COHESION AND COHERENCE OF ONLINE NEWS CNN INDONESIA DISCOURSE REGARDING THE MURDER CASE OF A FRIED SNACK SELLER IN PARIAMAN, WEST SUMATRA: A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

Randi[1], Nur Indah Sari[2]
Universitas Islam Negeri Fatmawati Sukarno, Bengkulu, Indonesia[1,2]
E-mail: jufrirandy@gmail.com[1], indahleychee@gmail.com[2]

Abstract: The ease of access to information makes it difficult to clarify the truth of the news reported. One effective way to filter information is to conduct a cohesion and coherence analysis. This study aims to understand how cohesion and coherence are used in online news related to the viral case of the murder of a fried food seller in Pariaman, West Sumatra, which occurred some time ago. Cohesion and coherence are important criteria and principles in a text. This research is expected to contribute to the improvement of story writing quality. So that the story can be understood and useful for the reader. The method used to analyze cohesion and coherence is descriptive analysis, using content analysis through three stages: (1) the stage of research design; (2) the stage of research implementation; and (3) the stage of research reporting. Finally, the data collection technique uses data recording and grouping techniques. The cohesion aspects analyzed are lexical and grammatical cohesion. The results of this study show that there are 27 grammatical cohesion data (references, substitutions, and conjunctions), 11 lexical cohesion data (repetition, synonyms, and antonyms), and five coherence data (temporal coherence, intensity coherence, contrast coherence, causality coherence, and chronological coherence).
Keywords: cohesion; coherence; discourse; online media

Abstrak: Kemudahan akses informasi membuat sulit untuk mengklarifikasi kebenaran berita yang diberitakan. Salah satu cara yang tepat untuk menyaring informasi adalah dengan melakukan analisis kohesi dan koherensi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memahami bagaimana kohesi dan koherensi digunakan dalam berita daring terkait viral kasus pembunuhan penjual gorengan di Pariaman, Sumatera Barat, yang terjadi beberapa waktu lalu. Kohesi dan koherensi adalah kriteria dan prinsip penting dalam sebuah teks. Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat berkontribusi dalam pengembangan kualitas penulisan cerita. Sehingga cerita dapat dipahami dan bermanfaat bagi pembaca. Metode yang digunakan untuk menganalisis kohesi dan koherensi adalah analisis deskriptif, menggunakan analisis konten melalui tiga tahap, antara lain (1) tahap desain penelitian; (2) tahapan pelaksanaan penelitian; (3) tahapan pelaporan penelitian. Terakhir, teknik pengumpulan data menggunakan teknik pencatatan dan pengelompokan data. Aspek kohesi yang dianalisis adalah aspek kohesi leksikal dan kohesi tata bahasa. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 27 data kohesi gramatikal (referensi, substitusi, dan konjungsi), 11 data kohesi leksikal (pengulangan, sinonim, dan antonim), dan lima data koherensi (koherensi temporal, koherensi intensitas, koherensi kontras, koherensi kausalitas, dan koherensi kronologis).
Kata Kunci: kohesi; koherensi; wacana; online media

Introduction

Murder cases are one of the criminal events that have high social significance and consistently attract public attention. This kind of event not only concerns the loss of a person's life, but also gives rise to various social, emotional, and moral responses in society (Islamiyah & Suryawati, 2024). Therefore, murder cases are often the main focus in media reporting, especially online media, which plays a major role in shaping public understanding of these events.

In the context of online media, criminal events are not simply conveyed as facts, but are constructed through certain language and discourse structures. Crime news is compiled through word selection, information sequencing, and relationships between sentences and paragraphs that form a certain meaning for readers (Fera, et. all 2025). Thus, news discourse is not completely neutral, but rather represents reality through linguistic constructions that can influence the way the public understands, assesses, and responds to a criminal case.

In this case, the important role is Communication. Communication can use spoken or written language; one example of written language is discourse. Discourse is the most comprehensive collection of languages in the form of a series of sentences that are related, cohesive, and coherent according to the context of the situation, thus forming a single unit of information. Information in a discourse is required to have the integrity of the discourse structure. The presence of cohesion and coherence is very important so that a discourse can be understood easily.

