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Lexical Cohesion in Conversational Discourse on Sports Media: An Analysis of CBS Sports Golazo's *UCL Today Moments* Playlist

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Abstract

This study aims to identify and analyze the types of lexical cohesion used in spoken discourse, specifically within the digital sports media context of the CBS Sports Golazo's UCL Today Moments playlist. Guided by Cutting's (2005) lexical cohesion framework, which includes repetition, synonymy, superordinate's, and general words, this research aims to identify the types of lexical cohesion used and determine which type appears most frequently. Employing a descriptive qualitative approach, five episodes uploaded between September and November 2024 were transcribed and analyzed, resulting in approximately 45 minutes of conversational data. The findings reveal that repetition is the most frequently used lexical cohesion device (37%), followed by general words (25.9%), synonyms (24.1%), and superordinate terms (13%). These patterns suggest that speakers in sports talk shows naturally utilize lexical cohesion to reinforce meaning, avoid redundancy, and manage discourse flow in real time. Unlike previous studies that largely focused on written or one-directional discourse, this study offers insight into the dynamic use of cohesion in informal, interactive media contexts. The results provide valuable implications for media communication practices and open opportunities for future research on cohesion in other digital and conversational formats.

Keywords: *lexical cohesion, spoken discourse, talk show*

Introduction

The most essential and effective means of communication for coexisting in society is language. It plays a central role in human daily interactions and holds significant importance in every aspect of life. This supported by Lycan (2018) as explained that language is a societal property by which people use to communicate with each other. Language, as a dynamic tool of communication, adapts to the

context in which it is used, showcasing its versatility in various domains, including sports media. In an era where sports media dominates global entertainment, the language used in sports commentary has become a focal point of linguistic and sociocultural studies.

One fascinating aspect of language that deserves deeper exploration is cohesion. Cohesion is the element that binds a text together, making it comprehensible and meaningful. Halliday & Hasan (2014) explain that cohesion can be achieved through grammar and vocabulary, known respectively as grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion. Both play an essential role in creating a unified message, but lexical cohesion, in particular, stands out for its ability to connect different parts of a text through word choice.

Lexical cohesion uses specific device, such as repetition, synonyms, superordinate, general words, and collocations. Repetition ensures continuity by emphasizing key ideas, while synonyms add variety without losing meaning, and superordinate terms, along with general words, offer abstraction and flexibility. Lastly, collocation highlights the habitual pairing of words, which enhances the natural flow of spoken and written language Halliday & Hasan (2014)

Cutting (2005) elaborates further on lexical cohesion by mentioning four specific devices, namely repetition, synonyms, superordinate, and general words, and also by emphasizing lexical cohesion's practical applications. For instance, repetition is often the most prominent feature in spoken discourse because it reinforces key points and ensures clarity. Synonyms add depth and variation, superordinate's and general words also play important parts in keeping the meaning of the text together Cutting (2005) These devices become indispensable in ensuring that a text or speech remains cohesive and engaging, especially in fast-paced settings like sports commentary.

In fast-paced sports talk shows, where spontaneity dominates, lexical cohesion ensures that discourse remains intelligible and engaging for audiences. In the realm of sports media, the importance of lexical cohesion becomes evident in talk shows. These platforms often feature dynamic, informal, and rapid exchanges, requiring effective cohesive devices to maintain coherence. However, unlike scripted or formal texts, conversational discourse in talk shows is characterized by its spontaneity and flexibility. This makes it an ideal medium for studying how lexical cohesion functions in real-time communication. It is hypothesized that repetition will dominate due to the informal and emotionally expressive nature of sports discourse.

Despite the ubiquity of conversational discourse in sports media, the linguistic mechanisms that shape its coherence remain underexplored. Mirzapour & Ahmadi (2011) stated that cohesion plays a crucial role in enabling interaction and understanding between writers and readers by bridging gaps in communication. It ensures coherence, enhancing the overall clarity, readability, and comprehensibility of a text. Within this context, the study of lexical cohesion

emerges as a crucial aspect of understanding how language creates coherence and meaning not only in written discourse, but also in spoken discourse, particularly in dynamic and fast-paced environments like sports media.

Previous studies have explored lexical cohesion in various contexts. For example, Sinambela & Zein (2021) examined Angela Merkel's speech text and found antonyms to be the dominant type of cohesion. Sidabutar (2021) analyzed narrative texts written by students, where repetition emerged as the most common cohesive device. Meanwhile, Ndruru & Johan (2024) investigated speeches by Indonesian students on YouTube, identifying diverse patterns of cohesion, including repetition, synonymy, and meronymy. Maulana et al. (2024) conducted a study focusing on grammatical cohesion in the Podcast UR Cristiano Playlist, revealing that reference was the most frequently used cohesive device, followed by conjunctions, ellipsis, and substitution.

