

GRAMMATICAL AND LEXICAL COHESION DEVICES FOUND IN COLDPLAY'S SONG LYRICS IN THE *GHOST STORIES* ALBUM

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the used of grammatical devices and lexical device in 9 (nine) Coldplay's song lyrics in the Ghost Stories album. The songs are titled Always in My Head, Magic, Ink, True Love, Midnight, Another's Arms, Oceans, A Sky Full of Stars, and O. The source of the data were collected from the lyrics of Coldplay's song lyrics and taken from Coldplay's official website. In this study, the writer used theory by Halliday and Hasan (1976) about lexical cohesive devices and grammatical cohesive devices. This study applied qualitative method. The data in this study is in the form of words, phrases, and sentences which contains grammatical and lexical cohesive devices.

The result of this study shows that grammatical cohesive devices and lexical cohesive devices were found in Coldplay's song lyrics in the Ghost Stories album. For the grammatical cohesive devices found are reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction where the dominant types of grammatical cohesive devices used is reference, specifically personal reference. Meanwhile, the lexical cohesive devices found are repetition, synonym, and antonym. Repetition is the dominant type of lexical cohesive device used. The function of the usage of the lexical cohesive devices is to express and emphasize the writer's idea that the lyricist puts into the lyrics of the songs he writes.

Keywords: *Song lyric, grammatical devices, cohesive devices.*

INTRODUCTION

Language is very important in human life since it is a tool of communication. Henry Sweet (1845-1912) describes language as an expression of ideas through speech sounds that are combined into words, where words combined into sentences, then this combination answers that ideas become thoughts. Language itself always contains a message and represent explicit and implicit feeling and thought. Besides as a means of

communication, language also works in some parts of our life, for example language works in literature.

Literature is an uncertain term that usually shows works that are included in the main genres: epic, drama, lyrics, novels, short stories (Curdon, 1976: 465). Literature is supposed as a work of art made by the writer to express their feelings and thoughts, also to deliver their feelings implicitly. Song lyric is the example of written art. It tends to deliver the writer's feeling and emotion. To get a

deeper feeling from their listener, the writer or composer can use beautiful arrangement of sentence. To create a beautifully arranged sentence, the cohesiveness of the words is needed. Moreover, in order to avoid misunderstanding or miscommunication of the lyrics, the unity of the words which influenced by the relation between the utterances and sentences is needed. The relation is affected by cohesive devices, which are used to connect words, phrases, and sentences among the utterances and sentences. The devices are break down into two, which is grammatical and lexical cohesion.

According to Halliday and Hasan (1976: 148), grammatical devices is the way that grammatical features are attached together across sentences boundaries which consists of reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction. Lexical devices is the way where a text linked by aspect of vocabulary which contains of reiteration and collocation. Lexical devices include repetition, synonym, hyponymy, metonym, and antonym. Therefore, the used of cohesive devices help the listener to accurately understand and follow the writer's thought.

Coldplay is a British rock band, led by vocalist and pianist Chris Martin, guitarist Jonny Buckland, bassist Guy Berryman, and drummer Will Champion. Until today, Coldplay already have nine studio albums. The first studio album released in 10th July 2000 entitled "Parachutes", the second album released in 26th August 2002 entitled "A Rush Of Blood To The Head", the third album released in 6th June 2005 entitled "X&Y", the fourth albums released in 12th June 2008 entitled "Viva la Vida or Death and All of His Friends", the fifth albums

released in 24th October 2011 entitled "MyloXyloto", the sixth albums released in 19th May 2014 entitled "Ghost Stories", the seventh album released in 4th December 2015 entitled "A Head Full of Dreams", the eight studio album released in 22nd November 2019 entitled "Everyday Life", and in October 15th, 2021 Coldplay released their ninth studio album entitled "Music of the Spheres".

Based on previous researches regarding cohesion devices, it can be concluded that the previous studies used the theory of cohesive devices as the focus of their articles journal. The previous researches also similar to this current study which analyzed the grammatical and lexical devices. However, the source of the data that is going to be used in this study is different from the previous researches.