Discourse is the most complete unit of language and is the highest or largest grammatical unit in the grammatical hierarchy. (Kridalaksana and Sumarlam 2003:5). As the highest level in the linguistic hierarchy, speech is not a random sentence arrangement, but a unit of language, both spoken and written. A good speech must pay attention to the relationship between sentences, so that it can maintain coherence and continuity between them. The definition of cohesion itself is the relationship between parts of the text that are characterized by the use of linguistic elements. According to Djajasudarma (in Nur Laksana Eko Rusminto 2015: 39), cohesion is the harmony of the relationship between one element and another in a discourse, creating a unity of meaning. The concept of cohesion basically refers to the relationship of forms, which means that the elements of speech (words or phrases) used to construct discourse are coherently and fully interconnected. (Mulyana, 2005:26) Cohesion is divided into two types: lexical cohesion and grammatical cohesion.

Coherence is defined as the pattern of interconnection between one part and another, so that a sentence has a complete unity of meaning. (Mulyana, 2005: 30). In other words, coherence means the relationship between one sentence and another. Coherence also means a harmonious reciprocal relationship between the elements in a sentence. The relationship of coherence is the relationship between one part and another, so that a sentence has a complete unity of meaning. Coherent discourse has the following characteristics: its structure is orderly and its message is intricately intertwined, making it easy to interpret. (Mulyana, 2005: 30). Cohesion and coherence are two qualities that are usually found in paragraphs with connected or reciprocal themes. The difference is that cohesion refers to linking the shape of a paragraph, while coherence refers to connecting the meaning of a paragraph. Research on cohesion and coherence has indeed been carried out a lot, but there are still many people who do not understand the essence of cohesion and coherence of a text or discourse. Among the research conducted by Andayani (2014) which researched the Cohesion and Coherence of Student Narrative Writing at SMP Negeri 2 Banjar, the results of the study stated that there are still many students who do not understand the meaning of cohesion and coherence, based on data, the type of cohesion that often appears is conjunction.

The selection of murder cases as the object of study in this study is based on the high intensity of news and the discursive impact it has on the public space. Criminal cases, including murders, are often the main focus of online media coverage because of their nature that attracts the attention of readers and has a high newsworthiness value as a form of information that is considered important and worthy of widespread coverage. Previous research has shown that online media tend to construct social reality through the choice of language and discourse structure when reporting on criminal events, so that the news not only conveys facts, but also shapes the way readers interpret the event through narratives built in news texts (Nurhidayah, et. all 2023).

Online media, such as CNN Indonesia, actively reproduce information related to criminal cases through various points of view, ranging from the presentation of the chronology of events, the selection of actors and their roles in the story, to the social implications that may arise from the case. Analysis of the context of discourse in the legal and criminal rubric on the CNN Indonesia news portal shows that these discourse elements are composed based on several components of text, participants, messages, and norms that apply in online media reporting practices, so that criminal discourse is not just a factual report but also a layered construction of language (Pamungkas & Alber, 2024).

Another study conducted by Prayudha (2016) examined the Cohesion and Coherence of Editorial at CNN Indonesia, and Widiatmoko (2015), which examined the Cohesion and Coherence of the Discourse of National Rubric News in Detik Online Magazine. These two studies found that all types of cohesion and coherence devices are found in print media. Among them are references, ellipsis, substitutions, and conjunctions. However, among the types of cohesion and coherence that seem uneven, the linguistic aspects of the two print media are still lacking. In addition to conjunctions, collocation and synonyms are also one of the discussions in the cohesion and coherence of discourse. As a study conducted by Aghdam and Hadidi (2015) which researched Cohesion and Coherence in the Political Newspaper Section and Academic Article Discussion. Based on the research that has been conducted, it shows that synonyms are one of the aspects that stand out in a large number in a discourse. Another important finding is the existence of non-identical words and collocation. In academic articles, the frequency and percentage of synonymous words are higher than collocation words. Meanwhile, in the news genre, the frequency and percentage of collocation words are higher than synonymous words. Analyzing cohesion and coherence in newspapers and magazines, especially those related to political news is still a favorite topic of discussion in the scope of discourse analysis. For example, in analyzing the function of text in discourse, of course, cohesion and coherence tools will be used. As Mubarak (2014) researched, which analyzed the cohesion contained in political news published by the Jakarta Post, it showed that the newspaper had a good cohesive tool in every paragraph. In this study, the cohesion tool became an instrument in summarizing the results of the research. Research on current discourse refers heavily to what happens on social media. Information, writing, can be easily accessed by everyone, and also easily go viral quickly. What we write, can quickly earn us a lot of praise or blasphemy from the people who read. However, there are some people who also deliberately write extreme informational content with the aim of making themselves famous, even though they are known for bad things, because popularity is the main goal.

