A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF “YOUR LETTERS”
ON READERS’ FORUM IN THE JAKARTA POST

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A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF “YOUR LETTERS” ON READERS’ FORUM IN THE JAKARTA POST

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ABSTRACT

The aims of the study are explaining the discourse of “Your Letters” in term of grammatical cohesion and describing the elements configuring the discourse of “Your Letters”. The objects to be analyzed are discourse aspects in “Your Letters” such as non-linguistic context and grammatical cohesion. The data are taken from discourses of “Your Letters” in the Jakarta Post published August 2014. In collecting data, the writer uses method of observation and documentation by applying techniques of collecting, reading, identifying, underlining and coding the data. The strategy to analyze the first aim is by referring to the theory of grammatical cohesion, while to analyze the second aim is by using non-linguistic context. The result of the research shows that the types of grammatical cohesion found in these discourses are 291 or 27, 85% of personal reference, 421 or 40, 29% of demonstrative reference, 3 or 0, 29% of nominal substitution, 21 or 2, 01% of nominal ellipsis, 77 or 7, 37% of adversative conjunction, 202 or 19, 33% of additive conjunction, 12 or 1, 15% of causal conjunction, and 18 or 1, 72% of temporal conjunction. Moreover, there are six elements to configure the sense of discourse of “Your Letters” that they are: 1) type of communicative event found are exposition, narration, argumentation, recount, discussion, description and news item; 2) the topic that can be seen from the title and the object told in the discourse; 3) the purpose of the event that related to the type of communicative event; 4) the setting of place and time; 5) the participants and their relationship; 5) the background knowledge.

Keywords: Discourse, Non-linguistic Context, Grammatical Cohesion.

Introduction

The development of mass media in Indonesia gets increased. One of the developments can be seen from the using of English in some mass media. The kinds of mass media are electronic media and printed media like magazine, newspaper, broadcasting, etc. English use in mass media is used by people to communicate with others, especially in newspaper. By reading newspaper, people know everything happened in the world.

Jakarta Post is an example of English newspaper consisting of some columns like headlines, national, archipelago, opinion, readers’ forum, etc. Jakarta post serves
many kinds of information about Indonesia and other countries. The models of text serving information in the Jakarta Post are examples of discourse. There are many various discourse in the newspaper such as on readers’ forum, headlines, opinion, national, etc. There is a part on readers’ forum containing many interesting discourse called “Your Letters”.

The researcher observing the column of “Your Letters” does not only view it as a letter but also as a discourse because sentences in “Your Letters” have a unity and show cohesion and coherence in context. As a typical discourse, the unity among sentences on “Your Letters” can be seen from the using of some conjunctions and substitutions as the types of cohesion like in the example entitled Annoying SMS Message below:

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Annoying SMS Message
1 I have been trying to inform Telkomsel to stop sending me text messages
2 about their various plans, promotional, business partners or even their
3 reminders to subscribers to pay their bills.
4 Customer care made it seem that it was difficult or technologically
5 unviable to time the transmission of such messages. I could only
6 begrudgingly accept such reasoning but felt helpless not knowing what to do
7 next and they would not let me meet anyone higher to take this complaint to
8 them.
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From the text entitled “Annoying SMS Messages” above, there is coherence between the topic of the text with the contents where the text told the writer’s complaint because of the Telkomsel programs that are annoying. Then, in the context, the cohesion can be seen from the using of the word “but” in line 6 as the conjunction connecting two sentences which are contradictory. Besides, the pronoun “it” in line 4 which refers to the sentence of paragraph one is called substitution. So, the “Your Letter” here has unity among sentences that can be seen from the cohesion and coherence in the context.

Yule (2006: 124) states that “the word ‘discourse’ is usually defined as ‘language beyond the sentence”. It means when describing a particular language, it concerns more than on the form and structure used in that language.

“Discourse studies is the discipline devoted to the investigation of the relationship between form and function in verbal communication.” (Renkema, 1993: 1). For example:
A : Say, there’s a good movie playing tonight.
B : Actually, A have to study.
A : Too bad.
B : Yes, I’m sorry.
A : Well, I guess I don’t need to ask you if you want me to pick you up.

In this example, A’s first utterance is the form of statement that there is a good movie playing at night. The function of that statement, however is that of an invitation to B. B could have responded by simply saying, “That’s nice” or “I didn’t know that.” But B responds with the statement in turn expressing a need to study that evening. B’s response counts as refusal of the invitation. A’s statement of regret shows that this interpretation is not mere conjecture. In this fragment the form ‘statement’ has the function of an ‘invitation’ (first utterance of A) and a refusal (first utterance of B) (Renkema: 1993: 1-2).

