

**Meronymy as a Lexical Cohesion Device in the Film Final Destination:
Bloodlines: A Discourse Analysis**

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the use of meronymy as a form of lexical cohesion in the dialogue of the film *Final Destination: Bloodlines*, based on Paltridge's (2022) theory of lexical cohesion. The study aims to identify the types of meronymic relations found in the dialogue and to explain their role in maintaining coherence of meaning in audiovisual discourse. A qualitative descriptive approach was employed, with data collected through documentation by observing and transcribing the film dialogue. The data were analyzed by identifying utterances that contain part-whole relationships and interpreting their functions within the context of the scenes. The findings reveal seven instances of meronymy, which are realized through references to body parts, parts of buildings, and institutional elements. These meronymic expressions are predominantly found in scenes involving danger, injury, and critical situations. The analysis shows that meronymy functions not only to clarify specific references but also to connect smaller linguistic units to broader narrative contexts, thereby supporting coherence in dialogue. This study demonstrates that meronymy plays a strategic role in organizing meaning and enhancing the continuity of discourse in film dialogue. It contributes to the understanding of lexical cohesion in audiovisual texts by highlighting how part-whole relationships help construct meaning in context.

Keywords: Meronymy; Lexical Cohesion; Discourse Analysis; Movie

INTRODUCTION

Language is a fundamental tool of human communication that enables individuals to convey ideas, express emotions, and construct meaning in both spoken and written forms. In linguistics, language is not merely viewed as a collection of words, but as a structured system that includes phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics, which together allow speakers to produce and interpret meaningful utterances (Yule, 2020). Furthermore, Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams (2018) emphasize that language is both a cognitive ability and a system of knowledge that plays a central role in human interaction and understanding of the world. Therefore, studying language involves not only examining its structural components but also analyzing how meaning is created, interpreted, and negotiated in real communicative contexts.

One approach that focuses on language use in context is discourse analysis. Discourse analysis examines how language operates beyond the level of individual sentences by considering patterns of language use across texts and interactions. According to Paltridge (2022), discourse analysis explores the relationship between language and the social and cultural contexts in which it is used, as well as how meaning is constructed through interaction. In this regard, discourse is not only about linguistic forms but also about how those forms function in specific situations. Audiovisual media, such as films, provide a rich source of discourse data because they present language in a dynamic and contextualized form. Film dialogue reflects natural communication, where meaning is shaped by lexical choices, speaker intentions, and situational context. As a result, analyzing film dialogue can offer valuable insights into how language is used to construct meaning and maintain coherence in real-life-like interactions.

A key concept in discourse analysis is lexical cohesion, which refers to the semantic relationships between words that contribute to the continuity and unity of meaning within a text. Lexical cohesion helps link ideas and ensures that discourse is perceived as connected rather than fragmented. According to Paltridge (2022), lexical cohesion can be realized through several types of relationships, including repetition, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, and meronymy. Each of these relationships contributes differently to the construction of meaning. Among these, meronymy is particularly important because it involves part-whole relationships between lexical items, where one element represents a part of a larger entity. This relationship allows speakers to refer to specific details while implicitly connecting them to a broader context.

In film dialogue, meronymy frequently appears in references to body parts, locations, and institutional elements. These references help the audience understand the context more clearly by focusing on particular aspects of a situation without explicitly describing the entire setting. For instance, mentioning a body part such as “hand” or “throat” can highlight physical action or danger, while references to places such as “front desk” or “bathroom” can indicate specific locations within a larger environment. In this way, meronymy functions as an effective linguistic strategy that supports clarity, efficiency, and coherence in communication. It enables speakers to deliver concise yet meaningful utterances, especially in situations where time and clarity are crucial, such as in scenes involving tension or urgency.

Although lexical cohesion has been widely studied in various contexts, including written texts, song lyrics, and spoken discourse, research specifically focusing on meronymy in film dialogue remains limited. Previous studies tend to examine meronymy as part of a broader analysis of lexical cohesion rather than as a primary focus. In addition, studies that analyze audiovisual discourse often emphasize general cohesion or thematic elements without exploring the specific contribution of part-whole relationships to meaning construction. This indicates a gap in the

literature, particularly in understanding how meronymy functions in film dialogue, especially within genres such as thriller or horror, where language plays a crucial role in building tension and guiding audience interpretation.

