

An Analysis of Reference as a Grammatical Cohesive Device in the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres' Speech in Kuwait in 2018

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Abstract

This research aims to investigate the personal, demonstrative, endophora, exophora and comparative references used by the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. The study has applied descriptive and qualitative approach based on Halliday and Hassan (1976) to the speech of the United Nations Secretary-General. The speech, delivered on 14th February 2018 in Kuwait, was used especially for the purpose of the numerical analysis of different types of references as a sub-branch of grammatical cohesive devices. The research has studied the use of endophorics (anaphora and cataphora), personal, demonstrative, exophora, and comparatives by investigating the frequency of their occurrence. This current research finds that the demonstratives are the most frequently used by Guterres. This is followed by personal pronoun references and endophoric references respectively, while exophorics and comparatives are equally used in the speech and are the least frequent types.

Keywords: Antonio Guterres, cohesive devices, comparative reference, demonstrative reference, endophora, exophora, grammatical cohesion

1. Introduction

The objective of the current research paper is to examine the different types of reference as used in a speech by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on 14th February 2018 in Kuwait, namely, personal reference, endophoric reference (anaphora and cataphora), demonstrative reference, exophoric and comparative reference. Personal references are references made through the various categories of a person in a speech situation. A demonstrative reference is one that is based on place and closeness; it expresses through determiners and adverbs. Endophoric reference can be achieved by using a word or a phrase to refer to something either preceding or following it by pointing backwards or pointing forwards. Exophoric reference requires the listener or reader to look outwards from the text, whereas adjectives and adverbs are used to indicate comparative reference, which is used to compare elements within a text according to similarity or identity. The reason for analysing this speech is that Antonio Guterres holds a position of power on both the local and international forums.

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Speech is a form of communication that has the power to persuade others, and it has a direct impact on the audience as formed by public figures because of their considerable influence on society. This research has focused on the use of linguistic structure, especially grammatical cohesive devices in Antonio Guterres' speech delivered in Kuwait.

Discourse is a continuous flow of language, especially spoken language, that is longer than a sentence, as Crystal stated (1992). Schiffrin (1994) defined discourse analysis as a branch of linguistics that studies linguistic units such as text and conversation at levels above the sentence. The term discourse, according to Yule (2010), refers to language that goes beyond a single sentence. As a result, a text can be held together by grammatical and lexical cohesion. Additionally, Halliday and Hasan consider reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction, and lexical coherence as examples of cohesive ties.

The linguistic structure is referred to as a grammatical cohesive device. The sentence, according to Halliday and Hasan, is the highest structural unit in grammar (1976). In addition, a reference is simply the case in which one element cannot be semantically comprehended without referencing another element in the text. In linguistic or situational texts, referring terms are employed to refer to things using comparatives, demonstratives, pronouns, and articles (Bloor and Bloor 2013).

A referencing expression, (Hurford *et al.* 2007) puts it, is one that refers to something from a person or things that are used with a specific reference in mind. Furthermore, (Levinson 1983) said that discourse deixis involves the possibility of referring from one utterance backwards or forwards to others.

Halliday and Hasan (1976) define references as expressions that relate to other terms in the text for their interpretation and the source of the interpretation may also be textual elements. Moreover, references can be interpreted in two ways: endophora (textual) and exophoric (situational). Anaphora and cataphora are the two different types of endophoric connections. Anaphora is the assumption of something that has gone before, whereas cataphora is the assumption of an element moving in the opposite direction.

Referring something in the text with pronouns and other terms is known as reference. The reader must comprehend terms like pronouns and articles because they do not have their own meanings, (Wisniewski 2006). Similarly, reference, according to Yule (1996), is an act where a speaker or writer applies linguistic devices to help a listener or reader recognize something.

It would be crucial to analyse a valuable speech based on its linguistic content. Additionally, Language plays a significant role in the study of political speech and its effect on the structure of how it conveys and communicates meaning to listeners. It emphasizes that language is essential to human activity, such as political speech and debates (Yule and Brown 1983).

2. Review of Literature

Salkie (1995) divided reference into three different categories, including comparative pronouns, demonstratives, and personal pronouns. Moreover, pronouns do not have enough information on their own to identify a referent, although they are commonly used in language without difficulty. Pronouns are

semantically under-informative forms that must receive their interpretation from the surrounding context (Fedele and Kaiser 2014).

Adetunji (2006) analysed the three different types of deixis personal, temporal and spatial as used by President of Nigeria Olusegun Obasanjo and found that the deictic centre is nearer the first person plural *we* than the singular *I*, whereas the deictic *I* preponderates because the speaker speaks from a personal point of view.

