A Comparative Analysis of the Role of Cohesive Devices in Conflict Resolution: A Study of Late Major General Ikemba Ojukwu's and Late Kofi Annan Former United Nations Secretary General's Speeches

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Abstract
This paper examined the use of cohesive devices in the speeches of Late Major General Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu and Late Kofi Annan (Former United Nations Secretary general) to achieve wholesome meaning. The paper compares the role of cohesive devices in different approaches to conflict resolution through force and peaceful contexts respectively. Scholarly review on the use of cohesive devices and connects their relevance to the study. This paper anchored on Cohesion frame work of Halliday and Hassen. It adopted a purposive method of data collection. The paper discovered that cohesive devices are dependent on context of use to demonstrate their meaning. This paper analyzed data descriptively using cohesive framework and discovered that cohesive devices are inevitable in spoken and written discourse to be able achieve coherence. Specifically, the use of cohesive devices reveals the intelligibility in humans to coordinate discourse, thereby elevating man superiorly far above animals. Differences or similarities in the meaning import depends largely on the individual and context these devices are employed, vise vasa. The paper therefore recommends studies in interdisciplinary contexts to discovers further aspects of cohesive tools.

Key Words: *Cohesion, Coherence, Conflict, Conflict Resolution, Cohesive devices*

1.0 Introduction

Etymologically, conflict is of Latin origin known as "*Conflictus*" meaning "A clash or disagreement, often violent, between two or more opposing groups or individuals." On the other hand, resolution means – A strong will, determination, or act or process of solving or solution. It also means the moment in which conflict ends and the outcome of the act is having a state of rest. Conflict is a common phenomenon among humans but our concern here is the use of cohesive markers to achieved resolution through meaning in conflict situation. Conflict occurs when a persons or group of persons no longer understand themselves owing to irreconcilable opinions or issues, this results in conflict. This is bound to occur among humans because we all don't reason from the same perspective. From day to day, there are unending reasons for conflict for example age, sex, academic achievement, social inequality, ethnic magnetization etc. Siddiqui (2019) identifies lack of communication as key to conflict thus:

> "Human communication is inseparable from human language. People communicate each other with language. Miscommunication or non-communication can contribute to conflict when language is insufficient it can result to conflict" (p.1)

Whatever be the reason for the conflict, language plays a strategic role in conflict resolution, because through language opinions and differences are expressed. To effectively carryout this unique function, language employs features it possesses within its structural alignment, which resides inertly in the "linguistic capacity" of a normal language user. These features include grammatical and semantic based which Halliday and Hassan (1976) fused as the concept of cohesion in a discourse. Seidel (1985:44) defined discourse as "a terrain, a dynamic linguistic and, above all, semantic space in which social meanings are produced or challenged". Spoken discourse is regarded as a form of text, since an analysis of discourse, most of the time, is an analysis of fragment pieces of information. In an earlier stance and mainly formal, Dressler (1981: 7) argued that discourse is one genre of text that forms a fairly complete unit and is usually restricted to successive utterances of a single speaker trying to convey a message. Furthermore, Brown and Yule (1983) rather views discourse from a more practical domain of problem solving pointing out that,

> The analysis of discourse is necessarily, the analysis of language in use. As such it cannot be restricted to the description of linguistic forms independent of the purposes or functions which these forms are designed to serve in human affairs (p. 1).

This paper however seeks to find out how cohesion is achieved in a discourse and demonstrate the effect of discourse markers in a conflict situation and being applied to forcefully and peacefully resolve conflict. Scholars such as Hussian (2002), Azzouz (2009) and Pu (2007) affirm the influence and relevance of cohesion in their investigations which reveals cohesion in expository writing, analysis of grammatical dimensions of cohesion and Political speeches of George W. Bush during the bombing crisis in the United States respectively. Despite the huge scholarly endeavors in the sort space of cohesion, observably the literature does not cater for the effects and result of cohesive devices to achieve peace by force and peaceful contexts. Therefore, this study seeks to analyse the role of cohesive devices and its effects in conflict situations. This paper is a comparative analysis of the speeches of Late Ikemba Odumegwu Ojukwu's speech on the declaration of Biafran Republic and Late Kofi Annan's negotiation speech on peace to release the Bombing suspects for trial in London. The paper does not concern itself with the general domain of linguistic analysis but the outcomes of the application of cohesive tools in conflict resolution.

2.0 Methodology

The paper adopts qualitative research methodology. Denzin and Lincon (2000) claims that "qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense or interpret, phenomena in terms of the meaning people bring to it". Therefore, paper descriptively analyzed the data based on the frame work of Cohesion as propounded by Halliday and Hassan (1976). The sample of data are speeches in form of texts; hence textual analysis is comparatively done to ascertain the role of discourse markers to achieve cohesion in conflict situations. Two speeches were analysed in this paper. The first one was delivered by Late Lieutenant Colonel Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu in which he declared Biafra secession. The second speech was delivered by Kofi Annan to Muammer Al-Gaddafi. Furthermore, the paper hinges on the Cohesion theory as propounded by Halliday and Hassan (1976). The theory states that the meaning relation within a discourse occurs when the interpretation of a discourse element is dependent on another. The theory exclusively has two broad types namely: Grammatical and Lexical cohesion. Grammatical cohesion describes the structural content of

a discourse which is further categorized into: Referencing, substitution, Ellipsis and Conjunction. On the other hand, Lexical Cohesion deals with binding and meaningful effect created through the use of selected vocabulary or lexical items which include: referencing and collocation.

