CHAPTER 6

COHESION THROUGH SUBSTITUTION AND ELLIPSIS

This chapter will discuss substitution and ellipsis as two further sources of textual cohesion. Both involve the process of replacement. Substitution is the replacement of one item with another while ellipsis is a type of replacement in which one item is replaced with nothing (Halliday and Hasan 1976:88). They contribute to textual cohesion by forming "a link between parts of a text" (Halliday and Hasan 1976:90). This link ties the discourse together in a linear order, resulting in cohesion. We shall discuss substitution in section 6.1 and ellipsis in section 6.2.

6.1 Substitution

Substitution[1] is an important factor in maintaining textual cohesion in that it generally refers back to a preceding item. According to Halliday and Hasan (1976:90) substitution is "potentially anaphoric, and hence constituting a link between parts of a text." This "link" is cohesive because it ties the discourse together linearly.

As stated above, substitution involves the replacement of one item with another. The substitute item has the same structural function as that which it replaces. For example, an item used to substitute for the Head in a verbal group functions as the Head of the verbal group also (e.g., 'He *likes her hat; in fact, everybody does.*')

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[1]A question arises as to whether the word $t\vartheta^2$ 'thing', should be categorised as a general noun type of reiteration or as a nominal substitute. Halliday and Hasan (1976:274) define the class of general noun as "a small set of nouns having generalized reference **within the major noun classes**, those such as 'human noun', 'place noun', 'fact noun' and the like" (emphasis added). The word $t\vartheta^2$, however, can be used to replace a noun of any class, except for that of the human class. For this reason it is best to treat it as a general nominal substitute rather than a reiterative device.

According to the Sgaw Karen data, four types of substitution are employed to maintain textual cohesion. The first involves the use of the item ta^2 'thing' as a substitute for a noun phrase. This Nominal Substitution will be discussed in section 6.1.1. A second type of substitution, Verbal Substitution, involves the replacement by the verbal item ma^3 'do, make' of a verb phrase (section 6.1.2). Section 6.1.3 will focus on Clausal Substitution in which the item di^5 'so' or $di^5\theta o^5$ 'same as' is used as a substitute for a clause. Finally, in section 6.1.4, we shall consider sentence substitution. In this case, we shall discuss the substitution process in which ta^2 is employed to substitute for a series of sentences.

6.1.1 Nominal Substitution

In Sgaw Karen, the word ta^2 has several functions. One function is as a substitute for a noun phrase. As example 1 illustrates, sentence 36 states that a group of monkeys mourn for Grandfather Mawtaw's goodness, using the noun phrase $p^h i^6\ ?\theta\ ta^2 ye^3\ ta^2 wa^6$ 'grandfather's goodness'. Later in sentence 38, the 'grandfather's goodness' is referred to again. This time, however, the narrator does not repeat the noun phrase, but instead uses the word ta^2 as a substitute.

(1)   "The Story of Phue Mawtaw" (S 35, 38)

$kama^3$	wa^6	$l\theta^6$	$p^h i^6$	$?\theta$	$ta^2 ye^3\ ta^2 wa^6$
mourn	SC.	about	grandfather	his	goodness

$t\theta p^h a^4\ l\sigma^3$
Plural SEP.

'They lamented for the **grandfather's goodness**.'

$p^h a^6$	$ta^3 ?i^5$	$?\theta ya^3$	$t\theta p^h a^4$	$kama^3$	ta^2	$?\theta k^h a^6$ ...
time	monkeys	other	Plural	mourn	thing	while ...

'While other monkeys were lamenting (for it), ...'

Another example comes from "The Story of the Brave Orphan". In sentence 31, the narrator uses the noun phrase $pejo^3$ $?e$ $\theta w^{\prime 4}$ as the first mention of the 'dragon's blood'. Then, he refers to it again in the following sentence by using the word ta^2 'thing' as a substitute for the 'dragon's blood'.

(2)   "The Story of the Brave Orphan" (S 31-32)

wi^3	$d\mathfrak{o}^5$	$?ewæ^6$	$læ^3$	le^4	kwi^1	$pejo^3$	$?e$	$\theta w^{\prime 4}$	le^6
finish	and	he	go	lick	away	dragon	its	blood	from

$s\mathfrak{o}^3pe^3$	$p^ho^6m^{\prime 4}$	$?e$	bo^5kepe^3	ne^4	b^3
king	daughter	her	cheek	that	SEP.

'After that, he went to lick the **dragon's blood** from the king's daughter's cheek.'

$?ek^he^6p^hæ^6ne^4$	$pye^3k^ho^5te^2p^ho^6$	pe^2	$t^h\mathfrak{o}^4$	$d\mathfrak{o}^5$	$t^h\prime^4$
at that moment	guard	wake	up	and	see

le^6	$?ewæ^6$	le^4	te^2	$?exo^6$	$p^h\mathfrak{o}^4$	$?\mathfrak{o}^3$	b^3
that	he	lick	thing	so	arrest	him	SEP.