Therefore, this study aims to analyze the use of meronymy in the film *Final Destination: Bloodlines*. Specifically, this study seeks to (1) identify the types of meronymic relations found in the dialogue and (2) explain how these relations contribute to maintaining coherence and constructing meaning in audiovisual discourse. By focusing on meronymy as the central object of analysis, this research is expected to provide a deeper understanding of lexical cohesion in film dialogue and contribute to the broader field of discourse analysis, particularly in the study of language use in audiovisual media.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Previous Related Studies

There were several researchers conducted about meronymy in different fields. Such as national language and local, song, and podcasts. First, Wiana and Yunus (2026) the meronymy structure of foot parts between bahasa Indonesia and Acehese. By using qualitative design and also applying inductive semantic-componential procedure, they analyzed 32 Indonesian and 25 Acehese foot-related meronyms taken from KBBI and regional dictionaries. Then, this research found bahasa Indonesia to be more detailed than Acehese. In some parts, there are words that do not exist to represent the mentioned parts.

Next, Dewi (2023) explored lexical and grammatical cohesion in *Nothing Like Us* by Justin Bieber. The researcher used descriptive qualitative as the method with data analyzed in the form of words and phrases found in the song lyrics. The analysis focused on two types of cohesion, namely lexical cohesion and grammatical cohesion, referring to Renkema's theory. And then, the results showed there are several types. Such as repetition, synonymy and meronymy. And, repetition emerges as the dominant type in this section. While, the grammatical cohesion has three personal reference, one demonstrative reference and five conjunctions. Thus, this study places more emphasis on the cohesive function of lexical and grammatical elements in constructing the coherence of meaning in a song, rather than on an in-depth analysis of the meronymic meaning relations themselves.

The third, Rasis et al (2025) examined lexical cohesion in *The Global Story Podcasts* by BBC World Service Youtube Channel. Qualitative research used as a research method. And then, they used five podcasts from *The Global Story* podcast by the BBC World Service YouTube channel that discusses global issues as their data. And then, the data analysis conducted in this study refers to the theory of lexical cohesion proposed by Paltridge. Lexical cohesion is classified into several types, such as repetition, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, and

hyponymy. The results of the study show that each of these types was found in the analyzed data, with collocation being the most dominant type. This study confirms that lexical cohesion plays an important role in maintaining coherence and facilitating listeners' understanding in spoken texts.

From the three studies above, several similarities and differences were found between them and the research conducted by the researcher in this paper. The first difference located in the focus of the research, where the second and third researchers are more focused on overall lexical cohesion, although they discuss meronymy within it. In contrast, this study positions meronymy as the main focus of analysis, not merely as a supporting category in the study of lexical cohesion. The second difference lies in the objects being studied. Here, there is a similarity between the first and third researchers in that they compare one language with another. Meanwhile, this paper analyzes data from film texts that represent language in the context of dialogue. Then, the theories used in the three researches above are different. The first researcher used Cruse's theory, the second used Renkema's theory, while the third researcher had a similarity with this research in that they used Paltridge's theory. Nevertheless, the novelty of this study lies in the specific application of Paltridge's theory in examining meronymy in films, which not only highlights its cohesive function but also how to reveal the role of part-whole relations in constructing meaning, context, and coherence in audiovisual conversation. Thus, this study expands the study of meronymy in the fields of written texts.

Lexical Cohesion

According to Paltridge (2022) lexical cohesion refers to the relationship of meaning between lexical elements in a text, particularly words that have lexical meaning or content words. This cohesion arises in situations where speakers or writers use words that are related to each other so that their meaning can be traced continuously. These relationships can take the form of repetition, synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, and meronymy. Each of these types works differently in building meaning coherence in a discourse or dialogue.