Nunan (1993: 5-6) states “Discourse can be defined as a stretch of language consisting of several sentences which are perceived as being related in some way.” Discourse brings together language, the individuals producing the language, and the context within which the language is used.

Halliday and Hasan (1976: 10) stated that cohesion is a semantic relation between an element in the text and some other elements that is crucial to the interpretation of it. It means that the elements in a text must have relationships between each other and refer to the same thing. A discourse needs to have a tie between the elements and cohesion here is used to tie the elements. The example is:

(I: 3) Wash and core six cooking apples. Put them into a fireproof dish.

The interpretation of the word “them” in the second sentence just can be done by relating it with the first sentence. In the example above there is a cohesive relation between “six cooking apples” and “them” because the word “them” in the second sentence refers to “six cooking apples” in the first sentence.

According to Halliday and Hasan (1976) cohesion is divided into two types that are grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion. Grammatical cohesion is a cohesion that has direct relationship with the form or structure of a discourse physically while lexical cohesion is a cohesion relating to the meaning or structure of discourse
essentially. The types of grammatical cohesion are: 1) reference that is the identity of the particular thing or class of things that is being referred to; 2) substitution that is a replacement of one item by another; 3) ellipsis that is the omission of an item or that is described as a form of substitution in which the original item is replaced by zero; 4) conjunction that is a cohesive device because it signals relationships that can be fully understood through reference to other parts of the text. The types of lexical cohesion are: 1) reiteration that is divided into repetition, synonym (or near-synonym), superordinate and general word; 2) collocation that can cause major problems for discourse analysis because it includes all those items in a text that are semantically related.

Halliday and Hasan (1976: 288) said that the effect of lexical, especially collocational, cohesion on a text is subtle and difficult to estimate. With grammatical cohesion the effect is relatively clear: if one comes across the word *he*, for example, there is no doubt that some essential information is called for, and that the identity of the *he* must be covered from somewhere. Reference items, substitutes and conjunctions all explicitly presuppose some element other than themselves. Then, in lexical cohesion, however, it is not a case of there being particular lexical items which always have a cohesive function. Every lexical item may enter into a cohesive relation, but by itself it carries no indication whether it is functioning cohesively or not. That can be established only by reference to the text.

From the explanation above, to make the readers of the discourse of “Your Letters” become easier in understanding the cohesive relation in a discourse, the researcher just gives the explanation of grammatical cohesion. It is because grammatical cohesion is cohesion of form or structure of physical discourse so that it will be more clear and easier to be understood by the discourse’s readers. Then, it is enough to know the cohesive relation in a discourse just through the grammatical cohesion because the important point in a discourse actually is the coherence. It means although a text does not have a good cohesion or even does not have cohesion but it still becomes clear when it can be understood well. The example is:

*Fried died last week. The neighbors attended the funeral.*

Both of the sentences above do not have good cohesion, but the semantic relationship still ties the two sentences above so that it still has a unity of meaning in
a context. Furthermore, Nunan (1993: 7-8) said that context is an important concept in discourse analysis. Context refers to the situation giving rise to the discourse, and within which the discourse is embedded. There are two different types of context. The first context is linguistic context - the language that surrounds or accompanies the piece of discourse under analysis. The second is non-linguistic or experiential context within which the discourse takes place. Non-linguistic context include: The type of communicative event (for example: joke, story, lecture, greeting, conversation); the topic; the purpose of the event; the setting; the participants and the relationships between them; and the background knowledge and assumptions underlying the communicative event.

For example on the “Your Letters” below:

**Annoying SMS Messages**

I have been trying to inform Telkomsel to stop sending me discourse messages about their various plans, promotional, business partners or even their reminders to subscribers to pay their bills.

Customer care made it seem that it was difficult or technologically univable to time the transmission of such messages. I could only begrudgingly accept such reasoning but felt helpless not knowing what to do next and they would not let me meet anyone higher to take this complaint to them.

The messages kept on coming with no respect for any sensible timing.

The straw that broke the camel’s back was on the night of the World Cup match between Germany and Brazil. Sensing the excitement of the match at the semifinal stage I decided to watch despite its unearthly timing.

Setting the alarm I had hit the sack earlier than usual to get up on time for the match. And lo! At 12:43 a.m. the SMS alert had to go off spoiling the tranquility of my sleep for the rest of the night. And the “urgent” message was none other than a routine reminder of a kartuHalo payment that was due later in the month!

Can’t they hold off the dispatch of such reminders, and for that matter any messages, until day time? Is it so difficult for the operations and technical big wigs to realize when to send and when not to send?

After deliberately spoiling my sleep, I do not know what I would have done to Telkomsel if Brazil had won over Germany!

On a serious note: I hope Telkomsel will wise up and become more sensitive in their plans and operations.