The intensity of news reporting and the way criminal discourse is presented in online media makes criminal news discourse a relevant object of study to be examined from a linguistic perspective. Through cohesion and coherence analysis, this study aims to see how the integration of discourse is built in the criminal news text so that information is conveyed

systematically and meaningfully to readers, as well as how the construction of the discourse has the potential to affect public understanding of the events reported.

In the era of online media, news can be quickly accessed and disseminated, and even has the potential to go viral in a short time. Information presented through online media not only influences public understanding, but also shapes social opinions and responses. Therefore, the quality of news discourse is a very important aspect. Uncohesive and incoherent news discourse has the potential to cause misunderstandings, especially in the reporting of sensitive criminal cases, such as murder cases.

Based on this background, this study focuses on the analysis of cohesion and coherence in the discourse of crime news in the online media of CNN Indonesia edition of Saturday, September 14, 2024. The objectives of this research are: (1) to understand the form of cohesion and coherence contained in the criminal news discourse at CNN Indonesia, (2) to identify the incohesiveness and inconsistency in the news discourse, and (3) to ensure that the purpose and objectives of the news can be conveyed clearly, concisely, and completely to the readers.

Methods

This research is a type of qualitative descriptive study. There are different types of approaches that can be used in qualitative research, including ethnography, case studies, document or text studies, nature observations, centralized interviews, grounded theories, and historical studies. This study uses content analysis because it focuses on online news discourse. The main instrument of this research is the researcher because in this study, the researcher is a planner, data collector, and data analyst. The research stages are divided into three stages, including (1) the research design stage; (2) the stages of research implementation; (3) the stages of research reporting. (Arikunto, 2013: 61). This study examines the aspects of cohesion and coherence found in online news discourse regarding the murder case of a fried food seller in Pariaman, West Sumatra. The data used in this study is written data. In this case, the researcher read all the online news about the murder of a fried food seller in Pariaman, West Sumatra, the criminal news on the online media CNN Indonesia, and understood every sentence in each paragraph. Then, this study uses data collection techniques with recording techniques and groups data into each data group to identify aspects that exist in cohesion and coherence.

Results and Discussion

This section presents the results of research data analysis that focuses on the use of elements of cohesion and coherence in the text of murder news. The data were analyzed to identify the types of grammatical cohesion, lexical cohesion, and coherence used in news discourse, to see how the cohesion and continuity of meaning are built in the text.

Grammatical Consistency

The results of the analysis show that in news texts three types of grammatical cohesion are found, namely reference, substitution (replacement), and conjunction. In total, 27 data points fall under the category of grammatical cohesion.

References (6 data)

References are used to refer back to the elements that have been mentioned earlier so as to avoid repetition and maintain the continuity of information.

Data (1) Personal References

Example:

"The perpetrator is suspected of having fled after the incident. **He** was found a few hours later by the police."

He said it refers back to the *perpetrators* mentioned earlier, so that the reader still understands the reference without repeating the word.

(Data 2) Demonstrative References

Example:

"This murder case has attracted widespread public attention. **This incident** occurred in Pariaman, West Sumatra."

The phrase *this incident* refers to the murder case that has been mentioned, so that the flow of information remains continuous.

Data (3) Persona Reference (Plural)

Example:

"Witnesses gave varied testimonies. **They** mentioned that the perpetrator was seen leaving the scene in a hurry."

Their word refers to *an eyewitness*, connecting two sentences without lexical repetition.

Data (4) Time Demonstrative Reference

Example:

"The investigation into this case has been going on for several days. **At that time**, the police conducted a crime scene investigation at the location."

The phrase *at that time* refers to a specific time in the process of investigation and helps the reader understand the chronology of events.

Data (5) Comparative Reference

Example:

"The perpetrator of this murder is suspected of using a sharp weapon. The weapon is **bigger** than an ordinary knife."

The word *weapon* refers to an earlier *sharp weapon*, while the element of comparison clarifies the characteristics of the object.

