

# *Analysis of an Essay Waiting from the Perspective of Cohesion Devices*

Tao Yuanyuan

*Xi'an Jiaotong University City College*

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**Abstract:** This paper is to use the cohesive devices to analyze an essay *Waiting in The Most Beautiful English*, which told us a love story from the perspective of a third person. For the reason that it's a descriptive essay, it is near the nature and beyond much limitation, what's more, the language is simple, but the feeling given to people is dignified and lamentable.

## 1. Introduction

Cohesion is “the network of lexical, grammatical, and other relations which provide links between various parts of a text” (Halliday and Hasan,1976:4). “These relations or ties organize and, to some extent create a text, for instance by requiring the reader to interpret words and expressions by reference to other words and expressions in the surrounding sentences and paragraphs” (Halliday and Hasan, 1976:4). Cohesion can be divided into grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion. As for grammatical cohesion, there are four types: reference, substitution, ellipsis and conjunction. And each type has its own sub-types. As for lexical cohesion, there are four types: reiteration, collocation, instantial relation and discourse organizing words. Here, we'll mainly focus on the first two.

## 2. Analysis

This essay is taken from *The Most Beautiful English* edited by Ma Hua in 2008, telling us a touching love story.

The analysis of this essay shows how closely woven is in terms of both grammatical and lexical cohesion. The following table clearly shows the frequency distribution of the devices used in it.

## 3. Discussion

The passage chosen in this paper is a primarily informal essay, a descriptive one, which describes a love story, a very touching one. As is known an essay is to share the writer's feeling, or to share feelings of the one described in the essay. The most touching essay is to describe other's experience as a voice over (or narrator). The reason is that the voice over (narrator) can clearly observe how happy the protagonists are or how sad and how distressed.

Table 1 Data analysis

Grammatical cohesion devices:	Lexical cohesion devices
<p>Personal references: 45                      Nearly every line has a personal reference (references)</p> <p>Demonstrative references: 4                      Line 3: the                      Line 10: now                      Line 14: now                      Line 18: the                      Line 21: the</p> <p>Comparative references: 2                      Line 7: so quickly                      Line 13: at least</p> <p>Clausal references: 3                      Line 9: away from                      Line 11: amidst                      Line 22: on the earth</p> <p>Substitution: 1                      Line 24: one (for people)</p> <p>Ellipsis: 6                      Line 5: “hint” is omitted after “another”                      Line 5: “to say his love to her” are omitted after “encourage him”                      Line 6: “of love to her” are omitted after “his own thought”                      Line 23: “break the ice” are omitted after “waiting for you to”                      Line 25: “waiting” is omitted before “for me what”                      Line 26: “waiting” is omitted before “for you to break the ice”</p> <p>Conjunction: 4                      Line 2: and                      Line 5: after                      Line 9: however                      Line 12: yet                      Line 13: nevertheless                      Line 17: but</p>	<p>Hyponymy: 1                      Line 2: the relationship between “conservative” and “shy” and “introverted”</p> <p>Synonyms: 3                      Line 12: melancholy                      Line 14: sadness                      Line 17: misery</p> <p>Repetition: 4                      Line 4 and line 12: look                      Line 9 and line 13: the eve of                      Line 21 and line 23: expectation                      Line 23, line 25 and line 26: (waiting) for</p>

Table 1 shows clearly that lexical cohesion devices are not so popular in this essay. There is only one hyponymy: a superordinate “conservative” and two co-hyponyms “shy” and “introverted”. The

hyponymy used here is to express the two protagonists' characteristics, and implied an unhappy ending of the love story, because both of them will not brave enough to express their own feeling and love. There are three synonyms in the essay: melancholy, sadness and misery. "Melancholy" shows his feeling when he knows that she is going to marry someone else; "sadness" shows her feeling when she notices that he takes no action when she is going to marry someone else; "misery" shows his feeling of sadness to watch the girl he loves marry other people. There are four repetitions in the essay. "Look" is repeated for two times in line 4 and line 12 to show his love to her and his sorrow to see she will not be his wife. "The eve of" are repeated for two times to show her love to him, though she is going to marry someone else. "Expectation" is repeated for two times in line 21 and line 23. In line 21, it is to express her love to him after so many years and her eagerness to know what he is thinking all his life, and "expectation" in line 23 shows his love to her and his eagerness to meet her in the critical moment after so many years. In the last four lines "(waiting) for" are repeated three times to point out the theme of the essay and to show a pity, in other words, to show what a pity it is that the two protagonists can not be together in their life.

As for the reason that why there are so many grammatical cohesion devices instead of lexical ones in this essay, it is believed that, as a descriptive essay, especially one that described a touching love story, there's no necessary to look for attractive and beautiful words, what's near the nature is the most beautiful, as for this essay, common words such as personal references are much easier to touch readers.

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