**Mathew Ninan**

**Jakarta**
There are elements of discourse on the “Your Letters” above, such as: the writer of the letter is Mathew Ninan who the victim of the Telkomsel program sending various messages in inappropriate time. Mathew Ninan could be called as the writer and the victim because the writer uses pronoun “I” in telling the experience. So, the story is the real experience from the writer (Mathew Ninan). Besides, the readers and their relationship are included in the element of discourse. The readers here as the listeners of the writer’s disappointment and maybe there are some readers who have been the victim too. Then, the purpose of the letter is to make critic for Telkomsel operator because the writer’s complaint did not get a response. Here, the writer wants to influence the other readers, so that the other readers do not use the Telkomsel operator. Besides, there are many interesting elements again in the discourse, such as the topic, the type of communicative event, and the setting (non-linguistic context). The non-linguistic context as stated by Nunan shows the coherence of a discourse because it is the element configuring a discourse that related to the context.

The objectives of this research are to explain the discourse of “Your Letters” in terms of grammatical cohesion and to describe the elements configuring the discourse of “Your Letters” on readers’ forum in the Jakarta Post. This study has theoretical benefit and practical benefit. Theoretically, this research shows the explanation of the discourse of “Your Letters” in terms of grammatical cohesion and also shows the clear description of the elements configuring the discourse of “Your Letters” in the Jakarta Post. This is beneficial for the enlargement application of discourse analysis especially in written media. Practically, benefit of this research is to add the knowledge of the researcher and readers about the explanation of the discourse of “Your Letters” in terms of grammatical cohesion and the elements configuring the discourse of “Your Letters” in the Jakarta Post. Besides, this research helps the readers to get more information that “Your Letters” not only can be read as a letter but also can be read as a discourse that contain some types of grammatical cohesion and elements configuring the discourse.

Related to research on the discourse analysis, the first research paper as references for complementing her work is “A Discourse Analysis of Job Vacancy in Joglosemar
The results of the study show that there are seven elements which are configuring the discourse. They are addresser, addressee, setting, channel, code, message and topic. Then, another result is that the theme-rheme of discourse of job vacancy advertisement can be seen through the topic.

Secondly is “A Discourse Analysis of “Your Letter” in the Jakarta Post Newspaper” written by Purnasari (UMS, 2007). The results of the study show that the most configurations found in those letters are subject line, body of letter, and the sender. Besides, the another result is the most deixis that used in discourse “Your Letter” in the Jakarta Post are personal deixis, place deixis, time deixis, and discourse deixis.

Based on the previous research above, the researcher wants to apply study in different objective and data. The objectives of this research are to explain the discourse of “Your Letters” in terms of grammatical cohesion and to describe the elements configuring the discourse of “Your Letters” on readers’ forum in the Jakarta Post. The researcher is interested in analyzing the discourse of “Your Letters” in The Jakarta Post published on August 2014. The researcher chooses this rubric to be analyzed because the researcher wants to show to the readers that “Your Letters” does not only give information as a letter but also can give the knowledge about grammatical cohesion among the sentences and paragraph of these discourses and the elements configuring the discourses. From the grammatical cohesion and elements configuring the discourse, it will be known that “Your Letters” can be viewed as a discourse that has cohesion and coherence.

Research Method

This research is a descriptive research. The descriptive research is used to analyze the data because the aims of this research are to explain the discourse of “Your Letters” in term of grammatical cohesion and to describe the elements configuring the discourse. The data of this research are discourse of “Your Letters” taken from the Jakarta Post published on August 2014. There are 18 numbers of data. The methods of collecting data in this research are observation and documentation.
The techniques used in collecting data are collecting “Your Letters” on Readers’ forum in the Jakarta Post published on August 2014 randomly in every 5 days; Reading the discourse of “Your Letters” as the data; Underlining the words and phrases including on grammatical cohesion; Identifying the elements configuring the discourse of “Your Letters” in the Jakarta Post; Retyping the discourse of “Your Letters” in the Jakarta Post; Coding the data that are as follow: 1) 01/03/ASM that means the data number 1 published on 3rd August entitled Annoying SMS Messages; 2) 01/01/03/IPDSC that means paragraph 1 of the data number 1 published on 3rd August entitled In Pursuit of Diverse School Culture; 3) Per/ref that means the data of personal reference; 4) Nom/subs that means the data of nominal substitution; and 5) Add/conj that means the data of additive conjunction.

After applying the technique of collecting data, the researcher applies the technique for analyzing data that are explaining and describing. The strategy to analyze the first aim is by referring to the theory of grammatical cohesion, while to analyze the second aim is by using non-linguistic context.