Why Cohesion?

Cohesion is one of the most crucial defining characteristics of the quality of writing and speaking thus has been central in recent research. Witte and Faigley (1981) asserts that the types of cohesive devices and their frequency commonly reflect the invention skills of the writers as well as the influence of the stylistic properties on the texts they write.

1. Cohesion makes a discourse withstand absurdity or unintelligibility
2. Cohesion accounts for the appropriate organization of any discourse
3. Cohesion is a basic perquisite for coherence in linguistic study
4. It projects the distinct structural component of a discourse yet knitting them together into an admirable whole.
5. Cohesion reveals the level of linguistic competence of a language user in a discourse.
6. Centrally, it sticks every lexical item, phrases, sentences, paragraphs together no matter how long and short, they are presented.

3.0 Data Presentation

[Speech 1]

Late Lieutenant Colonel Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu's 1967 Speech that was Called for the Secession of Biafra.

1. "Fellow countrymen and women, you the people of eastern Nigeria: Conscious of the Supreme authority of God over all mankind of your duty to yourselves and posterity.
2. "Aware that you can no longer be protected in your lives and in your property by any government based outside Eastern Nigeria.
3. "Believing that you are born free and have certain inalienable rights which can best be preserved by yourselves
4. Unwilling to be unfree partners in any association of a political or economical nature
5. "Rejecting the authority of any person or persons other than the Military Government of Eastern Nigeria to make any imposition of whatever kind or nature upon you
6. "Prepared to enter into such association, treaty or alliance with any sovereign state within the former republic of Nigeria and elsewhere in such terms and conditions as best to observe your common good"
7. "Affirming your trust and confidence in me; having mandated to proclaim on your behalf, and in your name, that Eastern Nigeria be a sovereign independent republic
8. "Now therefore, I, Lieutenant Colonel Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, Military Governor of Eastern Nigeria, by virtue of the authority and pursuant to the principles recited above do hereby solemnly proclaim that the territory and region known as and called Eastern Nigeria together with continental shelf and territorial waters shall henceforth be an independent sovereign state of the name and title of "The republic of Biafra"
9. And I do declare that all political ties between us and the federal republic of Nigeria are hereby totally dissolved; All subsisting contractual obligations entered into by the government of the federal republic of Nigeria or by any person, authority or organization or government acting on its behalf, with any person, authority or organisation operating or relating to any matter or thing with the Republic of Biafra, shall henceforth be deemed to be entered into with the military governor of the republic of Biafra and on behalf of the government and people of Biafra."

(Culled from Vanguard May 31, 2017).

[Speech 2]

Speech by Kofi Annan (Former United Nations Secretary General) to Muammer Al-Gaddafi

1. "Maybe that will soon change,"
2. "At the end of it he said, 'I am prepared to try and work this out with you, not because of threats against us, but because of the man you are, a brother African from a friendly state'."
3. "We don't make these societies,"
4. "We have to deal with them as they are.
5. They live their own realities. They have their own way of taking decisions. You have to leave it to them to find their own way of doing it."

The dictator was Colonel Gaddafi. The desert was the Sahara. The deal was to secure the handover of the men suspected of the Lockerbie bombing. In the second extract from his new book about warlords and peacekeepers, William Shawcross recalls a historic encounter

> Annan assured him that the British and Americans were acting in Good faith and wanted to resolve the matter after 10 years. He said that the Scottish legal system was open and fair. He also stressed that it was clear that once the sanctions were suspended it would be almost impossible for the Security Council to reimpose them. On 5 April 1999 the two suspects were flown to the Netherlands for trial, just over a decade after Pan Am 103 had been blown out of the sky.

Table 1: Analysis/Grammatical Cohesion

Discourse Item	**Speech 1**	**Analysis**
Contextual Background		
Tone/Attitude	Line 1 "you"	Anaphoric
1) Referencing	Line 2-3	Exophoric
	Line 2 "you"	Anaphoric (exclusive you)
	Yourself	Anaphoric (exclusive you)
	Line 3 "you"	Anaphoric (exclusive you)
	Line 4 "you"	Anaphoric (exclusive you)
	Line 8 "you"	Anaphoric (exclusive you)
	Line 7 "entering anytrety"	Anaphoric (exclusive you)
	Line 8 "me"	Anaphoric (exclusive you)
	Line 9-10 "I"	Anaphoric (exclusive)
	Line 10 "us"	Anaphoric (exclusive)
	Line 10 "Biafra shall henceforth	Anaphoric (exclusive) cataphoric
Repetition	Line 1 – 8 "you" and your Line 9-10 "I" Line 5—6 "any"	Establishing the people as an entity used for emphasis adverb indicting no

