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A Functional Linguistic Analysis of Lexical Cohesion in HIV/AIDS Publications

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Abstract

This study examines lexical cohesion in selected HIV/AIDS publications, specifically magazines and flyers, to determine how lexical cohesive devices contribute to clarity, coherence, and textual effectiveness in health communication. Anchored on Bloor and Bloor's (2004) Functional Linguistics framework, it examines the use of reiteration (repetition, synonymy/near synonymy, and superordination) and collocation (complementaries, antonyms, converses, part–whole, part–part relations, and links) in texts sourced from accredited health bodies, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), Nigeria. Adopting a qualitative and quantitative research design, the study analyzes twenty clauses extracted from three selected texts to identify and categorize lexical cohesive ties. Findings reveal a high frequency of lexical cohesive devices, with reiteration occurring slightly more frequently than collocation. While repetition emerges as the most dominant strategy, serving to emphasize key health messages such as HIV testing, counselling, prevention, and stakeholder engagement, collocational pairs, particularly antonyms and complementaries contribute significantly to meaning-making by making HIV/AIDS discourse cohere and sustain textual meaning. The study underscores the significance of these devices in organizing clear, coherent, and effective healthcare texts. It concludes that lexical cohesion is central to the textualization of HIV/AIDS publications which are shown to be highly cohesive and communicatively potent in educating both infected and affected populations. These findings

have implications for the development of more effective health communication materials and highlight the crucial role of lexical cohesion in the communicative effectiveness of public health texts.
Keywords: Textual Analysis, Medical Communication, Cohesive Features, HIV/AIDS publication, Lexical Cohesion

Introduction

Over the decades, HIV/AIDS has remained a global health challenge, affecting individuals across diverse socio-economic backgrounds and necessitating not only medical and social interventions but also effective language strategies to facilitate comprehension of HIV-related texts. Effective communication in healthcare requires the coordinated engagement of patients, caregivers, and the contextual circumstances of interaction, as meaning is constructed within these interrelated areas. Consequently, research in medical communication seeks to refine linguistic strategies that effectively inform individuals about health promotion, risk reduction, and disease management. Within this communicative framework, attention to the linguistic organisation of texts becomes essential to ensuring clarity.

One crucial aspect of such linguistic organisation is lexical cohesion, a key component of textual organisation that plays a critical role in enhancing comprehension and coherence in health communication. Understanding how lexical cohesive devices contribute to the effectiveness of or create barriers of healthcare communication is particularly important in HIV/AIDS discourse, where audiences are culturally and linguistically diverse. In this manner, cohesive language strategies ensure that key information is structured, comprehensible, and accessible, enabling patients and affected populations to engage meaningfully with the relevant texts.

Language is central to any communicative exchange, and its effectiveness depends on the deliberate choices made by the user. In medical discourse, these choices are particularly critical, as

words and expressions must be carefully crafted to ensure accurate comprehension by the intended audience. This is especially true for texts addressing Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), where clarity, precision, and coherence are essential to inform, educate, and guide patients, caregivers, and the general public. Consequently, understanding how linguistic strategies, such as lexical cohesion, contribute to the structuring and interpretation of health texts is crucial for effective communication in the context of public health.

Cohesive devices according to Kamalu and Osisanwo (2015) are the formal links between sentences and clauses. They are considered to be words, expressions or phrases used to connect ideas between different parts of text, therefore, the linguistic/cohesive features, include repetition, conjunction, substitution, and lexical cohesion. In the healthcare communication, the lexical cohesive relations define the structure of expressions and are considered important factors that determine the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS information on the patients since lexical elements form the vocabulary and drive the most important information in any structure.

According to Halliday (1994), lexical cohesion arises from the selection of lexical items related to those that have gone before. Urbanova (2008) notes that lexical cohesive devices contribute to approximation of meaning, explanation, and connectivity of text parts, whereas grammatical cohesion tools help achieve comprehensibility. Lexical cohesion is achieved through vocabulary selection (Halliday, 1994: 274), creating cohesion through conscious or unconscious selection of connected lexical items. Unlike grammatical cohesion, which links nearby clauses, lexical cohesion links larger parts of the text. Morris and Hirst (1991) view lexical cohesion as arising from semantic relationships between words, requiring recognizable relations between words.