**Research Findings and Discussion**

After analyzing the data the writer can explain the discourse of “Your Letters” in term of grammatical cohesion. The types of grammatical cohesion found are personal reference, demonstrative reference, nominal substitution, nominal ellipsis, adversative conjunction, additive conjunction, causal conjunction and temporal conjunction. Moreover, the writer also can describe the elements configuring the discourse of “Your Letters”. The elements configuring the discourse written by Nunan mentions six elements. The elements are type of communicative event, the topic, the purpose of the event, the setting, the participants and the relationship, and the background of knowledge. The research findings and the discussion are as follows:

1. The explanation of discourse of “Your Letters” in term of grammatical cohesion

   The biggest percentage of each type of grammatical cohesion is demonstrative reference that is 40, 29 %. Demonstrative reference is a
determiner that relate to the scale of noun proximity. The example of demonstrative reference can be found like in data 06/08/IMIM:

**ISIS Movement in Malang**

The Islamic States of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) movement in Malang to campaign for the formation of an Islamic caliphate is well prepared. When I was in high school in 2006, a group of people who championed an Islamic State in Indonesia infiltrated school and university students and became their mentors.

Between 2006 and 2007, they held mass demonstrations on my campus under the banner of freedom of expression in support of the Islamic state.

In mid-2008, I found out during an intensive discussion that the group received donations from donors who ran a business in the Middle East. In 2009, they again planned another rally but failed to secure a permit.

On Aug. 14, 2009, we set up the Webomatrics group, whose mission was to deradicalize their ideology. We managed to involve high school students who the group had recruited in our discussions.

This year we can map the group’s movement thanks to drone journalism.

The group is planning to create a village similar to that in Talangsari in Lampung, where a military operation targeting a radical Muslim group ended in bloodshed in 1989.

*Ferril Ilham Muzaki*

*Malang, East Java*

From paragraph 1, the 1st determiner “the” refers cataphorically to the noun phrase “Islamic States of Iraq” and the 2nd determiner “the” refers cataphorically to “Levant (ISIL) movement in Malang” whereas the 3rd determiner “the” refers cataphorically to the noun phrase “formation of an Islamic caliphate”. The determiner “the” in paragraph 4 of the data refers cataphorically to the noun phrase “Webomatrics group”. Besides, the determiner “this” in paragraph 5 refers forward the point of noun “year” because it relates or locates the scale of noun in near proximity.

The personal reference found in these 18 data is fewer than the demonstrative reference. It is 27, 85 %. Personal reference is pronoun that refers to the category of person or noun. The types of pronouns can be found like in data 16/28/FMNTBME:

**FM Needs to Be More Efficient**

I am referring to an article titled “Despite constraints, reforms alive and well at the Foreign Ministry, (The Jakarta Post, Aug. 22) by Y. Kristiarto S. Legowo.
A problem plaguing the Foreign Ministry is that staffers are working overtime for nothing in return. Most of them wait around the office merely waiting for higher ranking staff to go home.

Of course, I am making a generalization. Some staffers work overtime because they are preparing for the following day. However, no matter the reason, no worker gets paid overtime for staying until midnight despite a Finance Ministry regulation stipulating that they indeed should be paid overtime for working past office hours.

If you do not believe me, go see for yourself after 5 p.m., the lights on most floors will be still on.

This situation has negative impacts such as energy waste, increased stress, decreased family time, higher transportation costs, loss of remuneration payments on account of arriving late to work due to working long hours.

Higher-up staff often encourage those below them to be a “diplomat pejuang” (struggling diplomat).

However, it is not easy to feed your family when you are struggling. Who is going to pay for your children’s lessons?

As diplomats, they have served overseas, where they were paid in US dollars and when they return to Indonesia, they aim to provide the same things their children enjoyed overseas.

For example, as the children of diplomats have enjoyed overseas education taught in the English language, many parents have to enroll their children in English-speaking schools because their children are used to courses being taught in English.

Mr. Legowo, the Finance Ministry has issued a regulation on overtime pay to ensure staffers are treated properly and to effectively use the state budget.

If the state budget does not cover overtime, then let your workers go home instead of just waiting around for the directors to go home.

Furthermore, shut down the building’s electricity and let everyone leave by 4:30 p.m.

Cakra Warta
Jakarta

The pronouns of the first person “I” in paragraph 1 and 3; and the word “me” in paragraph 4 refer cataphorically to Cakra Warta as the writer. Then, the word “them” in paragraph 2 and 6; and pronouns of the third person “they” in paragraph 3 refer anaphorically to the “staffers”. Moreover, the words “you” and “yourself” in paragraph 4; and possessive pronoun “your” in paragraph 7 refer cataphorically to the readers.
The nominal substitution found in the 18 data is just 0, 29%. Nominal substitution is a replacement of nominal group by another. The example can be found like in data 04/08/SFIPW:

**Solution for Israel-Palestine War**

The recent deaths caused by Israel attacks in Gaza will only create more hatred and vengeance as the untold sorrows will leave the destitute to react.

