

DISCOURSE ANALYSIS – CHAPTER TWO: COHESION VS. COHERENCE

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LECTURE OUTLINE

- Lead-in activity 7, page 43
- Lead-in activity 8, pages 44, 45
- Cohesion vs. coherence
- Exercise pages 48,49

LEAD-IN ACTIVITY 7, PAGE 43

- Identify cohesive devices in the text.

The following text is invented. In fact, it is made up of sentences from different texts. Yet it has some superficial features of cohesion. Can you identify these? Do the texts cohere?

Hale knew, before he had been in Brighton three hours, that they meant to murder him. They made a dreadful row in the morning when it was feeding time. With a team of officials he went about inspecting the place this morning. No wonder reviewers have singled it out for special acclaim.

- Does the text make sense?

LEAD-IN ACTIVITY 8, PAGES 44,45

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Police discovered two 12 ft tall cannabisa)He is married to Antonia Fraser.
plants in a greenhouse when they raided ab)There are mulberries being trod over the floors.
house at Wokingham, Berkshire. c)Chew thoroughly before swallowing. | |
| 2. Memory allocation error,
3. Harold Pinter was born in London in 1930.
4. Please write firmly,
5. There's nothing worse than coming
Home to find plants in the greenhouse dead
from the cold. | d) Cannot load COMMAND, system halted.
e) Two people were taken into custody.
f) This sturdy British-made paraffin
heater will safely keep the chill off
your garage or greenhouse for up to 14
days. |
| 6. Take one to four tablets daily.
7. Please wipe your shoes clean on the
mat. | g) You are making six copies. |

COHESION VS. COHERENCE

COHESION

Internal properties of a text
(Cohesive devices: reference,
conjunction, ellipsis,
substitution, lexical cohesion)

COHERENCE

Contextual properties
(*con-text*)

Two aspects of coherence:

- Situational coherence
- Generic coherence

EXERCISE, PAGES 48,49

Describe situations in which the following exchanges would make sense (Bolitho & Tomlinson, 1995, pp. 50-53).

(a) *A: It's nearly seven*

B: Yes, I know. I'm just going to ring him now.

(b) *A: The grass needs cutting.*

B: It's nearly ten o'clock.

A: He'll wait.

B: Like last week and the week before.

A: The Robinsons are coming tomorrow.

B: It's starting to rain now anyway.

(c) *A: Shall we stop for a while?*

B: If you want.

A: The Cow's quite good, isn't it?

B: If you say so.

A: We met your friend Jane last time, didn't we?

B: My mother will be worried.