Lexical cohesion plays a key role in computational text understanding (Morris & Hirst, 1991) and is especially vital in medical communication, where lexical choices can either facilitate or hinder effective health information dissemination. Poor language use may have serious consequences for patients' health. Hence, examining lexical cohesion in HIV/AIDS texts is important for understanding how cohesive features such as reiteration and collocation enhance texture, clarify meaning, and unify discourse. This study therefore investigates the role of lexical cohesion in HIV/AIDS publications, underscoring its significance in effective medical communication.

This study investigates the use of lexical cohesion in selected HIV/AIDS publications such as fliers and magazines, with the aim of exploring how lexical cohesive devices are employed to enhance the clarity and understanding of HIV/AIDS text. By analyzing specific HIV/AIDS texts, the study considers the forms of lexical cohesion used, and how these devices come together to cohere the text while conveying the intended message.

Literature Review

Cohesion and its Features

Cohesion refers to the degree of interconnectedness and it has to do with ties, markers or devices that help a text become meaningful. It is cohesion that determines coherence in a given text or discourse. Halliday and Hasan (1976) hold that "cohesion has to do with how the text is constructed as a semantic edifice". This implies that cohesion must be considered when constructing or selecting words and expressions that will form any text. Halliday and Hasan (1976) summarise this as follows:

> Cohesion is the means whereby elements that are structurally unrelated to one another are linked together through the dependence of one on the other for its interpretation. The resources that make up the potential are part

> of the total meaning potential of language, having a kind of catalytic function in the sense that without cohesion, the remainder of the semantic system cannot be effectively activated at all.

This underscores the importance and relevance of cohesion in the formation of any text. Linguists need to understand that items in any text depend on each other for effective communication. In this manner, sentences have to link together to have texture.

Carter (1987) describes cohesion as the mutual connection of surface text components within a sequence, emphasizing the systematic processes involved in writing, where word choices are influenced by preceding elements. Similarly, Halliday and Hasan (1976) argue that cohesion involves interdependence within discourse, such that one element presupposes another and cannot be fully understood in isolation. They further maintain that cohesion is part of the linguistic system, grounded in resources such as reference, ellipsis, and substitution inherent in language. Osisanwo (2003), however maintains that:

> Cohesion refers to the relations of meaning that exist within the text. It is the linguistic unit by which a text functions as a single unit. When we talk of cohesion in discourse, we are talking about how actual texts are held together grammatically and lexically.

In texts, the representation of cohesion is in the form of repetition, parallelism, connectives, and lexical items. These items signal and trigger coherence in texts and in order to interpret one, the reader must make recourse to the other. In the opinion of Halliday and Hasan (1976),

> Cohesion occurs where the INTERPRETATION of some elements in the discourse is dependent on that of another. The one PRESUPPOSES the other,

> in the sense that it cannot be effectively decoded except by recourse to it… and the two elements, the presupposed are thereby at least potentially integrated into a text.

Akindele (1988) defines cohesion as the ties within and across utterances that form a stretch of discourse, while coherence, in his view, depends on the extent to which language use aligns with shared conventions about how illocutionary acts combine to create larger discourse units. He concurs with Thompson that coherence is measured by what language users already know about the projected message. Similarly, Enkvist (1978) and Brown and Yule (1983) argue that cohesion does not automatically result in coherence. However, Halliday and Hasan (1976:23) maintain that neither cohesion nor coherence is sufficient alone, nor does one necessarily entail the other. They assert that a text is coherent both in relation to its context of situation and in relation to itself, thereby achieving cohesion.

Olatunde (2002) views cohesion as the link between the internal organization of language, its functions, and the social context of use. It also entails formal linguistic connections between parts of a text that can be identified and classified (Hope and Wright, 1996). Matthew (1997) approaches cohesion from the perspective of the sentence as a syntactic unit, while Crystal (1997) defines it in terms of grammatical (word-level) cohesion. However, Halliday and Hasan (1976) emphasize that cohesion is fundamentally semantic, referring to meaning relations that exist within a text, give it texture, and define it as a text.

