



## **An Exploratory Study of Cohesive features in Selected Excerpts from Sefi Atta's News from Home**



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### **Abstract**

This article aimed at providing a linguistic analysis of Sefi Atta's novel entitled *News from Home* through the linguistic approach of cohesion drawn from Systemic Functional Linguistics. Two extracts were selected randomly from the novel and a descriptive mixed method of analysis was adopted. Aspects of cohesion studied in the text were reference, conjunction and lexical cohesion. The analyses revealed that various types of reference such as anaphoric, cataphoric, demonstrative, exophoric, and homophoric occurred in the selected texts. Features of conjunctions were used by the writer to display the logical relationships between elements of the texts. As for lexical cohesion, patterns of reiteration and collocation were used to point out the field of the study. The paper concluded that these cohesive patterns are organized to reveal the texture of the text.

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### **1. Introduction**

Language, whether written or spoken, is an effective tool for communication. In literature, writers organize their language to convey their message in various literary genres such as novels, plays, poetry, etc. In fact, one of the best ways to carry out a linguistic study of pieces of writings is to investigate their texture. As reported by Eggins (2004, p.24), texture is the property that distinguishes text from non-text. It is what holds the clauses of a text together. Halliday & Hasan (1976) contends that cohesion and coherence are the two elements of texture. This paper focuses on the study of cohesive patterns in selected extracts from Sefi Atta's *News from Home*.

Actually, previous studies have dealt with the study of cohesion in texts. For instance, Koutchadé (2017) has analyzed some aspects of textual meaning in selected Nigerian news reports. Two texts have been selected for that purpose and features of textual meaning, i.e. Theme patterns and cohesion have been studied. The analyses reveal that there are high percentages of unmarked topical and textual Themes in the two texts. In addition, although marked Theme and dependent clauses as Themes have very low percentages, they are used to draw more attention on some aspects of the message provided. Through the cohesive analysis, it has been noticed that

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anaphoric reference chains and features of lexical cohesion have made it easy to understand the meaning conveyed by the two texts.

Similarly, Kadiri, et al. (2015) have analysed the cohesive features and interlanguage in the written composition of ESL learners of Nusuksa university in Nigeria. Their study reveals that pronoun, co-ordination, subordination, substitute and repetition are the cohesive elements mainly used by learners whereas synonyms and lexical sets are rarely used. This implies, according to them that ESL writing pedagogy must focus on using cohesive elements in the construction of texts and avoid overusing some elements and non-use of others”

Koussouhon and Koutchadé (2013) have studied some aspects of texture in the in “Death in the Dawn” and “In Memory of Segun Awolowo”, two poems by Wole Soyinka. Their analysis shows that the two poems display some features of cohesion which are used in a particular context to produce a significant and meaningful unit of language use.

On their part, Fakuade & Sharndama (2012) have carried out a comparative analysis of cohesive devices in two legal texts through Halliday & Hasan’s (1976) theoretical approach. The results of the analysis reveal that referred devices are used predominantly, thus making reference and information easy. Coordinators as well as lexical ties are combined to emphasize the meanings made by the texts.

This brief review shows that the concept of cohesion in texts has been inquired into by scholars. Nevertheless, previous study on cohesive patterns from *News from Home* by Sefi Atta is hardly found. Therefore, this article aims at filling in the gap. The paper provides a brief account of the cohesive approach and draws from the approach to study some aspects of the writer’s language.

## 2. Research Methods

### Theoretical framework

Cohesion has to do with the internal property of the text. In Eggins’ (2004) terms, it is concerned with the way we relate or tie together bits of our discourse. Cohesive types are classified into four main types: reference, ellipsis, conjunctions and lexical cohesion. In this paper, aspects of reference, conjunctions and lexical cohesion are studied.

### 2.1 Reference

According to Halliday and Webster (2009), reference refers to resources for referring to a participant or circumstantial element whose identity is recoverable. Bloor & Bloor (2004) contend that “a characteristic of reference is that, on the second and subsequent mention, instead of being named, the person or thing referred to may be indicated by means of a pronoun, demonstrative [...] or a comparative” (p. 93). Reference falls broadly within three categories, viz. exophoric, homophoric and endophoric. However, there are some other types such as demonstrative reference, comparative reference, etc.

- a) Endophoric reference includes anaphoric reference (when the referent has appeared at an early point in the text), cataphoric reference (when the referent has not yet appeared, but will be provided subsequently) and esphoric reference (when the referent occurs in the phrase immediately following the presuming referent item). Eggins (2004) observes that this type of reference creates cohesion since it creates the internal texture of the text.
  - b) Exophoric reference: this is the one retrieved from shared immediate context of situation. Halliday (1985) contends that it is used as a means of linking outwards to some person or object in the environment.
  - c) Homophoric reference: it is the reference that can be retrieved from the shared context of culture.
- Other forms of reference include: personal reference (dependent on the use of personal pronouns), demonstrative reference (dependent on the use of determiners) and comparative reference (which uses adjectives or their adverbial counterparts) (Bloor & Bloor, 2004).

### 2.2 Conjunctions

According to Bloor & Bloor (2004, p. 97), “conjunction is the term used to describe the cohesive ties between clauses or sections of text in such a way as to demonstrate a meaningful relationship between them. It is also possible to perceive this process as the linking of ideas, events or other phenomena”. As for Eggins (2004), she contends that the cohesive patterns of conjunctions or conjunctive relations, refers to how the writer create and expresses logical relationships between the parts of a text. Following Bloor & Bloor (2004), there are four classes of conjunctions are identified by Halliday & Hasan (1976). These are:

- a) Additive Conjunctions which show that a point is being reinforced or a new one is added to the same effect.
- b) Adversative conjunctions, used to contrast one idea to another.
- c) Causal conjunctions, used to express result, reason or purpose.
- d) -Temporal conjunctions which introduce the time sequence of specific events referred to.

### 2.3 Lexical cohesion

Lexical cohesion has is the cohesive effect of the use of lexical items in discourse where the choice of an item relates to the choices that have gone before (Bloor & Bloor, 2004). Halliday (1985) observes that it comes about through the selection of items that are related in some way to those that have gone before. The two main categories of lexical cohesion are reiteration and collocation.

