

## **.2. Total Types and Percentage of Lexical Cohesion in Song Lyrics The Greatest Showman Movie Soundtrack Album**

After showed the table types and percentage of lexical cohesion in each song, the researcher want to showed total types of lexical cohesion in song lyrics of The Greatest Showman movie soundtrack album below:

**Table1. Types of Lexical Cohesion in Song Lyrics The Greatest Showman Movie Soundtrack Album**

No	Types of Lexical Cohesion	Total
1	Repetition	71
2	Synonym	42
3	Collocation	32
4	Superordinate	9
5	Generals word	1
Total		155

For the percentage, it can be seen in the following figure:

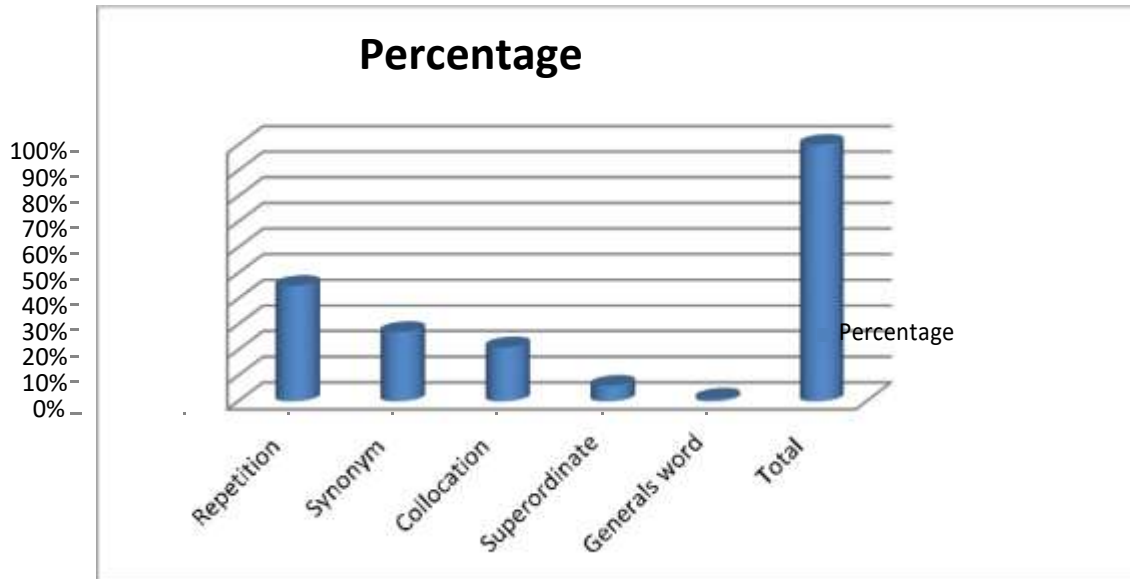


Figure 1. Types and Percentage of Lexical Cohesion in Song Lyrics The Greatest Showman Movie Soundtrack Album

From the data of this research, there are 5 types of lexical cohesion in 5 songs lyrics The Greatest Showman movie soundtrack album there are repetition, synonym, collocation, superordinate and general words. Based on the table 1 and figure 1 above, it can be seen that Repetition is the most dominant type of lexical cohesion that researcher found in the song lyrics of the Greatest Showman movie soundtrack with 71 data (45%). It is followed by Synonym with 42 data (27%), Collocation with 32 data (21%), Superordinate with 9 data (6%), and the last is General Word with 1 datum (1%).

