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Conjunctions as Cohesive Devices in Some Selected Animated Movies: A Discourse Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Animated movies are one type of movies that are presented for children and they are classified according to their age. G- Rate movies, for example, are suitable for pre-school age, PG- Rate movies are for school age and P- Rate movies are for teenagers. These movies are created by computer and shown as a series of different movements of people, animals and objects.

The use of conjunctions in children's movies is important and help children in connecting different units and clarifying the meaning of the text, and thus, they are considered as one of the important cohesive devices in making unity. The present study aims at finding out the types of conjunctions and investigating the most dominant conjuncts in four selected animated movies. These movies are from two different rates, G and PG movies. G- Rate movies include 'The Little Mermaid' and ' Princess'; and PG-Rate movies are' Moana' and 'Frozen'.

Many studies, like, (Clark, 1973, Bloom, 1980, Vygotsky, 1962 and etc…) have observed that the use of connectives is an important point of developing children's cohesive skills and they use conjunctions, for example, and, because, and etc…., before 6 years but after this age the semantic meaning and production of conjunctions are obvious (Joseph and etal. 1996: 160-161).

According to these studies, the researcher hypothesizes that conjunctions are one of the important linguistic feature to be investigated and they are used more in PG-rate movies than in G- rate because this rate is presented for school-age and in this period children's language is developed and the use of conjunctions is more than in the period of pre-school. Furthermore, in this period children tend to connect ides and like to ask a lot of questions to get more information about different topics, but in pre-school age, children tend to use simple language and they focus on one idea. So, the use of conjunctions in G-rate movies will make the movie in somehow difficult. Therefore, literary works are created and presented according to children's age to be easy, useful and interesting at the same time.

To achieve the aim of the study, the researcher follows Halliday and Hassan (1976) model in analyzing the selected data. The researcher uses a descriptive qualitative and quantitative method to give a clear description and explanation about conjunctions as cohesive devices in

the selected data. The researcher uses Python program to show numbers and frequencies of conjunctions.

The findings of this study reveal that there are 824 occurrences of conjunctions in PG-Rate movies and 724 conjunctions in G-Rate movies, and thus, indicates that PG movies have the higher number and percentage of conjunctions. The occurrences cover different types of conjunctions, additive, causal, adversative and temporal conjunctions.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Text

To Halliday and Hasan (1976: 1-2) "a text is not something that is like a sentence, only bigger; it is something that differs from a sentence in kind. A text is best regarded as a semantic unit: a unit not of form but of meaning". They signal that a text makes a unity in meaning and present a message to readers and listeners. According to Brown and Yule (1985:190) a text can be spoken or written communicative events, such as, prose, verse, articles, newspapers, stories and etc.

Tanskanen (2006:7) indicates that a text consists of a group of sentences but not all sentences present a text. A text must have texture which is presented by the grammatical and lexical cohesive components that link various elements of the text such as, reference, ellipsis, conjunction, substitution, and collocation

Conjunctions

Conjunctions are defined and studied from different scholars in the field of linguistics. Conjunctions are grammatical terms that are used in linking words, phrases and sentences (Crystal, 1985: 66). Conjunctions are considered as cohesive elements which are different from other cohesive devices or elements. They have both connective and semantic relations between different grammatical units (Halliday, 1985:325).

Conjunctions are close -items which are not used in deriving other new words. Conjunctions are not expandable by adding affixes to generate more grammatical classes. Conjunctions are words that are used in order to link other words that have the same form-class, for instance, pronouns to pronouns, phrase to phrase, or clause to clause (Leech & Syertvik, 1994 :204).

In speaking and writing conjunctions are used to present different alternatives, to make contrast, to show conditional sentences, to present addition, to join two events over a period of time, and etc… (Leung, 2005:2005).

1. Types of Conjunctions

Scholars have different opinions on the classification of conjunctions. Traditionally, conjunctions are divided into three classes: coordinating, correlative and subordinating conjunctions. To Lester (1990: 65) conjunctions are of two types: subordinating and coordinating. He considers correlative conjunctions as a subclass of coordinating conjunctions.

Murthy (2007:212) classifies conjunctions into four classes: coordinating, subordinating, correlative

and compound conjunctions. coordinating which are linking words that classified into three subclasses: copulative, adversative and alternative conjunctions. subordinating conjunctions are used in complex sentences to join two clauses, dependent and independent clauses. The use of this class of conjunction, for example, because, if, before, when, while, in order to, and etc… makes the clause after them dependent and they can be at the beginning or at the end of sentences. Clauses with subordinate conjunctions cannot stand alone and they depend on the appearance of the independent clause. Correlative conjunctions include: not only…but also, either... or, both…and, such.... that, and etc. They are used to link elements of the same class and we can say that they are similar to coordinating but they consist of two pairs.