In a war there is no sense of normality. The missile attacks by Hamas are a serious threat to Israel, but Israel’s advanced defense systems have virtually prevented any serious casualties, while Israel’s heavy attacks in response have caused high fatalities in Gaza and the killing of innocent people, children and women, is itself a travesty of justice. The present cease-fire is just temporary unless both sides are able to let bygones be bygones and to address what each side needs in order to move forward and live as peaceful neighbors.

The roots of this decade-long war must be addressed with fairness. Israel is supported by America and other western countries. Palestine is a country that barely has a right to freely gain access to the world, especially in Gaza where all exits to the world is curtailed by Israel. Palestinians will always suffer economic hardship with a never-ending need to rebuild its buildings and infrastructure, all unnecessarily damaged by Israel’s excessive attacks.

This war is not just about Hamas or the jihadists, as proclaimed by Israel, America and other countries that are simply brushing the real issues aside. It’s about humanity-senseless deaths that can be avoided by bold sacrifices from both sides. It’s about agreeing to the right to land, the right to worship in Jerusalem and, more important, the fundamental right to live without fear and be able to have a sustainable economic livelihood.

Politics should not inflame the situation. America should not be shown to encourage Israel in retaliating with such heavy counterattacks. An eye for many eyes will not lead to peace. Strong statements by President Barack Obama about not having any sympathy for Hamas is irrelevant as that is indirectly saying the consequence is a result of punishing Hamas.

Unfortunately it’s the innocent who are punished. This is not right, however one looks at fairness. With advanced technology and intelligence systems and with the unfailing support of America, Israel is definitely able to launch a covert operation to arrest the guilty people, whether Hamas or jihadist, to stop the missile attacks without the need to inflict such massive destruction on Gaza.

If America is serious about wanting to pursue peace for Israel and Palestine, it can assert its influence in determining land rights and the mutual right to religious worship in Jerusalem. It’s not about taking sides, but about being firm and fair in addressing the rights of both parties.

Politics aside, the world should stop the atrocities in this war that has lasted for decades.

**LB Saw**

South Tangerang, Banten
The word “one” in paragraph 6 indicates the nominal substitution because the word is used to replace a noun phrase “the punishing Hamas”.

The finding of nominal ellipsis is just 2, 01 %. Nominal ellipsis is an omission of nominal group. The example can be found in data 01/04/IPDSC:

**In Pursuit of Diverse School Culture**

School culture deals with the provision of learning conduciveness in a contextual school environment. This recognition is mainly concerned with how a culture of learning becomes a friendly sign to crave knowledge.

A school should provide students with adequate facilities so that learning opportunities can be realized.

It also marks the beginning of empirically and scientifically embodied learning-teaching processes that emphasize not only understanding theories but also applying them.

This condition triggers a façade of learning momentum without any bullies and violence. To have learned distinctive lessons on peaceful occasions means that students have become integrative users of theories through scientific practices or research in real academic life.

In favor of such efforts, learning advancement is “packaged” into a measuring rod of developing students’ hidden potentialities. One way of doing this might be to excel their competencies through a firm basis of school discipline, participation and a spirit of criticism.

Phillips (1993) points out that this school culture is a continuing commitment in terms of how students treat and feel about each other, how rituals and tradition reflect competitive learning, scholastic aptitude, and collaborations, the extent to which they feel included and appreciated.

In line with this articulation, Torrance (1979) adds that other learning domains called creativity, an immense embryo of sensitivity, autonomy and independence that pave the way for either success or excellence.

Even though creativity is not everything, a real independent learning is always unfinished; it seeks to form a long-term expansion of vital school activities.

As it surely seems, students want to progress in their academic achievements, participate and interact in peer discussions, but they should feel their way and get to modify their own competencies.

In the name of learning autonomy, teachers need to set up guidelines for individual and collaborative assignments or projects for an intelligent array of academic development.

In this sense, school culture keeps on advocating students’ abilities, prompting them to learn things that legitimate competent performance.

The possibilities for putting forward systematic learning and media applications are geared to meeting a desired demand of learning encouragement and enhancement.
This justification is easily acceptable in a context that diverse school culture is associated with the eligibility and appreciation of cross-cultural competencies as well.

In this way, therefore, hallmarks of learning and teaching activities often relate to students’ personal, cultural and regional quality standards.

Ultimately, if such vital matters are to be ignored persistently, school culture is like a country road with its bumps and smoothness to pass through.

On the one hand, there is always a bump of sadness because our schools always seem to lack facilities and professional teachers. On the other hand, a smooth part of the road represents a hope of perpetuating the quality within a richness of school culture across the archipelago.