Repetition

Repetition is the most easily recognizable type of lexical cohesion compared to other types because it involves the repetition of lexical elements in a text. This repetition serves to maintain the focus of the topic and clarify references within a discourse. Meanwhile, in spoken texts such as film dialogues, this repetition is often used to emphasize important information and also to strengthen certain emotions. Additionally, repetition also helps listeners follow the flow of conversation without losing the main references. For example, *Aku tinggal jauh dari mertuaku. Bahkan beda pulau. Tapi dengan kecanggihan teknologi, hampir setiap hari video call. Setiap video call, paling suami yang selalu ngobrol. Aku gak pernah mau ikut nimbrung. Nanti alasannya aku kasih tau.* (I live far from mother-in-laws. Even on

a different island. But with advanced technology, we video call almost every day. Every video call, it's usually my husband who keeps chatting. I never want to join in. I'll explain my reason later.) (Riyanti and Hardjanto ,2023) From that sentence, it can be seen that the speaker uses the word 'I' repeatedly to maintain the focus of reference on the speaker. Thus, this repetition makes the flow of the story feel connected because the reader is continuously directed to the same participant. Here, repetition is not only the repetition of form, but also strengthening of perspective and consistency of topic.

Synonymy

Synonymy occurs when a speaker uses different words or expressions that have similar meanings. Paltridge (2022) explains that synonymy allows writers or speakers to avoid excessive repetition without breaking the semantic connection in a text. With synonymy, a single concept can be referred to using different lexical variations while remaining coherent or unified. In a dialogue, the use of synonymy can also reflect the speaker's style and attitude. Although the meanings conveyed by the words are similar, each synonym still carries certain nuances that enrich the interpretation of the discourse. For example, *While the idea is brilliant and deserves our support, the plan may face some obstacles in its implementation, considering the nature of Indonesian classrooms and the deep-seated mindset that needs challenging* (Sinaga et al. 2022). Here, the synonyms are found in *obstacles* and *challenging*. Although these words do not have the same lexical form, semantically they are related because the words represent difficulties or obstacles in carrying out a plan. This synonym relationship allows the writer to emphasize the idea of implementation challenges without repeating the same word. Thus, this lexical variation maintains the continuity of meaning in discourse while also enriching the way an argument is conveyed.

Antonymy

Antonyms refer to a relationship of meaning that is opposite, contrary, or contrasting. Paltridge (2022) indicates that lexical cohesion can be built through oppositions of meaning, such as opposing qualities, condition, or categories. This relationship helps to construct meaning by emphasizing differences and creating contrast within a discourse. In narrative texts or dialogues, the use of antonyms is often employed to reinforce conflict, judgment, or certain attitudes. Moreover, the meaning of a word in an antonymic relationship is often understood through its existence in relation to another word. For example, *“At some point, safety just is pure waste,” Rush told journalist David Pogue in an interview last year. “I mean, if you just want to be safe, don’t get out of bed. Don’t get your car. Don’t do anything.”* Based on the example, the antonym located at the words *“get out”* and *“get in”*.

Hyponymy

Next, hyponymy is the semantic relationship between more general word (superordinate) and more specific word (hyponym). Paltridge (2022) explains that this relationship creates a classification structure in a text, where several words can be members of the same category. Words that are at the same level in a classification structure are called co-hyponyms. This hyponymic relationship helps readers and listeners understand how concepts are organized and structured within a discourse. For example, as follows “*A dynamic civil society; political parties and unions; a vibrant media and engaged citizens who have ensured that – in Indonesia – there will be no turning back.*”(Silaen and Afriana 2024). Based on the example, these elements are specific categories that represent parts of general concept, namely the democratic system. Meanwhile, the elements mentioned are hyponyms.

Meronymy

First, Paltridge (2022) stated that meronymy is a lexical relation that indicates the relationship between language elements that have a part-whole connection. In this relationship, some lexical items can function as parts of a larger entity and are referred to as co-meronyms of their superordinate element. For example, Jen and Stuart are the co-meronyms of the superordinate word couple. Here, Paltridge emphasizes that meronymy can be understood as a device of lexical cohesion, whose role is in organizing meaning and building coherence in a discourse.