Cohesion resides in the semantic and grammatical properties of language, emphasizing meaning relations in texts (Bex, 1996). Difficulty in interpreting linguistic forms does not necessarily indicate absence of meaning but may reflect complexity or nuance (Emezue, 1996). A theoretical model of text is therefore essential for coherent discourse interpretation. In HIV/AIDS publications,

cohesion refers to the ties that generate meaning within the text. This study examines how such ties create coherent medical discourse, with the aim of enhancing the understanding of effective health communication and the production of clear, meaningful messages for target audiences.

Lexical Cohesion

Lexical cohesion which is central to text organization is according to Morris and Hirst (1991) the semantic relationship between words and phrases and how they are linked together to create a meaningful, holistic and coherent message. It centers on different mechanisms of the text, such as repetition, synonymy, and collocation, thereby establishing and sustaining necessary connections within the text. Morris and Hirst (1991) further maintain that there are two major reasons why lexical cohesion is important for computational text understanding systems.

a) Lexical chains provide an easy-to-determine context to aid in the resolution of ambiguity and in the narrowing to a specific meaning of a word.
b) Lexical chains provide a clue for the determination of coherence and discourse structure, and hence the larger meaning of the text.

Scholars have offered varying classifications of lexical cohesion. Asiyanbola (2005) identifies synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, repetition, and collocation as key lexical devices. Halliday and Hasan (1976) group lexical cohesion into two broad categories: reiteration (repetition, synonymy or near-synonym, superordinate, and general word) and collocation. Later, Halliday revised this framework to include four types – repetition, synonymy/antonymy, hyponymy/meronymy, and collocation (Hu Zhuanglin, 2008). Osisanwo (2003), however, retains the earlier twofold classification of reiteration and collocation following Halliday and Hasan (1976). These classifications are evident in HIV/AIDS publications, where lexical cohesion helps unify medical vocabulary related to the pandemic and facilitates meaning. This

paper adopts the classification by Osisanwo (2003) who summarized lexical cohesion as shown in the diagram below.

LEXICAL COHESION

REITERATION	**COLLOCATION**
Repetition	Complementaries
Super-ordinate/Hyponym	Converses
Synonym or near synonym	Antonyms
	Parts/whole
	Parts/parts
	Co-hyponyms
	Links

Reiteration

Reiteration is a form of lexical cohesion which involves the repetition of lexical items, at one end of the scale; the use of a general word to refer back to a lexical and of an item, at the other end of the scale; and a number of things in between the use of a synonym, near-synonyms, or superordinate (Halliday & Hasan 1976). Reiteration represents the repetition of a lexical item, or the occurrence of a synonym of some kind in the context of reference. According to Osisanwo (2003), reiteration means saying or doing something several times, and he stresses that reiteration manifests in three ways:

a) Repetition
b) Superordinate/hyponym
c) Synonyms/near synonyms

Repetition

Repetition is a device that is used to achieve effects and it is also a major device which is used for emphasis. For example:

Algy met a <u>bear</u>. The <u>bear</u> was bulgy (Halliday (1985:310)

I saw a new bus at the end of the road. The bus was waiting for some workers. (Osisanwo 2003)

The lexical items which contribute to cohesion here in terms of repetition are the words 'bear' and ‘bus’ (not Algy, and bulgy!). The repetition lays an emphasis to show that ‘bear’ and ‘bus’ are the central items of the sentences. This is what is known as direct repetition. This means that the exact words ‘bear’ and ‘bus’ are repeated.

Synonymy or Near Synonymy

Synonymy is used to show lexical similarity in lexical cohesion. Palmer, (1981) sees synonymy as sameness of meaning. Lexical cohesion results from the choice of a lexical item that is in some sense synonymous with a preceding one; for example *sound* with *noise*.

Examples:

The evidence yesterday was not concrete enough. I hope the proof today will substantiate the claim.

