

CHAPTER 3

DISCOURSE COHESION IN TIGER SKIN

3.0 Introduction

This chapter will present discourse cohesion found in Tiger Skin, the second W-CT Pwo Karen folktale in the data. First, a brief introduction to Tiger Skin will be provided. Section 3.1 will then present the analysis of cohesion through reference in this folktale. Sections 3.2 to 3.5 will discuss cohesion through substitution, ellipsis, conjunction, and lexical items respectively.

3.0.1 The story of Tiger Skin

Two sisters went to cut grass in a field. At noon, the two sisters went to eat. When they finished eating, they talked together. The older sister said, "If we meet a young man, I will have him cut the grass. When he has finished cutting the grass, I can make him my husband." Hearing what the older sister said, a tiger appeared and said, "Oh, cover your eyes, I will clean the field." In a short while, the tiger finished cutting all the grass. The older sister didn't know that the one who cut the grass was a tiger. So, she followed behind the tiger all the way to his house.

The tiger told the older sister to stay at his house and to prepare the rice. Then he went out to look for curry spices in order to prepare the girl to eat. After the tiger went out, the girl stayed at his house, doing what the tiger asked her to do. A weevil came up and told the girl that the tiger had gone to look for curry herbs and he would return to prepare her for dinner. At the weevil's words, the girl began asked the weevil what to do. First, the weevil called a crow to help her but the crow was unable to carry her. Then the weevil asked a hawk to help her. The hawk picked her up in its arms and took her to her own house.

The tiger followed after the girl and went to her house. He was going to grab the girl, but the girl's mother said to the tiger, "Go back and get all your friends to come if you are going to marry my child." The tiger agreed and left.

On the wedding day, the tiger and all his tiger friends came for the marriage ceremony. They drank lots of liquor, made by the girl's mother, and all died. The girl's mother then asked some people to skin all the dead tigers, including the daughter's tiger husband, and dried the skins in the sun. The girl spread out a tiger skin and sat on it, spinning the cotton and making thread. She spun and spun. Suddenly, the tiger's skin wrapped around her. The tiger disappeared, taking her with him.

3.0.2 Genre of Tiger Skin

As discussed in chapter 2, agent orientation, contingent succession, projection, and tension are the four parameters that Longacre (1996) uses as the criteria to judge if a discourse is a narrative.

The participants in Tiger Skin include the elder sister, the younger sister, tiger, weevil, eagle, hawk, and the mother. It is these participants who act and keep this story going. This means that Tiger Skin has the feature of '+ agent orientation'. The story of Tiger Skin is chronologically organized as all the events in this story depend on each other. So, it is '+ contingent succession'. Like Mueng Nong Nwe, this story is '- projection' because no situations or actions in this story can be anticipated. In addition, Tiger Skin is '+ tension' as tension always comes when the story is carried on. A conclusion can be made from these four features that Tiger Skin is classified as a narrative story.

3.1 Cohesion through reference

Halliday and Hasan (1976) posit that cohesion through reference has three types: personal, demonstrative and comparative. These three types of reference in English were also found in Tiger Skin.

3.1.1 Personal reference

Very similar to Mueng Nong Nwe, the pronouns in Tiger Skin also serve to create personal reference. The pronouns in this text include first person singular *jə̀*, second person singular *nə̀*, and the unmarked third person pronoun *ʔə̀*, and the second person plural pronoun *nə̀ θí̃*.

As in Mueng Nong Nwe, there are two different pronouns in this text: personal pronouns and possessive pronouns. Personal pronouns grammatically function as a noun phrase substitute while possessive pronouns grammatically function as a modifier in a noun phrase. Again there is no difference in surface forms of both personal pronouns and possessive pronouns. Examples (1), (2), and (3) include four pronouns: the first person singular pronoun *jə̀*, the second person singular pronoun *nə̀*, and the third person pronoun *ʔə̀*. All these pronouns are personal pronouns, functioning as substitutes for the noun phrase.

- (1) Tiger Skin (S 11)

jə̀ mú' phi' dáwê
 1s IRR cut oneself
 PRN PRT V N

"I will clean the field myself."

