

a. Grammatical Cohesion

Reference: it is a way to tie or link sentences together. It is the relation that exists between a word and the thing it denotes in the real world or in a given discourse/text. Phrased differently, it is the relationship between a word and what it points to in context as it is the relationship of identity which holds between two linguistic expressions. Take the following

Dr. Dowson has resigned. *He* announced *his* decision *this* morning

In this example the pronoun *He* and *his* refer to Dr. Dowson, while *this* refers to morning. These three words (pronouns) are cohesive ties which make a link between parts of a particular text/discourse by the use of reference in order to avoid unnecessary repetition or to point out to something particular. Reference is a combination of grammatical and semantic relations. It has two main types: *Exophora* and *Endophora*.

Exophoric reference occurs when one refers to something in the situation by something else in the discourse. It relies on the external world or context, i.e., it is context-bound which means that it is highly related/dependent on the context. Consider this example which is a note posted on a university professor's door

Sorry, I missed you. I am in my other office. Back in an hour.

This note directs the reader to the immediate context. In order to get the complete meaning of this discourse one has to know the context or the situation of this discourse.

Another example could be

The government declares new rules.

In order to get the right appropriate meaning of this discourse one has to get the exophoric reference which, in this situation, refers to the shared knowledge, for instance, to be from the same country having the same government.

Endophoric reference relies on the text regardless the extra-linguistic factors of the given text. It is the use of a word or phrase to refer to something either preceding it or following it within a text. It has two types: *anaphora* and *cataphora*. Endophoric Anaphoric reference can be defined as the use of a linguistic unit (eg. Pronoun) to refer *back* to another unit as it is the case in the following example

A well-dressed man was speaking, *he* has a foreign accent.

The pronoun HE refers BACK to the phrase WELL-DRESSED MAN, which makes it anaphoric reference.

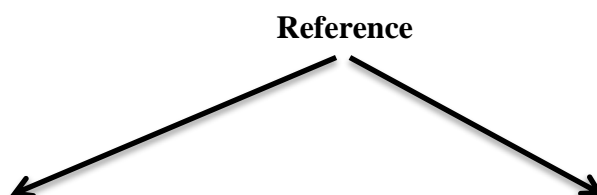
This is why I have chosen this car.

The phrase ‘this is why’ is considered as an anaphoric reference since it refers back to something that should be previously mentioned within the same text or discourse.

Cataphoric reference occurs when a linguistic unit points ahead to a referent in the text. Take the following

After *he* had received *his* order, the *soldier* left the barracks.

The pronoun *he* in this case refers FORWARD/AHEAD to the soldier, which makes it a cataphoric reference.

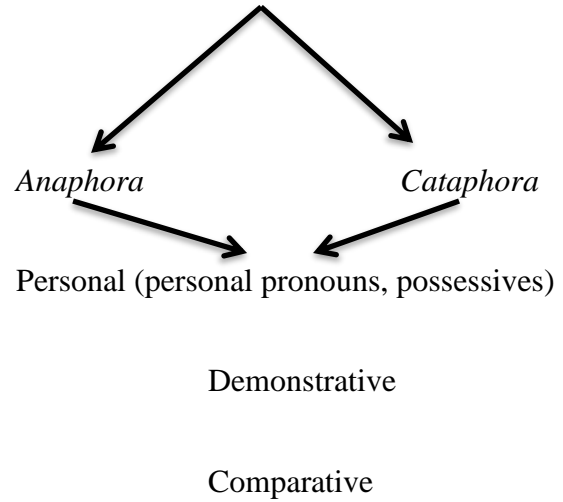


Exophora

(Situational)

Endophora

(Textual)



(Halliday, M. A. K. and Hassan, R. 1976)

QUIZ 1

Try to give ten examples which four of them represent exophoric reference; while four others illustrate anaphora and four illustrate cataphora. Explain reference in your examples.