Then, according to Cruse (2011) meronymy is a conceptual relation that reflects the part-whole relationship between individual referents. In this relation, one lexeme represents the whole (holonym), while other lexemes represent parts of that whole, known as meronyms. For example the relationships *hand-finger*, *car-engine*, and *tree-branch*. He emphasizes that the meaning of a part cannot be separated from the meaning of the whole, because conceptually the part is always understood in relation to the larger entity. For example, the meaning of the word '*finger*' implicitly contains the concept of '*hand*'. Thus, understanding the part depends on the whole. In this way, meronymy is seen as a systematic and conceptual semantic relation within the structure of lexical meaning.

Next, Renkema and Schubert (2018) stated that meronymy is understood as a form of lexical cohesion shown through part-whole relationships between lexical items in discourse. For example, 'At its six-month checkup, the brakes had to be repaired. In general, however, the car was in good condition.' They illustrate this relationship with the use of the word 'brakes' as a part of 'car,' which appears in two different sentences but is semantically connected. Thus, in this context, meronymy functions to maintain referential continuity and textual cohesion by linking specific information to a more general entity.

Next, the use of meronymy can be seen in the analysis of song lyrics by Valentina and Mulatsih (2024). One example they put forward is *The wheels on the bus go*

round and round. The doors on the bus go open and shut. The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish. The signals on the bus go blink, blink, blink. The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep. The motor on the bus goes vroom, vroom, vroom. Meronyms in the line of lyrics are *wheels, doors, wipers, signals, horn, and motor*, which are parts of the same entity, namely the *bus*.

METHOD

Design and Sample

This study examined the data using qualitative methodology. Because it allowed researcher to examine and identify meaning from non-numerical data, particularly language-based content like movie, qualitative approach was used. This method is suited for language analysis since it focused on understanding things from an interpretative and contextual view. By applying Creswell and Creswell (2018) Their methodology ensures that the procedure is methodologically suitable for analyzing spoken or written information by functioning as a basic guideline while conducting structured qualitative research. It helped researcher in locating and analyzing the data. Particularly, it clarified the methodology for identifying and categorizing meronymy in the movie. Because it allowed researchers to explore the nuances of meaning, context, and usage that are not identified by quantitative methods, it is especially relevant to language studies. According to their statement, qualitative research looks at specific problems and the data that is used in the form of words. So that, the data discovered in this investigation to be examined using that.

Instruments and Procedures

The object of this research is the dialogue in the film *Final Destination: Bloodlines*. This film was chosen as the research object because it contains many dialogues that represent physical events, space, and institutions relevant to the study of lexical meaning relations, particularly meronymy. The research data focuses on the utterances spoken by characters in the film that contain part-whole relations. Film dialogue is seen as a form of audiovisual discourse that showcases language use in a contextual and natural manner. Through these dialogues, meaning is built not only through the storyline but also through the lexical choices used by the characters. Therefore, the dialogue in this film becomes a source of data for analyzing how meronymy functions in building lexical cohesion. This study does not cover non-verbal elements such as written text, signs, or visuals without utterances. Thus, the research object is specifically limited to spoken language that appears in film dialogues

In collecting data, the researcher used documentation method. This method was selected because its effectiveness in collecting linguistics features while watching to an audio-visual contents like movie. It made it possible to highlight the words which are used in the movie. This method divided into four steps based on what researcher had. These procedures were created to reduce the possibility of missing

any meronymy and guarantee a systematic and accurate approach during the data collection phase. The first one, the researcher watch the movie. The second, the researcher tried to note every meronymy that is heard at that time. The third, the researcher adjusted the words from the screenplay to make sure. The last, the data that has been collected is classified based on whole-part relationship.

Data Analysis

Data analysis in this study was carried out using a descriptive qualitative approach. The process involved systematically examining the language data to understand the meaning relationships contained in the film dialogue. Data analysis refers to Sudaryanto (2015), which emphasizes that language analysis is conducted through interpreting language data based on its context of use. Each piece of data was analyzed by identifying the part-whole relationships that appear in the characters' utterances. Furthermore, the researcher explained how these relationships function within the context of the dialogue and ongoing events. This analysis was carried out by considering the speech situation, the role of the speaker, and the context of the scene in the film. The analyzed data were then described to show the role of meronymy in building lexical cohesion. With this approach, data analysis does not only focus on classification but also on interpreting meaning within the film's discourse as a whole.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This study found that meronymy relationships in the dialogues of the film *Final Destination: Bloodlines* are an important lexical device that binds the movie's discourse. Movie analysis shows that meronymy frequently occurs in dialogues depicting physical conditions, objects, and actions related to fatal events. These meronymic expressions help connect smaller linguistic elements to the larger narrative meaning, especially in situations where danger, injury, and death are present. Overall, these findings indicate that meronymy plays an important role in maintaining lexical coherence in the movie's conversation. Meronymic relations help sustain discourse coherence and guide viewers to understand what they see by connecting specific parts to the overall context of events or entities. In total, seven data of meronymy were identified in this movie, which are presented and discussed in the following section.