- (2) Tiger Skin (S 38)

khí̃fà mə ʔí̃ nə̀ nə̀ θí̃jâ já phễkhláxa yê thó̃ lò
 tiger IRR eat 2s 2s know QUES weevil come up speak
 N V V PRN PRN V PRT N V V V

"The tiger is going to eat you! Don't you know?" the weevil came up and said.

(3) Tiger Skin (S 34)

ʔé yũ ʔə wê dá ʔé khîfà ʔǝmàláí' chà là' bá
 ? finish 3 ? ? EXCL tiger order thing strange ?
 PRT V PRN PRT PRT EXCL N V N V PRT

lé nà
 ? so
 PRT PRT

After that she said, "Well! The tiger ordered something really strange!"

Example (4) demonstrates the second person plural pronoun *nə θí*, functioning as a modifier.

(4) Tiger Skin (S 10)

ʔǝ khlái' bàí'ʔǝ nə -θí mí'θá nó
 EXCL cover close 2s PL eye that
 EXCL V V PRN SFX N DEM

"Oh, cover your eyes."

Example (5) presents two pronouns in Tiger Skin, functioning as possessive modifiers in two noun phrases. These pronouns include the second person singular pronoun *nə* in the noun phrase *nə phài'* 'your skin' (bolded) and the first person singular pronoun *jə* in the noun phrase *jə phài'* 'my skin' (underlined).

(5) Tiger Skin (S 96)

*nə **phài'** ke jə phài' lò wê dá*
 2s skin is 1s skin speak ? ?
 PRN N V PRN N V PRT PRT

"Your skin is my skin," it said.

3.1.2 Demonstrative reference

As discussed in chapter 2, there are two demonstratives in W-CT Pwo Karen: the proximal demonstrative *ɲò* ‘this’ and the distal demonstrative *nó* ‘that’.

The distal demonstrative *nó* ‘that’ in example (6) is used to mark the noun phrase *lè thĩ* ‘time’. This demonstrative adds the deictic information ‘that’ to the noun phrase *lè thĩ* ‘time’. Thus, *lè thĩ nó* is interpreted as ‘at that time’.

(6) Tiger Skin (S 78)

<i>lè-</i>	<i>thĩ</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>chəmĩ</i>	<i>ɲə-</i>	<i>mu</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>lò</i>	
one	time	that	girl	NMLZR	mother	that	speak	...
NUM	CLF	DEM	N	PFX	N	DEM	V	

At that time, the girl’s mother said...

3.1.3 Comparative reference

According to Halliday and Hasan (1976), comparative reference is indirect reference by means of identity. In Tiger Skin, there is only one sentence in which particular comparison has been found. In example (7), the *dò* ‘more’ is found as a comparative marker. Thus, particular comparison is achieved by adding this word to the verb *fā* ‘smart’ resulting in *fā dò* ‘smarter’.

(7) Tiger Skin (S 22)

<i>lé</i>	<i>ɲə-</i>	<i>phĩ</i>		<i>yə</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>fā</i>	<i>dò</i>
at	NMLZR	younger_sibling		person	that	smart	more
PREP	PFX	N		CLF	DEM	V	PRT

As for the younger sister, she was smarter.

3.2 Cohesion through substitution

Two types of substitution are found in this text. They are nominal and clausal.

3.2.1 Nominal substitution

Nominal substitution in Tiger Skin is achieved when a noun is replaced by another noun, or by a demonstrative.

Substitution occurs when a generic noun replaces a specific noun. In example (8), sentence 60 tells us that the older sister is pecking at the mat. Sentence 65 later describes the same action. However, in sentence 65, the generic noun *chə* ‘thing’ replaces the specific noun *khló* ‘mat’.

(8) Tiger Skin (S 60)

cù' lǝ khló phǝ mái' mái' mái'
 peck down mat inside "sound" "sound" "sound"
 V V N LZN ONOM ONOM ONOM

(The old sister) pecked at the mat. Maok! Maok! Maok!

Tiger Skin (S 65)

?à wê cù' lǝ chə dǝ'
 3 ? peck down thing again
 PRN PRT V V N PRT

She began pecking it again.