- a) Reiteration: This is a form of lexical cohesion which may be a repetition, a synonym or near-synonym, antonymy, hyponymy, meronymy (Halliday and Hasan, 1976, p. 278).
- b) Repetition: It involves the occurrence of the same lexical item
- c) Synonymy or near synonymy: Synonymy is the relationship between two words which have the same or almost the same meaning.
- d) Antonymy: the relationship of contrast between two lexical items
- e) Hyponymy: It is a relation that holds between a general class and its sub-classes (Halliday and Hasan, 1976, p.84)
- f) Meronymy: when two lexical items are related as whole to part (or vice- versa)
- g) Collocation: This is the co-occurrence of the same lexical item. It covers two or more words which can be said to 'go together' in the sense of frequency of occurrence (Bloor & Bloor, 2004).

As said earlier, the paper aims at analyzing some excerpts from the novel *News from Home*. For that purpose, two, extracts have been selected randomly and they represent the data to be analyzed thoroughly through the approach suggested in the previous section. The research design is descriptive and a mixed method, i.e. quantitative and qualitative approaches, has been used. Before providing the proper analysis, linguistic features have been identified according to the following keys below.

#### Keys:

- a) References in **bold**; END= Endophoric Reference; ANA= Anaphoric Reference; CAT= Cataphoric Reference; EXO= Exophoric Reference ; HOM= Homophoric Reference; DEM= Demonstrative Reference; COM= Comparative Reference;
- b) Conjunctions in **bold and italics**; ADD= Additive Conjunction ADV= Adversative Conjunction; CAU=Causal Conjunction; TEM= Temporal Conjunction
- c) Lexical cohesion in *italics*; REI=Reiteration; Col= Collocation; Rep= Repetition; Syn= Synonymy; Ant= Antonymy; Mer=Meronymy; Hyp= Hyponymy

## 3. Results and Analysis

### Analysis of Cohesive properties in the selected texts

#### 3.1 Cohesion Analysis in text1

##### 3.1.1 Identification of the cohesive elements in text1

##### Extract one: Last Trip

This (DEM) time (Rep/ Hyp), he(ANA) wants her (CAT) to deliver a *hundred(Hyp)* and *twenty(Hyp)-seven(Hyp)* balloons of *heroin(Hyp)* to London.<sup>1</sup> He (ANA) counts **them** (ANA) on **her** (CAT) *table* (Ant/(MER/Rep) to make sure **there**(DEM) is *no* (Ant) question about **the** (DEM) *number* (Hyp/Col)<sup>2</sup> **The** (DEM) balloons are multicolored, a *little* (Syn/Rep) **smaller** (COM) than **her** (CAT) *thumb*(Mer).<sup>3</sup> **She** (CAT) is capable of *swallowing*(Rep) *every* (Ant) one of **them** (ANA), **but**(ADV) **she** (CAT) bargains for extra *pay* (Rep), a *thousand*(Hyp) US dollars **more**(Rep) (COM).<sup>4</sup> "I (CAT)'ll do **it** (ANA) for *five* (Syn/Hyp)," **she** (CAT) says (Rep).<sup>5</sup> **She** (CAT) speaks in broken Yoruba **because**(CLA) **she** (CAT) has to be careful about eavesdroppers.<sup>6</sup> **The** (DEM) *room* (Mer/ Rep/ Col) **she** (CAT) *rents*(Col) for **her** (CAT) *trips*(Syn) has *thin*(Syn) *walls* (Mer/ Col).<sup>7</sup> **It** (ANA) contains the wooden *table* (Rep/ Col), a couple of collapsible iron *chairs* (Mer/Col), and a new *mattress*(Rep/ Mer/Col) that smells vaguely like urine **because**(CLA) **she** (CAT) *sweats* **more** (COM) than usual on the *night*(Hyp) **before** (DEM) **she**(CAT) travels.<sup>8</sup> **Her** (CAT) son, Dara, is asleep on **the** (DEM) *mattress*(Rep), *face*(Mer) up.<sup>9</sup> **He** (ANA) rubs **the** (DEM) eczema patches around **his** (ANA) *eyes*(Rep/Mer) and

