E-ISSN 2181-1466
9 772181 146004

ISSN 2181-6875
9 772181 687004

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Научный вестник Бухарского государственного университета
Scientific reports of Bukhara State University
1/2025

BUXORO DAVLAT UNIVERSITETI

BUXORO DAVLAT UNIVERSITETI ILMIY AXBOROTI

1/2025

BUXORO DAVLAT UNIVERSITETI ILMIY AXBOROTI
SCIENTIFIC REPORTS OF BUKHARA STATE UNIVERSITY
НАУЧНЫЙ ВЕСТНИК БУХАРСКОГО ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОГО УНИВЕРСИТЕТА

Ilmiy-nazariy jurnal
2025, № 1, yanvar

Jurnal 2003-yildan boshlab **filologiya** fanlari bo‘yicha, 2015-yildan boshlab **fizika-matematika** fanlari bo‘yicha, 2018-yildan boshlab **siyosiy** fanlar bo‘yicha, **tarix** fanlari bo‘yicha 2023-yil 29-avgustdan boshlab O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Oliy ta’lim, fan va innovatsiyalar Vazirligi huzuridagi Oliy attestatsiya komissiyasining dissertatsiya ishlari natijalari yuzasidan ilmiy maqolalar chop etilishi lozim bo‘lgan zaruriy nashrlar ro‘yxatiga kiritilgan.

Jurnal 2000-yilda tashkil etilgan. Jurnal 1 yilda 12 marta chiqadi.

Jurnal O‘zbekiston matbuot va axborot agentligi Buxoro viloyat matbuot va axborot boshqarmasi tomonidan 2020-yil 24-avgust № 1103-sonli guvohnoma bilan ro‘yxatga olingan.

Muassis: Buxoro davlat universiteti
Tahririyat manzili: 200117, O‘zbekiston Respublikasi,Buxoro shahri Muhammad Iqbol ko‘chasi, 11-uy.
Elektron manzil: nashriyot_buxdu@buxdu.uz

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UDC 1751

EXPLORING LEXICAL AND GRAMMATICAL COHESION IN O.HENRY'S «TWO THANKSGIVING DAY GENTLEMEN»

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Abstract. *This article reveals how the author skillfully binds various elements of the narrative to create a cohesive and engaging story. Both types of cohesion – grammatical and lexical serve to unify the text, enhance its readability, and underscore its themes. O. Henry's 'Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen' exhibits a rich use of both grammatical and lexical cohesion, which contributes to the unity and flow of the narrative. We have investigated how the author was able to integrate lexical cohesion with grammatical one in a sentence which leads in creating cohesive paragraphs.*

Key words: *grammatical cohesion, reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction, lexical cohesion, synonymy, autonomy, hyponymy, meronymy.*

O.GENRI «TWO THANKSGIVING DAY GENTLEMEN» ASARIDAGI LEKSIK VA GRAMMATIK MUVOFIQLIKNI O'RGANISH

Annotatsiya. *Ushbu maqolada muallif hikoyaning turli elementlarini mohirlik bilan bog'lab, yaxlit va qiziqarli voqeani qanday yaratganligi ochib beriladi. Kogesiyaning har ikkala turi – grammatik va leksik – matnni bir butun qilish, uning o'qilishi oson bo'lishi va mavzularini ta'kidlashga xizmat qiladi. O. Genrining 'Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen' asari grammatik va leksik kogesiyaning boy ishlatilishini namoyon etib, hikoyaning yaxlitligi va ravonligiga hissa qo'shadi. Biz muallifning leksik kogesiyani grammatik kogesiya bilan qanday uyg'unlashtira olganini va bu qanday qilib yaxlit paragraf yaratishga olib kelganini tahlil qildik..*

Kalit so'zlar: *grammatik kogeziya, referentsiya, sabstitutsiya, ellipsis, bog'lovchi, leksik kogeziya, sinonimiya, avtonomiya, giponimiya, meronimiya.*