Example (9) below shows another type of nominal substitution in which a noun is replaced by a phrase. In this case, the prepositional phrase *thǝ jò* in sentence 37 is a substitute for the noun *yěi* ‘house’ in sentence 31.

(9) Tiger Skin (S 31)

ʔé yǔ̀ lì ʔǒxǐ̂ chə nǎmǎ̀ nà ʔó yéi nó nà
 ? finish go seek thing fragrant 2s exist **house** that 2s
 PRT V V V N V PRN V N DEM PRN
ʔǒphū̂ ʔǒ̀ mì nó
 prepare_rice eat cooked_rice that
 V V N DEM

When he went, he said to the girl, "You stay at the house and prepare the rice."

Tiger Skin (S 37)

*kəchaklǒ̂ ʔé nà yê ʔó mà lè **thǔ̀** jò*
 EXCL EXCL 2s come exist do QUES **arrive this**
 EXCL EXCL PRN V V V PRT **PREP PRN**

"For goodness sake, what are you doing here?"

3.2.2 Clausal substitution

There is only one example of clausal substitution in Tiger Skin. Tiger says to the girl, "When you drain the rice water, don't pour it into the stove." The girl then responds *bú'kə̀* 'OK'. It is implied here that the girl's complete response to the tiger would be the clause *jə̀ mú' bǔ̀θàì' lǒ̀ mì thǐ̀ lə̀ phǒ̀khlá phǒ̀ ʔe* 'I won't drain the rice water into the stove'.

(10) Tiger Skin (S 32)

bùθàì' lǝ̀ mì thî lə phâkhlá phǝ̀ yì hō
 drain down cooked_rice water at stove_surface inside don't OK?
 V V N N PREP N LZN NEG PRT

lò wê dá
 speak ? ?
 V PRT PRT

"Don't drain the rice water into the stove," he said.

Tiger Skin (S 33)

bú'kâ

OK

EXCL

"OK."

3.3 Cohesion through ellipsis

Again, based on what Halliday and Hasan's (1976) definition, ellipsis occurs when an item is replaced by nothing. Ellipsis found in Tiger Skin can be subcategorized into nominal, verbal, and clausal.

3.3.1 Nominal ellipsis

Nominal ellipsis occurs frequently in this text. Sentence 14 in example (11) should have the same subject as the bolded part of sentence 13. However, in sentence 14 the subject has been omitted.

(11) Tiger Skin (S 13)

ʔà- phĩ yà nó khubài' de cúcài' jò
 NMLZR younger_sibling person that close with hand this
 PFX N CLF DEM V PREP N DEM

l̩
 that's_the_way_it_is
 PRT

As for the younger sibling, she covered her eyes with a hand.

The Girl and the Tiger that wrapped its skin around her (S 14)

ju yũ de chə phi' n̩ khô
 Ø look_at surreptitiously with thing cut grass section:part
 V V PREP N V N LZN

khô
 section:part
 LZN

She surreptitiously examined all over the one cutting the grass.

In example (12), *khîfà* 'tiger', the noun in the subject position of sentence 73, is omitted in sentence 74.

(12) Tiger Skin (S 73)

ʔé yũ jái' ʔé' nó khîfà nó chũ thài ʔà nó
 ? finish long NEG that tiger that follow to 3 that
 PRT V V PRT DEM N DEM V V PRN DEM

Not long after, the tiger followed after her.

Tiger Skin (S 74)

jái'jái' dá nĩ là- kài'
 momentarily Ø see patung one length
 ADV V N NUM CLF

After a while, (he) came across a length of tube skirt.

3.3.2 Verbal ellipsis

As discussed previously, on the basis of what Halliday and Hasan, the analysis here is forced to conclude that the speech verb *lò* 'said' has been ellipated. In example 13, in sentence 34 the absence of the speech verb is given as an example of verbal ellipsis.

