The Present of Anaphoric and Cataphoric Reference in the Novel Entitled Persuasion by Jane Austen

by Luthfi Nasiroh Khoirun Nisa

The Present of Anaphoric and Cataphoric Reference in the Novel Entitled *Persuasion* by Jane Austen

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Abstract:*Language serves as a crucial instrument for shaping communication and fostering understanding across diverse contexts. Effective text organization can prevent misunderstandings, making a deep understanding of English text systems and structures essential. Discourse analysis, which examines language use in social contexts to create meaning and facilitate communication, is vital for appreciating the subtleties of language and the strategies employed by speakers and writers. This study focuses on the role of references within discourse. Using Jane Austen's Persuasion as a data source, this research applies Halliday and Hasan's (1976) framework to analyze the types of anaphoric and cataphoric references. Through a descriptive qualitative methodology and document analysis, the study identifies a higher frequency of anaphoric references compared to cataphoric ones. This analysis provides insights into Austen's storytelling techniques.*

Keywords*: Discourse Device, Anaphoric Reference, Cataphoric Reference, Novel*

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a powerful tool for shaping communication and fostering understanding across various contexts. However, organizing text effectively within these contexts can often lead to misunderstandings. To address this issue, a thorough understanding of English text systems and structures is essential for effective communication, both oral and written.

Discourse, as a field that explores how language is used in social contexts to create meaning, influence perception, and facilitate communication, can help mitigate these problems. Discourse analysis enhances sensitivity to the subtleties of language and the communication strategies employed by speakers and writers in diverse settings, including academia, mass media, and politics (Halliday, 1978). A key aspect of discourse analysis is the study of discourse devices or markers, such as references, which help structure both spoken and written discourse (Schiffrin, 1994).

References play a crucial role in guiding readers or listeners through discourse, establishing connections between ideas, ensuring continuity, and providing essential context for the information presented. In narrative texts, references are vital for maintaining coherence and clarity by linking elements such as characters, events, settings, and objects (Semi, 1990). Novels, as a quintessential form of narrative, transcend mere storytelling to profoundly influence readers (Popov & Booth, 1961). Jane Austen's novel "Persuasion,"

published in 1817, exemplifies this power through its exploration of romance and second chances. The narrative structure of the novel relies heavily on references to connect its thematic elements and characters, such as Anne Elliot and Captain Frederick Wentworth, across time and circumstance.

This study focuses specifically on anaphoric and cataphoric references in Jane Austen's "Persuasion," applying Halliday and Hasan's framework to analyze their types within the novel. By examining how these references operate within the narrative, this research aims to deepen insights into Austen's storytelling techniques and their impact on reader interpretation. In summary, exploring the intricacies of language through textual analysis and discourse studies enhances our understanding of how narratives like "Persuasion" utilize references to convey meaning and engage readers. Ultimately, this study contributes to the broader discourse on narrative structure and linguistic analysis, shedding light on the significance of references in shaping narrative coherence and interpretation.

2. LITERARY REVIEW

Previous studies, such as those by Hoda and Gorjian (2017), Asroriyah (2021), and Virdaus and Rifa'I (2022), have examined references in various texts using theoretical frameworks like Halliday and Hasan's (1976) classification of references into endophoric (anaphoric, cataphoric) and exophoric types. These studies provide a foundation for understanding how references function within different narratives, influencing coherence and meaning. This study focuses specifically on anaphoric and cataphoric references in Jane Austen's "Persuasion," applying Halliday and Hasan's framework to analyze their types within the novel. By examining how these references operate within the narrative, this research aims to deepen insights into Austen's storytelling techniques and their impact on reader interpretation.

Anaphoric Reference

Anaphoric reference refers to looking back to something mentioned earlier. Anaphoric reference is essential for ensuring coherence and cohesion in discourse, as it links various parts of the text and helps the information flow smoothly. This technique enables writers and speakers to avoid repetition while making their messages clear and comprehensible to the audience (Halliday and Hasan, 1976).

Cataphoric Reference

Cataphoric reference refers to looking forward. Cataphoric reference aids the reader or listener's comprehension by setting the stage for new information or ideas. It enhances the coherence and cohesion of discourse by indicating forthcoming references and helping to organize and streamline the flow of information in the text (Halliday and Hasan, 1976).

Personal Reference

According to Halliday and Hasan (1976), personal reference involves pronouns and other expressions that identify specific participants in discourse, such as "I," "you," and "they." This type of reference establishes relationships between speakers, listeners, and subjects, helping to clarify who is involved in the communication.

Demonstrative Reference

Demonstrative reference refers to words that indicate specific entities or ideas within a text, such as "this," "that," "these," and "those." This type of reference helps to direct attention to particular items, either in the physical context or in the discourse, thus contributing to coherence by clarifying which elements are being discussed (Halliday and Hasan,1976).

