Cohesion and Coherence

 in Text Linguistics
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Cohesion

Ulla Connor defines cohesion as "the use of llanguage devices to signal relations between sentences and parts of texts." These cohesive devices are phases or words that help the reader associate previous statements with subsequent ones. In *Cohesion in English*, M.A. Halliday and Ruqaiya Hasan identify five general categories of cohesive devices that signal coherence in texts:

1. reference
2. ellipsis
3. substitution
4. Transitions
5. connectors

A text may be cohesive without necessarily being coherent: Cohesion does not spawn coherence. "Cohesion," Connor writes, "is determined by lexically and grammatically overt inter-sentential relationships, whereas coherence is based on semantic relationships."

Cohesion: the integrity of the structure of the text

Coherence

Coherent texts make sense to the reader.Van Dijk (p. 93) argues convincingly that coherence is a meaning property of a text formed through the interpretation of each individual sentence relative to the interpretation of other sentences, i.e. between the text and the reader.

Coherence: the integrity of the meaning