ИЗУЧЕНИЕ ЛЕКСИЧЕСКОЙ И ГРАММАТИЧЕСКОЙ СВЯЗИ В ПРОИЗВЕДЕНИИ О.ГЕНРИ «TWO THANKSGIVING DAY GENTLEMEN»

Аннотация. *В данной статье раскрывается, как автор искусно связывает различные элементы повествования, создавая целостную и увлекательную историю. Оба типа когезии – грамматическая и лексическая – способствуют объединению текста, повышению его удобочитаемости и подчёркиванию его тем. Рассказ О. Генри «Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen» демонстрирует богатое использование как грамматической, так и лексической когезии, что способствует единству и плавности повествования. Мы исследовали, как автор смог интегрировать лексическую когезию с грамматической в пределах предложения, что приводит к созданию связных абзацев.*

Ключевые слова: *грамматическая когезия, референсия, сабституция, эллипсис, союзы, лексическая когезия, синонимия, автономия, гипонимия, меронимия.*

Introduction. Cohesion is a fundamental aspect of textual analysis, ensuring that a narrative remains structurally and semantically unified. It plays a crucial role in enhancing readability, guiding readers through the logical progression of ideas, and reinforcing the thematic integrity of a text. Broadly, cohesion is categorized into two main types: lexical cohesion, which involves the relationships between words, and grammatical cohesion, which pertains to syntactic and morphological connections within a discourse. Together, these cohesive elements contribute to the coherence of a narrative, enabling it to maintain fluency and structural consistency.

O. Henry, a renowned American short story writer, is celebrated for his masterful storytelling, rich character development, and unexpected plot twists. His short story *Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen* serves as an exemplary model of cohesive textual construction, demonstrating a sophisticated interplay between lexical and grammatical cohesion. Through carefully selected lexical choices, including repetition, synonyms, antonyms, hyponyms meronyms and collocations, alongside cohesive grammatical structures

such as reference, substitution, ellipsis and conjunctions, O. Henry crafts a compelling and seamless narrative that enhances the reader's engagement.

This study aims to explore how lexical and grammatical cohesion contribute to the structural integrity and narrative flow of *Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen*. By analyzing the cohesive devices employed throughout the text, this paper seeks to demonstrate how O. Henry integrates both lexical and grammatical cohesion to create a unified and engaging literary piece. Understanding these cohesive elements not only sheds light on the stylistic nuances of O. Henry's writing but also provides broader insights into the significance of cohesion in literary discourse. This analysis will contribute to a deeper comprehension of textual unity and coherence in literary studies, particularly within the framework of short story narratives.

Methodological basis. Cohesion, as a central concept in discourse analysis, plays a significant role in shaping the clarity and coherence of a text. Halliday and Hasan [3] pioneered the study of cohesion by distinguishing between grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion, both of which contribute to the structural and semantic integrity of discourse. Grammatical cohesion encompasses syntactic and morphological relationships within a text, including reference, substitution, ellipsis and conjunctions, whereas lexical cohesion pertains to semantic connections such as repetition, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, meronomy and collocation [3]. These cohesive mechanisms ensure that a narrative is perceived as a unified whole rather than a collection of disjointed sentences.

In literary studies, cohesion is a crucial aspect of stylistic analysis, as it helps reveal how authors construct meaning and achieve textual coherence. O. Henry's short story *Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen* exemplifies the interplay between lexical and grammatical cohesion in a literary context. The story's narrative fluency and thematic emphasis are reinforced by cohesive elements that guide readers through the text while maintaining engagement. Previous studies on cohesion in literary discourse [6] have emphasized the role of cohesive devices in enhancing text comprehension and stylistic analysis. By applying these theoretical perspectives, this study seeks to investigate how cohesion contributes to the narrative structure of O. Henry's work.

This research employs a qualitative textual analysis approach to examine the use of lexical and grammatical cohesion in *Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen*. The study is conducted in the following stages:

- Text Selection and Data Collection. The primary text for analysis is O. Henry's *Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen*, selected for its rich use of cohesive devices and its significance as a short story. The data collection process involves identifying and categorizing instances of both grammatical and lexical cohesion within the narrative.