## Discussion

This research aimed at finding out types of lexical cohesion and the most dominant type of lexical cohesion used in song lyrics The Greatest Showman movie soundtrack album. After analyzing data, discussion is provided to make the interpretation of the analysis. According to Hasan and Haliday (1976), lexical cohesion is divided into two parts, reiteration and collocation. Reiteration is divided into 4 parts



namely repetition, synonym or near synonym, superordinate and general words. The results of the analysis above showed that all types of lexical cohesion were found in song lyrics of The Greatest Showman movie soundtrack album but not every song have all types of lexical cohesion like superordinate and general word. Additionally the researcher analyzed the data using statistical formula to find out the most dominant types lexical cohesion found in each song (repetition, synonym, general word, superordinate and collocation) of the song lyrics of The Greatest Showman Movie in soundtrack album. The movie tells a story of someone who is trying his best to reach his dream and become a successful person despite the many problems he faces; he remains focused on his goals. The repetition might be used to emphasize how the character's effort to reach his dream. This idea is in line with theory of Halliday and Halliday (1976) who said repetition is the simple words in the sentences with no particular placement of the words. The function of repetition is to tell the reader that the focus of discourse is in the words which have been repeated. The lowest types of lexical cohesion is general words, because general word can function cohesively only when they are nouns and it is used in the context of reference that is when it has the same referent as it whatever it is presupposing and when it is accompanied by a reference item. By using lexical cohesion listeners can be easy to understand and accept the information and meaning and make them feel that the song is colorful.

The similarities with previous research can be found in this result of research by Sari and Anindita (2020) in their research entitled Lexical Cohesion Analysis on Adele's Song Lyrics in Album 25. Found that as same as this study, the most dominant of lexical cohesion is repetition and the last is general word. The impacts of the most typical to hearers were repetition made the meaning of the song deeper and hearers would be deeper in enrolling their emotions in the song. Another research by Pratiwi, Jayanti, and Syathroh (2019). The titled of this research is An Analysis of Lexical Cohesion Found In "Never Say Never" Song Lyrics by Justin Beiber and Adan Smith. The purpose of this research is to analyze the types of lexical cohesion which is often used to support the cohesiveness of discourse in Justin Bieber and Adan Smith's song entitled "Never Say Never". Found that as same as this study, the most dominant of lexical cohesion is repetition, although it had different research method.

Another previous research can be found in this result of the research by Nuzulia and Wulandari (2020). This research is entitled *An Analysis of Lexical Cohesion in Donald Trump's Speech to the UN General Assembly 2017*. The result of this research showed that the most dominant types of lexical cohesion is repetition. And then by previous research Jaya and Marto (2019). The titled of this research is *Lexical Cohesion in the background of research used in an undergraduate thesis*. The result of this research showed that the most dominant types of lexical cohesion is repetition. Both of the research has the same result with this research, although it had different research methods and objects of the research. Therefore, it can be said that this research enhances the finding of previous study. The reason why the most frequent lexical cohesion device is repetition instead of other is because either the speaker or the composer want to emphasize a particular word so that, it strengthens the theme and meaning in song lyrics.

Based on the explanation above, it brings us to the thought that in order to connect the meaning of a sentence in a lyric, we need a language feature that is spoken of as lexical cohesion. It's because song lyrics are a kind of narrative story, the cohesive feature of the lyrics is to connect all narrative events so that the song becomes meaningful and helps the listeners to understand the song. In other words, the presence of cohesive features produces meaningful lyrics by connecting each element in the lyrics. Not only that, the description above also states that the use of lexical cohesion tools such as synonyms (synonyms) plays a role in lyrics to make lyrics more characteristic, whereas repetition is used to empathize with certain words.

### **Conclusion and Suggestion**

Based on the result and discussion, this research aimed to find out types and dominant lexical cohesion in song lyrics of *The Greatest Showman* movie soundtrack album. Based on the analysis of this research all types of lexical were found in this research. The type covers reiteration and collocation. Reiteration have 4 parts repetition, synonym or near synonym, superordinate, general words. However, not every song has all the types of lexical cohesion especially superordinate and general words. The most dominant of type of lexical cohesion in song lyrics of *The Greatest Showman*

movie soundtrack album is Repetition, because the composer or writer want to to tell the reader that the focus of discourse is in the words which have been repeated to emphasize certain meanings in order to attract attention listeners and to enhance beauty in songs.

In relation to the conclusions, this research is suggested to the further researcher who will conduct the same topic of this research . Hopefully the next researchers can use data in the form of other written texts such as theses and journals by analyzing it with other cohesion theories so that this research can be used as a reference, additional information, or a comparison.

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