The source of the data that will be used in this study is from Coldplay's song lyrics of the Ghost Stories album.

To fulfill the research's goals, the researcher applies Halliday and Hasan's (1976) theory about grammatical cohesive devices and lexical cohesive devices to acknowledge the types of grammatical and lexical devices found in Coldplay's "Ghost Stories" album.

RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher used qualitative method which means that qualitative data was collected and interpreted qualitatively in sequence to discuss the types of grammatical devices and lexical devices used in the songs. According to Creswell (1994) a qualitative study is characterized as an inquiry process of comprehending a social or human problem, based on developing a complex, holistic picture with words, reflecting specific viewpoints of informants, and

conducted in a natural context. To achieve the goals of this study, the researcher used Halliday and Hasan's theory of cohesion. This study employs a qualitative method since the goals of this study are to examine the meaning of the lyrics from the writer's perspective, based on the structures.

Data Collection Technique

The researcher collected the data by following several steps:

1. Finding Coldplay's songs.
2. Collecting Coldplay's songs. Coldplay has 8 studio albums and the researcher selected the sixth album of Coldplay as the data titled "Ghost Stories". This album included nine songs, they are: "Always in My Head", "Magic", "Ink", "True Love", "Midnight", "Another's Arms", "Oceans", "A Sky Full of Stars" and "O".
3. Reading and understanding the song lyrics.
4. Identifying the used of grammatical devices and lexical devices of all the words, phrases, and sentences.
5. Identified the used of grammatical devices and lexical devices of all words, phrases, and sentence as the data.

Data Analysis Procedures

The procedure for analyzing cohesion devices from Coldplay's song lyrics of the Ghost Stories album uses Halliday and Hasan Cohesion theory. The researcher analyze every single text such as words, phrases, and sentences using the following steps:

1. Classifying words, phrases, and sentences which indicate the used of grammatical devices and lexical devices in the song lyrics through the words, phrases, and sentences.
2. The researcher reading the whole album song lyrics to find the

types of grammatical devices and lexical devices on the song lyrics.

3. Finding the types of grammatical devices and lexical devices on song lyrics by identifying the lyric that portrays the uses of grammatical and lexical devices.

4. Classifying types of grammatical devices and lexical devices.

5. Drawing the conclusion based on the analysis and the result.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Finding

This section discusses about the data from Coldplay's song lyrics of the Ghost Stories album. The writer takes nine data which are lyrics of "Always in My Head", "Magic", "Ink", "True Love", "Midnight", "Another's Arms", "Oceans", "A Sky Full of Stars", and "O". The data are analyses by using cohesion theory by Halliday and Hasan (1976).

In this section the data is presented in the form of table to help the reader to understand the results. The findings were classified per-song based on the writer's finding of grammatical cohesive devices as shows in table 1.

Table 1
Types of Grammatical Cohesive Devices

No.	Song Titled	Reference	Substitution	Ellipsis	Conjunction
1	Always in My Head	100%	10%	0%	40%
2	Magic	59,52%	4,76%	0%	33,33%
3	Ink	88,46%	0%	0%	11,53%
4	True Love	83,33%	0%	16,67%	37,5%
5	Midnight	14,28%	0%	0%	21,42%
6	Another's Arm	60,71%	0%	0%	17,85%
7	Oceans	42,10%	0%	0%	15,78%
8	A Sky Full of Stars	82,60%	0%	0%	56,52%
9	O	60%	0%	0%	10%

Based from table 1, it can be seen that all of the 9 (nine) songs from Coldplay *Ghost Stories* album used some types of grammatical cohesive device, there are reference,

substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction. The dominant types of grammatical cohesive devices used is reference, specifically personal reference.

Other finding found is presented in the form of table to help the reader in understanding the finding. The finding was classified per-song based on the writer's finding of lexical cohesive devices as shown in table 2 below.

