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Cohesion



Cohesion

“Cohesion refers to the relations of meaning that exist within the text... It occurs where the interpretation of some element in the text is dependent on that of another”

Halliday and Hasan (1976)

Cohesion is the lexical and grammatical linking within a text/sentence that holds the text/sentence together.

Two broad ways of achieving it:

- 1) Lexical cohesion & 2) Grammatical cohesion

Lexical cohesion

It is achieved by the selection of vocabulary.

It is achieved in four ways:

1. Repetition
2. Synonym
3. Superordinate
4. Opposite

What keeps me cohesive?

The people of this country aren't stupid. They know when politicians are lying to them. They know when newspapers are not giving them the full picture. They know when company directors on huge salaries are trying to make them feel guilty for wanting a decent living wage. And they know when their schools and hospitals are falling apart for lack of money.

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The people of this country aren't stupid. **They know when** politicians are lying to them. **They know when** newspapers are not giving them the full picture. **They know when** company directors on huge salaries are trying to make them feel guilty for wanting a decent living wage. And **they know when** their schools and hospitals are falling apart for lack of money.

Word/Structure repetition

What keeps me cohesive?

Merocaine contains two carefully selected ingredients that provide powerful and rapid relief when a severe sore throat strikes. The first is benzocaine, a strong anaesthetic agent that quickly relieves the pain in your throat. The second is cetylpyridinium chloride, a powerful anti-bacterial agent that in clinical tests has been shown to destroy up to 99 percent of bacteria in the mouth and throat.

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Merocaine contains two carefully selected ingredients that provide powerful and rapid **relief** when a severe sore **throat** strikes. The first is benzocaine, a strong anaesthetic **agent** that quickly relieves the pain in your **throat**. The second is cetylpyridinium chloride, a powerful anti-bacterial **agent** that in clinical tests has been shown to destroy up to 99 percent of bacteria in the mouth and **throat**.

Repetition of words (bolded) and repetition of patterns (underlined)

What keeps me cohesive?

Most groundwater for domestic, industrial or agricultural use is meteoric groundwater, i.e. groundwater derived from rainfall. The word meteoric comes from the same root as ‘meteorology’ and implies recent contact with the atmosphere. As we shall see later, the chemistry of meteoric groundwater changes during its passage through rocks. The modification of meteoric groundwater in its passage through the ground is an important part of groundwater chemistry.

What keeps me cohesive?

Most **groundwater** for domestic, industrial or agricultural use is **meteoric groundwater**, i.e. **groundwater** derived from rainfall. The word **meteoric** comes from the same root as ‘**meteorology**’ and implies recent contact with the atmosphere. As we shall see later, the **chemistry** of **meteoric groundwater** changes during its passage through rocks. The modification of **meteoric groundwater** in its passage through the ground is an important part of **groundwater chemistry**.

Repetition of key words

What keeps me cohesive?