Quirk & Greenbaum (2004: 313) add that compound conjunctions as group of words which are used for the purpose of linking elements. They also consider this class as a subclass of coordinating conjunction since they have the same function, such as: as much as, as well as, rather than, in order to, rather than, in order that, so that, and etc.

According to Halliday and Hasan (1976: 226-227) conjunctions are fundamental elements in the construction of discourse cohesion which represent “conjunctive relations”. They also describe conjunctions as "a cohesive device" and they focus on their grammatical function in relating different linguistic elements not on the semantic relations.

Halliday and Hasan (Ibid) identify four type of conjunctions: additive, adversative, casual and temporal. The first type of conjunctions links two types of item and they are used in presenting new information, such as, and, else, and as well. They also present similarities, for example: similarly, in the same way, in a like manner, equally, likewise, along the same lines and etc. Additive conjunctions are subclassified into simple additive relations, such as and, and also, nor, neither, either, and or. Complex additive relations which include, moreover, decides that, in addition, by the way, in the same way, by contrast and etc.…(Ibid).The second type of conjunctions is the adversative conjunctions, for example: yet, however, in fact, instead. This type of conjunctions introduces information that present corrections, conflict, concession, or contradiction. The third type is the causal conjunctions which is signaled by words such as, hence, therefore, because, as a result, and in this regard. Causal conjunctions introduce information that show results of different events. Causal conjunctions indicate the relation between

sentences that signal cause, effect, reason, result, or purpose. And finally, the temporal conjunctions, such as, first, at last, next, previously, and simultaneously. (Ibid).

DATA ANALYSIS

In this section, the researcher analyses four movies by giving a specific analysis for each movie showing the number and frequencies of English conjunctions and then make a general analysis for conjunctions to make a comparison between them by dividing them into G and PG animated movies.

Specific Analysis

In this section each movie is analyzed to show the numbers and types of conjunctions as they are found in the texts.

1. The Little Mermaid

This table shows a high percentage of conjunction typically that additive conjunctions (54.14%), but small percentage of conjunction is temporal conjunction which have the number and percentage of (8, 3.49%). For example:

(1) "The world above is a wonderful place but everyone knows the true magic lies under the sea"

(2) "You're very kind and an open heart."

(3) "This is so exciting so I can wave down."

Table (1) Conj in The Little Mermaid

Additive Conj			Adversative Conj			Causal Conj			Temporal Conj		
Conj	No.	%	Conj	No.	%		No.	%	conj	No.	%
And	68	54.83	Yet	6	13.63	So	24	45.28	After that	1	12.5
Not	23	18.54	Though	1	2.27	Then	7	13.20		4	50
Or	9	7.25	Only	6	13.63	Therefore	1	1.88	Finally	1	12.5
That's	22	17.74	In fact	1	2.27	For	20	37.73	At last	2	25
I mean	2	1.61	Actually	1	2.27	Because	1	1.88	first		
			But	26	59.09						
			Anyway	2	4.54						
			At least	1	2.27						
Total	124	54.14	Total	44	19.21	Total	53	23.14	Total	8	3.49
Total Conj		229		100							

2. Princess

Table (2) presents the number and percentage of the different types of conjunctions in this movie. First, it shows a high percentage of conjunctions typically that additive conjunctions which have the number and percentage of (261, 52.72%) and small number and percentage of conjunctions is temporal conjunctions with the number and percentage of (24, 4.84%). For example:

(4)"All your dreams come true because I love you."

(5) "He had love and that's all I want for you."

(6) ''That's what all that fumbling was about before you get hurt."

Table (2) Conj in Princess

Additive Conj			Adversative Conj			Causal Conj			Temporal Conj		
Conj	No.	%	Conj	No.	%		No.	%	Conj	No.	%
And	170	65.13	Yet	3	4.10	So	53	38.68	Next	4	16.66
Not	44	16.85	Though	3	4.10	Then	7	5.10	At the same time	1	4.16
Or	9	3.44	Only	11	15.06	For	66	48.17		4	16.66
Else	1	0.38	In fact	1	1.36	because	11	8.02	Soon	1	4.16
Also	1	0.38	Actually	2	2.73				Next time	6	25
Besides	3	1.14	But	50	68.49					1	4.16
That is	31	11.87	At least	1	1.36				Finally	7	29.16
I mean	2	0.76	anyway	2	2.73				At last		
									First		
Total	261	52.72	Total	73	14.74	Total	137	27.67	Total	24	4.84
Total Conj	495										

3. Moana

In the table below there is 329 conjunctions, 191 are additive conjunctions, 52 are adversative conjunctions, 73 are causal conjunctions and 13 are temporal conjunctions. For example,

(7) "This tradition is our mission and Moana there's so much to do."