The fight over the years has been between the departments. We pray this battle does not affect other faculties (Abdulrasheed 2011)

Many families have been forced to leave their homes.

This short piece contained words: left, exodus, abandoned, deserted, evacuated, moved, all of which entail the core meaning of *leave* (Bloor and Bloor 2004)

Superordinate

This shows the inclusion of one class into the other. Palmer, (1981) opines that superordinate is term for words that refer to the upper class itself. In superordination, one word encompasses another in meaning. One can therefore say that one word is a part of the other.

Examples:

Adaugo bought a brand new vehicle. She practically sleeps in the car. (Palmer 1981)

I've got some Italian furniture. The Chairs are resilent. (Osisanwo 2003)

Collocation

Halliday and Hasan (1976) define collocation as cohesion achieved through associated lexical items that regularly co-occur. Wang and Liu (2014) note that collocation is the most complex aspect of lexical cohesion, with variable co-occurrence relations requiring interpretation within the context of English language semantics.

Osisanwo (2003) identifies seven types of collocation in discourse. They are complementaries, converse, antonyms, part and whole, part and part, co-hyponyms, and links.

a) **Complementaries**
   Neither father nor mother spared the troublesome boy.
   Both the brother and the sister are guity of the offence.

b) **Converse**
   The new church was filled with worshipers singing and dancing.
   I met Dr Isah at the party wining and dining

c) **Antonyms**
   The troubled foreigner didn't know whether to leave or stay in the country.
   I watched Mary coming and going out of examination hall**.**

d) **Part and Whole**
   Ahmed had an accident. His leg was cut off his body.
   Medical sciences such as Anatomy and Physiology are interesting courses.

e) **Part and Part**
   The main bedroom and the guestroom were rugged.
   The house help has cleaned the sitting room and the visitor's room.

f) **Co-hyponyms**
   In his bag we found pen, pencil, eraser, marker, and sharpener.
   On the floor we found plates, bowls, dishes, cups, table knives and spoons.

g) **Links**
Both the supervisor and the supervisee were expelled from the university**.**
The sudden explosions sent the doctors and the patients running away from the hospital.

Methodology

Data were collected from HIV/AIDS flyers and magazines sourced from accredited HIV bodies and centers: World Health Organization (WHO) and National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), Abuja-Nigeria). The method of data collection for this study is documentation. Deliberate efforts were made by the researcher to purposively identify and collate the lexical cohesive devices in the publications. In this paper, three texts dealing with the feminization of HIV/AIDS, the importance of confidential counselling before and after testing, and the role of primary and secondary stakeholders in controlling the spread of HIV were selected for analysis.

These data sources were chosen because, apart from being authentic, they are accredited government agencies in-charge of issues, responses and general cases relating to the epidemic. In addition to this, the publications are deemed to have the primary information which the study is interested in and they are also materials published in English language, a window to wider communication. The coverage is global too, therefore an analysis of lexical cohesion in the publications (flyers and magazines) comes in useful and handy.

The research design for this study is both qualitative and quantitative. The analysis of data follows Bloor and Bloor's (2004) Functional Linguistics. The study adopts the qualitative dimension which applies to the structural component and cohesive component (reference, substitution/ellipsis, conjunction, lexical cohesion) tagged, the textual components of the grammar.

Lexical cohesive devices central to this study are presented in bold, identified, categorised, and classified in accordance with the framework adopted.

Data Analysis and Findings

Table 1: Text from HIV/AIDS magazines

Extract 1	**Lexical Cohesive Ties**	**Reiteration**	**Collocation**	**Cohesive Chain**
CL1-Idoko said tackling the feminization of HIV/AIDS requires actions from both **within** and **outside** the **health sector**. ***CL2-*** The **health sector** should step up prevention interventions through services **women** and **girls** frequently patronize such as family planning, maternal neonatal, and child health services;(**MNCH**) and **tuberculosis** and **malaria**. ***CL3-*** In his conclusion, he said that it is important to change the behaviour of the government and the **public** and **private** sector; know the epidemic to plan better; and integrate HIV services with **TB**, **malaria** and **MNCH** and deliver them at the community level.	Within and outside, health sector, women and girls, tuberculosis, malaria, public, private, MNCH	**Repetition:**	**Complementaries**	**A-** Tackling, actions, prevention, intervention
		Malaria, tuberculosis, MNCH, the health sector	Women and girls,	
				B- neonatal, child
		Superordinate:	**Antonym**:	**C-** malaria, epidemic, hiv/aids, tuberculosis, health
		A Action—prevention, intervention	within and outside, public and private	
				D government, public sector, private sector