- Analytical Framework**.** The analysis is guided by Halliday and Hasan's [3] model of cohesion, which provides a systematic classification of cohesive elements in discourse. The research focuses on two major categories, *grammatical cohesion*, including reference (personal, demonstrative and comparative), substitution, ellipsis and conjunctions. Lexical cohesion, encompassing repetition, synonyms, antonyms, hyponyms, meronoms and collocations that contribute to textual unity.

- Data Analysis and Interpretation**.** The collected data is examined to determine how O. Henry integrates lexical and grammatical cohesion to achieve narrative coherence. Each cohesive device is analyzed within its context to understand its function and contribution to the overall unity of the text. The findings are discussed in relation to existing literature on cohesion in literary discourse.

By applying this methodology, the study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how lexical and grammatical cohesion operate within *Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen*. This analysis not only enhances the interpretation of O. Henry's narrative style but also contributes to broader discussions on textual cohesion in literary and linguistic studies.

Results and Discussions. In O. Henry's story *Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen*, lexical and grammatical cohesion play an essential role in developing the narrative's themes of tradition, irony, and social expectations. Below we will examine how these forms of cohesion work together.

As we already mentioned above lexical cohesion refers to the way words and phrases are selected to create a unified text, often achieved through repetition, synonyms, or related words. In *Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen*, O. Henry uses specific lexical patterns to reinforce the cyclical nature of the Thanksgiving tradition and the interactions between the characters. The frequent use of words like "Thanksgiving," "gentlemen," and "feast" creates a lexical chain, emphasizing the central theme of the holiday and its associated traditions. For instance, "Thanksgiving" is repeated throughout the text, reminding readers of the setting and occasion, thus providing continuity. O. Henry uses synonyms and semantically related words to develop the theme of charity and tradition. Words like "custom," "duty," "habit," and "feeding" link the actions of the two main characters – the gentleman and the homeless man. These lexical choices help to underscore the cyclical nature of the Thanksgiving ritual, which the story satirizes. The contrast in lexical

choices between wealth and poverty also creates cohesion in the text. The gentleman is portrayed using terms that convey *dignity, generosity* and *tradition*, while the homeless man's descriptions evoke *hunger, poverty,* and *desperation.* This lexical dichotomy establishes the social disparity between the characters, which is essential to the story's ironic twist.

And what comes to grammatical cohesion, it is achieved through devices such as reference, ellipsis, substitution, conjunctions, which help bind the text structurally. Throughout the story, O. Henry effectively uses pronouns to maintain cohesion. For example, the gentleman is referred to as "he" consistently after being introduced. This repetition of pronouns helps keep the narrative focused and ensures clarity without constantly repeating the character's title or name.

Frequent use of conjunctions links actions and events smoothly, creating a sense of continuity in the narrative. Temporal conjunctions such as "then," "afterwards," and "finally" are used to structure the sequence of events that repeat year after year. These cohesive ties help the reader follow the passage of time and the recurring nature of the Thanksgiving Day meetings.

O. Henry occasionally omits redundant information to avoid repetition, particularly in the dialogue, where the gentleman and the homeless man engage in a well-rehearsed routine. This ellipsis reinforces the familiarity of their exchanges, signaling that the characters and their interactions are habitual, further binding the text.

We could witness how O. Henry skillfully combines lexical and grammatical cohesion to highlight the underlying irony of the story. The repetition of the Thanksgiving ritual (lexical cohesion) is mirrored in the syntactic patterns that reflect tradition and duty (grammatical cohesion). For example, the gentleman's annual "duty" of feeding the homeless man is echoed both in the choice of repeated lexical items like "duty" and in the structure of the sentences that describe his actions, which are formulaic and predictable.