Table 2: Analysis of Lexical Cohesion

Discourse Item	Speech 1	Analysis
Substitution		
Figure of Speech	Line 5 "Unwilling to be unfree" Oxymoron	Insisting strength not to give up
Ellipsis	Lines 1-8	Basic sentence element has been elide give an assumption
Transitional words	Line 1 "fellow"	Diplomatic inclusion
Conjunctions	Line 2 "and" Line 6 "that"	Knitting ideas together Introducing the subordinate clause
Transitional	Line 2 "no"	Indicating contrast to situation on ground
	Line 5 and 6 "any"	An adverb To slight extent no hope in the goot

Table 3: Data Presentation and Analysis

Discourse Item	Speech 2	Analysis
Contextual Background	UN Secretary committed to international peace	Same
Tone/Attitude	Pacific	Pacific/negotiative
Discourse Marker	Line 2 'At'	Change of time
" "	Line 1 'that'	Anaphoric reference
" "	Line 2 'and', 'but'	Conjunction
" "	Line 2 'not'	Contrast
" "	Line 2 'us' 'you'	Anaphoric ref
" "	Line 2 'because'	Reason
" "	Line 2 'friendly state'	Substitution : for Ghana
" "	Line 2 'You'	Repetition
" "	Line 2 – Line 3 'We' Line 4 & Line 5 'they'	Repetition/ Referencing
" "		Line 2 & Line 3
Structure	a.) Declarative Clause b.) Implied Exophoric Referencing c.) complex	a. Passive structure b. Negotiative c. Simple sentences

4.0 Results and Discussion

1. Cohesive devices are not static; rather they are used based on the type of discourse pattern

being considered. E.g. we observed Annan using the "inclusive we" while Ojukwu agitates using "I" because he was leading the team. This confirms Shaffrin (1988) opinion that cohesive tools are not strictly used, but they are flexible to suite context.

2. Cohesive tools help a speaker or writer achieve cohesion as observed in the details of the two speeches.
3. Without cohesion, the meaning of a discourse will be far-fetched, if not impossible.
4. Furthermore, the speech by Ojukwu is divided into two themes: First, it addresses the historical disappointment Eastern Nigeria has faced in the lopsided governance in Nigeria. Secondly, he employed assertive tone of language to declare a new republic for the Biafran people to regain safety as well as what true human right should be.
5. Ojukwu's speech is stylish and significant by the multiple uses of elliptical cohesion and repetition. The effect laced the speech with emphasis and compelling conviction for the audience.
6. On the other hand, Koffi Annan's speech-maintained negotiation, a tone of consciousness in the attending consequence of peace, a passive structure and pacific layout given the background of an international diplomat on international mission for world peace.
7. In simple sentence structures, Anna's speech addressed one central issue which was to convince Gaddafi. He employs passive voicing and repetition to reiterate his gentle but insistent demand.
8. On the other hand, Ojukwu having lay out a narration of apparent denial of human rights of the easterners in Nigeria, he enforced his argument with the cohesive device "Now therefore", expressing a sum and immediate declaration of a new nation "BIAFRA".

5.0 Conclusion

The paper investigated the role of discourse makers in the speeches of Later General Ikemba Odumegwu Ojukwu and Late Koffi Annan. To state the obvious, comparing Ojukwu's speech and Kofi Annan's, we note the same mission to achieve resolution but with different approaches. While Ojukwu sought for redress through war, Annan pursues it through dialogue. Both speeches captured the audience and its objectives by extensive use of lexical and grammatical cohesion which included repetitions, collocations, referencing, Ellipsis, Conjunctions, Substitutions. The compelling conviction and clear understanding in the speeches accounts for high rate of coherence which midwife the Biafran civil war and peaceful negotiation to settle the boiling issues and the damages 10-years-long bombing in Scotland.

However, the role of cohesive devices had direct impact in both speeches and they modelled coherence in their manner of presentations. However, the effect of discourse devices proves that the context of use largely influences them and cohesive devices influences context as well. Again, discourse markers establish ties and links between lexical items like nouns, verbs, sentence structures and grammatical cohesion.

The paper therefore confirms the position of Schiffrim (1988) that discourse markers are not static but their use varies from one context to another.

6.0 Recommendation

The afore highlights the focal position of discourse markers in spoken or written discourse, therefore much demand is on language pedagogy for strategic delivery. This paper therefore recommends the following:

1. Adequate and massive exposure of language learners to discourse analysis as to demonstrate practically how cohesion works.
2. Dictionary and textual study should be regularly encouraged among learners, as to give them opportunity to amass larger capacity of vocabulary.
3. Written and spoken discuss should be analyzed by language learners formally or informally for them to be abreast with the use.

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