wheezes.<sup>10</sup> A *miniature*(Syn) oscillating *fan*(Col) blows dust **over** (COM) **him** (ANA).<sup>11</sup> **She** (CAT) has considered leaving **her** (CAT) *windows*(Mer/Col) *open*(Col) to give **him** (ANA) some relief.<sup>12</sup> **The** (DEM) heat *indoors*(Col) is unbearable, **but** (ADV) **the** (DEM) air in **this** (DEM) part of Lagos has a sour taste.<sup>13</sup> For **now** (DEM/Hyp), **she** (CAT) is more *worried* (Syn) about *sounds*(Col) that *escape*(Col) **her** (CAT) *room*(Rep).<sup>14</sup> Even on afternoons **like** (COM) **this** (DEM), with **the** (DEM) *horns*(Col) and *engines*(Col) of **the** (DEM) *traffic*(Col) on nearby *streets*(Col), **she** (CAT) can *hear*(Syn/Col) **her** (CAT) *neighbors*(Col) talking.<sup>15</sup> **She** (CAT) guarantees **they** (ANA) are *listening* (Syn).<sup>16</sup> **They** (ANA) know **she** (CAT) has a man in **her** (CAT) *room*(Rep).<sup>17</sup> “Since when *five*(Rep)?” **he** (CAT) *asks* (Syn).<sup>18</sup> **He** (CAT) *goes* (Ant) by **the** (DEM) name of Kazeem.<sup>19</sup> **He** (20) has a lisp that is amusing, potentially.<sup>20</sup> In **the** (DEM) *past*(Hyp), **he** (ANA) has *hired* *killers*(Col) to dispose of difficult *couriers*(Rep) who have double-crossed **him** (ANA).<sup>21</sup> After thirteen year of loyalty to **their** (EXO) organization, **she** (CAT) is not worried about **the** (DEM) consequences of betrayal.<sup>22</sup> **She** (CAT) is *scared*(Syn/Col) of **him** (ANA) **the** (DEM) way people are of *little* (Rep) *dogs*(Col) that jump and *bite*(Col).<sup>23</sup> **His** (ANA) *eyes* (Rep) are a sickly shade of pink **and** (AD) **the** sun (HOM) seems to have roasted **him** (ANA), **the** (DEM) *fat*(Syn) in **his** (ANA) *body*(Mer) melting to *oil*(Syn).<sup>24</sup> **His** (ANA) *skin*(Rep/ Mer/Col) is too *shiny*(Col) and *clings*(Col) to **his** (ANA) *bones*(Mer).<sup>25</sup> **The** (DEM) *veins*(Mer) in **his** (ANA) *arms* (Mer) protrude.<sup>26</sup> **He** (ANA) crunches on *kola nut*(Rep) and occasionally stops to smack **his** (ANA) *lips*(Mer).<sup>27</sup> **This** (DEM) habit of **his** (ANA) irritates **her** CAT).<sup>28</sup> “**You** (CAT) can’t just *demand* (Syn) *five* (Rep) **like** (COM) **that** (DEM),” **he** (ANA) *says*(Rep).<sup>29</sup> “Why not?”<sup>30</sup> **She** (CAT) *asks*(Rep), sitting up.<sup>31</sup> “**My** (CAT) life is not worth *five*(Rep)?”<sup>32</sup> **She** (CAT) is **taller** (COM) than **he**(ANA) is, robust, especially with **the** (DEM) brocade boubous **she** (CAT) favors for *international flights* (Syn/Col).<sup>33</sup> **They** (ANA) give **her** (CAT) *stomach*(Mer) enough space to expand and make **her** (CAT) *chest*(Mer) look as sturdy as (COM) a shelf.<sup>34</sup> Many *times* (Rep) before, **she** (CAT) has concealed bags strapped around **her** (CAT) *torso*(Mer).<sup>35</sup> **She** (CAT) eats well to keep **her**(CAT) weight up, *bleaches*(Col) **her** (CAT) *skin*(Rep) with *hydroquinone creams*(Col) to freshen **her** (CAT) *complexion*(Col).<sup>36</sup> In **her** (CAT) latest passport photograph **she** (CAT) appears much **younger** (COM) than **she** (CAT) is, and can pass for **her** (CAT) fake age.<sup>37</sup> **Her** (CAT) alias is Simbiyat Adisa.<sup>38</sup> **He** (CAT) sucks a piece of *kola nut*(Rep) out of **his** (CAT) *teeth*(Mer).<sup>39</sup> “**I** (ANA) *pay*(Rep) **you** (ANA) in kind, nothing *more*(Rep) (COM).”<sup>40</sup> “No!” **she** (ANA) says, waving **her** (ANA) hand.<sup>41</sup> “Not in kind! (Rep)”<sup>42</sup> **She** (ANA) *tells* (Syn) **him** (ANA) in a whisper, even *though* (ADV) **he**(ANA) already knows **this** (DEM) about **her**(ANA), that **she**(ANA) doesn’t push *drugs*(Hyp).<sup>43</sup> **He**(ANA) shrugs.<sup>44</sup> “**So**(CLA), **it**(ANA)’s *four*(Hyp) as usual.”<sup>45</sup> “*Five* (Rep),” **she**(ANA) repeats, spreading **her**(ANA) *fingers*(Mer).<sup>46</sup> **The** (DEM) man sees **her**(ANA) as walking storage.<sup>47</sup> **He**(ANA) will *pay*(Rep) **her**(ANA) *more*(Rep) (COM) **only if** (CLA) **she**(ANA) *swallows*(Rep) **more** (COM).<sup>48</sup> “*Take* (Ant) **it**(ANA) or *leave* (Ant) **it**(ANA),” **he**(ANA) *says*(Rep).<sup>49</sup> “**There** (DEM) are many where **you**(ANA) *came*(Ant) from.”<sup>50</sup>

Source: *News from Home*, pp.149 -150

### 3.1.2 Analysis of Reference

Various kinds of reference are identified in the text. They include: anaphoric, cataphoric, demonstrative, homophoric and exophoric references.

As a matter of fact, there are many instances of anaphoric reference in the above text. In S<sub>2</sub> and S<sub>4</sub>, “them” is used to refer back to “a hundred and twenty- seven balloons of heroin” in S<sub>1</sub>; “she” in S<sub>40</sub>, S<sub>41</sub>, S<sub>42</sub>, S<sub>43</sub>, S<sub>46</sub>, S<sub>48</sub> and “her” in S<sub>41</sub>, S<sub>43</sub>, S<sub>46</sub>, S<sub>48</sub> and “you” in S<sub>51</sub> refer back to “Simbiyat Adisa” in S<sub>38</sub>. Similarly, in S<sub>19</sub>, “Kazeem” is anaphorically referred to as “he”, “him” in S<sub>21</sub>, “him” in S<sub>23</sub>, “his” and “him” in S<sub>24</sub>, “his” in S<sub>25</sub> and S<sub>26</sub>, “his”, “he” in S<sub>27</sub>, “his” in S<sub>28</sub>, “he” in S<sub>29</sub>, “he” and “his” in S<sub>39</sub>, “I” in S<sub>40</sub> “him” in S<sub>43</sub>, “he” in S<sub>44</sub>, “he” in S<sub>48</sub> and “he” in S<sub>49</sub>. Another anaphoric reference chain includes “Dara” in S<sub>10</sub> which is anaphorically referred to as “his” in S<sub>10</sub> and “him” in S<sub>11</sub> and S<sub>12</sub>.

In addition, the text displays chains of cataphoric reference. The first one includes “she” in S<sub>3-6-7-8-9-13-14-15-16-22-23-31-32-33-34-35-36</sub>, “I” in S<sub>5</sub>, “her” in S<sub>9-12-14-15-16-28-33-35-36-38</sub> and “my” in S<sub>32</sub>. They are used to point forward to the information the writer is providing concerning Simbiyat, one of the characters in the selected excerpts. Another chain also gathers the pronouns “her” in S<sub>1-2-3</sub> and “she” in S<sub>4</sub>. They are used cataphorically to refer to Simbiyat Adisa in S<sub>38</sub>. Likewise, the pronoun “he” in S<sub>1-2-18-19</sub> is in cataphoric relationship with “Kareem” in S<sub>19</sub>.