Anselmus Sudirman
Yogyakarta

In paragraph 5 of this data is found the word “this(0) might” that is called nominal ellipsis because there is the omission of the nominal group. Between the word “this” and “might” actually there is a word “measuring” that is omitted or disappear. The word measuring is omitted because at the previous sentence has explained about the measuring rod so that in the next sentence the word “measuring” is omitted.

The four types of conjunctions can be found like in data 05/08/INRIA:

Indonesia’s new role in ASEAN

Finally the Indonesia General Elections Commission (KPU) officially set Joko “Jokowi” Widodo and Jusuf Kalla as president and vice president of Indonesia for 2014 to 2019 based on a final count. Although Prabowo Subianto-Hatta Rajasa filed complaints about election fraud with the Constitutional Court, for the time being Jokowi-Kalla is elected as president and vice president.

In term of ASEAN, we need to know how Jokowi-Kalla would face the current real challenges in ASEAN, a region that is geopolitically dynamic and has geo-economics that are waiting for the president’s real policies.

All this time, the ASEAN member states look at Indonesia as one of prominent de facto leaders of ASEAN because of many things, including its role as one of the founders of ASEAN, it having the fifth-largest population in the world, having the largest total land area (up to 42 percent) of all ASEAN countries, as well as it having a gross domestic product (GDP) representing 38 percent of the total ASEAN GDP. Therefore, the transition of the Indonesian leadership would have a meaningful effect on ASEAN.

It must be admitted that so far Indonesia has contributed to ASEAN more than what it has received. In contrast, Indonesia’s standard of living has been slightly left behind by that of the other ASEAN countries, such as Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Thailand. In fact, in terms of natural resources, Indonesia is much richer.
Such a reality remains a difficult problem to be solved by the current government under President Susilo Bambang Yudoyono and, of course, brings questions for the recently elected President. As well, it will prove that Jokowi-Kalla’s victory is a victory of the people of Indonesia, as claimed by some observers.

Because of the lack of prominent and good national leadership, Indonesia has very nearly been deemed a defeated country. Historically, the President of Indonesia, at least from Soeharto to Yudoyono, did not use the rich potential of natural resources and the good climate, as well as the potential of the large population, for the maximum benefit of the Indonesian people.

That has been a fundamental fault since Sukarno abdicated in 1965. While led by Sukarno Indonesia was a much respected country internationally because of his successful role as a global leader who kept the peace and maintained the balance of power in the world. In other words, at that time Indonesia was able to stand on its own feet. Now we are looking forward to Indonesia having the same successful role under Jokowi.

Now the new president needs to check and redefine what actually Indonesian is. Does Indonesia remain sovereign in controlling its natural resources? In the past, we always tended to give priority to the interest of other states’ politics and economies and to marginalize our own interests. But now it is time for Indonesia to end the lack of protection over Indonesia’s national interests.

In summation, what policies will be applied by the new President in regards to ASEAN and how will they benefit the future of Indonesia? The answer will be found in how high Jokowi-Kalla will see Indonesia rise in the constellation of the region’s geopolitics and geo-economics.

Karmel Simatupang
Student of Tunghai University
Thailand

The data of conjunctions found are firstly, adversative conjunction that is 7, 37%. The adversative conjunction is a conjunction used to link two ideas that are considered to be different. The information in the second sentence qualifies or moderates the information in the first. The example is in data 05/08/INRIA above. The conjunction “although” in paragraph 1 connects the sentence “Prabowo Subianto-Hatta Rajasa filed complaints about election fraud with the Constitutional Court” with the sentence “for the time being Jokowi-Kalla is elected as president and vice president”.

The next type of conjunction found is additive conjunction that is 19, 33 %. Additive conjunction is used to connect the additional information. The example
The conjunction “and” in paragraph 6 connects the noun phrase “the lack of prominent” and the noun phrase “good national leadership”.

The third type is causal conjunction that is 1, 15%. Causal conjunction marks the cause and consequence relationship. The example is in paragraph 3 of the data 05/08/INRIA above. The word “because of” connects the main clause “The ASEAN member states look at Indonesia as one of prominent de facto leaders of ASEAN” as the effect or consequence and the sub clause “many things including its role as one of the founders of ASEAN, it having the fifth-largest population in the world, having the largest total land area (up to 42 percent) of all ASEAN countries, as well as it having a gross domestic product (GDP) representing 38 percent of the total ASEAN GDP.” as the cause.

Then, the last type is temporal conjunction that is 1, 72%. Temporal conjunction is used to connect the sequence of event that relate in term of timing. The example is like in the data 05/08/INRIA above. In last paragraph contains a phrase “in summation” that is same with the word “finally”. The phrase connects the explanations in paragraph 1 to 8 with this sentence “what policies will be applied by the new President in regards to ASEAN and how will they benefit the future of Indonesia? The answer will be found in how high Jokowi-Kalla will see Indonesia rise in the constellation of the region’s geopolitics and geo-economics.” as the last statement from the writer which act as the conclusion.