El Saj's (2012) analysed the personal pronouns in Oprah Winfrey's speech with Queen Rania and observed that *I* and *you* were the pronouns that appeared most frequently in Oprah's utterances compared to other personal pronouns.

Purnamawati (2012) analysed the referential cohesion in the novel *My Mother My Self*, and pointed out the three different types of referential cohesion appear, personal references, demonstrative references, and comparative references. Regarding the use of personal references that occur in the novel the following observations have been made: *I*, *you* and *they* are the personal references used, and the comparative references occurring in the novel are *else*, *other*, *more* and *so*, whereas the demonstrative references that appeared are *this* and *that*.

The use of location deixis by Timor Leste's Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao was the subject of a 2016 study by Bouk. The following observation has been remarked on the use of place deixis: *here* and *this* indicate that the Prime Minister wanted to introduce his country to the rest of the world.

To establish a textual link, Dang (2020) examined the occurrence and the usages of grammatical cohesive devices in Vietnamese and English newspapers. The outcome shows that editorials in both Vietnamese and English use all four types of grammatical cohesiveness but, these devices are not used equally. Based on the given results, it can be inferred that many reference devices were most frequently used, whereas ellipsis was utilized in editorials in both Vietnamese and English with an unbalanced frequency.

Nazulai and Wulandari (2020) analysed the lexical cohesion in Donald Trump's speech at the General Assembly. The results revealed that 80 pieces of information were discovered, of which 36 repetitions, 10 synonyms, 2 general words, 3 superordinates, 10 collocations, 5 hyponymies, 6 antonyms, and 27 anaphora, there were neither cataphora nor metonymy in this research.

Panggabean and Khatimah (2022) examined anaphoric and cataphoric references in the novel entitled *The Kite Runner's* by using Yule's theory of pragmatics. The outcome of the analysis shows that the novel contains 19 anaphoric and 9 cataphoric references.

3. Methodology

This research is descriptive and qualitative. Therefore, the technique used is to gather the data from Guterres' speech, to classify and analyse them. The political speech's efficacy encouraged the researcher to analyse the categories of reference (personal, demonstrative, endophoric, exophoric, and comparative) as the linguistic features that appeared in the speech most frequently.

Table 1: The references in Guterres' speech.

Type	<i>Personal pronouns</i>	<i>demonstratives</i>	<i>endophora</i>	<i>exophora</i>	<i>comparatives</i>
Frequency	55	64	28	1	1
Percentage	36.9 %	42.9%	18.7%	0.7%	0.7%

From Table 1 we can conclude that all kinds of references appear in Guterres' speech. The most frequently used reference was the demonstrative reference (64 times), whereas the least frequent types were exophoric and comparative references.

Table 2: Frequency of personal pronouns.

Type	<i>I (my)</i>	<i>You (your)</i>	<i>It (its)</i>	<i>We (our)</i>	<i>They (their, them)</i>
Frequency	14	5	14	7	15
Percentage	25.4 %	9 %	25.4 %	12.7 %	27.2 %

The frequent usage of personal pronouns with their possessives can be seen by looking at Table 2.

Table 3: Frequency of demonstratives.

Type	<i>This</i>	<i>That</i>	<i>These</i>	<i>Those</i>	<i>The</i>
Frequency	3	1	1	5	54
Percentage	4.6 %	1.5 %	1.5 %	7.8 %	84.3 %

Table 3 shows that Guterres has used the demonstrative *The* (54 times) more frequently than other demonstratives (10).

Table 4: Frequency of endophora (anaphora & cataphora).

Type	anaphora	cataphora
Frequency	25	3
Percentage	89.2 %	10.7%

By observing Table 4 on the use of endophoric reference shows that Antonio Guterres has used more anaphoric references.

Table 5: Frequency of exophora and comparatives.

Type	exophora	comparatives
Frequency	1	1
Percentage	50%	50%

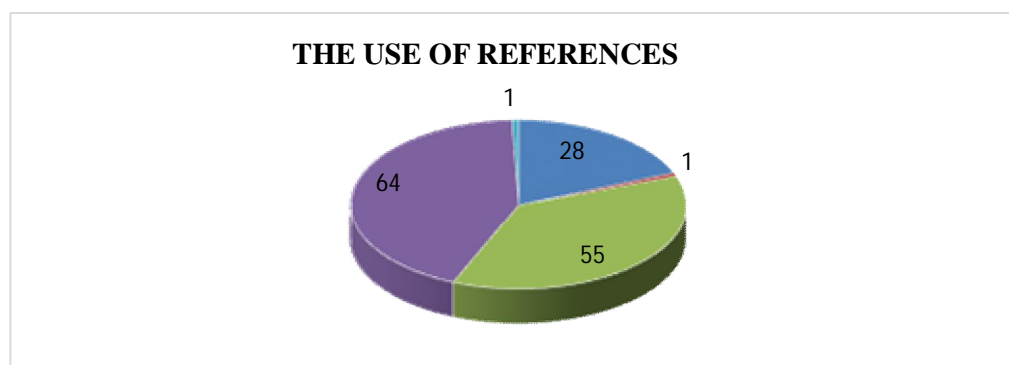
Table 5 provides that the Secretary-General has made one use of each of the exophoric and comparative references.