Instances of demonstrative references in this text are: “this” in S<sub>1-13-15-28-43</sub>, “the” in S<sub>2-3-7-8-8-9-10-13-15-15-19-21-22-23-26-33-47</sub>, “these” in S<sub>2-50</sub>, “over” in S<sub>11</sub>, “now” in S<sub>14</sub>, “that” in S<sub>29</sub>, and “before” in S<sub>8</sub>. Homophoric reference types are: “the sun” in S<sub>24</sub> and exophoric reference includes “their” in S<sub>22</sub>. Finally, comparative reference types

identified are: “smaller” in S<sub>3</sub>, “more” in S<sub>4.8.14.40.48.48</sub>, “like” in S<sub>8.15.29</sub>, “taller” in S<sub>33</sub>, “as...as” in S<sub>34</sub> and “younger” in S<sub>37</sub>.

### 3.1.3 Analysis of conjunctions

Three types of conjunctions have been identified in the text. There is one case of additive conjunction. In S<sub>24</sub>, “and” is used to link one idea to another. In addition “but” is used in S<sub>4-13</sub> and “though” in S<sub>43</sub> to “point out a contrastive relationship between two propositions within one sentence” (Bloor & Bloor, 2004, p.98). The causal-result relationship is exemplified by such conjunctions as “because” in S<sub>6-8</sub>, “so” in S<sub>43</sub> and “only if” in S<sub>49</sub>.

### 3.1.4 Analysis of lexical cohesion

Lexical cohesion patterns are mostly predominant in this text. Features that occur in the text are repetition, synonymy, antonymy, meronymy, hyponymy and collocation.

Items that are repeated are listed as follows:

“time” in S<sub>1-35</sub>, “table” in S<sub>2-8</sub>, “little” in S<sub>3-23</sub>, “swallow” in S<sub>4-48</sub>, “pay” in S<sub>4-40-48</sub>, “more” in S<sub>4-40-48-48</sub>, “says” in S<sub>5-29-49</sub>, “five” in S<sub>5-18-19-32-46</sub>, “rooms” in S<sub>7-14-17</sub>, “mattress” in S<sub>8-9</sub>, “eyes” in S<sub>10-24</sub>, “worried” in S<sub>14-22</sub>, “asks” in S<sub>18-31</sub>, “couriers” in S<sub>21-21</sub>, “skin” S<sub>25-36</sub> in, “kola nut” in S<sub>27-39</sub> and “kind” in S<sub>40-42</sub>.

Likewise, items that are synonymous are identified in the text and displayed as follows:

says and tell (S<sub>5</sub>–S<sub>43</sub>); worried and scared (S<sub>14</sub>–S<sub>23</sub>); fat and oil (S<sub>24</sub>–S<sub>24</sub>); trips and flight (S<sub>7</sub>, S<sub>33</sub>); little and thin and miniature (S<sub>3</sub>, S<sub>7</sub>, S<sub>11</sub>); ask and demand (S<sub>18</sub>, S<sub>29</sub>); hear and listening (S<sub>15</sub>, S<sub>16</sub>)

Very few cases of antonymy are noticed in the text. These are: no and every in (S<sub>2</sub>–S<sub>4</sub>); take and leave (S<sub>49</sub>–S<sub>49</sub>); goes and came (S<sub>20</sub>, S<sub>50</sub>).

Features of meronymy are used as follows:

room (walls- table-chairs- mattress- windows – fan) in S<sub>7</sub> (S<sub>7-2-8-8-12-4</sub>), face (eyes-lips-teeth) in S<sub>9</sub> (S<sub>10-27-39</sub>) body (thumb- face –eyes-lips-teeth-skin- veins-arm- lips- teeth-skin- veins-arm-lips-bones-stomach-chest- torso- teeth-hand-fingers) in S<sub>24</sub> (S<sub>3-9-10-25-26-26-29-25-34-34-35-39-34-46</sub>)

Patterns of hyponymy identified are the following: Drugs and heroin (S<sub>43</sub>–S<sub>1</sub>), time and night, now, past (S<sub>1</sub>, S<sub>8-14-21</sub>), Number and hundred, twenty, seven, a hundred and twenty, seven; (S<sub>2</sub>–S<sub>1-1-1-1</sub>), thousand one thousand, five thousand, four thousand, thirteen thousand (S<sub>4</sub>–S<sub>4-5-45-22</sub>).

Finally, the above text displays items that co-occur. These are:

number; hundred –twenty-seven –a hundred and twenty seven; count, thousand –one –extra –more- five; thirteen-four as identified in (S<sub>2</sub>; S<sub>1;1;1</sub>; S<sub>2;S<sub>4;4;4;4</sub></sub>; S<sub>5</sub>; S<sub>22</sub>; S<sub>45</sub>), room-rent –walls; table –chairs-mattress; fan; windows; open; indoors; neighbors; hired in (S<sub>7;7;7</sub>; S<sub>8;8;8</sub>; S<sub>11</sub>; S<sub>12;12</sub>; S<sub>13</sub>; S<sub>15</sub>; S<sub>21</sub>); Sounds –escape –hear; listening; eavesdroppers (S<sub>14;14;14</sub>; S<sub>16;16</sub>); traffic-horns-engines-streets (S<sub>15;15;15;15</sub>); dogs-bite-scared S<sub>23;23;23</sub> skin –shiny-clings; bleaches hydroquinone creams –complexion(S<sub>25;25;25</sub>; S<sub>36;36;36</sub>) flights –international; passport(S<sub>33;33</sub>; S<sub>37</sub>)

## 3.2. Cohesion analysis in text 2

### 3.2.1 Identification of the cohesive elements

The same keys suggested in the previous section are used to carry out the identification.

