

## **Comparing Way to Understand Lexical Cohesion Methods of Halliday and Hasan with the Understanding of Tran Ngoc Thi M through Some Cohesion Methods**

MA Pham Thu Trang,  
*Lecturer at Department of Pedagogy  
KhanhHoa University*

---

**Summary:** Within the scope of this article, we delve deeper into the lexical cohesion method - an important attribute in the cohering system of Halliday and Hasan, on that basis, to compare the understanding of the lexical cohesion method of Halliday and Hasan. Halliday and Hasan with Tran Ngoc Them's understanding through some cohesion methods in the Vietnamese Text Cohering system (1985).

**Keywords:** cohesion, text, Tran Ngoc Them, Halliday M A K & Hasan

---

### **Content**

To have a basis for the consideration of Vietnamese linguistic phenomena, we will present the views of Halliday and Hasan on the lexical cohesion method. We then compare the two interpretations: Halliday and Hasan's understanding of lexical cohesion with Tran Ngoc Them's understanding through a number of cohesion paradigms (lexical repetition, synonymy, antonym and association) in the Vietnamese Text Cohering system (1985).

#### **1. How to understand Halliday and Hasan's lexical cohesion method**

In the field of text grammar, text and especially text cohesion are issues that have not been studied much in Vietnamese linguistics. Even what is a text cohesion itself, there are different interpretations, which leads to the assessment of its importance and the classification of cohesion methods also has inconsistency.

It can be said that Halliday and Hasan have a concept of cohesion that is far different from the one of Tran Ngoc Them - the first person to deeply explore the Vietnamese text cohering system (1985).

If Tran Ngoc Them considers textual cohesion to be part of the structural aspect of the linguistic system, exploited in both form and meaning, and is "the most important factor that transforms a sentence sequence into a text", Halliday and Hasan argue that the cohesion is the function of the non-structural attributes in forming the formal aspect of the text, since the structures are already cohered. By this way, the cohesion does not play the role of determining what "is the text" of a language product. That task belongs to coherence, or more broadly to textuality or texture [M.A.K.Halliday and R.Hasan, 1994, p.2]. The advantage of this view is that it is more convenient for discourse analysis.

Lexical cohesion is generally a case of using lexical attributes (real words) that have a meaning relationship with each other in (more than) two different sentences, on that basis, making sentences contain lexical attributes. They are cohered together.

Lexical cohesion includes two large cases: lexical iterative method and lexical combination method.

Lexical repetition is the practice of reusing a basic word that does not differ in meaning from a given word, in another sentence, thereby making the two sentences containing them related to each other.

Lexical coordination is where cohesion is made through lexical attributes that often co-occur. It is the ability to cohesion between a certain pair of lexical attributes, which in one way or another work together in the language.

Lexical coordination is the most complex part of lexical cohesion, where the cohesion relationship through the relationship of lexical attributes often co-occurs. Therefore, the lexical relations in this type of cohesion are very rich and are not included in the repeating patterns.

It is obvious that there is a systematic relationship between a pair of words such as "man" and "woman". These two words are related to each other in a special way called complementary according to the classification of J. Lyons. Thus the basis of lexical relations can be extended and it can be said that there is an inverse relationship between any pair of lexical attributes that have opposite meanings in the cohesion function.

In addition to the inverse relationship, the lexical attributes in the cohesion function also include many other semantic relations that are not difficult to recognize such as: whole-part relations, peer-type relations, characteristic relations, etc. positional relationship, cause-and-effect relationship...

But there is always the possibility of cohesion between any pair of lexical attributes whose relative meaning are not easily classified semantically. In general, any two lexical attributes have Directions occurring in near-identical contexts will produce a cohesion effect if they occur in close sentences, and this cohesion effect is not limited to a pair of words but can be a series of words

## **2. Compare the understanding of lexical cohesion of Halliday and Hasan with that of Tran Ngoc Them through some cohesion methods (lexical repetition, synonymy, contrast and cohesion) in the Text Cohering system. Vietnamese (1985).**

It is easy to see four types of media in Halliday and Hasan's lexical repetition (recalling a lexical attribute, using words that are synonyms or close in meaning to a given word, using words above the level of meaning that cover the meaning of the word. given, using generic terms) is very similar to the means of cohesion used in Tran Ngoc Them's lexical repetition and synonymy. Detail:

The type of repetition of a lexical attribute has a meeting with Tran Ngoc Them's lexical repetition in that: both of these conjunctions use the cohesion attribute of the repeated word. For example:

“Since then, our people are suffered with two chains. Since then our people are even more miserable and poor.”

(Ho Chi Minh Declaration of Independence).

The use of synonyms, words on the level, and general words are very close to the means of cohesion in the four subtypes of Tran Ngoc Them's synonyms (dictionary synonyms, negative synonyms, descriptive synonyms, provisional synonyms). In detail:

- The usage of synonyms corresponds to the type of synonymy. For example:

A beanie if you give birth to a girl. The hat will be bright red if you give birth to a boy.