Table 1 addresses the feminization of HIV/AIDS and calls for action within the health sector and among stakeholders. In his conclusion, the Director of NACA-Nigeria, Prof. Idoko, urges support from both public and private sectors to address the issue

through services accessed by women and girls. The three-clause text effectively employs lexical cohesion, particularly reiteration and collocation at both intra- and inter-sentential levels. The following are the identifiable instances:

Repetition: certain words are repeated in the text to establish the importance of a lexical item in the development of a clause. The lexical cohesive elements which are repeated in the extract include Malaria, tuberculosis, MNCH and the health sector. The mention of these diseases helps to re-establish the fact that they are opportunistic illnesses that affect and worsen the situations of people, especially women living with HIV/AIDS.

Superordinate: From our data, two sets of lexical cohesive items are used as superordinate, first, to describe neonatal and child health services in CL2 and areas of prevention and intervention as actions relevant for the feminization of HIV/AIDS. The instances are given below: neonatal----child, and actions----- prevention, intervention. Prevention and intervention according to the text is the action required within and outside the health sector.

Complementaries: quite a number of items complement each other to achieve cohesion and inhere the text instances include:
Women and girls **CL2**
Public and private **CL3**

Antonyms: The extract discusses tackling the feminization of HIV/AIDS through individual and organizational efforts. Antonyms like "within and outside" and "public and private" are used to convey the project's national scope and overlapping meanings. These cohesive elements call for support in integrating HIV with tuberculosis and malaria prevention efforts.
Adding to this, the cohesive chains traceable in the text create some very meaningful relationship from one word to the other,

aiding the understanding of the text. The examples are given below

1. Tackling----actions----prevention interventions
2. Neonatal----child
3. Tuberculosis----malaria----epidemic----hiv/aids----health
4. Government----public sector----private sector

Table 2: Text from HIV/AIDS flyers

Extract 1	**Lexical Cohesive Ties**	**Reiteration**	**Collocation**	**Cohesive Chain**
CL1-Idoko said tackling the feminization of HIV/AIDS requires actions from both **within** and **outside** the **health sector**. ***CL2-*** The **health sector** should step up prevention interventions through services **women** and **girls** frequently patronize such as family planning, maternal neonatal, and child health services;(**MNCH**) and **tuberculosis** and **malaria**. ***CL3-*** In his conclusion, he said that it is important to change the behaviour of the government and the **public** and **private** sector; know the epidemic to plan better; and integrate HIV services with **TB**, **malaria** and **MNCH** and deliver them at the community level.	Within and outside, health sector, women and girls, tuberculosis, malaria, public, private, MNCH	**Repetition:**	**Complementaries**	**A-**Tackling, actions, prevention, intervention
		Malaria, tuberculosis, MNCH, the health sector	Women and girls,	**B-** neonatal, child
		Superordinate:	**Antonym**:	**C-** malaria, epidemic, hiv/aids, tuberculosis, health
		A Action—prevention, intervention	within and outside, public and private	**D** government, public sector, private sector

The extract in Table 2 consists of nine clauses addressing HIV counselling, testing, and abstinence, and explains how the virus attacks the immune system, increasing vulnerability to illness. It cautions carriers against unhealthy habits such as alcohol and hard drugs. Reiteration, through repetition, near synonyms, and

superordinates serves as the main cohesive device, enhancing textual unity and understanding. These cohesive elements strengthen clarity and coherence, thereby promoting effective communication in HIV/AIDS publications.