#### Extract two: News from home

It (EXO) is not a good day (Rep/Ant/Mer) to tell her (CAT).<sup>1</sup> This (DEM) morning(Rep/Mer) she (CAT) quarreled with Dr. Darego(Rep) again.<sup>2</sup> They(CAT) were upstairs in their (CAT) bedroom(Mer/Col)) on the(DEM) second floor(Rep); I (CAT) was on the(DEM) sofa bed(Mer/Col) in the (DEM) basement(Syn) where I(CAT) sleep(Col) every night(Ant/Mer).<sup>3</sup> I (CAT)heard(Col) their(CAT) voices(Col) clear as if(COM) I(CAT) pressed my ear (Col)to their(CAT) door(Syn/Mer/Col).<sup>4</sup> Mrs. Darego(Rep)called(Rep) him (CAT) a selfish man.<sup>5</sup> Dr. Darego(Rep) said(Rep), “Listen(Col), I (ANA) work(Col) very hard(Col)”.<sup>6</sup> Mrs. Darego(Rep) said(Rep) she (ANA) was overworked(Col).<sup>7</sup> “What are you(ANA) harassing me (ANA) for?”<sup>8</sup> Dr. Darego(Rep) asked(Rep).<sup>9</sup> “You(ANA) wanted help(Rep), I (ANA) got(Rep) you (ANA) help(Rep/Col).<sup>10</sup> You (ANA) have your(ANA) nanny downstairs(Syn/Mer).<sup>11</sup> call(Rep)the(DEM) girl, tell her(ANA) to get(Rep) the(DEM) kids(Syn) ready, take the(DEM) keys to the(DEM) jeep.<sup>12</sup>All of you(ANA) drive to wherever you(ANA) feel like spending your (ANA) July(HOM) fourth.<sup>13</sup> I(ANA)’m not going.<sup>14</sup> Finish(Ant)?<sup>15</sup> Mrs. Darego(Rep) must have been the(DEM) one who slammed the(DEM) door(Rep).<sup>16</sup> Perhaps this(DEM) is why houses(Syn/Mer) like(COM) theirs(ANA) in America are called(Rep) “dream homes(Rep/Syn)”.<sup>17</sup> They(ANA) are not built (Col)with unhappy couples in mind; their(ANA) walls(Mer) are too thin.<sup>18</sup> I(ANA) fold up the

(DEM) sofa bed **and**(ADV) replace **the**(DEM) *cushion*(Mer), which are in a pile by **the**(DEM) concertina-shaped *floor*(Rep) *lamp*(Syn).<sup>19</sup> **I**(ANA) untie **my**(ANA) black satin *scarf*(Col) to let **my**(ANA) *braids*(Col) down, slap lint off **my**(ANA) shorts, then listen to a world news broadcast **as**(COM) usual.<sup>20</sup> **It**(EXO) is **Independence day** (Syn) (HOM) **here**(DEM) in America.<sup>21</sup> Hopefully, **there** (DEM) will be an update on **the**(DEM) demonstrators from **my**(CAT) hometown.<sup>22</sup> *Mrs. Darego*(Rep) is *wearing*(Rep) a flowery *housecoat*(Hyp).<sup>23</sup> **Her**(ANA) face looks freshly washed.<sup>24</sup> **She** (ANA) has **the**(DEM) kind of dark skin **I**(ANA) admire, almost indigo.<sup>25</sup> **This**(DEM) *morning*(Rep) (HOM) **she**(ANA) appears gray under **her**(ANA) fluorescent *kitchen*(Mer) *lights*(Syn).<sup>26</sup> **She**(ANA) narrows(An) **her**(ANA) eyes as **she**(ANA) speaks.<sup>27</sup> “**I**(ANA)’m sorry, Eve,” **she**(ANA) says.<sup>28</sup> “**It**(DEM)’s **me**(ANA) and **you**(ANA) *today*(DEM/Rep).”<sup>29</sup> **We**(ANA) have to take **the**(DEM) *children*(Syn/Col) to **the**(DEM) *barbecue*(HOM/Rep).<sup>30</sup> **Their** (ANA)*father* (Col) doesn’t want to go, and **I** (ANA) don’t know what else to *do*(Rep).”<sup>31</sup> **She**(ANA) was going to give **me**(ANA) a *day* (Rep) off and spend **her** (ANA) time shopping for *groceries*(Col) and *cooking*(Col).<sup>32</sup> **I** (ANA) was looking forward to *doing*(Rep) *nothing*(An) useful.<sup>33</sup> “Shall **I**(ANA) get **them**(ANA) ready?”<sup>34</sup> **I** (ANA) ask(Rep).<sup>35</sup> “Yes, please,” **she**(ANA) says.<sup>36</sup> “**I**(ANA)’ll pack **the**(DEM) *cooler*(Col) and make *sandwiches*(Col).”<sup>37</sup> **I** (ANA) head for **the**(DEM) *children*(Rep)’s room, but **she**(ANA) stops **me** (ANA) by the fridge.<sup>38</sup> “Is *everything*(An) all right?”<sup>39</sup> **She**(ANA) asks(Rep).<sup>40</sup> **I**(ANA) *smile*(Col) to assure **her**(ANA).<sup>41</sup> **She**(ANA) has *sensed*(Col) **my**(ANA) *mood*(Col).<sup>42</sup> **The**(DEM) *barbecue*(Rep) we’re going to is for a community of Nigerians who live in New Jersey, mostly doctor and **their**(DEM) *families*(Col).<sup>43</sup> *Mrs. Darego*(Rep) is in a yellow *sundress*(Hyp).<sup>44</sup> **She**(ANA) wishes **her**(ANA) stomach were flatter.<sup>45</sup> **She** (ANA) had both *children*(Rep/Col) by C-section.<sup>46</sup> *Today*(Rep), **they**(ANA) are in their usual coordinated Old Navy and Gap *clothes*(Hyp).<sup>47</sup> **We**(ANA) stop at a traffic light.<sup>48</sup> This part of **New Jersey**(HOM) is all mountains and expressways.<sup>49</sup> **She** (ANA) taps **the**(DEM) steering wheel.<sup>50</sup> “Eve”, **she**(ANA) says(Rep), “**you**(ANA) forgot to give **me**(ANA) **your**(ANA) passport again.”<sup>51</sup> “Sorry”.<sup>52</sup> But **I** (ANA) didn’t.<sup>53</sup> **Her**(ANA) nails are clipped for work.<sup>54</sup> **She**(ANA) is not *wearing*(Rep) **her**(ANA) wedding band.<sup>55</sup> “No, no”, **she** (ANA) says(Rep), “don’t worry.”<sup>56</sup> **I**(ANA) just need to send off your(ANA) renewal by **tomorrow**(DEM), understand?<sup>57</sup> Immigration is tough **these**(DEM) *days* (Rep).<sup>58</sup> **Me**(ANA), **myself**(ANA), when **I**(ANA) came, **I** (ANA) made the mistake of applying on **my**(ANA) *husband*(Col)’s *visa*(Rep).<sup>59</sup> Seven years, and **I**(ANA)’m yet to see a green card.<sup>60</sup> *Everything*(An) is delayed since September 11”.<sup>61</sup> **She**(ANA) has just started a pediatric residency program and needs **me**(ANA) to be at *home*(Rep) with **her**(ANA) *children*(Rep).<sup>62</sup> **She**(ANA) is hoping to have **my** (ANA) *visa*(Rep) *extended*(An).<sup>63</sup> **I** (ANA) can’t tell **her**(ANA) **I** (ANA) am looking for a green-card sponsor **now**(DEM).<sup>64</sup> **I**(ANA) am ready to work as a nurse<sup>65</sup> What will **she**(ANA) say(Rep) to that after flying **me**(ANA) **over**(DEM) to America?<sup>66</sup>