Additionally, the parallel structures used to describe each year's Thanksgiving interaction between the two characters create a sense of cyclical inevitability, tying the story's sections together cohesively. Lexical repetition and syntactic patterns work together to underscore the irony: although the gentleman believes he is performing a charitable act out of tradition, the twist reveals the roles have reversed, with both characters trapped in the same repetitive ritual of giving and receiving. An example of the combination of lexical cohesion and grammatical cohesion in O. Henry's *Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen* can be found in the following passage, where the tradition of Thanksgiving is repeated year after year, forming the backbone of the story:

> *Every Thanksgiving Day for nine years, the Old Gentleman had come to this same corner where stood the Old Bencher. There he had found the Old Gentleman waiting, and led him to a restaurant and stuffed him full of a fat dinner.* O. Henry (1988:8)

Repetition of key words like "Thanksgiving Day," "Old Gentleman," and "stuffed" creates a cohesive link between the actions of each year's event, emphasizing the ritualistic and cyclical nature of this Thanksgiving tradition. The words "Old Gentleman" and "Old Bencher" are part of the same semantic field, referring to the two main characters. By continually using these specific terms, O. Henry links the characters to the ongoing tradition, which binds the narrative together.

What comes to grammatical cohesion the use of "he" refers back to the "Old Gentleman," avoiding repetitive noun phrases but still clearly linking to the character being discussed. The conjunction "and" ties together actions ("found," "led," and "stuffed") that the gentleman performs year after year, establishing a sequence of events that happen in a repetitive, cohesive cycle. In the phrase "where stood the Old Bencher," the verb "is" is omitted but implied, creating a smoother flow without unnecessary repetition. This grammatical structure allows the text to remain concise while still indicating the fixed presence of the "Old Bencher" at the corner each year.

The lexical repetition of terms like "Thanksgiving Day" and "Old Gentleman" reinforces the grammatical structure of the passage, which uses conjunctions and pronouns to create a flow of events over time. This combination underscores the ritualistic nature of the Thanksgiving meeting: year after year, the same actions are performed by the same characters in the same setting. Together, these cohesive devices contribute to the irony of the story, as the tradition is repeated in a way that becomes predictable and mechanical, leading to the final twist. The combination of lexical and grammatical cohesion mirrors the repetitive, unchanging nature of the Thanksgiving ritual, making the story feel both continuous and cyclical.

Here we will investigate a few examples of how O. Henry skillfully combines lexical cohesion with grammatical cohesion in *Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen.* The first example defines Thanksgiving ritual:

It was a thing that the Old Gentleman was thankful for every Thanksgiving: that he had been able to perform his simple duty. O. Henry (1988:8)

Repetition of words related to Thanksgiving: "Thanksgiving," "thankful," and "duty" are repeated, forming a lexical chain that reinforces the theme of tradition and obligation. The word "duty" is a key term, linking the gentleman's action of feeding the homeless man to his sense of moral responsibility.

Anaphoric reference "He" refers back to the "Old Gentleman," maintaining a clear connection to the character. Definite articles are good examples to exophoric reference. "The Old Gentleman" and "the simple duty" use definite articles to refer back to known concepts already introduced, maintaining coherence across sentences.

The lexical repetition of Thanksgiving-related terms ("thankful," "duty") combined with the grammatical use of pronouns and articles creates a unified narrative about the gentleman's yearly ritual. This combination emphasizes the predictability of the gentleman's actions and strengthens the sense of tradition that drives the plot.

The next example relates to the Act of Feeding:

Every Thanksgiving Day for nine years, the Old Gentleman had come to this same corner. There he had found the Old Gentleman waiting, and led him to a restaurant and stuffed him full of a fat dinner. O. Henry (1988:8)

"Thanksgiving Day," "Old Gentleman," and "stuffed" are repeated to reinforce the annual nature of the event. Words like "restaurant" and "dinner" also belong to the same semantic field of food and feasting, strengthening the lexical chain that highlights the Thanksgiving tradition.

Anaphoric reference "He" and "him" are used to refer back to the "Old Gentleman" and the homeless man, helping to avoid redundancy while maintaining the connection between the characters. The conjunction "and" links actions performed by the Old Gentleman ("led him" and "stuffed him"), creating a fluid narrative sequence of events.

