SEMANTIC FUNCTIONS OF COHESION IN ENGLISH LITERARY DISCOURSE AND ITS IMPACT ON COHERENCE

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Annotation

This article analyzes the semantic functions of cohesion in English literary discourse and its impact on coherence. The semantic connection of a text not only ensures its logical consistency but also helps readers form a holistic understanding. Within the scope of this study, O. Henry's short story 'The Romance of a Busy Broker" is selected as the primary source for analysis, focusing on semantic cohesion devices such as reference, substitution, ellipsis, and lexical cohesion. The paper provides a detailed examination of how these devices influence the narrative structure and stylistic features of the story. The findings of the study contribute to a deeper understanding of the role of semantic cohesion in the comprehension and analysis of literary texts.

Key words

discourse, semantic cohesion, coherence, cohesion, semantic unity, text structure, lexical and grammatical linkage, reference, substitution, ellipsis, lexical cohesion, literary text, narrative structure, stylistic features.

Introduction. One of the primary functions of language is to convey meaning and ideas in a coherent manner during communication. In literary texts, this coherence is achieved through cohesion, which establishes connections between linguistic units. Various cohesive devices, including semantic elements, play a crucial role in reinforcing textual meaning and evoking specific emotional responses in readers within English literary discourse.

This article analyzes the semantic functions of cohesion in English literary discourse and its impact on coherence. The short story "The Romance of a Busy Broker" by O. Henry has been chosen as the primary material for this study. In this story, the author employs different cohesive techniques to construct artistic imagery, develop the plot, and express the psychological state of the characters.

This study aims to examine the semantic functions of cohesion in the text and its influence on the overall coherence of the literary work.

Main Part. Cohesion, which refers to the connection of textual elements, serves as a crucial stylistic device in literary texts, shaping them into a unified structure. In English literary discourse, cohesion strengthens the internal structure of a text, ensuring the emotional and semantic connection between characters and events.

In O. Henry's short story "The Romance of a Busy Broker," the semantic functions of cohesion play a significant role. These cohesive mechanisms contribute to the natural development of the plot and provide clarity in the relationships between characters. Through various cohesive devices, the story maintains narrative consistency, guiding the reader through the unfolding events while reinforcing the emotional depth and meaning of the text.

The semantic functions of cohesion serve various purposes in a text. Continuity and logical connection ensures the logical flow of ideas and details within the text. Textual unity is also one of its most important functions in which words and phrases are semantically connected, creating a coherent whole. Repetition, synonyms, and antonyms emphasize the main ideas. Parallel structures and semantic units prepare the reader for the next part. As emotional impact and imagery metaphors, similes, and antonymy bring the text to life. Linking opposing concepts enhances the dramatic effect. Allusions and quotations link the text to other works.

These functions contribute to the semantic unity and stylistic impact of the text.For example, "Beside his table stood a machine. From this came a long, narrow, endless piece of paper, bringing him business news as soon as it happened"[1]. In this sentence the word "machine" functions metaphorically, symbolizing the protagonist Harvey Maxwell's relentless dedication to his work. The following sentence, describing "a long, narrow, endless piece of paper," reinforces this idea by illustrating the unceasing nature of his work schedule. This lexical cohesion strengthens the thematic consistency of the story, linking the protagonist's work obsession to the overall narrative structure and coherence. In the following paragraphs we can analyze some examples.

"His gray eyes looked at her as if she were another machine"[2]. In the sentence the phrase "gray eyes" symbolizes the protagonist's emotional detachment, portraying him as cold and unfeeling. Meanwhile, the word "machine" emphasizes his mechanical, almost inhuman perception of others, reinforcing the idea of dehumanization in his work-driven existence. These lexical elements create a

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[1] O. Henry. (2005). "The Gift of the Magi and other stories" ("The Romance of a Busy Broker") p. 55

[2] O. Henry. (2005). "The Gift of the Magi and other stories" ("The Romance of a Busy Broker") p. 55

strong semantic cohesion in the text, highlighting Maxwell's personality and his estranged relationship with his surroundings.

The semantic functions of cohesion ensure the consistency of the text. They help maintain logical connections between ideas, reinforce the thematic unity of the narrative, and enhance the reader's comprehension by linking different elements of the story in a meaningful way. Through cohesive devices such as reference, substitution, ellipsis, and lexical cohesion, a literary text achieves structural and semantic integrity, allowing for a smoother and more coherent reading experience. For example: "She looked up at him with a smile. Warm color came into her face, and her eyes were soft and kind"[3]. In this example, the pronouns "she," "her," and "him" establish connections between sentences, highlighting the emotional bond between the characters. Additionally, the conjunction "and" links the sentences coherently, ensuring their semantic unity.

For example, "Maxwell moved his chair against the wall. Now he was like a dancer"[4]. Here, the pronoun "he" refers to "Maxwell" from the previous sentence, creating referential cohesion in the text.