Data 1

[05:41}

Iris: Let's go to the bar.

Here, they found something they did not want because Paul had already made a reservation, but when he arrived at the place, it turned out they couldn't get a spot due to overcapacity. So, Iris tries to lighten the mood by inviting Paul to a bar. The part-whole relationship here illustrates meronymy because the bar does not stand as a separate entity, but rather as a component of the main location. In the dialogue,

mentioning this part helps maintain the continuity of the characters' location and activities. Moreover, the function of meronymy here is to tie the conversation together so that it stays within a consistent spatial context.

Data 2

[07:12]

Iris: Excuse me, where's the ladies' room?

This dialogue happened when Iris Campbell looked downwards outside. She was very afraid that something bad would happen to her. After that, she hurried away with anxious feelings and asked one of the waitresses there. This statement shows a meronymy relationship because the ladies' room is part of the facilities of the entire building where the character is, namely Scadvey Tower. This part-whole relationship allows the speaker to refer to a specific location without having to mention the whole part of the building explicitly. Thus, meronymy functions to maintain the continuity of place references in the flow of the conversation..

Data 3

[1:05:28]

Iris: Give me your hand!

Iris uttered this to Julia at the moment where Julia got stuck in the back of a garbage truck. Iris tried her best and reached for Julia's hand, but at that moment she still couldn't save Julia. The word 'hand' here refers to a part of the human body used to perform an action. In a meronymy relationship, mentioning a specific body part directs focus to a physical aspect without needing to refer to the entire body. In dialogue, this strategy is effective for enhancing clarity of an action and the urgency of a situation. Thus, meronymy serves to maintain dialogue cohesion by linking physical details to the context of the rescue.

Data 4

[1:11:11}

Erik: You made cookies in that thing with peanut butter in them just a few days ago. This poor bastard so much as even touches a nut, his throat is gonna close up tight and... You understand. Where's the peanut butter?

Here, the conversation takes place between Erik and his mother, Darlene. Erik is angry because his younger brother, Bobby, could die if they gave him peanuts since he is allergic to them. At this point, the throat is a vital part of the human body located in the neck that directly determines a person's survival. The mention of this body part creates a meronymy relationship because a disturbance in the throat is implicitly understood as a threat to Bobby's life.

Data 5

[1:14:08]

Iris: The front desk is this way.

At this point, Erik, Bobby, Darlene, and Iris arrive at the hospital. They come with the purpose of looking for someone with the initials J.B. Upon entering the hospital, Iris informs her family where the front desk is located. Here, the term 'front desk' represents a part-whole relationship, a meronymy, because the function of the front desk cannot be separated from the entire hospital system. Mentioning this word helps maintain cohesion and the actions of the characters in the dialogue. Thus, the reference to the place remains consistent within the ongoing conversation.

Data 6

[1:23:15}

Charlie: I searched the bathrooms. They weren't in the RV?

In this situation, Charlie has already found out where Bobby and Erik are going because they left when Charlie, Stephanie and Darlene were cuddling together. In this case, the word bathrooms is part of the hospital building as a whole. These part-whole relationships maintain spatial cohesion because the search action is still in one key location. The mention of this part of the building also clarifies the scope of the character's actions. Thus, the continuity of meaning and location is maintained.

Data 7

[1:23:57]

Erik: I've got a great idea. Okay. There's an ER down the hall, so as soon as you flatline, boom. I'm gonna wheel your a*s down, man. They're gonna bring you right back.