4. Results

The major goal of the part that follows is to examine the conclusions drawn from the analysis of the data on the usage of the various types of references, including personal, demonstrative, endophoric, exophoric, and comparative references in the Secretary-General's speech.

4.1 Analysis of references

Since Guterres speaks in his official capacity as the United Nations Secretary-General, each of his statements is formal, and numerous references, including personal, demonstrative, endophoric, exophoric, and comparison references, were used throughout the speech.



personal, demonstratives, endophora, exophora and comparatives

Diagram 1: Uses of references, including personal, demonstrative, exophoric, and comparative ones.

The comparison of each reference type used by Antonio Guterres is shown in the pie chart above (1), including personal, demonstrative, endophora, exophora and comparatives. We can therefore say that the comparatives and exophora have all been utilized less frequently than demonstratives (64) personal pronouns (55) and endophora (28), respectively.

4.2 Analysis of personal pronouns

Analysing the personal pronouns Guterres utilized in his speech is the main goal here.

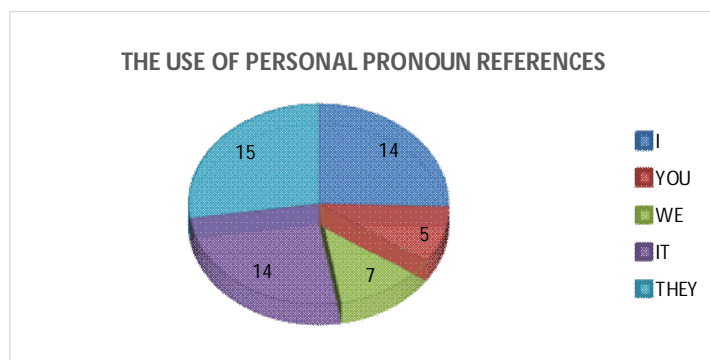


Diagram 2: Uses of personal pronouns in the speech

As shown by Diagram 2 on the use of personal references shows that Antonio Guterres has used the pronouns *they*, *I*, *it*, *we*, and *you* with their possessives (55 times) for example, *I-Today, I would like to reiterate my appreciation and thanks.*

4.3 Analysis of demonstratives

The main purpose here is to analyse demonstratives that were found in Guterres' speech.

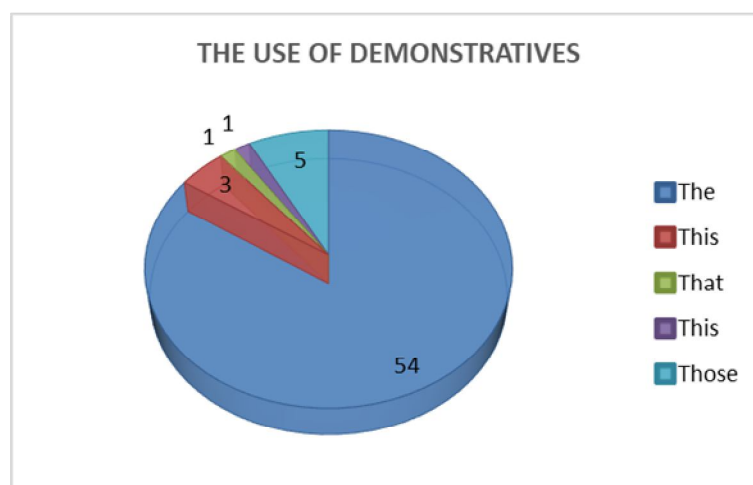


Diagram 3: Uses of demonstratives

Diagram 3 illustrates where the different categories of demonstrative references appeared in the General Secretary's speech. The article *the* occurred more number of times (54) than the other demonstratives namely; *this*, *that*, *these* and *those* for example,

*I- **This** requires national and international development programmes to prioritize training and jobs for Iraq's young women and men.*

4.4 Analysis of endophoric references (anaphora and cataphora)

Analysing the General Secretary's use of the two endophoric reference kinds (anaphoric and cataphoric) is the major goal here.