'At that moment, the guard woke up and, seeing him licking the blood (**it**), caught him.'

Finally, ta^2 may also substitute for plural items in a noun phrase without undergoing any modification. Consider sentences 6 and 12 in the example below. In sentence 12, the word ta^2, normally neither singular nor plural, occurs as a substitute for the phrase $b^{\prime 6}$ $d\mathfrak{o}^5$ $nwæ^4\theta e^4 t^{\prime 2}$ 'rice and tapioca' (sentence 6), taking the number from the item for which it substitutes.

(3)   "The Story of Phue Mawtaw" (S 6-12; pp. 142-143)

(6) He slashed the field and grew **rice and tapioca**. (7) Because his field was far from the village, he had to build a small hut beside the field. (8) (He) had to keep watching his field in order to prevent wild animals damaging his field. (9) It was because birds, squirels, pigs and porcupines had come and made damage to his

field. (10) He was able to keep away all other animals. (11) But there was a group of monkeys in the middle of the forest. (12) They often came to eat things (**them**= rice and tapioca) in the field.

6.1.2 Verbal Substitution

According to the Sgaw Karen data, the verb ma^3 'do, make' can function as a substitute for a verb phrase in a manner analogous to the way ta^2 substitutes for a noun phrase. As illustrated in the following example, the verb phrase le^4 lo^3 $\theta e^4 p^h u^6$ $p^h a^5 do^4$ $s^h u^6$ $ta^2 pu^3$ le^6 $?e$ $?o^4 do^5$ $mi^4 jæ^3 p^h æ^6$ 'roll a log into the ditch in which Mueyaephae was' in sentence 33 is replaced with ma^3 'do, make' in the following sentence (34).

(4)   "The Story of Mueyaephae" (S 33-34)

$so^3 pa^3$	me^6	kes^ho^6	$?e$	le^4	lo^3	$\theta e^4 p^h u^6$	$p^h a^5 do^4$
king	order	elephant	to	roll	down	log	big

$s^h u^6$	$ta^2 pu^3$	le^6	$?e$	$?o^4 do^5$	$mi^4 jæ^3 p^h æ^6$	lo^3
to	hole	that	it	have	Mueyaephae	SEP.

'The king ordered an elephant to **roll a huge log into the ditch where Mueyaephae was**.'

$ba^4 s^h a^4$	kes^ho^6	te	ma^3	no^6	te	di^6	ba^4
but	elephant	not	do	not even	one	N.Cl.	NC.

'But not one elephant **did** it.'

6.1.3 Clausal Substitution

In this section, we focus on another type of substitution in which one or more clauses are replaced with the item di^5 'so', ma^3 'do' or $di^5 \theta o^5$ 'same as'. As example 5 illustrates, the clause le^6 ke do^5 $ke\theta e^4$ $?ek^h le$ $kete^2$ 'that (the king) ought to ride the horse as fast as he could' in sentence 22 is referred to in sentence 25 by a substitute $di^5 \theta o^5$ ($le^6 na^6$) 'same as (before)'.

(5) "The Story of the Brave Orphan" (S 22, 25)

ti^3	s^hu^6	θe^4	$p^h\!\sigma^5 do^4$	$t\vartheta$	$t^h\!\beta$	$?\vartheta x\vartheta^3$	$?\vartheta k^h\!\sigma^6$	$p^h o^4 x\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!\!/ x\!\!\!\!/ \!\!/ ^6$
until	to	tree	big	one	N.Cl.	near	while	orphan

$t\!\!\!\!/ \!\!/ ^6$	$b\sigma^4$	$s\sigma^3 pa^3$	$l\vartheta^6$	$k\vartheta$	do^5	$k\vartheta\theta e^4$	$?\vartheta k^h\!le^6$
tell	unto	king	that	will	ride	horse	fast

$k\vartheta t\vartheta^2$	$l\sigma^3$
most	SEP.

'When getting near a big tree, the orphan told the king (that he ought) **to ride the horse as fast as he could**.'

$p^h\!\!\!\!/ \!\!/ ^6$	$s\sigma^3 pa^3$	$l\!\!\!\!/ \!\!/ ^3$	ti^3	s^hu^6	$t^h\!\beta kl\sigma^6$	$d\sigma^5$	bu^5	$l\vartheta^6$	$k\vartheta$
time	king	go	reach	to	river	and	near	that	will

$k^h\!\sigma^6$	to^3	$?\vartheta k^h\!\sigma^6 se^2 ko^5$	$?\vartheta w\!\!\!\!/ \!\!/ ^6$	$he^4 p\vartheta l\sigma^2$	$s\sigma^3 p\vartheta$
cross	bridge	while also	he	caution	king

$di^5\theta o^5$	$l\vartheta^6 \!\rho\vartheta^6$	$?\vartheta x o^6$	$k\vartheta\theta e^4$	xe^4	pu^3	$d\sigma^5$	to^3
same as	before	so	horse	run	past	and	bridge

ka^2	$l\sigma^3$	$l\sigma^3$
break	down	SEP.