Some examples are given below:

Repetition--- While this generates the strongest force among others according to Bloor and Bloor 2004, it is a device which is used to create some emphasis on certain linguistic items in texts. From our data, the repetition of lexical items such as *the test, confidential* and *counsellor* is used to create a resounding emphasis on the importance of counselling, testing and knowing the HIV status of an individual and how best to play safe when positive or negative.

Near Synonyms--- Based on the context of language use, near synonym bothers on sameness of meaning resulting from the choice of a lexical item that relates in some sense with the preceding one. Instances from our data show that the lexical item *negative* in CL9 is in some sense synonymous with *not infected* in the beginning part of the same clause. In the same vein, there is a clear indication that the lexical cohesive resource *immune* identified in CL10 is similar to the word *defence* since both items relate to the body system that protects or fights against antibodies.

Superordinate--- There is an instance of superordinate as a cohesive resource. It is discovered that there are words that refer to the upper class in CL11 of the extract. In the context of use, substance as used in the extract is the superordinate of the terms alcohol and hard drugs. These have been used cohesively to disclose the fact that HIV carriers who expose themselves to such harmful situations face certain health risks.

Collocation is a part of lexical cohesion that ensures that cohesion occurs through the association of items that regularly co-occur.

From the data in the table above, there are instances of converse and antonyms.

Converse--- from our data, the instance of converse; *counselling and testing* is clearly shown in CL135 to educate the public about the procedures involved in HIV/AIDS testing.

Antonym--- An identifiable example of antonym, *negative—positive* is seen between CL8 and CL9 of the text. *Positive* and *negative* is used to show what the status of a patient who has subscribed for HIV counselling and testing is. In addition to these features, central to the interpretation of the meaning of the extract is lexical chain. This is a situation where some words stand in some meaningful relationship with each other in a text. From our sample, the words listed in the two lines below are meaningfully connected with each other and they create a functional cohesive effect that makes the HIV readers able to interpret and understand the messages.

1. Hospital, clinic, center
2. HIV, positive, negative, immune, status

These chains are usually connected through meaning, root or origin as the case may be. The extract therefore can be said to be cohesive because the logical progression of the information throughout the text is helped by the lexical cohesive elements identifiable in the text.

Table 3: Text from magazines

Extract 3	**Lexical Cohesive Ties**	**Reiteration**	**Collocation**	**Cohesive Chain**
***CL13*-Primary stakeholders** of HIV/AIDS are those ultimately	Primary, secondary,	**Repetition:**	**Antonyms:**	Positiv ely,

affected, either **positively** (**beneficiaries**) or **negatively** (**losers**). ***CL14*-Secondary stakeholders** are the intermediaries in the change process. ***CL15*-**Doing a **stakeholder** analysis can help to identify positive relations between **stakeholders** which can be built upon and may enable **collaboration** and **cooperation**. ***CL16*-** It can identify their **interests**, **open** and **hidden** in relation to the problems being addressed by the **programme**. ***CL17*-**It can also briefly assess the likely effect of the **programme** on each of these **interests**: **positive**, **negative** or unknown. ***CL18*-**It can also help to know whether all potential **supporters** and **opponents** of the project have been identified. ***CL19*-** Stakeholders of **high** importance but with **low** influence or power should be considered too. ***CL20*-**They may require limited **monitoring** or **evaluation**. **Cat/B**	stakeholders, beneficiaries, positively, negatively, losers, collaboration, cooperation, interests, open, hidden, programme, positive, negative, supporters, opponents, high, low, monitoring, evaluation	Stakeholders, interests, programme	Positively-negatively**,** Beneficiaries-losers**,** open-hidden**,** positive-negative**,** supporters-opponents**,** high-low	negatively, HIV/AIDS
		Near Synonym	**Complementaries**:	
		Collaboration and cooperation	monitoring and evaluation, collaboration and cooperation	
			Part and Part: Primary-secondary	

Central to the extract in Table 3 is the emphasis on stakeholder analysis of a transport worker for HIV intervention, highlighting collaboration and cooperation in fostering positive relationships. The seven-clause text proposes creating primary and secondary lists based on stakeholders' support or opposition to the project. The writer effectively employs reiteration and collocation as lexical cohesive devices to enhance clarity and understanding.