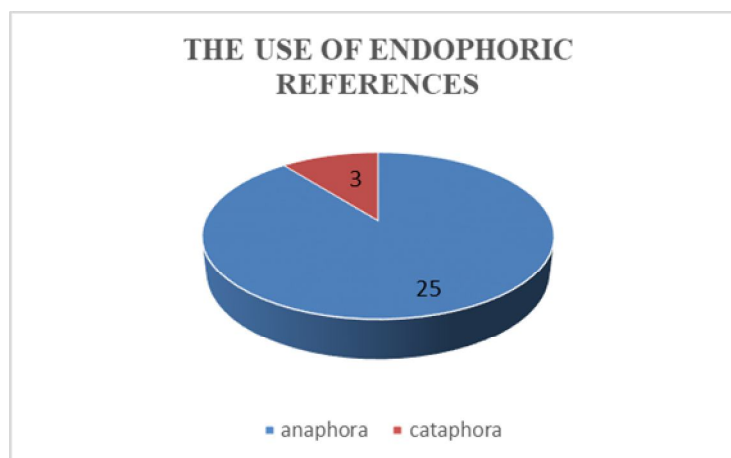


Diagram 4: Uses of endophoric reference (anaphoric and cataphoric)

When it comes to the number of times Guterres has used endophoric references, Diagram 4 will show that he has used them 28 times for example,

A. Anaphora (looking backward)

*Tens of thousands of Iraqis have lost **their** lives. Hundreds of thousands have lost **their** homes and livelihoods.*

B. Cataphora (looking forward)

*The whole world owes **you** a debt for your struggle against the deadly global threat posed by Daesh. It is time to demonstrate our lasting gratitude and solidarity with the **Iraqi people**.*

4.5 Analysis of exophorics and comparatives

The major goal here is to analyse the exophorics and comparatives that have been used by the General Secretary.

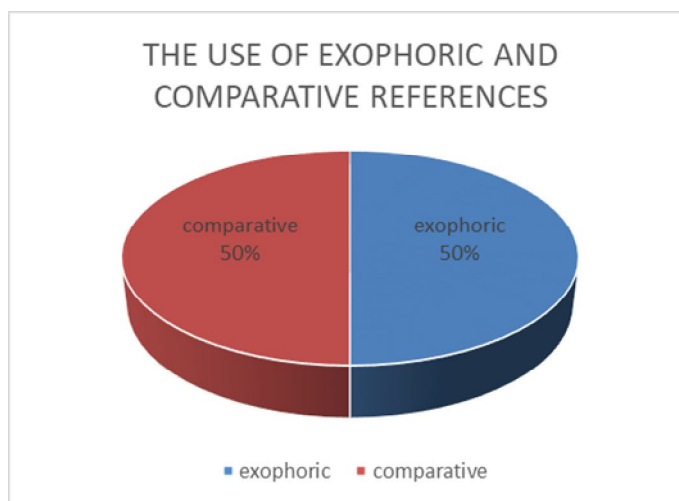


Diagram 5: reveals the exophoric and comparative references that were used in the General Secretary's speech. The two types have appeared equally in his speech for example,

*I-This two-year programme is designed to help **the Government** fast-track the social dimensions of reconstruction.*

5. Discussion

The speech examined is, obviously, formal; the speaker is the General Secretary of the United Nations, thus he didn't leave any parts of the sentences out so that the audience might infer the meaning for themselves. Also, he meticulously constructs his phrases without leaving room for any misunderstandings in his addresses, which deal with serious topics.

Table 6: The total frequency of each type of reference.

Type	demonstrative	personal	endophora	exophora	comparative	Total
Frequency	64	55	28	1	1	149
Percentage	42.9%	36.9 %	18.7%	0.7%	0.7%	99.9%

The most common types of references were demonstrative references, followed by references using personal pronouns, endophoric references come next, while comparative and exophoric references were the least frequent categories with roughly equal frequencies.

Table 7: The use of personal pronouns.

The pronoun	Frequency	Percentage
<i>I (my)</i>	14	25.4%
<i>you (your)</i>	5	9.2%
<i>It (its)</i>	14	25.4%
<i>We (our)</i>	7	12.7%
<i>They (their, them)</i>	15	27.2%
Total	55	99.9%

The above table shows that the personal pronouns (*I*, *they* and *it*) were used more frequently in the speech than the pronouns (*you* and *we*), which were less frequently.

Table 8: The frequency of demonstratives.

The demonstrative	Frequency	Percentage
The	54	84%
This	3	4.6%
That	1	1.5%
These	1	1.5%
Those	5	7.7%
Total	64	99.4%

Table 3 indicates that the General Secretary has used the article *the* most number of times (54), whereas the frequency of occurrence of the other demonstratives (*those*, *this*, *that* and *these*) are 5, 3, 1 and 1 respectively.