Comparative Reference

Comparative reference involves expressions that highlight similarities or differences between entities, often using terms like "same," "similar," "different," "more," and "less." This type of reference aids in making comparisons clear and contributes to the coherence of the discourse by linking ideas and concepts in relation to one another (Halliday and Hasan, 1976).

3. **METHODOLOGY**

This study applied a descriptive qualitative method. Qualitative methods are commonly employed in exploratory or analytical research, but they can also be utilized in other types of studies. Descriptive qualitative research produces data that depict the 'who, what, and where' of events or experiences from a subjective standpoint (Kim et al., 2017). This study applied document analysis as data collecting technique. Miles & Huberman (1994) define document analysis as a qualitative research method for gathering and examining information from written documents or existing texts. This method involves several stages: identifying pertinent data, selecting and emphasizing key elements, coding and categorizing information, conducting thorough analysis, and verifying and validating findings.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result of this study revealed that in the novel 'Persuasion' by Jane Austen applied the types of anaphoric and cataphoric reference categorized as personal, demonstrative and comparative reference. Out of the 102 instances of these references identified in the novel, the analysis indicated a greater prevalence of anaphoric references compared to cataphoric ones. The detailed findings are illustrated in the table below;

Types of Reference		Data Found in the Novel
Anaphoric Reference	Personal Reference	47
	Demonstrative Reference	20
	Comparative Reference	22
Cataphoric Reference	Personal Reference	9
	Demonstrative Reference	9
	Comparative Reference	2

The table provided highlights the various types of references identified in Persuasion. The data indicates that the novel features several categories of anaphoric and cataphoric references, including personal, demonstrative, and comparative references. However, among these, personal anaphoric references are the most frequently used or most commonly appearing type in the novel 'Persuasion' with 47 appearances. While, the least frequently present in the novel 'Persuasion' is the type of comparative cataphoric reference with 2 appearances.

Reference, as a key element of grammatical cohesion, plays a crucial role in a text. It involves "indicating" something that has been mentioned previously within the text (Derewianka, 2012). Reference is a fundamental aspect of cohesion, which encompasses five types of cohesive devices. Among these, anaphoric and cataphoric references are subtypes of endophoric reference. Anaphoric reference involves tracing a participant 'backwards' within the text to a referent that has already been introduced, thus becoming part of the text's system of meanings. In contrast, cataphoric reference involves tracking a participant 'forward' in the text, anticipating a referent that will be introduced later. Both anaphoric and cataphoric reference have categorized personal, demonstrative and comparative. Personal reference involves using pronouns and possessive determiners to refer back to entities previously mentioned in the text. Demonstrative reference uses

demonstratives and specific adverbs to indicate or point out elements within the text. Comparative reference, on the other hand, involves comparing items in the text to show either similarities or differences (Halliday & Hasan, 1976). Below is the detail data of the types of anaphoric and cataphoric references found in the novel Persuasion;

Anaphoric Reference

After analyzing the data, the researcher identified various types of endophoric reference. The first finding is Anaphoric Reference, which is divided into Personal, Demonstrative, and Comparative categories.

1. **Personal Reference**

This sentence is cited from chapter 1 page 7.

'Sir Water Elliot, of Kellynch Hall, in Someshire, was a man who, for his own amusement, never took up any book but the Baronetage;' (Ch.1/Pg.7)

This sentence is cited from chapter 1 page 7 in first paragraph performed by Narrator. In this sentence, the Narrator is introducing Sir Walter Elliot character. The word 'his' in "for his own amusement" is refer back to Sir Water Elliot. 'His' as a possessive pronouns and possessive determiners making this reference into a type of personal reference.

2. **Demonstrative Reference**

This dialogue is cited from chapter 18 page 220.

The context of the sentence is Mr. Shepherd's comment reflects his concern about the impending loss of Kellynch Hall due to Sir Walter Elliot's financial difficulties.

Mr. Shepherd: "… **This** peace will be all wanting a home…." (Ch.18/Pg.220)

This dialogue is cited from chapter 18 page 220 performed by character Mr. Shepherd. The word 'This' in "This peace" is refer forward to the situation of the place. 'This' as a demonstrative adverb making this reference into a type of demonstrative reference

3. **Comparative Reference**

This sentence is cited from chapter 13 page 155.

'A speedy cure must not be hoped, but everything was going on **as well as** the nature of the case admitted.' (Ch.13/Pg.155)

This sentence is cited from chapter 13 page 155 performed by Narrator. The word 'as well as' as a comparison construction in this sentence making this reference into a type of comparative reference.

Cataphoric Reference

After analyzing the data, the researcher identified various types of endophoric reference. The first finding is Anaphoric Reference, which is divided into Personal, Demonstrative, and Comparative categories.