(13) Tiger Skin (S 34)

<i>ʔé</i>	<i>γǔ</i>	<i>ʔà</i>	<i>wê</i>	<i>dá</i>		<i>ʔé</i>	<i>khîfà</i>	<i>ʔǒmàláí</i>	<i>chə</i>	<i>là'</i>
?	finish	3	?	?	Ø	EXCL	tiger	order	thing	strange
PRT	V	PRN	PRT	PRT		EXCL	N	V	N	V
<i>bá</i>	<i>lé</i>	<i>nà</i>								
?	?	so								
PRT	PRT	PRT								

After that she (said,) "Well! The Tiger ordered something really strange!"

3.3.3 Clausal ellipsis

Clausal ellipsis also occurs in this text as example (14) shows. In this example, the entire quote formula, subject and verb, *ʔà wê dá lò* 'he said' has been omitted.

(14) Tiger Skin (S 31)

<i>ʔé</i>	<i>γǔ</i>	<i>lì</i>	<i>ʔǒxí</i>	<i>chə</i>	<i>nəmǎ</i>		<i>nà</i>	<i>ʔó</i>	<i>yěi</i>	<i>nó</i>	<i>nà</i>
?	finish	go	seek	thing	fragrant	Ø	2s	exist	house	that	2s
PRT	V	V	V	N	V		PRN	V	N	DEM	PRN
<i>ʔǒphû</i>	<i>ʔǒ</i>	<i>mì</i>	<i>nó</i>								
prepare_rice	eat	cooked_rice	that								
V	V	N	DEM								

When he went to look for curry spices, (he said to the girl), "You stay here and prepare the rice."

3.4 Cohesion through conjunction

Three temporal conjunction phrases have been used in Tiger Skin: *ʔé yǔ* 'then', *thǔ lə ʔé yǔ* 'in the end', and *thǐ nó* 'that time'.

Example (15) shows *ʔé yǔ* 'then'. In this example, the hawk orders the older sister to do something. The older sister obeys. The conjunction *ʔé yǔ* conjoins these two sentences and shows that what is written in these two sentences is sequential temporally.

(15) Tiger Skin (S 53)

nə kwe lǝ wái' nə fěfǝ nó
 2s take_off down away 2s shirt that
 PRN V V V PRN N DEM

"Take off your shirt."

Tiger Skin (S 54)

ʔé yǔ ʔə wê dá kwe lǝ fěfǝ khwái' lǝ
 ? finish 3 ? ? take_off down shirt throw_overhand down
 PRT V PRN PRT PRT V V N V V
wái' nǝ bě dǝ'
 away just_one piece more
 V QUANT CLF PRT

Then she took off the shirt and threw it away.

3.5 Cohesion through lexical items

Reiteration and collocation are the types of lexical cohesion achieved through the selection of vocabulary.

3.5.1 Reiteration

In this text, reiteration involves the repetition of some lexical items and the use of a general noun to refer to something specific.

The lexical items repeated in this text include personal pronouns, temporal conjunctions, nouns, and verbs. The following examples only focus on the repetition of nouns and verbs.

Reiteration of a noun can be seen in example (16) where *θàì* 'liquor' appears 4 times in 8 sentences.

(16) Tiger Skin (S 79)

chəmǐfa nó tǎi θàì' thǐ nó ?á kǐ
 old_woman that do liquor time that much INTENS
 N DEM V N CLF DEM PRT PRT

The old woman made a lot of alcohol.

Tiger Skin (S 81)

?é yǔ ?à wê dá dù θàì' thǐ nó
 ? finish 3 ? ? boil liquor time that
 PRT V PRN PRT PRT V N CLF DEM

Then she boiled the liquor.

Tiger Skin (S 85)

?à -θǐ dá dǎi ?ò θàì' k^hliūt^hiĩ nó kǎnè'
 3 PL ? drink liquor that !
 PRN SFX PRT V N N DEM PRT

They really drank the liquor.

Tiger Skin (S 86)

khîfà lə ʔà- yê xwe nó nó θî láí' θwà' m̃
 tiger at NMLZR come group that that die all exhaust drunk
 N PREP PFX V CLF DEM DEM V PRT PRT V

θài'

liquor

N

All of the Saming tigers that had come died because they were drunk with liquor.

The verb *thài* 'return' is repeated 7 times in the whole text. Example (17) shows two instances.