Table 9: The frequency of endophorics (anaphora and cataphora).

Type	Frequency	Percentage
Anaphora	25	89%
Cataphora	3	11%
Total	28	100%

Anaphoric references were employed more frequently (25 times) than cataphoric references, according to Table 4, which compares the two forms of endophoric references (3). He has repeatedly made reference to things that require looking forward rather than things that require looking back.

Table 10: The frequency exophora and comparatives.

Type	Frequency	Percentage
Exophora	1	50%
Comparative	1	50%
Total	2	100%

Exophoric and comparative references both appeared once in his speech. This indicates that Guterres gave the same importance for exophoric and comparative references.

6. Conclusion

The study looked at the different types of references employed by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his speech in Kuwait, including personal, demonstrative, endophora, exophora, and comparative references. The speech of Guterres which was delivered on 14th February 2018. We summarized that demonstrative references were repeatedly used 64 times (42.9%), followed by personal

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pronoun references (36.9%). Then, follows the endophoric references (18.7%), whereas the least occurring types were exophoric and comparison references with once each.

It is noteworthy that 149 references have been used by Guterres. This indicates how carefully he used references to ensure that neither the audience nor readers who might read his speech in the media would misunderstand or misinterpret him. His mastery of referencing improved the precision and clarity of every statement he made throughout his formal speech delivered amidst learning, politically significant audience. His preference to point via language in the speech than using frozen and impersonal pronouns as references is shown by the increased use of demonstrative and personal references.

Referring to demonstrative references, Guterres had used them 64 times out of 149 times the total occurrence with the percentage of (42.9%). Moreover, the article *the* has the most number of times (54), whereas the occurrence of the other demonstratives *those*, *this*, *that* and *these* are 5, 3, 1 and 1 respectively.

The personal references were used 55 times (36.9%) . The pronouns *they*, *I*, *it*, *we* and *you* with their possessive references were used 43, whereas *we* and *you* were the least frequently used pronouns appearing only 12 times, out of the five personal pronouns the researcher examined, *They* was the pronoun that Guterres used the most in his speech (15 times). The pronouns *he* and *she* did not appear at all.

Out of 28 times of the total usage of endophoric references (anaphora and cataphora) by Guterres (18.7%), out of which 25 times were for anaphoric reference and 3 times for the cataphoric reference. Moreover, Guterres has repeatedly referred to things that are looking backward than the items which need looking forward.

With relation to the speech's usage of exophoric and comparison references, they were appeared equally. This shows that Guterres gives the equal significance for exophoric reference and comparative reference.

Finally, Antonio Guterres, the United Nations' general- secretary, might be able to convince the listeners to agree with his assertions and he has delivered the issues and the challenges in such a way that they accepted his point of view. This is accomplished through the skillful and effective use of strong and powerful language, for instance; demonstrative references, anaphora, cataphora, exophora and comparatives as grammatical cohesive devices.

تحليل الإشارات كأحد أنواع التماسك النحوي في خطاب الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة
انطونيو غوتيرش في الكويت عام ٢٠١٨

حتمل عودة الخالدي
قسم اللغة الإنجليزية والترجمة، جامعة عمان العربية، الأردن

الملخص

هدفت الدراسة إلى تحليل الإشارات بأنواعها الخمسة: إشارات الضمائر الشخصية، إشارات أسماء الإشارة، الإشارات السابقة واللاحقة، الإشارات الخارجية وإشارات المقارنة، في خطاب الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة بتاريخ ٢٠١٨-٢-١٤ في دولة الكويت. ولتحقيق هدف الدراسة، حلّل الباحث عدد التكرارات لكل من هذه الأنواع في خطاب انطونيو غوتيرش. إذ توصلت الدراسة إلى أن الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة انطونيو غوتيرش استخدم إشارات أسماء الإشارة بالدرجة الأولى ثم جاءت في الدرجة الثانية إشارات الضمائر الشخصية وفي المرتبة الثالثة جاءت الإشارات السابقة واللاحقة، وأخيراً تساوت كل من الإشارات الخارجية وإشارات المقارنة بعدد مرات الاستخدام في الخطاب التي بلغت ١٤٩ تكراراً في مجملها.

الكلمات المفتاحية: انطونيو غوتيرش، إشارات الضمائر الشخصية، إشارات أسماء الإشارة، الإشارات السابقة واللاحقة، الإشارات الخارجية وإشارات المقارنة، التماسك النحوي.

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Appendix

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