Source: *News from Home*, pp. 169- 179, adapted.

### 3.2.2 Analysis of reference

Just like the previous text, this text also shows instances of anaphoric, cataphoric, demonstrative, homophoric and exophoric reference.

Anaphoric reference types are the most predominant ones in this text. Some of them include: “Dr. Darego” in S<sub>2</sub> is anaphorically referred to as “him” in S<sub>5</sub>, “I” in S<sub>6</sub>, S<sub>10</sub> and S<sub>14</sub>, “me” in S<sub>8</sub>. As for “Mrs. Darego”, she is anaphorically referred to as “she” in S<sub>4-25-27-28-32-36-38-40-42-45-46-50-51-55-56-62-63-66</sub>, “her” in S<sub>24-26-27-32-41-45-54-55-62-64</sub>, “I” in S<sub>28-31-37-57-60</sub>, “you” in S<sub>8-10-11</sub>, “me” in S<sub>29-51-57</sub>, “my” in S<sub>59</sub>, “myself” in S<sub>59</sub>, and “your” in S<sub>11</sub>. This means that the two people are the main characters in the excerpt and the story is constructed around them. Other cases of anaphoric references are the following: “theirs” in S<sub>17</sub> refers to “Dr and Mrs Darego”, “their” in S<sub>4-31</sub> and “them” in S<sub>34</sub>, “they” in S<sub>47</sub> are used for “children”. Similarly, “Eve” in S<sub>18</sub> is anaphorically referred to as “you” in S<sub>29-51</sub>, “me” in S<sub>32-62-66</sub>, “I” in S<sub>33-34-35-38-41-51-64-65</sub>, “my” in S<sub>42-63</sub> and “your” in S<sub>57</sub>.

There are three main chains of cataphoric reference in this text: they include: “her” in S<sub>1</sub> and “she” in S<sub>2</sub> which are used for “Mrs Darego” in S<sub>7</sub>, “they” in S<sub>3</sub> and “their” in S<sub>3</sub>, whose referents are Dr. and Mrs Darego in S<sub>4</sub> and “I” in S<sub>3-4-19-20-25</sub>, “my” in S<sub>4-20-22</sub> whose referent is “Eve” in S<sub>28</sub>.

-Instances of homophoric reference identified are the following: “July the fourth” in S<sub>13</sub>; “Independence day” in S<sub>21</sub>, “New Jersey” in S<sub>43</sub>, and “the barbecue” in S<sub>30</sub>. There are also cases exophoric reference types: These are: “it” in S<sub>1-21</sub>, “one” in S<sub>16</sub>; “this morning” in S<sub>26</sub>.

As regards demonstrative references, they are used in great number: examples are : “this” in S<sub>2-17-26-49</sub>, “the” in S<sub>3-12-16-19-22-25-30-37-38-43-50</sub>, “there” in S<sub>21-21</sub>, “under” in S<sub>26</sub>, “it” in S<sub>29</sub>, “today” in S<sub>29-47</sub>, “tomorrow” in S<sub>57</sub>,

“these” in S<sub>58</sub>, “now” in S<sub>64</sub> and “over” in S<sub>66</sub>. Finally, although less predominant, comparative references occur in the text. These are: “as if” in S<sub>4</sub>, “like” in S<sub>17</sub>, “in”, and “flatter” in S<sub>45</sub>.

### 3.2.3 Analysis of conjunctions

Three different kinds of conjunctions are used in the text: First, “and”, a case of additive conjunction, occurring in S<sub>19-31-32-37-62</sub> to link or coordinate events of the text together. Then, the adversative conjunction “but” is used in S<sub>38</sub> to point out the contrastive relations between propositions within one sentence (Bloor and Bloor). The third kind of conjunction is the one expressing the temporal-sequential relationship. It is exemplified through “then” in S<sub>20</sub>, “as” in S<sub>27</sub>, “when” in S<sub>59</sub>, and “after” in S<sub>6</sub>.