(Brother Duc. Son of Loc. Bringing Tran Ngoc Them)

- The usage of words above corresponds to the provisional synonymy.

For example:

The buffalo is old. [+2 statements]. From a distance, the animal looks so beautiful.

(Chu Van. Silver buffalo. Dictated by Tran Ngoc Them)

- The usage of the generic word corresponds to the type of descriptive synonymy.

For example:

It (language) is the "golden tree" in Goethe's verse, which Lenin liked very much. The great poet of Germany wrote: “All theory, dear friend, is gray, but the golden tree of life springs ever green.”

(Pham Van Dong. Preserving the purity of the Vietnamese language.)

Thus, the same way of using the same means of cohesion, but in Tran Ngoc More the attribute of repeating is included in the lexical repetition, the synonym is included in the synonym substitution, and in Halliday and Hasan all All of the above means are only encapsulated in lexical repetition.

When comparing the lexical combination with the contrast and association of Tran Ngoc Them, we find that these authors also meet each other in the use of means of cohesion quite interesting.

Lexical combination and antonymy use words with opposite meanings in the cohesion function. The three main relationship types of the opposite relation (complementary opposition, opposite relation and contrast relation) in lexical coordination are in fact the type of opposite relation in opposites. Some examples:

The language of Vietnamese is not an ordinary morpheme like in many other languages. Voice is a special type of morpheme: a syllable.

(Nguyen Tai Can. Vietnamese grammar.

Followed by Tran Ngoc Them)

The poet hides the author's feelings in poetry. The reader opens the poem, suddenly finds his own feelings.

(LuuQuy Ky. Water returns to the sea.

Followed by Tran Ngoc Them)

Lexical coordination and association also have many close points in terms of semantic relations of lexical attributes in the cohesion function. Such as:

- The inclusive association type is based on the whole-part relationship.

For example:

He approached. His face was tanned, and he wore a striped short-sleeved shirt that let loose his shorts, revealing two strong, healthy-looking thighs.

(XuanCang. Pinky night)

In the example above, the words "he", "his face", "two thighs" are words with a whole-part relationship: "he" is understood as the whole, "his face" and "two thighs" are inseparable parts that make up this whole body.

- The type cohesion type is based on the peer-type relationship.

For example:

Toad died and left the orphanage

The racophorussat and cried: Oh my!

The bull-frog's command has echoed

Where is the money to pay the village debt, frog!

(Song song. TruongChinh - Phong Chau)

The words 'toad', 'racophorus', 'bullfrog', and 'frog' in the above example are words that have a peer-type relationship or a peer relationship. This group of words has a subordinate relationship with a word directly above it, which is the compound word "frog". This word is created by the method of creating new words of the native language.

Thus, it is possible to introduce into the lexical combination the means of cohesion that Tran Ngoc Them uses in contrast and cohesion.

The lexical cohesion of Halliday and Hasan can be included in the cohesion means that Tran Ngoc Them introduced into lexical repetitions, synonyms, opposites and cohesions.

A comparison can be made between the interpretation of the lexical cohesion of Halliday and Hasan with that of Tran Ngoc Them through a number of cohesion methods in the Vietnamese Text Cohering system (1985) through the following table:

M.A.K. Halliday & R.Hasan	Lexical cohesion					
	Lexical repetition				Lexical combination	
The area of means of association includes lexical elements: real words, phrases	Lexical attributes are repeated	Synonyms	High-level and low-level words	General words	Pairs (groups) of lexical attributes that have an opposite relationship	Pairs (groups) of lexical attributes have semantic relationship such as whole-part relationship, peer-type relationship, etc.
Tran Ngoc Them	Lexical repetition	Synonymy			Antonymy	Association

### Conclude:

It can be seen that both Halliday, Hasan and Tran Ngoc Them have the same way of using linguistic means, but on each side of the author, those means go into different ways of cohesion. The four type of cohesion: lexical repetition, synonymy, opposite and association by Tran Ngoc Them shows that the "zoning" of the means of cohesion in each method and the classification of subtypes in each method is one is significantly more expressive, compared to the area where the cohesion devices of Halliday and Hasan's lexical cohesion do not have a specific classification.

### References

- [1]. Halliday M A K & Hasan. Ruqaiya, Cohension in English, First published 1976, 13th imperession 1994.
- [2]. Nunan. D, Introduction to Discourse Analysis, GD Publishing House, 1997 (translated by Ho My Huyen, Truc Thanh).
- [3]. DiepQuang Ban, Texts and cohesion in Vietnamese, GD Publisher, 1999.
- [4]. Tran Ngoc Them, The system of linking documents in Vietnamese, University and THCN Publisher, Hanoi, 1985s