

## SUBSTITUTION IN LINGUISTICS AND ITS ROLE IN COHESION

**Xoliqova Dilbar To‘lqin kizi**

Kattaqo‘rg‘on State Pedagogical Institute

Faculty of Philology and Social Sciences

Department of Foreign Language and Literature

Student of group 22.01

**Abstract**

This study investigates substitution in linguistics and its role in achieving textual cohesion. Substitution is considered a grammatical cohesive device that replaces linguistic elements such as words, phrases, or clauses to avoid repetition and ensure smooth discourse flow. The research adopts a discourse analysis approach using a qualitative descriptive method to examine substitution patterns in *Map of the Soul: 7 in the World of BTS* by Murray Stein. The data consist of utterances containing different types of substitution identified across four chapters: Introduction, Persona, Shadow, and Ego. The findings reveal the presence of nominal, verbal, phrasal, and clausal substitutions, with varying frequency and functional distribution. The study also identifies additional patterns such as levels of substitution (high and low) and chained substitution. The results indicate that substitution plays a significant role in maintaining cohesion, improving readability, and avoiding redundancy in discourse.

**Keywords**

Substitution, cohesion, discourse analysis, grammatical cohesion, nominal substitution, verbal substitution, clausal substitution, textual coherence, BTS, Map of the Soul: 7.

**INTRODUCTION.**

In linguistics, substitution is a cohesive device where one linguistic item is replaced by a "counter" or "filler" word to avoid repetition while maintaining grammatical structure. It functions at the lexico-grammatical level, meaning it is a relation between linguistic forms (wording) rather than meanings (semantics).

**Role in Cohesion**

Substitution is a primary mechanism for building **textual cohesion**—the "glue" that holds a text together. Its key roles include:

- **Avoiding Redundancy:** It eliminates the need to repeat long phrases, making the text more concise and readable.
- **Maintaining Continuity:** By using "placeholders" for previously mentioned items, it creates a link (anaphora) between different sentences or clauses.
- **Signaling Redefinition:** Unlike reference (which points to the exact same thing), substitution often implies a new version or subtype of a previously mentioned category (e.g., "I lost my pen. I need a new **one**").

**Types of Substitution**

Halliday and Hasan (1976) identified three main types based on the grammatical function of the replaced element:

Type	Function	Common Substitutes	Example
Nominal	Replaces a noun or noun phrase.	<i>one, ones, the same</i>	"My towel is wet. Have you got a dry <b>one</b> ?"

<b>Verbal</b>	Replaces a verb or verb phrase.	<i>do, does, did, done</i>	"I liked that movie, and so <b>did</b> she."
<b>Clausal</b>	Replaces an entire clause.	<i>so, not</i>	"Is it going to rain? I think <b>so</b> ."

Substitution is a type of cohesive relation closely connected with other cohesive devices such as reference and ellipsis. Some linguists describe substitution as a form of zero anaphora; however, this type differs from referential anaphora.

Anaphoric pronouns, which are often considered referring expressions, are sometimes treated as substitutes. Nevertheless, a clear distinction is made between substitution and reference. Substitution operates at the level of linguistic units such as words or phrases, whereas reference is based on meaning relations.

When a referential item is used anaphorically, it creates a semantic link with an element in the preceding text, allowing it to be interpreted as either identical to or contrasted with that element.

According to the structural units involved, substitution can be classified into three main types: nominal, verbal, and clausal.

This classification was first proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976) and has later been adopted by several researchers, including McCarthy (1991), Hoey (1991), and Salkie (1995). In this study, the same division is used, and each type of substitution is analyzed individually.

#### **Nominal Substitution**

In English, nominal substitution is mainly expressed through two lexical items: *one/ones* and *the same*. The forms *one* and its plural *ones* function as the head of a nominal group and can replace any countable noun. The use of *one/ones* presupposes the presence of a noun in the previous clause, meaning that the substituted noun is recoverable from context. It is well known that the item *one* is highly polyfunctional in English. It may function as a substitute, a personal pronoun, a cardinal numeral, an indefinite determiner, or a generalized noun. As a substitute, however, it does not function anaphorically in all cases and therefore does not always carry cohesive force. The cardinal numeral *one* appears frequently in texts and may sometimes have an anaphoric function, particularly when used in elliptical constructions. In such cases, certain semantic features are omitted, while others are preserved through the substitute *ones*. For example, when modifying elements such as adjectives are omitted, the meaning is still understood through context.

Written discourse refers to the transmission of information through written language or written media. The notion of discourse involves the continuity of a text and the use of language to interpret a sequence of ideas. Discourse is composed of interconnected sentences that form a unified whole and generate meaning across those sentences. As the most complete linguistic unit above the sentence level, discourse can exist in both spoken and written forms. Spoken discourse includes speeches, lectures, sermons, and conversations, whereas written discourse covers short stories, novels, books, letters, and other written materials. Structurally, discourse is cohesive, meaning its elements are interconnected, while in terms of deep structure it is coherent, meaning its meanings are logically integrated. Furthermore, in order to produce a clear and meaningful text, it is necessary for the text to have a structure that keeps its linguistic elements unified. Structure in discourse is closely related to both cohesion and coherence. A text is considered meaningful and well-formed when cohesion and coherence work together to ensure unity within it.

