



THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS ON SUBSTITUTION

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Abstract

This article explores the theoretical foundations of substitution as a key cohesive device in discourse and text linguistics. Substitution is examined as a lexico-grammatical mechanism that functions to avoid repetition and ensure textual cohesion by replacing one linguistic element with another. It is examined different types of substitution and illustrates how substitution operates at the grammatical and lexical levels rather than purely at the level of meaning. By emphasizing the distinction between substitution and reference, the paper contributes to a deeper understanding of cohesion and its significance in text construction and discourse analysis.

Key words: Linguistics, substitution, oral speech, diminutiveness, grammatical devices, cohesion, repetition.

Аннотация

В данной статье рассматриваются теоретические основы замещения как ключевого средства обеспечения связности текста в дискурсивной и текстовой лингвистике. Замещение рассматривается как лексико-грамматический механизм, функционирующий для предотвращения повторений и обеспечения связности текста путем замены одного языкового элемента другим. Рассматриваются различные типы замещения и иллюстрируется, как замещение действует на грамматическом и лексическом уровнях, а не только



на уровне значения. Подчеркивая различие между замещением и референцией, статья способствует более глубокому пониманию связности и ее значения в построении текста и дискурсивном анализе.

Ключевые слова: Лингвистика, замещение, устная речь, уменьшительная форма, грамматические средства, связность, повторение.

Introduction

Cohesion can be created in a text through various means and its significance may vary depending on its grammatical function within a sentence. According to the theory of the renowned English scholars M.A.K. Halliday and Hasan, grammatical cohesive devices are always identified and analyzed within the text. They classify grammatical cohesive devices into four main categories: reference, ellipsis, substitution, and conjunctions.

Substitution is one of the widely observed phenomena in linguistics and exists in almost all languages. Since substitution is used more extensively and more frequently in some languages than in others, the methods of substitution may differ from language to language. It is considered a type of grammatical cohesive device and has been studied by many scholars over the years, with numerous academic studies devoted to its analysis. Substitution is a type of grammatical cohesive device that maintains lexical-grammatical relationships between sentences or clauses within a text. It is used as a means to replace a specific element instead of repeating it and realized through a substituting word or clause. Substitution has a structural function in that it stands in place of a word or a sentence. It can occur at different levels-word, phrase, clause, and even in entire texts. One of the vital function of substitution is to avoid repetition, condense the message, and make it clearer for the reader. Another function is to link sentences without presenting information in a disorganized manner.



Literature Review and Methodology

When reviewing the theories related to the phenomenon of substitution, it becomes evident that many well-known scholars have conducted and continue scientific research on these phenomena up to the present day. **Substitution** is the phenomenon of replacing one unit with another element that is equivalent to it. A word or a clause is omitted, but instead of being left out entirely, it is replaced with another word. According to the theories of the well-known grammarians **Halliday and Hasan**, substitution is considered one of the foundations of textual cohesion and represents the second type of grammatical cohesive device, that is a form of textual linkage. Substitution can achieve textual coherence within the context in which it is used, as it depends on the system of contrasts between the substituting and substituted elements and is based on the general relationship between them¹. This helps establish consistency among different parts of the text, and text linguists regard this confirmed interdependence as essential.

The theories of linguist **Beaugrand** indicate that substitution represents a connection between two components of a text or between two textual worlds, enabling the activation of a shared information structure distributed between the first and the second. In this relationship, the first element is one of the substitutable elements, while the second replaces it².

As a grammatical device, substitution was also studied by the well-known linguist Whitehall, who emphasizes the existence of two grammatical devices. The first is referred to as selection, while the second is widely known as substitution. The linguist identifies two types of substitution. The first type is “**parallel substitution**,”

¹ Cohesion in English: Halliday, M.A.K. and Hasan, Longman, London, 1976.

