Coherence of academic texts: a case study of research papers in management

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- *Coherence* – the quality of being logical and consistent.

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary

Approaches

- Semantic vs lexical coherence (Fahnestock, 1983)

- Relational vs referential coherence (Dedand et al., 1999)

Relational Coherence

- connectives (e.g. *because, so, however, although*)

- lexical cue phrases (e.g. *the reason was*)

Anaphora

- (from Greek *ana*-backwards, *-phorein* – carry, bear)

- a language phenomenon, which introduces the connection between **anaphor** and **antecedent**

- *Michael injured himself playing football.* (Antecedent – *Michael*; anaphor – *himself*)

Types of Anaphora

- Nominal anaphora, e.g.:

- *Our experimental results revealed that <u>decision makers</u> saw opportunities for increased legitimacy if **they** complied early with the coercive demand primarily when **they** faced low institutional complexity. As institutional complexity increased, **they** planned increasing delays in **their** compliance* (AM 2015-58).

- Verbal anaphora, e.g.:

- *Hospitals that <u>did not offer robotic surgery,</u> especially when other nearby hospitals **did**, risked losing appeal and patients* (AM 2015-58);

- *In sum, there are several reasons why managers perceive women as <u>having less career motivation</u> than men **do*** (JM 2014-40).

- Adverbial anaphora, e.g.:

- *I belong to that category of people that, I mean, if I read one night about a new intervention performed in <u>Boston</u>, the following day I was rushing **there** to see how they do it* (AM 2015-58).

- 'an essential pillar supporting the overlay of [coherence] relation in fleshing out and integrating their discourse values' (Cornish, 2009).

- Two corpora: RPs of fourth-year HSE management students (130,000 words) and articles from leading journals in Management (694,000 words)

- AntConc concordance programme

- Contrastive interlanguage analysis (Gilquin, 2000/2001; Granger, 1996)

Material for Analysis

- <u>Personal pronouns</u> (e.g. it, they)
- Object pronouns (e.g. him, them)
- Reflexive pronouns (e.g. himself)
- Demonstrative pronouns (e.g. this)
- Indefinite pronouns (one, ones)
- <u>Auxiliary verbs functioning as substitutes</u> (e.g. do, have)
- Adverbs (here, there)

Research Findings

Anaphor	Absolute and normalized frequency (per 1000 words)	
	Learner Corpus	**Reference Corpus**
he	52 (0.4)	280 (0.403)
she	11 (0.084)	113 (0.162)
they	208 (1.6)	2453 (3.534)
do	3 (0.023)	75 (0.108)
did	1 (0.007)	20 (0.029)

- *Many organizations strive to reduce production loss to gain an advantage over their main competitors or to reduce costs, but only few companies gain it and reduce their costs* (M 2015-45)*.*

- *Many organizations strive to <u>reduce production loss to gain an advantage over their main competitors or to reduce costs</u>, but only few companies **do**.*

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Thank you for your attention!