Cohesion is regarded as one of the essential components of discourse structure that enhances the connectivity and harmony of sentences within a text. Cohesion occurs when the

interpretation of one element in a discourse depends on another element. These elements may appear in the form of words, sentences, or paragraphs. According to Halliday and Hasan, cohesion in a text is achieved through cohesive devices, which are generally divided into grammatical and lexical cohesion. One important form of grammatical cohesion is substitution, which involves replacing certain linguistic elements to avoid repetition while maintaining textual continuity. Substitution helps improve the flow of discourse without reducing clarity or structural integrity. In the book *Map of the Soul: 7*, which explores BTS's songs through Carl G. Jung's psychological theory, the author uses substitution as a strategy to avoid unnecessary repetition and to introduce variation in sentence structure. This technique maintains textual cohesion while making the text more dynamic and engaging for readers. An analysis of substitution in this book provides useful insights into the types of substitution used and their contribution to overall textual cohesion.

Research on discourse has been widely conducted by many scholars, focusing on both grammatical and lexical cohesion. This study concentrates specifically on the grammatical aspect, particularly the use of substitution markers in the discourse of *Map of the Soul: 7*. Previous studies, such as the work by Nurcholish Adiantika and Dwi Floranti (2018), investigated substitution in students' expository texts. Their findings showed that only nominal substitution was used. This limitation was attributed to students' insufficient knowledge of cohesive writing and their lack of understanding of substitution. The study mainly focused on describing nominal substitution.

This study adopts a discourse analysis approach using a microtextual method, with a particular focus on grammatical aspects, especially substitution devices. The research applies a qualitative descriptive method, which aims to provide a detailed description of conditions, processes, and phenomena related to the issues identified in the field. According to Sutopo, this type of research is considered descriptive because it not only presents data based on specific themes but also develops conceptual understanding through the researcher's observations, classifications, and interpretations. The main purpose is to identify conceptual patterns within a cultural phenomenon. The study aims to analyze the use of substitution as a grammatical cohesive device in *Map of the Soul: 7 in the World of BTS*. The book, written by Murray Stein and published in 2021, consists of four chapters and 204 pages. It discusses BTS's songs through the lens of Carl G. Jung's psychological theory. The data consist of utterances containing grammatical substitution and their contextual usage. The data collection technique used in this research is note-taking based on observation methods. In terms of data analysis, the study employs a distributional technique that focuses on substitution and ellipsis. In addition, a referential matching method is applied when linguistic references are used as determining tools for analysis.

Based on the analysis of the four main sections of the book *Map of the Soul: 7 in BTS World*, which are divided into the chapters Introduction, Persona, Shadow, and Ego, several important findings regarding substitution markers were identified.

In the Introduction chapter, 14 instances of substitution were found, including 5 nominal substitutions, 3 verbal substitutions, 4 phrasal substitutions, and 7 clausal or sentence substitutions. In the Persona chapter, 81 substitution markers were identified, consisting of 27 nominal substitutions, 2 phrasal substitutions, and 6 clausal or sentence substitutions. In the Shadow chapter, 43 instances were observed, including 3 nominal substitutions, 34 phrasal substitutions, and 6 clausal or sentence substitutions. Finally, in the Ego chapter, 28 substitution markers were found, comprising 11 nominal substitutions and 17 phrasal substitutions.

The use of substitution contributes to the creation of cohesive and effective discourse and helps avoid repetition and monotony in the text. This study further classifies substitution into several categories. Nominal substitution involves replacing a linguistic item with a word, while verbal substitution replaces an element with a verb. Phrasal substitution involves replacing a phrase and may occur in different forms, such as a word replacing a phrase, a bound morpheme replacing a

phrase, or a phrase replacing a clause or sentence. Clausal or sentence substitution occurs when a clause, sentence, or even a paragraph is replaced, often by a single linguistic item.

According to Sumarlam's theory, only phrasal substitution and clausal or sentence substitution are discussed. However, this study identifies an additional type, namely nominal substitution, which involves replacing a linguistic unit at the word level. In addition, the study reveals variations in the degree of substitution, namely low and high substitution levels. A high level of substitution occurs when the substituting element fully replaces the original item, while a low level is observed when the replacement does not fully capture the meaning of the original element.

Furthermore, the study identifies the phenomenon of chained substitution, where both the original element and its substitute can be replaced by another substituting item, one of which may be a personal pronoun.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, substitution is an essential cohesive device in linguistics that contributes significantly to the construction of coherent and meaningful discourse. The analysis of *Map of the Soul: 7 in the World of BTS* demonstrates that substitution is widely used across different textual sections, including Introduction, Persona, Shadow, and Ego chapters, with nominal, verbal, phrasal, and clausal types appearing in varying frequencies.

The findings show that substitution not only reduces repetition but also enhances textual flow and coherence. Additionally, the study identifies further dimensions of substitution, such as levels of substitution (high and low) and chained substitution, which expand the understanding of its functional complexity. Overall, substitution proves to be an effective linguistic mechanism for maintaining cohesion and improving the clarity and dynamism of written discourse.

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