Data (6) Demonstrative Reference of Place

Example:

"After fleeing, the perpetrator headed to the forest area around Pariaman. **There**, the police finally managed to arrest him."

The expression *there* refers to the forest area mentioned earlier.

The use of these references shows how relationships between information are built so that the reader can follow the storyline smoothly without excessive repetition.

Substitution / Replacement (5 data)

Substitutions are used to replace certain elements in the previous sentence in order to maintain language variation and discourse cohesion.

Data (1) Noun Substitution

Example:

"The suspect is believed to have fled after committing the murder. **This action** makes the community uneasy."

This action *phrase* replaces the phrase *of committing murder*.

Data (2) Verb Substitution

Example:

"The police have investigated several witnesses. Other witnesses will be **examined** tomorrow."

The word *checked* replaces the phrase *doing the research*.

Data (3) Full Sentence Replacement

Example:

"Residents tried to help the victims during the incident. Unfortunately, **their efforts** have not been fruitful."

Their attempt *phrases* replace the entire content of the previous sentence.

Data (4) Adjective Substitution

Example:

"The victim's condition was very severe after the incident. The condition of the perpetrator **is like that**."

Such a word replaces the adjective *severe*.

Data (5) Pronoun Substitution

Example:

"The police have found the weapon used by the perpetrator. **The others** are still being sought."

Another phrase replaces *another weapon*.

The use of this substitution keeps the flow of information effective without excessive repetition.

Conjunction

Conjunctions are used to connect sentences or clauses so that the logical relationship between information becomes clear. The types of conjunctions found include:

Table 1 Conjunction Type Data

No.	Types of Conjunction	Example Expressions	Conjunction Type Data
1.	Additive conjunctions	"The suspect is believed to have fled the scene, and he left behind evidence."	*and*
2.	Sequential conjunctions	"Initially, the suspect was seen hiding in the market area, then he moved towards the forest"	*then*
3.	Opposition conjunction	"The suspect tried to flee, but the police immediately arrested him."	*but*
4.	Causal conjunctions	"The police managed to arrest the suspect, so that the community feels safer." "The perpetrator was arrested because there was a report from residents."	*So, because*
5.	Destination conjunctions	"The suspect hid evidence so it was not easy to find."	*for*
6.	Conditional conjunction	"The police will detain the perpetrators if sufficient evidence is found."	*if*
7.	Comparative conjunctions	"This evidence is smaller than previously found evidence."	*from*
8.	Time conjunction	"The perpetrator fled when police arrived at the scene."	*when*
9.	Affirmation conjunctions	"This evidence has even been identified by forensic experts."	*has*
10.	Reinforcement conjunctions	"The perpetrator is suspected of hiding evidence; Besides, he showed no remorse."	*In addition,*
11.	Optional conjunctions	"The perpetrator can escape through the main road or through the back alley."	*or*
12.	Alternative Conjunction	"The police are looking for the perpetrator at the scene, in addition, they are also investigating witnesses."	*In addition,*
13.	Conclusion conjunction	"The evidence shows the involvement of the perpetrator, therefore, he will be detained."	*therefore*

14.	Explanatory conjunctions	"The perpetrator fled after the incident, which is when the police arrived at the location."	*i.e.*

The use of these conjunctions helps to build the coherence of the text and makes it easier for readers to understand the cause-and-effect relationship, chronology, and emphasis of information in the news.

Kohesi Lexical

In lexical cohesion, three types are found, namely repetition, synonyms, and antonyms, with a total of 11 data.

Data (1) Repeatability (2 data)

Repetition is used to emphasize the main focus in the text.

Repetition of place names: *Pariaman*

Example: "This tragic incident happened in Pariaman. The incident in Pariaman made

the people are anxious."

Case keyword repetition: *murder*

This repetition reinforces the reader's focus on the location and type of event being reported.

Example: "This murder shocked the locals." The murder left a deep impact on the families of the victims."