² Introduction to Text Linguistics: De Beaugrand and Dressler, Ilham Abu Ghazaleh, and Ali Khalil Muhammad, Nablus Computer Center, Dar Al-Kitab Press, 1, 1413 AH – 1992 AD.



which is sometimes used as substitution. The second type is **systematic substitution**. This type of replacement is regarded as a special class of substituting words that correspond to full words and empty words. Linguist Collins defines substitution as follows: “Substitution is a grammatical device that has two forms. The first is “pure structural substitution,” which ensures flexibility in the process of communication, while the second form helps to avoid repetition through the use of shortened units.³”

In the process of conducting this study, various methods were employed. Primarily, the topic of the article was thoroughly explored using analytical, synthetic, observational, and linguistic methods, as well as descriptive and comparative-historical approaches.

Analysis and Results

The word “**substitution**” originates from the Latin verb “**substituere**”, which means to place one element or means in place of another. It is translated as *replacement* and is used to avoid repeating a word or phrase. In English, this is expressed through substitute words such as “**so, one, did, do,**” and in Uzbek through words like “**u**” and “**shunday.**” We can study this concept in more detail through the following example:

The flower seller cries, “Red flowers, red flowers, come and buy ones and present her.” - In this sentence, the word “*ones*” is used in place of “*red flowers*” to avoid repetition. *The flower seller said: “Red flowers, red flowers, come and buy them and present them to her.”* - In this example, the pronoun “*them*” is used instead of the phrase “*red flowers.*”

³ Collins S. Cobuild English Guides: Linking Words (Collins Cobuild English)



In order to avoid repeating a word that has been used in a sentence, we often use another word that can easily convey the meaning of the original one. A device that clearly illustrates this is substitution, for example, using another word to replace a previously mentioned noun, as can be seen in the following example: *Poor little rabbit! It was such a little one* - in this example, the word “one” is used in place of the word “rabbit.”

When we talk about replacing one element with another, we mean substituting one word or phrase with another word or phrase. Substitution can be described as a relationship at the lexico-grammatical level. It is used to avoid repeating a particular element. However, when cohesion is achieved through substitution, semantics is also involved.

The clearest and simplest examples of substitution are the words “yes” and “no,” both of which are capable of representing long sentences and indicating the sequence of statements within a text. In other words, substitution within a text performs the function of replacing one element with another. This is not a relationship of meaning, but rather a relationship within linguistic form; that is, substitution represents a relationship between linguistic units. From the perspective of the language system, cohesion is a relationship at the semantic level, whereas substitution is a lexical-grammatical relationship-a relation at the level of grammar and vocabulary, or a linguistic form. Substitution is primarily a form of discourse relation limited to the text itself. This can be examined in more detail through the following examples:

My axe is too blunt. I must get a sharper one.

You think Joan already knows? I think everybody does.

In these examples, the word “one” is used in place of “axe,” and “does” is used to represent “knows.”



Substitution is a replacement device, and it is frequently used because repeating the same word or phrase too often may negatively affect the structure of a text.

For

example:

“Would you like a cup of coffee?” – Yes, I would like a cup of coffee.

If there is no emphasis on the word *would*, this is not considered a natural substitution. However, when the response is: *“Yes, please. I’d love one,”* this represents an appropriate substitution, where the word **“one”** is used instead of the phrase *“a cup of coffee.”*

Conclusion

Substitution plays a significant role in ensuring cohesion within a text by functioning as a lexico-grammatical device that replaces previously mentioned elements and prevents unnecessary repetition. Based on the theoretical framework of M.A.K. Halliday and Hasan, substitution is distinguished from other cohesive mechanisms such as reference, ellipsis, and conjunction, as it operates primarily at the level of grammar and vocabulary rather than solely at the semantic level. The analysis demonstrates that substitution contributes to textual continuity, clarity, and economy of expression, especially in spoken and written discourse. Understanding the theoretical foundations of substitution not only deepens insight into the nature of textual cohesion but also enhances the analysis of discourse structure and effective language use.

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