CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION

6.0 Introduction

This thesis studies the sources of cohesion in three selected Lahu Si folktales. It identifies and describes sources of cohesion found in these folktales by following a framework integrated from both Dooley and Levinsohn's common types of cohesion (2001) and Halliday and Hasan's Cohesion in English (1976). The analysis presented in this thesis covers three major sources of discourse cohesion found in the selected Lahu si texts including: cohesion through identity, cohesion through lexical relations, and cohesion through conjunctions.

This chapter summarizes conclusions regarding the cohesion sources which have been identified in these three Lahu Si texts. The chapter will also suggest ideas for further study on the same topic.

6.1 Source of cohesion found in the three Lahu Si folktales

The cohesion sources used as the framework for the analysis in this thesis are identity, lexical relations, and conjunctions. The following section states the conclusion on these three different sources of cohesion found in each of the three selected Lahu Si folktales.

In The Story of the Blind Man and the Lame Man, major cohesive devices found are the subcategories of identity, lexical relations, and conjunction. Identity includes the use of repetition; either whole or partial repetition, personal reference, demonstrative reference, and ellipsis. Lexical relations contain collocation. Conjunctions include additive, causal, and temporal conjunctions.

As for identity, exact repetition occurs much more often than partial repetition. In reference, pronouns and demonstrative reference are used more frequently than comparative reference. Nominal substitution and nominal ellipsis are the only categories found in substitution and ellipsis. In lexical relations, collocation and synonym contribute to cohesion in the text. Synonym occurs only twice in the

text, but collocation occurs more frequently through semantically related words in five different domains. Cohesion through conjunctions is primarily achieved through the use of additive conjunctions and temporal conjunctions.

In *Huhr puh Huhr mawd*, the most common cohesive devices employed in this story are some of the subcategories under the headings of identity, conjunctions, and lexical relations. Identity includes repetition, reference, substitution, and ellipsis. Exact repetition has more frequency than partial repetition and, likewise, in reference, pronouns and demonstrative reference occur more frequently than comparative reference. The text contains all three types of substitution, including nominal, verbal, and clausal. Ellipsis occurs mainly in a nominal group and it also occurs once in a clausal element. There is no verbal ellipsis in this text.

As for cohesion through lexical relations, all four sub-categories including part-whole relationship, synonym, hyponymy, and collocation are used in this text. Cohesion through conjunctions is achieved primarily through the additive conjunction *kheh te lehq* 'and' and the causal conjunction *cheaq te lehq* 'because/so/since/therefore', which appear more frequently than the adversative and temporal conjunctions.

In The Two Beloved Orphan Brothers, all three categories of cohesive devices are used to give unity to the text. This text uses few partial repetition, synonym, and adversative conjunction. It uses other devices more including those which are under identity, lexical relations, and conjunctions. Of these more frequent devices, the prominent examples include exact repetition, reference; pronouns and determiners, verbal substitution, nominal ellipsis, part-whole relationship, collocation, and additive, causal, and temporal conjunctions. The analysis also finds that this Lahu Si text does not use verbal and clausal ellipsis.

In summary, it can be concluded that aspects of discourse cohesion in the three selected Lahu Si folktales are as follows. All three stories contain all three major types of cohesive devices. That is, identity contains repetition, reference, substitution, and ellipsis. The most prominent devices in each of these four subcategories of identity include exact repetition, pronouns and determiners,

verbal substitution, and nominal ellipsis[32]. In lexical relations, the most prominent cohesive device is collocation. As for cohesion through conjunctions, additive conjunctions and temporal conjunctions are prominent cohesive conjunctions used in all the three Lahu Si texts. Moreover, it is important to note that the more length the text has, the more types of cohesive devices the story tends to use.

6.2 Evaluation of method

Being a native speaker is a great benefit to analyzing the texts. This made the interlinear process and analysis go quickly. Also checking the problem areas in the text and questions that arise from the analysis with other native speakers of the language was a great benefit and allowed me to have a good grasp on the language and the texts.

The analysis found in this thesis was examined in cycles, constantly looking back at the text and other devices. By constantly checking and rechecking the data and the analysis with both the literature and other native Lahu Si speakers when problems arose, I am confident that this analysis covers the language and the methodology well.

The framework used in this analysis is a synthesis of two different frameworks. However those two frameworks were similar and overlap in many criteria. It was very difficult at times to merge the two, because they were so similar. If I had to do this again I would simply choose one framework that was precise and adequately covered the areas of the study, and follow it.

Also both of these frameworks are based on an analysis of English, which caused problems when analyzing a non-related language. There were some areas of the framework that were not included in this thesis because they did not apply to the Lahu Si language, as well as some sections that did not follow the literature closely as Lahu Si worked in a different way.

If I were to start this study over again I would chose texts that were all of moderate length and I would organize the thesis by device, not by text.

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[32] Another interesting discourse cohesive feature concerning nominal ellipsis is also found in the analysis. That is, Lahu Si is similar to Thai in terms of the omission of the subject and object of the clause (nominal ellipsis) if the clause still shares the same subject and object as those of the previous clause.

6.3 Suggestions for further study

Further study on the same topic in other types of narrative and other discourse genres, especially first-person narrative discourse and hortatory discourse, will give better understanding and a clearer picture of how discourse cohesion is structured and achieved in this language. It would be very interesting to compare aspects of discourse cohesion in different Lahu Si discourse types and examine how they differ in terms of the use of cohesive devices.

Based on the analysis and the findings, determiners are also worth studying further since some aspects of their use in the texts, i.e. the use of determiners with verbs, differ from those in English. To fully understand this topic it requires indepth studies with broader data which covers different Lahu Si discourse types. Furthermore, indepth studies on the determiner *kheh te* 'this' and the additive conjunction *kheh te lehq* 'and' will no doubt provide insightful understanding of the Lahu Si language.