### 3.2.4 Analysis of lexical Cohesion

Like the previous text, various features of lexical cohesion are used in this text. As a matter of fact, patterns of repetition occurring in this text are: “day” in S<sub>1-21-32-58</sub>, “to go” in S<sub>2-14-31-33-43</sub>, “Dr. Darego” in S<sub>2-6-9</sub>, “this morning” in S<sub>2-26</sub>, “floor” in S<sub>2-19</sub>, “door” in S<sub>4-16</sub>, “Mrs Darego” in S<sub>5-7-16-23-44</sub>, “called” in S<sub>5-12-17</sub>, “listen” in S<sub>2-6</sub>, “to say” in S<sub>6-7-8-51-56-66</sub>, “to ask” in S<sub>9-35-40</sub>, “help” in S<sub>10</sub>, “to want” in S<sub>10-31</sub>, “to get” in S<sub>10-12-35</sub>, “home” S<sub>17-62</sub>, “hearing” in S<sub>23-55</sub>, “today” in S<sub>29-47</sub>, “barbecue” in S<sub>30-43</sub>, “children” in S<sub>38-38-46-62</sub>, “to do” in S<sub>31-33</sub>, “visa” in S<sub>59-63</sub>, “New jersey” in S<sub>42-59</sub>, “Green card” in S<sub>59-67</sub>.

Items that are synonymous are identified in the text and displayed as follows:

Basement and downstairs in (S<sub>3</sub>-S<sub>11</sub>), Kids and children in (S<sub>12</sub>-S<sub>30</sub>), Houses and home in (S<sub>17</sub>-S<sub>17</sub>), Lamp and lights in (S<sub>19</sub>-S<sub>26</sub>), Cooler and fridge in (S<sub>37</sub>-S<sub>38</sub>)

There are also instances of antonymy in the text. They include: Day and night in (S<sub>1</sub>-S<sub>3</sub>), nothing and everything in (S<sub>33</sub>-S<sub>39</sub>), finish and started in (S<sub>15</sub>-S<sub>62</sub>), narrow and extended in (S<sub>27</sub>-S<sub>63</sub>).

Moreover, there are three cases of meronymy in the text these are:

Day (morning; night) in S<sub>1</sub> (S<sub>2</sub>;S<sub>3</sub>), Houses (bedroom, floor, basement, door, downstairs, walls, upstairs, kitchen) in S<sub>17</sub>(S<sub>3-4</sub>, S<sub>4</sub>, S<sub>11</sub>,S<sub>18</sub>, S<sub>26</sub>) and bedroom (bed, cushions) in S<sub>3</sub> (S<sub>3</sub>;S<sub>19</sub>)

Only one case of hyponymy is found in the extract: That is clothes (housecoat and sundress) in S<sub>47</sub> (S<sub>23</sub> and S<sub>44</sub>)

Features of collocation are pointed out in this text. These include:

Bedroom, bed, sleep, door, built in (S<sub>3</sub>,S<sub>4</sub>,S<sub>18</sub>), work, hard, overworked, help in (S<sub>6</sub> S<sub>7</sub>,S<sub>10</sub>), scarf, braids in(S<sub>20</sub>), Hear, voice, ear, listen in (S<sub>4</sub> , S<sub>6</sub>), groceries, cooking, cooler, sandwiches, fridge in (S<sub>17</sub>,S<sub>32</sub>,S<sub>37</sub>,S<sub>38</sub>), smile, sensed, mood in (S<sub>42</sub>) and families, children, father, husband in (S<sub>31</sub>,S<sub>43</sub>,S<sub>46</sub>,S<sub>59</sub>).

## Discussion and Interpretation of findings

The different findings regarding the cohesive features in the two selected texts have been summarized in table 1 below:

Table 1  
Cohesion types in the two excerpts

Cohesive Features	Text1						Text 2					
	Reference	ANA	CAT	EXO	HOM	DEM	COM	ANA	CAT	EXO	HOM	DE M
Frequency	48	49	01	01	29	13	93	11	04	04	35	04
Percentage	34.04 %	34.75%	0.71%	0.71%	20.57 %	9.22 %	61.59%	07.28 %	2.65%	2.65%	23.18 %	2.65%
<b>Total</b>	<b>141(100%)</b>						<b>151(100%)</b>					
Conjunction	ADD	ADV	CAU		TEM		ADD	ADV	CAU		TEM	
Frequency	01	03	04		00		05	01	00		04	
Percentage	12.50%	37.5%	50%		00%		50 %	10%	00 %		40 %	
<b>Total</b>	<b>08(100%)</b>						<b>10 (100%)</b>					
Lexical cohesion			REI			COLL			REI			COLL
Frequency	REP	SYN	ANT	MER	HYP		REP	SYN	ANT	MER	HYP	
	42	07	03	03	04	07	73	05	04	03	01	08
Percentage	63.6 %	10.61 %	4.55 %	4.55 %	6.06 %	10.61 %	77.66 %	5.32 %	4.26 %	3.19 %	1.06 %	8.51 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>66(100%)</b>						<b>94(100%)</b>					

From the table above, it appears that text 1 contains 141 reference items distributed as follows: 01 homophoric reference (i.e. 0.71%), 01 exophoric reference (0.71%), 13 comparative references (9.22%), 29 demonstrative references (20.57%) and endophoric reference which consists of 48 anaphoric references (34.04%) and 49 cataphoric references (34.75%). As it appears, endophoric references rank first in the extract under study, almost equally distributed into the two sub-categories, viz: anaphoric and cataphoric.

This first extract displays a total number of 7 head items. However 02 chains are more significant as they span almost the entire extract. These two head items are “I” (Simbiyat Adisa) in S<sub>5</sub> and Kazeem in S<sub>19</sub>. So, the extract is mainly constructed around these 02 participants. In fact, Simbiyat Adisa is bargaining with Kazeem about drug business. In the first long chain, “I” and its variant “my”, “she” and its variant “her” and you refer to the referent “I” (Adisa). Likewise, in the second long chain, “he” and its variants “him”, “his” and “I” refers to the participant Kazeem.

Because of the very few number of homophoric and exophoric references in this extract, they can be viewed as almost non-existent. Nevertheless, “the sun” in S<sub>24</sub> as homophoric reference can be retrieved only through a context of culture, while the only exophoric reference item “their” can be retrieved from the immediate context of situation.