The lexical repetition of terms associated with Thanksgiving (e.g., "Thanksgiving Day," "dinner") is combined with grammatical devices like pronouns and conjunctions, making the passage both cohesive and easy to follow. This repetition reinforces the idea of ritualistic actions that happen year after year.

The following example explores the annual custom:

The Old Gentleman, without knowing why, began to feel a vague and growing curiosity about the man to whom he had given his Thanksgiving dinner for so many years. O. Henry (1988:9)

The repetition of "Thanksgiving dinner" continues the focus on the annual tradition. Words like "years" and "given" tie into the theme of continuity and obligation, reinforcing the repetitive cycle of the yearly event.

Pronoun reference "He" and "whom" refer back to the Old Gentleman and the homeless man, helping to connect ideas across sentences without the need for repetition. Temporal expression "for so many years" provides a grammatical anchor to indicate the passage of time, enhancing the narrative cohesion.

The repetition of "Thanksgiving dinner" and the use of related words (e.g., "years," "given") combined with the smooth use of pronouns ("he," "whom") makes this passage cohesive both lexically and grammatically. This combination underscores the long-standing nature of the tradition, enhancing the story's sense of routine and predictability.

The next one is about role reversal:

It was now his turn to give. The Old Gentleman sank down upon the bench and closed his eyes. O. Henry (1988:11)

The term "turn to give" is significant, linking to the earlier descriptions of the Old Gentleman's charitable acts. This reversal of roles maintains lexical cohesion by repeating the theme of giving. The word "bench" ties back to earlier mentions of the location, reminding the reader of the setting and maintaining unity.

Cataphoric reference "His" refers to the homeless man, marking the shift in roles. The use of pronouns helps the reader track the character interactions without constantly naming them. The use of additive

conjunction "and" in "sank down... and closed his eyes" connects the actions smoothly, making the sequence of events flow naturally.

The lexical repetition of words associated with giving (e.g., "turn to give") combined with the grammatical structure of pronouns and conjunctions highlights the shift in power dynamics between the characters. This combination serves to emphasize the irony and cyclical nature of the story's events.

In *Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen*, O. Henry mostly uses a combination of lexical cohesion (through repetition of key words and semantic fields) and grammatical cohesion (through pronouns, conjunctions, and definite articles) to create a unified and cyclical narrative. These techniques reinforce the story's themes of tradition, duty, and irony, and help establish the repetitive, ritualistic structure of the Thanksgiving interactions between the characters. The combination of lexical and grammatical cohesion in *Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen* enhances the story's themes of tradition, irony, and social expectation. Lexical cohesion through repetition and synonymy reinforces the ritualistic nature of Thanksgiving, while grammatical cohesion through reference, conjunctions, and ellipsis helps maintain structural unity. Together, they create a narrative that feels both cyclical and ironic, aligning with O. Henry's characteristic storytelling style.

Conclusion. This study has explored the role of lexical and grammatical cohesion in O. Henry's *Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen*, highlighting their contribution to the unity and coherence of the narrative. By applying Halliday and Hasan's [3] framework, the analysis has demonstrated how cohesive devices, including grammatical cohesion: reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunctions and lexical cohesion: synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, meronomy, collocations function to connect ideas, enhance readability, and reinforce thematic elements within the text. The seamless integration of grammatical and lexical cohesion allows O. Henry to craft a narrative that is not only engaging but also structurally coherent, guiding readers through its development with clarity and fluency.

The findings of this research reinforce the broader significance of cohesion in literary discourse, particularly in short stories where textual economy and narrative flow are essential. The study also contributes to the field of stylistics by illustrating how linguistic cohesion enhances storytelling techniques. Future research may extend this analysis by comparing cohesion in different works of O. Henry or examining how cohesion functions in other literary genres. Overall, this study underscores the importance of cohesive strategies in literary texts and highlights O. Henry's skillful use of linguistic resources to create a compelling and unified narrative.

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