'When the king came near a river and was about to cross it, the orphan warned him like the first time (**as before**); thus, the horse dashed past before the bridge broke down.'

In another example from "The Story of Nyali", $m\sigma^3$ 'do, make' (sentence 8) substitutes for $k^h w\!\!\!\!/ \!\!/ ^6\theta o^4 k^h w\!\!\!\!/ \!\!/ ^6 pl\sigma^6$ 'sweep and clean' and $p^h\!\sigma^6$ 'cook' (sentence 6).

(6) "The Story of Nyali" (S 6, 8)

$p^h\!\!\!\!/ \!\!/ ^6$	$?\vartheta$	$p^h\!\beta$	$t\vartheta$	$?o^4$	$l\vartheta^6$	hi^4	$?\vartheta k^h\!\sigma^6$	$?\vartheta$	hi^4
time	his	grandmother	not	stay	at	house	while	her	house

$b\sigma^4$	$t\vartheta^2$	$k^h w\!\!\!\!/ \!\!/ ^6\theta o^4 k^h w\!\!\!\!/ \!\!/ ^6 pl\sigma^6$	xa^1	$?\vartheta\theta\sigma^5$	$d\sigma^5$
happen	thing	sweep and clean	already	itself	and

$me^3\hbar o^3 t'^6 \hbar o^3$	$se^2 ko^5$	$p^h o^6$ xa^1	$?e\theta a^5$ lo^3
things like rice and water	also	cook already	itself SEP.

'While his grandmother was not at home, her house was always **swept tidy and clean**, and things like rice and water were always **cooked**, too.'

ta	$\theta e^4 na^6$	wae^6 la^6	$meta^3 ma^3$	ne^2 $?o^3$	ba^4
not	know	SC. that	who do	for her	NC.

'She did not know who **did** it for her.'

6.1.4 Sentence Substitution

The final form of substitution observed in the Sgaw Karen data is sentence substitution. In this type of substitution, a series of sentences is replaced with the phrase $ta^2 k^h ae^6 la^1$ 'all things; everything'. This is illustrated in example 7 below.

(7)   'The Story of Phue Mawtaw' (S 26-29; p. 145)

(26) **Then the monkeys told one another that this grandfather was not sleeping; instead, he was already dead.** (27) **The said to one another that the grandfather had died because they had yelled too much at him.** (28) **They said that they had a responsibility to cremate the grandfather's body.** (29) As for the grandfather, he heard **everything** ($ta^2 k^h ae^6 la^1$) but still did not make any movement.'

Another example of sentence substitution is taken from 'The Story of Khunawlei and Nawmuey'. The phrase $ta^2 ?i^3 k^h ae^6 la^1$ 'all these things' in sentence 21, substitutes for the five preceding sentences.

(8)   'The Story of Khunawlei and Nawmuey' (S 16-21; p. 123)

(16) One day, **she heard her pig groan, so she looked down and saw a huge yellow python coiling itself around her little pig.** (17) She remembered her husband's words ordering her not to go down to the ground, but because she loved her pig, **she climbed down the ladder.** (18) **With each step she made, the python released the pig one round.** (19) **When she reached the**

ground, that snake freed the pig and coiled itself around her instead. (20) **The snake carried her into its hole.**

(21) The little dove saw **everything** ($t\partial^2$ $?i^3$ $k^h\alpha^6 l\partial^1$).

6.2 Ellipsis

Although, as previously stated, ellipsis is replacement by zero, it differs structurally from substitution. The basic notion of ellipsis is "something left unsaid" (Halliday and Hasan 1976:142). While the rules that govern when ellipsis can occur vary from language to language, the basic requirement is that the information that is left out must be recoverable from the context. In short, ellipsis involves "some presupposition, in the structure, of what is to be supplied" (Halliday and Hasan 1976:142).

> An elliptical item is one which, as it were, leaves specific structural slots to be filled from elsewhere. This is exactly the same as presupposition by substitution, except that in substitution an explicit 'counter' is used, eg: *one* or *do*, as a place-marker for what is presupposed, **whereas in ellipsis nothing is inserted into this slot.** (Halliday and Hasan 1976:143; emphasis added)

As previously mentioned, cohesion involves "anything that signals redundancy as well as anything that serves to tie the discourse together in a linear way" (Pickering 1980:29). Ellipsis plays an important role in maintaining cohesion of the text since, as a special form of substitution, it also serves as a link between parts of a text.