Repetition: repetition and near synonyms have been adequately utilized in the text to bring to notice the ideas being expounded.

The lexical cohesive items such as *stakeholders*, *interests* and *programme* are repeated in the first five clauses (CL 13, 14, 15, 16, 17) in table 3 to differentiate the categories of stakeholders, identify their interests and the problems the programme is likely to address. The repetition of these linguistic items gives a resounding emphasis on their importance, influence and roles in helping to curb or reduce the spread of the epidemic, HIV/AIDS for transport workers.

Near Synonyms: in the extract, *collaboration* and *cooperation* are used contextually as near synonyms in CL14 to identify the positive relations of the stakeholders which can be built on for reference.

Antonymns: antonyms are used to convey oppositeness of meaning and drive home points. Examples include "positively and negatively" and "beneficiaries and losers" (CL13), "open and hidden" and "positive and negative" to assess stakeholder interests, and "supporters and opponents" and "high and low" (CL18-19). These antonyms help qualify and evaluate the quality of stakeholder contributions to HIV prevention, particularly at local health centers.The antonyms are mainly used to qualify, size-up and assess the quality of the contributions of each of the stakeholders towards HIV prevention particularly at local health centers.

Part and part: There are lexical cohesive items that are used to achieve cohesion through laying of emphasis on the different parts of an item and they also help to maintain textuality in selected HIV publications under study. From the data in table 3 above, *primary* and *secondary* CL 13- CL14 are used as part and part to describe and classify stakeholders' contributions and interests in the process of curbing the epidemic among transport workers.

Complimentaries: In the process of understanding and making these publications cohesive, some linguistic items complement others to form lexical ties that help to inhere and make texts

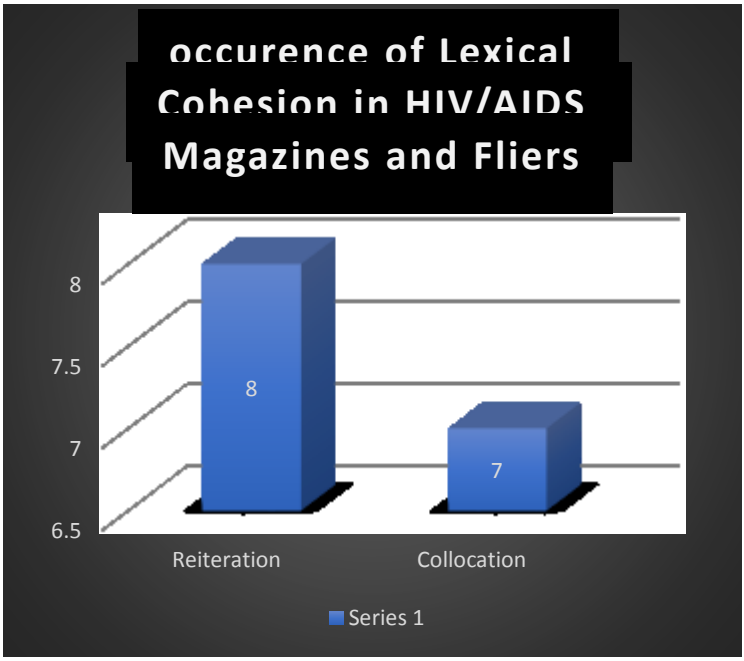
textual. Instances of complementaries are identifiable in CL15 and CL20: the items *monitoring* and *evaluation* in CL20 complement each other in the text while suggesting ways of checkmating the stakeholders for maximum performance. In the same vein, *collaboration* and *cooperation* in CL15 are complementaries which give an idea on the type of positive relationship expected of stakeholders. There is therefore a case of overlap, where some of the pairs manifest in different forms of collocation, that is, appearing in more than one instance. Examples include *private* and *public* used as complementaries and also antonym, *collaboration* and *cooperation* can also function as both complementaries and converse.