(17) Tiger Skin (S 25)

khîfà thài lə ʔà- yéi khô ph̃θà' t^ha nó
 tiger return at NMLZR house section:part path separate that
 N V PREP PFX N LZN N V DEM

The tiger went to his house by the other path.

Tiger Skin (S 59)

thài ʔó lə bí khló ph̃ nó
 return exist at paddy_rice mat inside that
 V V PREP N N LZN DEM

She returned to the rice-drying mat.

In example (18), the word *phài'bé* 'clothing' in sentence 71 is a general noun, referring to and replacing the specific words *ní ñ bé* 'tube skirt' in sentence 49 and *ʃèj̃* 'shirt' in sentence 54.

(18) Tiger Skin (S 49)

kwe lǝ wái' nà ní nǝ bǝ lò wê dá
 take_off down away 2s patung just_one thing speak ? ?
 V V V PRN N QUANT CLF V PRT PRT

"Take off your tube skirt," he said.

Tiger Skin (S 54)

ʔé yǝ ʔà wê dá kwe lǝ ʃǝʃǝ khwái' lǝ
 ? finish 3 ? ? take_off down shirt throw_overhand down
 PRT V PRN PRT PRT V V N V V
wái' nǝ bǝ dǝ'
 away just_one piece more
 V QUANT CLF PRT

She took off the shirt and threw it away.

Tiger Skin (S 71)

thí nǝ ʔǝmàni ʔà- phài'bǝ kǝ θù'
 time that take NMLZR clothing put_on_lower put_on_upper
 CLF DEM V PFX N V V
dài' θù' thǝ thài ʔà- wé
 put_on put_on_upper up go NMLZR elder_sibling
 V V V V PFX N

Then she got some clothes and had the older sister put them on.

3.5.2 Collocation

Table 3.1 shows some of the collocations that occur in Tiger Skin in six different domains, including clothing, animals, kinship terms, work in the field, weddings, and food.

Domain	Semantically Related Words
Clothing	<i>kwe lǝ wái</i> 'take off' (S#50), <i>kũ ðù</i> 'put on' (S#71), <i>ʃɛʃɔ</i> 'shirt' (S#53), <i>nǐ nǝ bɛ</i> 'tubeskirt' (S#49), <i>phài'bɛ</i> 'clothing' (S#71), <i>bǝklǝ</i> 'naked' (S#58)
Animals	<i>khǐʃa</i> 'tiger' (S#6), <i>phǝkhláxa</i> 'weevil' (S#36), <i>klá</i> 'crow' (S#42), <i>lái</i> 'hawk' (S#45), <i>chǝ</i> 'chicken' (S#66)
Kinship	<i>thəphǐwe</i> 'sibling' (S#2), <i>phúmǐ</i> 'daughter' (S#90) <i>?ə phǐ</i> 'younger sister' (S#69), <i>mu</i> 'mother' (S#69), <i>pha</i> 'father' (S#93), <i>?ə wà</i> 'husband' (S#87)
Work in the Field	<i>li</i> 'go' (S#1), <i>thǎi</i> 'return' (S#25), <i>phǐ</i> 'cut' (S#1), <i>nǝ</i> 'grass' (S#1), <i>xài</i> 'field' (S#1)
Wedding	<i>khǎicú</i> 'wedding' (S#84), <i>ðài</i> 'liquor' (S#79) <i>dài'?ò</i> 'drink' (S#85), <i>mǝ</i> 'drunk' (S#86)
Food	<i>chənǝmǝ</i> 'curry spices' (S#30), <i>mi</i> 'rice' (S#32), <i>thǐ</i> 'water' (S#32), <i>?ǝ</i> 'eat' (S#30)

Table 3.1 Collocational chains in Tiger Skin

3.6 Summary

This chapter has analyzed the discourse cohesion found in TS by applying what Halliday and Hasan discuss in their work *Cohesion in English* (1976). All five cohesion sources of English are found in this text. Cohesion is created through reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction, and lexical items.

However, some subcategories of cohesion found in English have not been found in this text. These include verbal substitution along with additive, adversative, and causal conjunctions.