This conversation takes place between Erik and Bobby in the MRI room. Here, Erik has a plan whereby, when the plan is carried out, Bobby will later be taken in a wheelchair to the ER. The ER is one of the functional parts of the entire hospital. The mention of this term builds a meronymy relationship that connects the character's actions with the hospital space system. Thus, the dialogue delivered by Erik here represents a part-whole relationship, or meronymy.

The findings of this study indicate that meronymy functions as an effective lexical device in maintaining the continuity of meaning in the dialogue of the film *Final Destination: Bloodlines*. The presence of part-whole relationships in the dialogue not only clarifies references but also helps the audience follow the progression of events in a more coherent and structured way. By referring to specific parts of a larger entity, such as body parts, locations, or institutional elements, the dialogue becomes more precise while still maintaining a connection to the broader context.

The dominance of meronymy in the context of the human body, space, and institutions highlights how small linguistic elements contribute significantly to the construction of meaning. For example, references to body parts in scenes involving injury or danger help emphasize the physical impact of events, making the situation more vivid and immediate for the audience. Similarly, references to parts of

buildings or institutional spaces, such as “front desk” or “ER,” help situate the characters within a specific environment without requiring lengthy explanations. This supports Paltridge’s (2022) view that lexical cohesion plays a key role in linking ideas and maintaining textual unity.

Furthermore, meronymy serves as a strategy to direct the audience’s attention to important aspects of a scene. In high-tension or critical situations, the use of part–whole relationships allows speakers to convey essential information quickly and efficiently. This aligns with Cruse’s (2011) concept of meronymy as a conceptual relationship in which the meaning of a part is closely tied to the whole. In this study, the use of meronymy enables the dialogue to remain concise while still conveying rich and meaningful information, particularly in scenes involving urgency, danger, and emotional intensity.

Another important finding is that meronymy contributes to the coherence of dialogue by linking actions, conditions, and locations in a continuous manner. The repeated use of related lexical items helps maintain referential continuity, allowing the audience to easily follow the storyline. This supports Renkema and Schubert’s (2018) argument that lexical cohesion, including meronymy, plays an essential role in connecting elements within a discourse to create a unified meaning. In this film, meronymy not only connects linguistic elements but also supports the narrative structure by reinforcing the relationships between characters, actions, and settings. However, the study found only seven instances of meronymy in the analyzed dialogue. This suggests that meronymy is not used frequently but rather selectively and strategically. Its limited occurrence indicates that it is applied in specific contexts where clarity and emphasis are needed, particularly in scenes involving critical events. This selective use strengthens its function as a meaningful and purposeful linguistic device rather than a repetitive pattern.

The findings confirm that meronymy plays a significant role in building discourse coherence in film dialogue. It functions not only as a semantic relationship but also as a cohesive device that supports meaning construction, narrative development, and audience comprehension. This is particularly evident in genres such as thriller and horror, where concise and impactful language is essential to convey tension and guide audience interpretation. Therefore, this study reinforces the importance of meronymy in discourse analysis and highlights its contribution to understanding how meaning is constructed in audiovisual texts.

CONCLUSION

This study aimed to identify and analyze the use of meronymy in the dialogue of the film *Final Destination: Bloodlines*. The findings show that meronymic relationships are realized through references to body parts, parts of buildings, and institutional elements. These part–whole relationships demonstrate how specific lexical items are used to represent larger entities, thereby supporting the continuity of meaning in film dialogue.

The analysis reveals that meronymy plays a significant role in building lexical cohesion by linking detailed references to broader narrative contexts. Through this function, meronymy contributes not only to semantic interpretation but also to the coherence of discourse, enabling the audience to follow actions, settings, and events more effectively. Its strategic use, particularly in scenes involving tension and critical situations, highlights its importance in enhancing clarity and narrative flow in audiovisual texts.

In addition, this study contributes to discourse analysis by emphasizing the role of meronymy as both a semantic and cohesive device in film dialogue, an area that has received limited attention compared to written texts. However, this study is limited to a single film and a small number of data instances. Therefore, future research is recommended to explore meronymy in different film genres, use larger datasets, or combine the analysis with other types of lexical cohesion to provide a more comprehensive understanding of language use in audiovisual discourse.

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