Table 4: Tabular summary of occurrence of lexical cohesion

Extract	No of Clauses	No of Lexical Cohesive Ties	No of Reiteration	No of Collocation
1	3	15	3	2
2	9	19	3	2
3	8	23	2	3
TOTAL	**20**	**57**	**8**	**7**

This frequency table shows the summary of occurrence of lexical cohesive devices in clauses and texts of selected HIV/AIDS magazines and fliers considered in this study. These lexical cohesive elements help to build the text for cohesion and coherence. Altogether, a total of twenty clauses randomly spread across the tables bear the cohesive ties that make these texts cohere. The number of lexical cohesive resources applied in this section is fifty-seven which vividly shows that publication writers make copious and adequate use of lexical cohesive devices to make textuality possible in their writeups. It is discovered also that reiteration, a sub division of lexical cohesion appears more often than collocation with the numerical value of eight and seven respectively. The implication of this is that there is an abundance of cohesive items, particularly the lexical type in HIV/AIDS

publications (magazines and fliers) meant for readers, audience and people living with or affected by the epidemic. The numerical value of the occurrence of lexical cohesion is represented in the bar chart below:



The bar chart shows that reiteration is often used to cohere and inhere medical texts compared to collocation. Reiteration has the highest occurrence with a total of eight while collocation has seven, showing that reiteration is used more than collocation

Results and Discussion

Reiteration and Collocation are strong cohesive resources that run through the clauses of a text, achieving intensity of language meaning and clarity of information. In HIV magazines and fliers analysed in this study, various lexical cohesive devices are present. Medical writers use repetition, an aspect of reiteration to emphasize important information, such as HIV testing and

counselling, and safer sex practices. Repetition is the most prominent device, creating a powerful cohesive and textual effect. The use of repetition is evident across the data, highlighting the importance of specific information. Lexical cohesion is crucial in health care communication, especially in HIV/AIDS publications, to convey clear and concise messages to the target audience. The study reveals that medical writers rely heavily on repetition to drive home key messages, demonstrating the effectiveness of lexical cohesion in health communication. By deploying these devices, writers can create coherent and meaningful texts that resonate with readers.

Lexical cohesive items are deliberately foregrounded in the extracts to create emphasis, thereby enhancing textual unity and facilitating ease of interpretation and understanding. The following examples illustrate instances of repetition identified in the data: *malaria*, *tuberculosis*, *MNCH*, *the health sector* (CL2), *test* (CL5), *confidential* (CL4), and *counsellor* (CL6).

On the other hand, antonymy, reflecting oppositeness in meaning within the collocational category is also employed to achieve cohesion in the selected texts. This is realized through the juxtaposition, contrast, and comparison of expressions in the discussion of specific health issues. Notable instances include *positively/negatively* and *beneficiaries/losers* (CL13), *open/hidden* (CL16), *within/outside* (CL1), and *public/private* (CL3).

Generating the interpretations of the pairs contextually reveals what cohesive effect is achieved with them. All through, it is found from our table of summary, that reiteration is mainly used to make text hang together and achieve cohesion more than collocation. However, it is evident that collocation is more encompassing with different sub categories when compared with reiteration. Instances of collocation include: complementaries: CL3 *public* and *private*, CL20 *monitoring* and evaluation. Other

lexical cohesive devices used in the data include: near synonyms, part and part, part and whole, superordinate, cohesive chain which are used to cohere, link and inhere the publications for easy reading.

Conclusion

This study concludes that publications on HIV/AIDS are cohesively potent and effective in the creation of awareness of the pandemic. It also demonstrates that the lexical cohesive elements are indispensable in the writing and production of medical publications and they are not only essential but valuable for people living with HIV.

Also, the study concludes that even though it is clearly revealed from the analysis that for some obvious reasons, some lexical cohesive elements such as repetition, antonyms and complementaries are adequately used, general word, part and part, part and whole and links are less prevalent.

Since the analysis shows the abundance of lexical cohesive elements, the publications are said to have texture. In other words, this study posits that HIV/AIDS publications achieve a high degree of textualization through lexical cohesive ties, which operate by linking linguistic expressions at both intra-sentential and inter-sentential levels.

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