2. The elements configuring the discourse

Out of the 18 numbers of data, the sixth elements configuring these data are as follows:

a. The types of communicative event used in the eighteenth data have many variations. The types found are exposition, narration, argumentation, recount, discussion, description and news item.

b. The topic of all of these data can be seen from the title and the object told in these discourse. The example like in the data 02/04/ASM. The topic of data 2 entitled “Annoying SMS Messages” is communication. It is because from the
Debating ‘Jilboob’ Versus Jilbab

A few months ago, some colleagues of mine kind-heartedly advised me to modify the way I wore my jilbab (Islamic headscarf). They said the change would accentuate my face and I would be more fashionable. “It would still cover your hair,” they argued. My brow furrowed, alternating between excitement and doubt.

The temptation to be stylish, modern and beautiful is alluring. After all, a woman is a creature of beauty, isn’t she? Yet, I reject that idea, as it is not what I am. The way I dress does not define me. I wear jilbab and clothes that suit me and I choose apparel that provides comfort and convenience for my daily activities, including backpacking. So, it is not reserved for religious reasons or just for following the trend. It is a personal affair.

Then, over the last few days, “jilboob” began trending in social media. A Facebook page entitled “Jilboob Community” was even launched, which displayed many pictures of women with jilboobs uploaded. The page triggered heated discussions on and offline. My friends’ newsfeeds are flooded with a stream of information on the topic. The issue has aroused the ire of conservatives as well, resulting in the issuance of a religious edict from the country’s highest authority on Islam.

Jilboobs are used to define the trend of combining Muslim women dress and jilbab with tight-fitting clothes. Such a combination accentuates a woman’s shapes and curves. This trend emerged because many women wearing jilbab wished to remain fashionable and follow the example of their favorite artists or patrons. Even long before jilboobs comes into a spotlight, the phenomenon could be found anywhere, including in Aceh, since the 2000’s. For me, the question of jilboob or jilbab is a matter of personal choice, as with prayer or fasting. It is a personal affair with God. When a Muslim chooses not to perform five daily prayers or to fast, we have no power to impose a sanction on him or her, as this ritual is a private affair with God. We can only advise him or her to perform rituals with good words and judgment in the spirit of brotherhood. We can only remind him or her that we are the ambassadors of our faith.

In this spirit of good faith, I say that Muslims should not react so negatively to the jilboobs phenomenon. It is not a criminal act in need of punishment or sanction. The fact that women, especially young teenagers, are now increasingly willing to wear a jilbab is a small step
that should be appreciated. It is understandable that they still want to look trendy and modern. The process of getting better is a hijrah (a migration or journey).

The jilboob phenomenon should also be perceived as a constructive criticism on how Muslim women should wear the jilbab. As the ambassadors of our faith, it is our sacred duty to safeguard our behavior, words, and even the way we dress in order to represent our faith as a religion of peace and love.

Personally, jilboob does not really suit me. On a few occasions I attempted to wear such a style, but looking in the mirror, I blushed and felt like I was walking naked in that fashion. Somehow, a woman wearing jilbab, covering her head and her chest, always looks more elegant and beautiful to me. There’s something regal in that dress, especially if the manners and behavior of the wearer also reflect the code. I am a continuous learner on how to dress and behave properly so I can be a good ambassador to my faith.

Yuni Herlina
Depok, West Java

The data entitled “Debating ‘Jilboob’ vs ‘Jilbab’” is included in discussion text so that it has a purpose to mediate the problem of “jilboob vs jilbab” based on two points of view because this problem becomes a trending topic especially in social media and it causes many pro and contra.

d. The setting found in these discourse are the setting of place and time. It can be seen from the data number 09/12/RTAAV:

   **Running Toward an ‘ASEAN Village’**

   There is nothing unusual about encountering people running and strolling around at the National Monument (Monas) on a Sunday morning, but what unfolded on Sunday was extraordinary. More than 1000 people took part in the ASEAN Fun Run and Village organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to celebrate the ASEAN Anniversary. Most were Indonesian, but there were also many runners who hailed from other ASEAN member states and dialogue partners. After the run there was a cultural and culinary exhibition dubbed the ASEAN Village, where visitors could behold exquisite merchandise from ASEAN countries, inquire about various histories and tourism opportunities, savor regional dishes and revel in the stunning performances of groups from ASEAN member states.