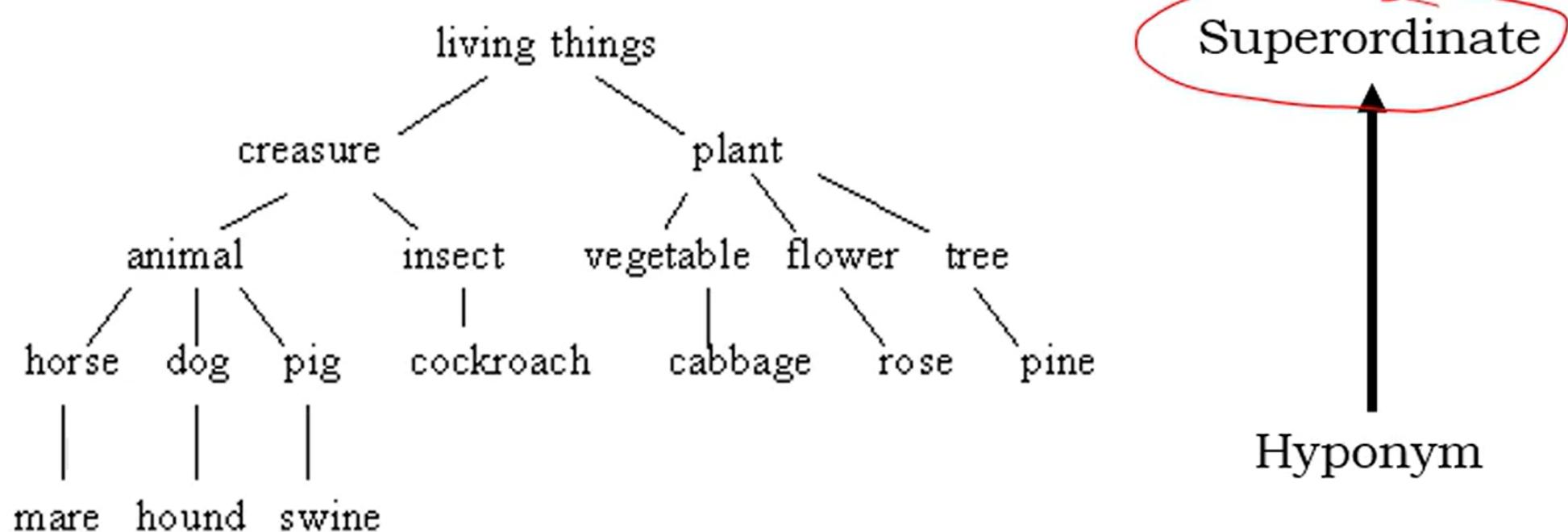
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What keeps me cohesive?

The chemistry of meteoric groundwater changes during its passage through rocks. The modification is an important part of groundwater chemistry.

The chemistry of meteoric groundwater changes during its passage through rocks. The modification is an important part of groundwater chemistry. (**use of referential synonym**)

Hyponym and Superordinate



Dogs were the first domesticated **species**.

Check the difference

The **country**, with her two-crop economy, was even more severely hit by the Depression than other Latin American states and **Brazil** was on the verge of complete collapse.

Brazil, with her two-crop economy, was even more severely hit by the Depression than other Latin American states and the **country** was on the verge of complete collapse.

Thumb rule: Hyponym comes first and then superordinate

Repetition, synonym and superordinate

He saw a **snake** under a bucket

The **snake** is going to suffocate if he doesn't let it go. (Repetition)

The **serpent** is going to suffocate if he doesn't let it go. (Synonym)

The **animal** is going to suffocate if he doesn't let it go. (Superordinate)

Fill in the blanks to complete!

The composition of living organisms is very different from **their surroundings**. Whereas the **environment** consists of **very simple** substances such as gases, water and mineral, living organisms are made up of **very complex molecules**.

Opposite

Fill in the blanks to complete!

The concept of Active Birth is based on the idea that the woman in labour is an **active** birth-giver, not a _____ patient. So instead of **lying down uncomfortably** for doctors and nurses to do things to you, you _____ _____ _____ as and when you wish. This means that you are not _____ to a labour bed or a birth chair but are **free** to move around on the floor or in the shower.

Check your options!

The concept of Active Birth is based on the idea that the woman in labour is an **active** birth-giver, not a **passive** patient. So instead of **lying down uncomfortably** for doctors and nurses to do things to you, you **move around comfortably** as and when you wish. This means that you are not **restricted** to a labour bed or a birth chair but are **free** to move around on the floor or in the shower.

Grammatical cohesion

It is achieved by the selection of grammatical items.

It is achieved in four ways:

1. Reference
2. Substitution
3. Ellipsis
4. Conjunctions (transition words/phrases)

1. Reference

Reference occurs when one item in text points to another element for its interpretation.

1. Anaphoric: to the preceding text

Zero is living alone. **His** wife left **him** for 9 years.

2. Cataphoric: to the following text

He's a superstar, **he**'s the best in **his** era. Let's welcome.. Justice Birbal!

Types of reference

- Personal Reference: reference by means of **persons**
 - Personal pronouns: he, she, it, they, you, I (subjective), him, her, them, you, me (objective), his, her, your, their, my, its (possessive)
- Demonstrative reference: reference by **location** and **proximity**.
 - this, that, these, those
- Comparative reference: reference by **difference** or **similarity**.

Eg: I think **this dress is too dark** for my skin. Can I have the **lighter** but **similar** in design, please?