1. **Personal Reference**

   This sentence is cited from chapter 4 page 36.

   'He was not Mr. Wentworth, the former curate of Monkford, however suspicious appearances might be, but a Captain Frederick Wentworth, his brother...' (Ch.4/Pg.36)

   A sentence uses "He" to introduce a character who will be more fully described in the subsequent text. This technique creates anticipation and directs the reader's attention to forthcoming details, building interest and maintaining narrative momentum. Austen's use of cataphoric references aligns with Halliday and Hasan's (1976) theory of cohesion, which describes how such references help manage the flow of information and maintain coherence within a text. Halliday and Hasan argue that cataphoric references prepare the reader for information that will be revealed later, thereby establishing a clear connection between different parts of the narrative. By introducing characters or elements with pronouns or descriptive phrases before fully identifying them, Austen effectively guides the reader's expectations and enhances the narrative's structure.

2. **Demonstrative Reference**

   This dialogue is cited from chapter 18 page 210.

   The context of the sentence is Sir Walter Elliot surprised to learn that the Crofts, who are renting Kellynch Hall, have arrived in Bath.

   Sir Walter: "What is this? The Crofts have arrived in Bath? The Crofts who rent Kellynch? What have they brought you?"

   Admiral: "A letter from Uppercross Cottage, Sir." (Ch.18/Pg.210)

   This dialogue is cited from chapter 18 page 210 performed by character Sir Walter. For instance, Austen uses "this", where "this" refers to a letter that will be described in detail in subsequent passages. By employing demonstrative pronouns in this way, Austen creates anticipation and guides the reader's focus toward forthcoming information.

3. **Comparative Reference**

   This sentence is cited from chapter 9 page 97.

'Mr Hayter had some property of his own, but it was insignificant compared with Mr Musgrove's.' (Ch.9/Pg.97)

This sentence is cited from chapter 9 page 97 performed by Narrator. The word 'compared' as comparison that will be detailed in subsequent passages. By employing these comparative terms cataphoric, Austen creates anticipation and prepares the reader for forthcoming information.

The data founds that in the novel 'Persuasion' uses several types of reference. However, personal anaphoric references are the most frequently used or most commonly appearing type in the novel 'Persuasion' with 47 appearances. While, the least frequently present in the novel 'Persuasion' is the type of comparative cataphoric reference with 2 appearances.

5. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This study demonstrates that references, particularly anaphoric and cataphoric, play a pivotal role in shaping narrative coherence in Jane Austen's Persuasion. The analysis revealed that anaphoric references, those that point backward to previously introduced elements are more prevalent than cataphoric references, which anticipate future elements in the text. By applying Halliday and Hasan's framework, this research highlights how references contribute to the text structure. The findings highlight in the Jane Austen's *Persuasion* applied various types of anaphoric references and cataphoric references including (personal, demonstrative, and comparative). Of the 102 instances analyzed, anaphoric references were used more frequently than cataphoric ones. This study not only enriches our understanding of Austen's literary techniques but also adds valuable insights to the field of discourse analysis, emphasizing the importance of references in constructing meaningful and engaging narratives.

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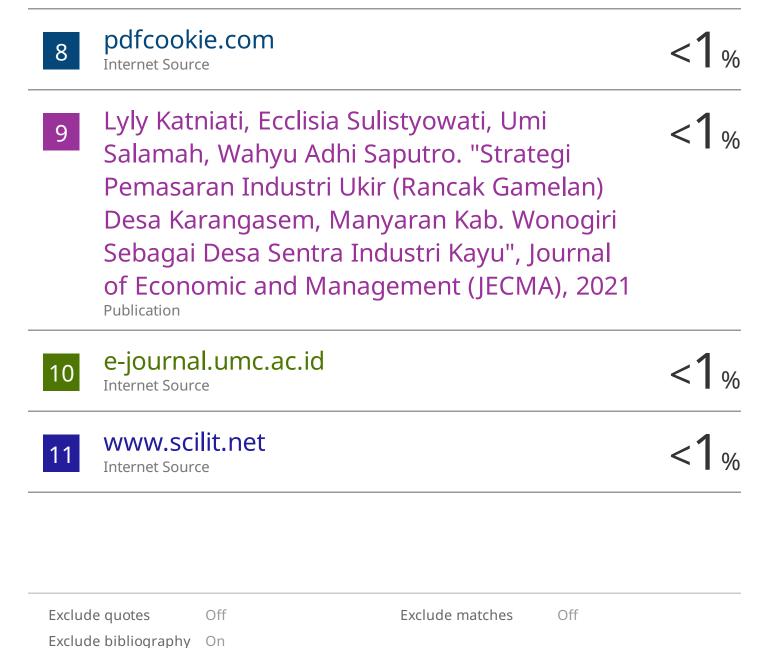
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