   The event was as exhilarating as it was captivating, but above all it served as a platform to further promote and raise awareness among people of the imminent arrival of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2015.
The governments of ASEAN countries undoubtedly play an important role in bringing about the ASEAN community, but needless to say it is the people of ASEAN who should be the backbone of the venture. Thousands of meetings between ASEAN government officials would be hollow if the people across ASEAN remained in the dark as to what ASEAN was and if they did not feel that despite differences they were in the same boat.

A robust sense of ownership among the people in ASEAN would foster cross-border engagement and contact, which is the foundation for greater business partnerships, migrant workers movements, educational exchanges and a myriad other cooperation efforts that would yield tremendous benefits for the people of ASEAN. Events like the ASEAN Fun Run and village will be increasingly pivotal in ensuring that people are at the center of the AEC 2015. We need to provide more arenas for people to partake in the journey to its birth.

As I was immersed in the festivities yesterday, I could not help but think that the event was also an embodiment of what ASEAN was going through. As the clock ticks down toward the formation of AEC, ASEAN members states cannot afford to drag feet or move at a snail’s pace. In short, just like what the more than 1000 people did yesterday, ASEAN should now run and even kick into overdrive.

Indonesia must boost the competitiveness of its economy through a variety of means, including revamping infrastructure and striving to climb up the value chain. We should also endeavor to bring ASEAN into the light by involving more citizens.

Only after we run and go the extra mile can we arrive at the true “ASEAN Village”. Unlike cities, villages are not merely seen as places to earn a living; villages evoke the image of home and togetherness. The visitors of the exhibition indeed felt like birds of a feather who had flocked together.

That should be our ultimate goal: To have a community where people from different ASEAN countries no longer perceive each other as “others”, but who believe that irrespective of nationality, they belong to the same family.

Dimas Muhamad
Jakarta
Mathew is the victim of the Telkomsel program made by the Telkomsel operator who wants to share his problem to other readers of this discourse.

f. Background knowledge of the writer in writing a discourse is like in the finding in data number 09/12/RTAAV. The background knowledge of this discourse is the writer wants to promote and show this event to Indonesian and other people from different countries in ASEAN who maybe do not familiar with the event before because this event is a good event to make the relationship between ASEAN members be closer. It can be seen from the last statement of Dimas that is “That should be our ultimate goal: To have a community where people from different ASEAN countries no longer perceive each other as “others”, but who believe that irrespective of nationality, they belong to the same family.”

Based on the research findings and discussion above, the types of grammatical cohesion and elements configuring the discourse are appropriate to the theory of grammatical cohesion by Halliday and Hasan and the theory of non-linguistic context as stated by Nunan. Although, all of the types of grammatical cohesion cannot be found in those discourses but still appropriate to the theory and it can show the “Your Letters” as discourses because the writers of the discourses have authority to choose the types of grammatical cohesion in writing the discourses. The research findings are different to the previous study because the findings of the first previous study entitled A Discourse Analysis of Job Vacancy in Joglosemar Newspaper that has been conducted by Ermanto (UMS, 2010) are addressee, addressee, setting, channel, code, message and topic and theme-rheme of job vacancy in the Jakarta Post while the findings of the second previous study entitled A Discourse Analysis of “Your Letter” in the Jakarta Post Newspaper that has been conducted by Purnasari (UMS, 2007) are the most configurations that are like subject line, body of letter, and the sender and also the most deixis used in “Your Letters” in the Jakarta Post.

Conclusion

Based on the data analysis and the discussion, finally the researcher comes to conclusion. The researcher can explain the discourse of “Your Letters” in term of
grammatical cohesion using the theory Halliday and Hasan and describe the elements configuring the discourse using the strategy of non-linguistics context as stated by Nunan. From 18 numbers of data that have been analyzed and discussed, the researcher finds four types of grammatical cohesion that are as follows: 291 or 27, 85% of personal reference, 421 or 40, 29% of demonstrative reference, 3 or 0, 29% of nominal substitution, 21 or 2, 01% of nominal ellipsis, 77 or 7, 37% of adversative conjunction, 202 or 19, 33% of additive conjunction, 12 or 1, 15% of causal conjunction, and 18 or 1, 72% of temporal conjunction. From the amount, it can be concluded that the discourse of “Your Letters” have cohesive relationship.

Furthermore, by using Non-Linguistic context theory of discourse analysis written by Nunan, the researcher can find the six elements configuring the discourse of “Your Letters” on readers’ forum in the Jakarta Post. The sixth elements configuring the discourse are type of communicative event, topic, purpose of the event, setting, participants and the relationships, and also background of knowledge. From the sixth elements, it can be concluded that these discourses are good discourses in giving clear information about something because all of non-linguistic context can be found and described clearly so that these discourses are coherence. Finally, from the grammatical cohesion and elements configuring that are found above, it can be concluded that “Your Letters” can be viewed as discourse that has cohesive relationship and coherence.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