Cohesion not only connects the text semantically but also ensures its coherence. In O. Henry's story, various cohesive devices are used together, helping to shape the overall tone of the narrative. For example, at the beginning of the story, Maxwell's obsession with work is highlighted, while at the end, an unexpected twist is revealed, he is actually already married to Miss Leslie.

For instance, "Don't you understand?" said Maxwell. "I want you to marry me. I love you, Miss Leslie. I wanted to tell you"[5]. In this example, the emotional function of cohesion is clearly demonstrated. The carelessness and fast-paced lifestyle in the earlier scenes are connected to the sudden emotions that emerge in the final scene, all through semantic cohesion. In this way, O. Henry strengthens the main plotline of the story and turns it into a coherent text through the connections between the text elements.

Based on the examples taken from O. Henry's "The Romance of a Busy Broker," we can analyze the semantic functions of cohesion as follows. For example: "Beside his table stood a machine. From this came a long, narrow, endless piece of paper, bringing him business news as soon as it happened"[6]. In this sentence, the word "machine" metaphorically represents Maxwell's personality. His work is compared to an automated mechanism. The phrase "endless piece of

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[3] O. Henry. (2005). "The Gift of the Magi and other stories" ("The Romance of a Busy Broker") p. 57
[4] O. Henry. (2005). "The Gift of the Magi and other stories" ("The Romance of a Busy Broker") p. 56
[5] O. Henry. (2005). "The Gift of the Magi and other stories" ("The Romance of a Busy Broker") p. 57
[6] O. Henry. (2005). "The Gift of the Magi and other stories" ("The Romance of a Busy Broker") p. 55

paper" illustrates that his life consists of business processes, and he lives within an ongoing flow that never seems to end.

As semantic cohesion, the phrases "machine" and "endless piece of paper" complement each other, creating a coherent image of Maxwell's personality and lifestyle.

One more example, "His gray eyes looked at her as if she were another machine"[7]. In this sentence, the metaphor "machine" is used again, emphasizing Maxwell's emotional detachment from those around him. His "gray eyes" are also linked to the idea that he is deprived of personal emotions. As semantic cohesion, the words "gray eyes" and "machine" create a synonymic connection in portraying Maxwell's personality.

To cite an example, "She looked up at him with a smile. Warm color came into her face, and her eyes were soft and kind"[8]. In this sentence, anaphoric cohesion is created through the pronouns "she," "her face," and "her eyes." While it is clear that the text refers to Miss Leslie, her name is not repeated. The semantic cohesion of the words "she," "her face," and "her eyes" are interconnected, maintaining the unity of the image of Leslie.

"When the dinner hour was near, things grew quieter"[9]. In this sentence, the word "quieter" creates a contrast with the "rush of business" described earlier in the story. While Maxwell is immersed in work at the beginning of the day, by evening, peace begins to prevail in the office. As semantic cohesion, "rush of business" and "things grew quieter" represent opposites, reflecting the time dynamics in the text.

"Don't you understand?" said Maxwell. "I want you to marry me. I love you, Miss Leslie"[10]. This sentence creates an unexpected twist for the reader, who has formed an image of Maxwell as a work-obsessed individual throughout the story. His sudden declaration of love sharply contrasts with the previous context. The semantic cohesion connects Maxwell's words with the images depicted earlier in the text, creating a dramatic effect.

The lexical-semantic and grammatical cohesion devices used in the story not only ensure the internal connection of the text but also positively influence its coherence. Through these devices, O. Henry reveals the characters' personalities, develops the plot naturally, and enhances the emotional impact of the text. Therefore, the importance of cohesion and coherence in English literary discourse is

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[7] O. Henry. (2005). "The Gift of the Magi and other stories" ("The Romance of a Busy Broker") p. 55

[8] O. Henry. (2005). "The Gift of the Magi and other stories" ("The Romance of a Busy Broker") p. 57

[9] O. Henry. (2005). "The Gift of the Magi and other stories" ("The Romance of a Busy Broker") p. 56

[10] O. Henry. (2005). "The Gift of the Magi and other stories" ("The Romance of a Busy Broker") p. 57

significant, and their thorough analysis aids in a more accurate understanding and interpretation of literary texts.

Conclusion. This article analyzed the semantic functions of cohesion in English literary discourse and its impact on coherence. During the research, various cohesive devices, such as synonymy, anaphora, metaphorical connections, antonymy, and contextual consistency were studied based on O. Henry's "The Romance of a Busy Broker", demonstrating how these elements ensure the integrity of the text. In O. Henry's story, the semantic cohesion devices not only ensure the text's integrity but also enhance its stylistic appeal, intensifying its dramatic effect. This study contributes to a deeper understanding of the importance of cohesion in literary discourse analysis. In the future, this topic could be explored more broadly through examples from other literary genres and works of different authors.

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