Dealing with the conjunctive items, table 1 shows a total number of 08 conjunctive items identified and distributed as follows: 01 additive conjunction (12.50%); 03 adversative (37.5%); 04 causal (50%) and 00 temporal (00%). From the foregoing, it clearly appears that the dominant category of conjunction is that of causal. Thus, it can be inferred from this that extract one is, to a great extent, about indicating reason, purpose and result, which is an illustration of the use of written mode by the writer. The most used causal item in the extract mainly focuses on providing reason. Causal conjunctions are followed by adversative conjunction, indicating that the extract secondly raises the oppositional adversative points through the use of “but” and “though”. Additive conjunction ranks third in the extract, meaning that the writer does not concentrate too much on adding new points to what has gone before. Nevertheless, there is a single additive conjunction through the use of “and” in S<sub>24</sub>.

The third category of conjunctive features is the lexical cohesion. As indicated in table 1, extract 1 is made up of 66 lexical cohesion items. Out of the 66 items, the first subcategory, reiteration consists of 42 repeated items (i.e., 63.66%), 07 synonyms (10.61%), 03 antonyms (4.55%); 03 cases of meronymy (4.55%) and 04 cases of hyponymy (6.06%), showing that there are 59 occurrences of reiteration; the second subcategory, i.e., collocation is less predominant: 07 (10.61%). The most repeated item in the extract is “five”. It is repeated 05 times: S<sub>5</sub>, S<sub>18</sub>, S<sub>19</sub>, S<sub>32</sub> and S<sub>46</sub>. It is then followed by “more” which is repeated 04 times in S<sub>4</sub>, S<sub>40</sub>, S<sub>48</sub> and S<sub>48</sub>. Then comes “pay” repeated 03 times in S<sub>4</sub>, S<sub>40</sub>, and S<sub>48</sub>; “says” also mentioned three times in S<sub>5</sub>, S<sub>29</sub>, S<sub>49</sub>, and “room” repeated also three times in S<sub>7</sub>, S<sub>14</sub> and S<sub>17</sub>. As a matter of fact, the field of the extract can be deduced from its major string(s) (Halliday and Hasan, 1985/1989, Eggins 1994). Basing on the basic lexical string(s) in the extract, one can say that the extract develops an aspect of bargaining because of the item “five”, “pay”, “more”, “says”.

As for the second extract, it is made up of a total number of 151 reference items. Obviously, they are not evenly distributed. Out of the 151 items, there are only 04 homophoric reference items (2.65%), 4 exophoric reference items (2.65%). Endophoric reference items are distributed into 11 cataphoric references (7.28%) and 93 (61.59%) anaphoric references. There are 35 items of demonstrative references (23.18%), while only 04 comparative reference items have been used (2.65%). As it appears in the table, anaphoric reference is the most dominant followed by demonstrative reference. Cataphoric reference ranks third while homophoric, exophoric and comparative references rank equally fourth.

As far as conjunctions are concerned, there are 10 in this extract, distributed as follows: additive: 05 (50%), adversative 01 (10%), causal 00 (00%) and temporal 04 (40%). Thus, additive conjunctions are the most predominant in this category in the second extract, followed by the temporal and the adversative conjunctions. Causal conjunctions rank last. Such a distribution shows that the second extract mainly concentrates on giving additional information to what has been mentioned by using the conjunctive items *and* however, it also raises some aspect of opposition through the use of the adversative conjunctions “but”. It then focuses on showing some sequences of events through the use of the temporal conjunctions “then”, “as”, “when” and “after”. Here, the extract does not provide any reason or consequence or even purpose for there is no presence of causal conjunction within it.



Lexical cohesion is the third aspect of cohesive features studied in the second text. In fact, out of the 94 items, 73 belong to the category of repetition (77. 66%), 05 belong to the category of synonymy (5. 32%); there are 04 antonymy (4. 26%); 03 meronymy (3. 19%) and 01 case of hyponymy (1. 06%) and 08 instances are of collocation (8. 51%). In other words, reiteration, made of repetition, synonymy, antonymy, meronymy and hyponymy ranks first: 86 (91.49%). The most repeated lexical item is “to say”. It is repeated six times: S<sub>6</sub>, S<sub>7</sub>, S<sub>8</sub>, S<sub>51</sub>, S<sub>56</sub>, and S<sub>66</sub>. It is followed by “Mrs Darego” and “to go”. Mrs Darogo is repeated in S<sub>5</sub>, S<sub>7</sub>, S<sub>16</sub>, S<sub>28</sub> and S<sub>44</sub> whereas “to go” occurs in S<sub>2</sub>, S<sub>14</sub>, S<sub>31</sub>, S<sub>33</sub> and S<sub>43</sub>. Then comes “day”, “Dr Darego” and “children”, all repeated 4 times: “Day” in S<sub>1</sub>, S<sub>21</sub>, S<sub>32</sub>, and S<sub>58</sub>; “Dr Darego” in S<sub>2</sub>, S<sub>6</sub>, S<sub>9</sub> and S<sub>28</sub>, “children” in S<sub>38</sub>, S<sub>46</sub> and S<sub>62</sub>. It is important here to note that these lexical items refer to the field or area of focus of the extract.

#### 4. Conclusion

Form these findings, one can say that the lexical choices made by the writer especially those related to time and places such as “room” or “bedroom” in the first extract and “this morning” “barbecue”, “basement”, “upstairs” etc... in the second extract as well as the use of anaphoric reference types throughout the two texts adds to the field and experiential meaning of the piece of writing. Most of the participants used anaphorically are personal, showing that there are features of prose fiction in the selected passage. In addition, there is more to be saying through these findings beyond these features. In fact, in the usual way of using pronouns, the antecedent comes before the pronoun. That is what the writer mostly follows in her texts, especially in the second text. Nevertheless, the high frequency of cataphoric reference in the first extract shows that the writer simply wants to arouse reader’s curiosity concerning the sequence of events accounted for. By doing so, she is obliged to keep track of the reading until when the reader is able to identify the referent. Nevertheless, the use of anaphoric reference compared to that of exophoric and homophoric reference throughout the two extracts implies that these extracts draw mainly from situational and cultural context. The various reference chains are cohesive because they contribute to the thematic and metaphorical meanings the two texts are making (Eggins, 2004).

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