An Approach to English Translation of Islamic Texts 1   **Cohesion**

Cohesion

➤ Cohesion is a semantic concept &

➤ it refers to relations of meanings that exist within the text &

  that define it as a text.

➤ So cohesion helps to create text by providing texture.

➤ According to Halliday & Hasan (1976),   the primary factor of whether a set of sentences do or do not constitute a text depends on cohesive relationships between & within the sentences which create texture:

➤ A text has texture & this is what distinguishes it from something that is not a text.

➤ The texture is provided by the cohesive RELATION.

➤ Cohesive relationships within a text are set up: where the INTERPRETATION of some elements in the discourse is dependent on that of another.

➤ The one PRESUPPOSES the other in the sense that it cannot be effectively decoded except by recourse to it .

➢ Halliday and Hasan (1976) argue that cohesion is expressed partly through the :

Grammar &

Vocabulary, hence we have:

- Grammatical cohesion &

- Lexical cohesion.

➤ It is necessary to consider that cohesion is a semantic relation but, like all the components of semantic system, it is realized through the lexico-grammatical system.

➤ The lexico-grammatical system includes both grammar & vocabulary.

➤ There are five major types of cohesive devices:

1. reference,

2. substitution,

3. ellipsis,

4. conjunction &

5. lexical cohesion.

➤ Cohesive types:

- reference,

- substitution, &

- ellipsis are grammatical but;

➤ Lexical cohesion is lexical; &

➤ Conjunction is on the borderline of the two, mainly grammatical, but with a lexical component in it.

➢ There are **two** major **types of lexical cohesion**:

1. Reiteration

- repetition,

- synonymy,

- hyponymy(specific-general),

- metonymy(part-whole),

- antonymy &

- general nouns

2. Collocation

1.1. Repetition

➤ Repetition of a lexical item is the most form of lexical cohesion; e.g. dog in:

■ Reza saw a dog. The dog was wounded by the children.

➤ In order for a lexical item to be recognized as repeated it need not be in the same morphological shape.

■ Ali arrived yesterday. His arrival made his mother happy.

➤ Inflectional & derivational variants are also as the same item.

1.2. Synonymy

➢ Lexical cohesion is also created by the selection of a lexical item that is in some sense synonymous with a preceding one.

■ What people want from the government is frankness. They should explain everything to the public.

1.3. Hyponymy(specific to general)

➢ Hyponymy is a relationship between two words, in which the meaning of one of the words includes the meaning of the other word.

■ A dog is a symbol of loyality. That animal is mine.

1.4. Metonymy(part–whole)

➢ In this kind of lexical cohesion, cohesion results from the choice of a lexical item that is in some sense in part-whole relationship with a preceding lexical item.

▪ An English daily Monday talked about the result of presidential election. The editorial described that pre-election speeches caused good results.

1.5. Antonymy

➢ In this type of lexical cohesion, cohesion comes about by the selection of an item which is opposite in meaning to a preceding lexical item.

▪ Ali received a letter from bank yesterday. He will send answer next day.

1.6. General Nouns

➢ They include thing, person, … are used cohesively when they have the same referent as whatever they are presupposing.

■ Saddam doesn't approve military action against Iraq. He said that the moves was illegal.

1.7. Collocation

➢ Association of lexical items that regularly co-occur. Or tend to appear in similar environments.

➢ Such words don't have any semantic relationship.

■ A huge oil boat polluted the sea. Many dead fishes lie along the beach.

➢ Hoey(1991) argues that lexical cohesion is the single most important form of cohesion, accounting for something like 40% of cohesive ties in texts.

Components of a Research Paper

1. Title

➤ A Study on Lexical Cohesion in English & Persian Translations of Qur'an: A

Comparative

Study

2. Introduction

➢ Talking about the Literature review or histories of topic of research,

➢ Elaborating on Theoretical Base,

➢ Pointing to the purpose of conducting the research,

➢ Research Question(s):

■ What are the differences between English and Persian research articles in terms of type, number, and degree of utilization of lexical cohesive device?

3. Method

3.1. Corpus (Data)

➢   The data for this study consist of 50 verses (sample size) from Holy Qur'an and its English and Persian translations counterparts. The 4 translators were selected among Muslim and Non-Muslim translators such as Arberry, Picktal, Shakir, and Asad.

3.2. Procedures of data analysis

➢ To analyze the data:

number of

cohesive ties will be detected,

in the cohesive ties

will be found,

for the type of

cohesion & its related sub-type.

1. Every verse in each text, & the

2. The presupposing elements

3. Each tie will be specified

4. Again two summarizing tables are needed to

present the percentage of sub-types of lexical

cohesion in both data.

➢ The following formula is used to calculate the percentage of each sub-type:

➢ The percentage of each sub-type =

The number of that sub-type ×

100

total number of words

4. Results

➢ 4.1. Lexical cohesion in Persian data

➢ 4.2. Lexical cohesion in English data

5. Analysis

R = repetition **S** = synonymy **M** = metonymy **C** = collocation

H = hyponymy **G** = general noun **A** = antonymy

Type of Cohesion	R	S	M	C	H	G	A
Persian	63.42	2.2	92.49	7.36	4.19	15.23	5.03
English Translator 1, 2, 3, & 4	63.76	2.61	2.58	6.76	4.41	14.1	5.77

6. Conclusion

➢ Rendering a summary or gist of the research

➢ Research Implication(s)