Table 2
Types of Lexical Cohesive Device

No.	Song Titled	Repetition	Synonym	Hyponym	Metonym	Antonym
1	Always in My Head	20%	0%	0%	0%	20%
2	Magic	19,04%	0%	0%	0%	0%
3	Ink	34,61%	0%	0%	0%	3,84%
4	True Love	54,16%	0%	0%	0%	4,16%
5	Midnight	42,85%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6	Another's Arm	28,57%	0%	0%	0%	0%
7	Oceans	21,05%	0%	0%	0%	0%
8	A Sky Full of Stars	60,86%	0%	0%	0%	4,34%
9	O	50%	0%	0%	0%	10%

From table 2 above, it can be seen that repetition is the most frequently used of lexical cohesive device found in Coldplay's song lyrics of the *Ghost Stories* album.

Discussion

From the finding in the previous discussion, it can be seen that the most dominant type of grammatical cohesive device used in Coldplay's song lyrics in the *Ghost Stories* album is reference.

Reference is expressions that refer to other terms in text for their interpretation (Halliday and Hasan, 1976). Reference can be divided into personal reference, demonstrative reference, and comparative reference. Some reference occurs when the interpretation of a reference arises within the boundaries of text. The example of reference in Coldplay's *Ghost Stories* album shown in the next discussion and taken from *Always in My Head* and *Midnight* from *Ghost Stories* album.

Always in My Head Verse 1

I think of you, I haven't slept (1)
I think I do, but I don't forget (2)
My body moves, goes where I will (3)
But though I try, my heart stays still (4)

The personal reference above such as "I" and "my" refers to the band's main vocalist (Chris Martin). Based on Chris Martin's on an interview about "Always in My Head", he says "When I think of the song, Always in My Head, I see it as an acceptance of, ok we're going to go down this road of being very vulnerable to somebody". Therefore, the researcher sure that pronounce "I" and "my" on this song refers to Chris Martin who going through his divorce with his ex-wife, Gwyneth Paltrow that he still can't get off of his mind.

Midnight Verse 1

When I'm rolling with the punches
and hope is gone (3)

The personal reference above expressed by the word "I" is kind of exophoric (situational) reference since the song depicts the life story of anyone that has had similar situations to those described in the lyrics. As a result, this personal reference in this situation relate to someone who sings and is emotionally attached to the song's lyrics.

Meanwhile, the most dominant type of lexical cohesion used in the song lyric of Coldplay's *Ghost Stories* album is repetition. Repetition is the

act of repeating a word or phrase in order to establish a connection. Repetition, on the other hand, is a literary method in which the same words or phrases are repeated several times to clarify an idea. The next section discusses how the most dominant type of lexical cohesion devices used in Coldplay's *Ghost Stories* album and the example of repetition shown in the next discussion taken from *Magic* and *Midnight* from *Ghost Stories* album.

Magic
Chorus

And I don't and I don't and I don't (9) (25)
 No, I don't it's true (10) (26)
 I don't, no I don't, no I don't, no I don't (11) (27)
 Want anybody else but you (12) (28)
 And I don't and I don't and I don't (13) (29)
 No, I don't it's true (14) (30)
 I don't, no I don't, no I don't, no I don't (15) (31)
 Want anybody else but you (16) (32)

In the chorus above, it can be found one kind of lexical cohesion, namely repetition. The sentences in line 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th stated again in line 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, and 32nd with the exact sentence. The function of repetition is to strengthen the meaning of sentences that the man doesn't want anybody else but her.

Midnight
Verse 3

In the darkness before the dawn (11)
 In the darkness before the dawn (12)
 Leave a light a light on (13)
 Leave a light a light on (14)

The repetition appears in the 3rd verse above tells about even though we have problems and we can't overcome them and the hope that we have is slowly disappearing, we must still believe and hoping for a miracle that will come after.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, from those 9 song lyrics above, the most dominant type of grammatical devices used in the song lyrics is reference while the most dominant type of lexical devices used in the song lyrics is repetition. Based on those findings, the use of cohesive devices is important to make the lyrics of the song more pleasing to hear and meaningful. The use of reference, particularly personal reference in the song lyrics. And also the use of lexical device in Coldplay's *Ghost Stories* album help to express and emphasize the writer's idea. However, there are some cohesion device which not appeared in *Ghost Stories* album song lyrics, namely hyponym and metonym that makes the thesis become incomplete research.

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