Substitution refers to a set of place holders that are used to signal an omission. In other words, it is the replacement of one linguistic item by another within the text. It is used mainly to avoid repetition as the following examples demonstrate

1-a:i like movies

b:and I do (verbal)

2-I have not got a pencil, do you have one? (nominal)

3-a:will we get there on time?

b:I think so. (clausal)

In example 1, the verb *like* was omitted and replaced (substituted) by the auxiliary *do* to avoid unnecessary repetition. This kind of substitution is called “verbal substitution”. Example 2 illustrates “nominal substitution” in which the noun *pencil* is substituted by the word *one*. As far as example 3 is concerned, the word *so* substitutes the whole clause *we will get there on time*. Thus, substitution in English operates either at the *verbal level*, *nominal level*, or *clausal level* by the use of “*do/does/did/done, one/ones/same, so/not*”.

QUIZ 2

Read the following sentences and identify the substitution used and its type

1. I offered him a book, but he said that he did not want one.
2. You need a lift? If so wait for me, if not I will see you there.
3. She chose the roast duck, and I chose the same
4. Did Mary take that letter? She might have done.
5. Where is my purse? I cannot find it.

Ellipsis has the same main concept of substitution which deals with the omission of a linguistic item to avoid unnecessary repetition, yet in ellipsis the omitted item is not replaced by another linguistic item it is rather replaced by some embedded/implicit meaning. Ellipsis refers to resources for omitting a clause or part of a clause when it can be assumed by the reader/listener as it is shown in the following examples

1-John bought some clothes and Catherine a pair of shoes.

2-Here are thirteen cards, take any

In example 1, the elliptic item is the verb bought which was omitted in the second part of the sentence however the meaning does not change even if the omitted item was replaced with nothing. The same can be said about example 2 where the elliptic item is cards which is omitted in the second part of the sentence.

Ellipsis can be *anaphoric* or *cataphoric*. Whenever there is ellipsis in a sentence and in order to get the omitted item you need to look back in the same sentence or text it means it is an anaphoric ellipsis; whereas, whenever you find yourself obliged to look forward or ahead in order to get the elliptic item it is a cataphoric ellipsis. The most common type of ellipsis in English is anaphoric ellipsis. Consider these examples

1-a:have you ever been to Moscow?

b:never (anaphoric ellipsis/ the ellipted item is: I have never been to Moscow)

2-because Alice won't, Mary has to dust the furniture. (cataphoric ellipsis/ the elliptic item is: (Mary) won't dust the furniture).

QUIZ 3

Consider the following sentences and identify substitution and ellipsis that exist. Mention the type of each.

1. A: Does Agatha sing in the bath?

B1: No

B2: No, but I do

B3: Yes, she does

2. A: Has Barbara left?

B: She did so

3. A: Who killed the cat?

B: I did not

4. A: do you want the blanckets?

B: Yes, I will take one.

5. I painted one wall and Jim painted the other.

6. A: Have you been swimming?

B: Yes I have.

7. She will go but I won't.

Conjunctions refer to the large inventory of connectors which link clauses in discourse. Conjunctions are the linguistic items that join and relate phrases, clauses, sentences and paragraphs together. There are four main types of conjunctions; additive (and, also, in addition, furthermore, besides, for instance, etc), adversative (but, yet, however, on the other hand, etc), causal (so, consequently, because, etc), and temporal (then, next, after that, finally, etc). Interestingly, when being used in naturally occurring data in discourse, one type of conjunctions can function as another type in different situations and contexts. Take the following

-She is intelligent *and* very reliable

-I have lived here ten years *and* I have never heard of that person

-He fell in the river *and* caught the child

-I got up *and* made my breakfast

For instance, the conjunction “and” which is mainly an additive conjunction, may be used in different functions depending on the discourse and the context in which it is used. In example 1 the conjunction *and* is being used as an additive conjunction, whereas in example 2 *and* is used as an adversative conjunction. In example 3 *and* is used as a causal or temporal or additive conjunction (depending on the context), and in example 4 it is used as a temporal conjunction. The same can be said about conjunctions: *but*, *so* and *then*.

QUIZ 4

Write four examples where the conjunction “so” is being used in the four main conjunction’s types; then four other examples about the conjunction “then”, and four others using the conjunction “but”.