Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Analysis

Language is a social phenomenon as a means of doing than knowing (Halliday, 1976:8). It consists of three levels, namely phonology, lexicogrammatical, and discourse semantics. In other words, language is a system of semiotic expressed by phonology, lexicogrammatical, and discourse.

Language is closely related to discourse analysis, the study of the relationship between the language and contexts in which it is used. Discourse Analysis is a language discipline, which describes about sentences from their context. It also includes the study of language in use: written text of all kinds and spoken data, from conversation to highly institutionalized form of talk. To understand discourse well, we need a knowledge and mastery of cohesion. It does not depend only on our knowledge about rules of languages, but also depends on our knowledge about reality, thinking process as syntactical process of drawing conclusion.

Halliday (1994:170) said that cohesion refers to the resources within language that provide continuity in a text, above and over that is provided by clause structures and clause complexes. Therefore, cohesive relations are non-structural relations, which help the text hang together. These kinds of relationship refer to reference, including lexical cohesion and conjunction.

Lexical cohesion is (Halliday & Hasan, 1976:297) as the name implies, lexical; it involves a kind of choice that is open-ended, the selection of a lexical item that is in some way related to one occurring previously. Lexical cohesion refers to the relationships between or among words in a text. It is concerned with content words and
primarily related to field. The field is discovered through the content words within a text. It tends to have specialized vocabularies and tends to engage in specialized activities.

Hasan (1976:320) presents five categories of lexical cohesion:

1. Repetition (including inflection and derivation)

Example: leave – leaving - left

2. Synonymy (similarity of meaning)

Example: leave - depart

Boy - son

3. Antonymy (opposite or contrastive meaning)

Example: leave x arrive

Hot x cold

4. Hyponymy (classes / super ordination and subclasses / is a type of)

Example: flower - rose

5. Meronymy (whole-part relations)

Example: flower – petal, stem

Regarding to the cover story, Hornby (2005:354) says that it is the main story in a magazine, that goes with the picture shown on the front cover. Cover story in Tempo is the headline news, which is going to be described as the actual topic. Tempo is a weekly national news magazine, which is printed in two languages, English, and Indonesia edition and published in Jakarta. It is firstly published in March 1971 in Jakarta, which has been involved in a publishing industry for almost 38 years. I choose tempo as the primary data for investigating the data, because it has the standard and
formal language in each of article, and it is also regarded as the oldest national
magazine which still exists until now.

The above view has motivated me to analyze the contents of cover stories as a
kind of written discourse. The contents of cover stories in magazines provide the
relationships between, or among words in a text. They are also a way of understanding a
text (written discourse), therefore, this thesis describes about lexical cohesion in a
written discourse.

Here are some examples of lexical cohesion I found in the cover stories of
Tempo:

1. Repetition
e.g: A hundred runners in jogging outfits filled the city streets. About 15 runners
had already reached the finish line when the earthquake boomed.
(January, 08-14. 2005)

2. Synonymy
e.g: People were clearing the ruins in a market area in Banda Aceh. Bodies’ rot
and wooden debris is strewn about.
(January, 08-14. 2005)

3. Antonymy
e.g: Although the situation is changeable- occasionally tense and sometimes
relaxed, there seems to be an “agreement” between the two countries not to use
weapons.

4. Hyponymy
e.g: Two additional Indonesian Naval Vessels approached, the KRI Wiranto and
KRI Tongkol but the Tedong Naga, too was not alone. The speedy ship, KRI
Wiranto and the maneuverable ship, KRI Tongkol were assisting the KRI Satsurt Tubun, which had arrived a day earlier.


5. Meronymy

e.g: The tsunami which resulted from the earthquake measuring 9.0 on the Richter scale destroyed everything Banda Aceh, Meulaboh, Pidie, North Aceh, East Aceh and other coastal regions of Sumatera were razed to the ground. The provincial capital of Banda Aceh became a wasteland.

(January, 08-14. 2005)

1.2 Problems of the Analysis

Based on the background of the analysis, I find some problems as followed:

1. Do the five categories of lexical cohesion exist in the chosen cover stories of Tempo?

2. Which lexical cohesion occur the most in the chosen cover stories?

1.3 Objectives of the Analysis

By writing this thesis, I want to achieve some objectives that can answer the problem of the analysis, they are:

1. To find out whether the lexical cohesion exist in the chosen cover stories of Tempo.

2. To find out which lexical item occurs the most in the chosen cover stories.
1.4 Scope of the Analysis

It is very important to limit the analysis and the object of the analysis in order to get a clear and satisfactory result. Therefore, in this thesis, I would like to focus only on the lexical cohesion namely Repetition, Synonymy, Antonymy, Hyponymy, and Meronymy, in 5 (five) chosen cover stories of Tempo, based on Hasan’s theory (1976:320).

1.5 Significances of the Analysis

Theoretically, it will enrich the study of Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL), especially dealing with lexical cohesion.

Practically, it will be useful for English Department students who are interested in the field of study lexical item, so that they can use this thesis as reference for their analysis.