According to the data used in this study, only one type of ellipsis was observed: nominal ellipsis. Halliday and Hasan (1976:147) state that nominal ellipsis involves ellipsis within the nominal group. They also give an example of a nominal group in which the Head noun, modified by a series of Premodifiers and Postmodifiers, is elided, resulting in the upgrading of a modifier to the status of Head (Halliday and Hasan 1976:148). In Sgaw Karen, however, nominal ellipsis involves the entire noun phrase.

According to the Sgaw Karen data, an entire noun phrase may be ellided in the subject or object slot of a clause. The following example illustrates noun phrase ellipsis occurring in the subject slot of a clause.

(9)   "The Story of Khunawlei and Nawmuey" (S 34)

$kelɔ^3$	$nə^6$	$kwə^2$	$tə^2θwi^4$	$dɔ^5$	si^5	$wæ^6$	$lə^6$	Ø
python	sniff	look	blood	and	say	SC.	that	Ø

$tə$	me^2	$pyə^3kəjɔ^6$	$ʔə$	$θwi^4$	$bə^4$
not	be	man	his	blood	NC.

'The python sniffed (to test) the **blood** and said that it was not a man's blood.'

As this example shows, the zero insertion between the word $lə^6$ 'that' and the word $tə$ 'not' in the second clause indicates an instance of nominal ellipsis in the subject slot of a clause.

In addition, ellipsis of a noun phrase may also occur in the object slot of a clause. As example 10 shows, the noun phrase klo^4 $to^2bɔ^6$ $tə$ di^6 'a bronze drum' is first mentioned in the first clause of sentence 34. Then in the second clause of the same sentence, it is referred to again by ellision in the object slot of the clause.

(10)   "The Story of Phue Mawtaw" (S 34)

$dɔ^5$	$ʔəwæ^6θe^4$	$hæ^6$	so^1	klo^4	$to^2bɔ^6$	$tə$	di^6	$dɔ^5$
and	they	come	carry	drum	bronze	one	N.Cl.	and

$pyɔ^2$	$wæ^6$	Ø	$təkʰɔ^6kʰɔ^6$	...
beat	SC.	Ø	while	...

'And they brought **a bronze drum** and beat it...'

Another example from "The Story of Mueyaephae" also illustrates an instance of an ellided noun phrase occurring in the object slot of a clause. As illustrated, sentence 23 consists of two clauses. The first is where the noun phrase $p^ho^6\theta a^4$ $?\partial x^6?\partial kw\ae^6$ 'children's bones' is mentioned for the first time. Then the phrase 'the children's bones' is referred to again in the object slot of the second clause. This clause, which presupposes the above noun phrase, is left empty, as shown below.

(11) "The Story of Mueyaephae" (S 23)

$b\partial^4$	$t\partial$	$bl\jmath^6$	$?\partial$	$m\partial^6 p^h\partial^5 do^4$	$l\ae^3$	k^hU^4	ne^2
happen	one	time	his	big wife (queen)	go	dig	get

$p^ho^6\theta a^4$	$?\partial x^6?\partial kw\ae^6$	$l\partial^6$	$t\partial^2\theta w\partial^4 k^ho^4$	pU^3	do^5	$h\ae^6$
children	their bones	at	graveyard	inside	and	come

ke^3	$k^hU^4l\jmath^3$	$k^hU^6\theta U^4$	$w\ae^6$	$\emptyset$	$l\partial^6$	$mi^2j\ae^3p^h\ae^6$	$?\partial$
back	bury	hide	SC.	$\emptyset$	at	Mueyaephae	her

$k\partial r\partial^2$	pU^3	$l\jmath^4$
compound	inside	SEP.

'One time, the queen went to the graveyard, dug up **children's bones**, brought them back and secretly hid them in Mueyaephae's compound.'

6.3 Summary

The discussion presented in this chapter concerns two sources of textual cohesion: substitution and ellipsis. They are textually cohesive because they form a grammatical link between parts of a text (e.g., noun, verb, etc.), signalling linearity of the text.

In nominal substitution, as observed in the Sgaw Karen data, the noun $t\partial^2$, 'thing', may function as a substitute for a noun of any class, except human class. In addition, it may also substitute for a series of sentences.

In verbal substitution, the verb ma^3 'do, make' may be used as a substitute for a verb phrase in a manner analogous to that of the word ta^2.

A second source of textual cohesion discussed is ellipsis. Nominal ellipsis is the only type of ellipsis found in the Sgaw Karen data. This type of ellipsis involves not only part of a noun phrase but an entire noun phrase that fills the subject or the object slot of a clause.