(8) "As long as we stay on our very safe island, will be fine."

(9) "The village may think I'm crazy or say that I draft too far."

Table (3) Conj in Moana

Additive Conj			Adversative Conj			Causal Conj			Temporal Conj		
Conj	No.	%	Conj	No.	%		No.	%	conj	No.	%
And Not Or Else Also That is I mean	111 147 53 321 1	58.11 24.60 2.61 1.57 1.57 10.99 0.52	Yet Only Actually But Rather At least Anyway	26 2 39 1 1 1	3.84 11.53 3.84 75 1.92 1.92 1.92	So Then For Because	31 1 29 12	42.46 1.36 39.72 16.43	Next Soon Next time At least First	33 1 15	23.07 23.07 1.36 1.36 6.84
Total	191	58.05	Total	52	15.80	Total	73	22.18	Total	13	3.95
Total Conj	329										

4. Frozen

As shown in the table below the total number of conjunctions in this movie is 495. Additive conjunctions have the number and percentage of (246, 49.96%), adversative conjunctions come with the number and percentage of (97, 19. 59%), causal conjunctions have the number and percentage of (126, 25.45%) and temporal conjunctions come with number and percentage of (26,5.25 %).,For example,

(10) "Split the ice apart and break the frozen heart."

(11) "The sky is awake, so I'm awake."

(12) "If you soon, let me know."

Table (4) Conj in Frozen

Additive Conj			Adversative Conj			Causal Conj			Temporal Conj		
Conj	No.	%	Conj	No.	%		No.	%	Conj	No.	%
And	133	54.06	Yet	1	1.03	So	50	39.68	Soon	3	11.53
Not	41	16.66	Though	1	1.03	then	10	7.93	Finally	5	19.23
Or	31	12.60	Only	18	18.55	For	55	43.65	At last	2	7.69
Else	2	0.81	In fact	1	1.03	because	11	8.73	First	16	61.53
Also	2	0.81	Actually	4	4.12						
By the way	1	0.40	But	66	68.04						
That is	26	10.56	At least	2	2.06						
I mean	9	3.65	Anyway	4	4.12						
On the other hand,	1	0.40									
Total	246	49.96	Total	97	19.59	Total	126	25.45	Total	26	5.25
Total Conj			495								

General Analysis

Conjunctions in PG-rate movies are used widely than G-rate movies. Its number is 824.Additive conjuncts are the most frequently used in G-movies. Its percentage is 53.17%. causal conjuncts are also used more in G but not as much as the additive. Its percentage is (26.24%). Adversative conjunctions have the highest number and percentage in PG- rate movies. Its percentage is 18.08%. The last type of conjunction is Temporal which has the lowest percentage than the other previous types, in both G and PG movies, its percentage is 4.41% and 4.73%.

Table (5) Conj in G-rate & PG- rate Animated Movies

G-Rate Movies			PG-Rate Movies		
Type of Conj	No.	%	Type of Conj.	No.	%
Additive	385	53.17	Additive	437	53.03
Adversative	117	16.16	Adversative	149	18.08
Causal	190	26.24	Causal	199	24.15
Temporal	32	4.41	Temporal	39	4.73
Total	724	100	Total	824	100

CONCLUSION

The study gets the following conclusions:

Conjunctions are not the only means that realize cohesive relations. They signal logical relations in a text and help the reader connect different units and paragraphs to show the meaning of the text, and thus, they are regarded as one of the important cohesive devices that form text unity.

In this study, the researcher gets a positive hypothesis since the result of the analysis prove it and the researcher concludes that in children's animated movies, all types of conjunctions (additive, adversative, causal and temporal) are used and presented in G and PG- Rate movies. The occurrence of conjunctions is suitable to children's language development.

Conjunctions in PG-rate movies are used widely than in G-rate movies. Its number is 824.

Additive conjuncts are the most frequently used in G-movies. Its percentage is 53.17%.

Causal conjuncts are also used more in G but not as much as the additive. Its percentage is (26.24%).

Adversative conjunctions have the highest number and percentage in PG- rate movies. Its percentage is 18.08%.

The last type of conjunction is Temporal which has the lowest percentage than the other previous types, in both G and PG movies, its percentage is 4.41% and 4.73%.

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