Data (2) Synonyms (6 data)

Synonyms are used to maintain word variation without changing the reference meaning, as in the following table:

Table 2 Synonyms

No.	Example Expressions	Synonyms
1.	"The police are still chasing the perpetrator who allegedly fled after the incident. "The suspect was found hiding in the area around the forest."	*Perpetrators – Suspects*
2.	"This murder case has become a hot topic among citizens." "Many are hopeful that this incident will soon be resolved thoroughly."	*Cases – Incidents*
3.	"The victim was found in tragic condition. The family of the deceased was deeply devastated by the incident."	*Victim – Deceased*

No.		
4.	"Residents around the scene were scared after the incident. They hope that this incident will be resolved soon."	*Events*
5.	"The police continue to conduct intensive investigations on the ground." "The security apparatus has gathered some evidence."	*Police – Security Forces*
6.	"The police are conducting a thorough investigation into this case. During the investigation, some new evidence was discovered."	*Investigation – Investigation*

The use of these synonyms maintains the smoothness of the text and avoids boredom due to the repetition of the same word.

Data (3) Antonyms (3 data)

Antonyms are used to display the contrast of meanings, as in the following table:

Table 3 Antonyms

No.	Example Expressions	Antonyms
1.	"The victims were initially found alive, but their lives could not be saved, and they were eventually pronounced dead."	*Life – Death*
2.	"Residents' efforts to save the victim were unsuccessful, and it belonged to the perpetrator of the act that destroyed the victim's life."	*Rescue – Destroy*
3.	"The initially peaceful neighborhood became chaotic after the murder incident."	*peace – chaotic*

This antonym confirms the change in conditions and the impact of events in news texts.

Coherence

The results of the analysis show that there are **five types of coherence**, namely: temporal coherence, intensity coherence, contrast coherence, causal coherence, and chronological coherence. The existence of these elements shows that news discourse has a logical structure and meaning that are interconnected so that the message can be conveyed clearly to the reader.

Based on the results of data analysis, this study identified three types of grammatical cohesion, namely reference, substitution, and conjunction. From the total data analyzed, 27 grammatical cohesion data were found, consisting of 6 reference data, 5 substitution data, and 16 conjunction data. These findings show that grammatical cohesion plays an important role in building the integration of language elements in the analyzed discourse, so that the

relationships between sentences and between discourse sections can be arranged logically and systematically.

In addition to grammatical cohesion, this study also found that there is lexical cohesion that includes three types, namely repetition, synonyms, and antonyms. In the aspect of lexical cohesion, 11 data were obtained, consisting of 2 repetition data, 6 synonym data, and 3 antonymic data. The results of this analysis show that lexical cohesion also strengthens the relationship of meaning between lexical elements in discourse, so that the message conveyed becomes clearer and easier to understand by readers.

Furthermore, in terms of coherence, this study reveals 5 types of coherence used in discourse, namely temporal coherence, intensity coherence, contrast coherence, causality coherence, and chronological coherence. The existence of these various types of coherence shows that the discourse analyzed not only has structural integration, but also has a continuity of meaning that supports the integrity and clarity of the information conveyed.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the analysis, the main findings of this study show that the criminal news text regarding the murder case of a fried food seller in Pariaman published by CNN Indonesia dominantly and consistently utilizes elements of cohesion and coherence in building discourse cohesion. The most prominent elements of grammatical cohesion include references, substitutions, and conjunctions, which play an important role in connecting sentences and keeping the flow of information clear and systematic. In addition, lexical cohesion through the use of synonyms, repetition, and antonyms has proven effective in maintaining the continuity of meaning while enriching lexical variation in news texts. From the aspect of coherence, temporal, causality, and chronological relationships appear dominantly, so that the news discourse is arranged logically and easily followed by readers. These findings confirm that cohesion and coherence are fundamental elements in the presentation of criminal news so that complex information can be understood in its entirety and in a coherent manner.However, this study has some limitations. First, the research data was only limited to one murder case and one online media, so the results of the study could not be generalized to all criminal news in Indonesian online media. Second, the analysis is focused on linguistic aspects, especially cohesion and coherence, without further examining the ideological dimensions, framing of the media, or the influence of discourse on readers. These limitations open up opportunities for the development of broader and in-depth studies.

Based on these limitations, further research is suggested to expand the object of study by involving various criminal cases and several online media in order to obtain a more comprehensive picture of the discourse pattern of criminal news. In addition, follow-up research can combine cohesion and coherence analysis with other approaches, such as critical discourse analysis or framing analysis, to uncover how the media constructs social representations of perpetrators, victims, and criminal events. Thus, the study of criminal news discourse is expected to make a broader contribution to the development of linguistic studies and media studies.

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