While this study provides valuable insights into grammatical cohesion in spoken discourse, it does not address lexical cohesion specifically. Ngongo & Ndandara (2024) contributed further by analyzing cohesion as a resource of text texture in undergraduate students' academic writing, highlighting the dominant use of reference, conjunctions, and repetition. Similarly, Indah Nuraini (2024) investigated lexical cohesion in Shereen Salama's motivational speech on YouTube and found repetition to be the most dominant device, followed by synonyms, while superordinate and collocation were used minimally. Most of these studies, however, focus on one-directional or written discourse, leaving a gap in understanding the application of lexical cohesion in two-way, conversational settings like talk shows.

By examining how lexical cohesion operates in the CBS Sports Golazo talk show, this study addresses the research gap identified in previous studies. Most prior research has concentrated on written texts, such as political speeches or academic narratives, which are typically one-directional and lack the interactive nature of conversational discourse. Furthermore, little attention has been given to lexical cohesion within digital media contexts, particularly in the realm of sports talk shows. This study expands the scope of lexical cohesion analysis by focusing on a two-way conversational setting, where spontaneous interactions and informal language use present unique challenges and opportunities for cohesive communication.

This study focuses on the CBS Sports Golazo talk show on YouTube, a platform with over 2 million subscribers. Known for its dynamic discussions featuring football legends like Thierry Henry, Micah Richards, and Jamie Carragher, the show provides rich data for analyzing how lexical cohesion helps maintain clarity and audience engagement in real-time conversations. Through this context, the study is guided by the following research questions:

1. What types of lexical cohesion are used in the conversational discourse of CBS Sports Golazo's UCL Today Moments playlist?
2. What is the most frequently used lexical cohesion type in the

conversational discourse on CBS Sports Golazo's UCL Today Moments playlist?

Accordingly, this study seeks to analyze the types of lexical cohesion according to Cutting (2005) used in the CBS Sports Golazo talk show. By focusing on devices such as repetition, synonymy, superordinates, and general words, it aims to know how cohesion functions in conversational discourse.

Method

This study employs a descriptive qualitative method to explore lexical cohesion in the CBS Sports Golazo's UCL Today Moments Playlist. According to Marczyk et al. (2010) qualitative research involves investigations that rely on observation and analysis rather than statistical measurements. It often utilizes interviews, textual analysis, or case studies to provide a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

A descriptive qualitative approach is particularly suitable for this study, as it focuses on observing, identifying, and analyzing patterns of lexical cohesion in natural conversational discourse. This approach allows for an in-depth examination of the types and functions of lexical cohesive devices, such as repetition, synonyms, superordinate, and general words, as they occur in the dynamic interactions of a talk show setting.

Furthermore, Creswell & Creswell (2017) emphasizes that qualitative research enables researchers to investigate the core issues of a phenomenon within its real-world context. In this study, the qualitative approach provides the flexibility needed to capture the nuances of language use in spontaneous conversations, ensuring a thorough understanding of how lexical cohesion contributes to coherence and meaning in the talk show discussions.

The primary data source consisted of transcriptions derived from the CBS Sports Golazo's UCL Today Moments playlist, published on the official CBS Sports Golazo's YouTube channel. The selected dataset included the five videos from this playlist that was uploaded at the beginning of the UEFA Champions League 2024/2025 season, which were uploaded between September 18th, 2024 and November 7th, 2024. Each video varied in duration, ranging approximately from 8 to 10 minutes, resulting in a total of around 45 minutes of conversational content analyzed. These five episodes were chosen based on relevance to Champions League matchdays, the presence of recurring hosts (Kate Abdo, Thierry Henry, Jamie Carragher, and Micah Richards), and their rich examples of spontaneous football commentary and banter.

The CBS Sports Golazo channel is a prominent digital platform that features high-profile football commentary, analysis, and discussion, particularly focusing on UEFA Champions League (UCL) coverage. The UCL Today Moments segment showcases spontaneous and interactive discussions between hosts and football legends, which makes it an ideal data source for analyzing lexical cohesion in

natural spoken language.

The data collection technique followed several steps. First, the researchers accessed the CBS Sports Golazo's UCL Today Moments playlist via the YouTube platform. Second, the researchers watched and analyzed five selected episodes between May 29th, 2025 and May 30th, 2025. Although the episodes were uploaded in October-November 2024, the analysis was conducted in May 2025 after the UEFA Champions League was already in the final phase of competition and the content of the playlist already summarized almost a season of competition so that the researcher could select the most relevant videos and keep up with the latest competition season.

Third, the researchers transcribed the entire spoken discourse from these episodes. fourth, the researchers identified and categorized utterances that exhibited lexical cohesion types, particularly those related to repetition, synonymy, superordinate, and general words. Lastly, data analysis was extended beyond identification and categorization by comparing the frequency of each type of cohesion and determining which type of lexical cohesion was used most frequently.

To ensure reliability, validation procedures were performed. Alignment was discussed collaboratively until consensus was reached. In addition, ethical considerations were also taken into account by ensuring that all analyzed data came from publicly available CBS Sports Golazo's Youtube content and were only used for academic and non-commercial purposes.

Results

In order to comprehend how cohesion works in spoken interactions, particularly within conversational discourse in digital platforms, it is essential to examine the use of lexical cohesion. Cutting (2005) explains that lexical cohesion arises through vocabulary choices that connect meanings throughout a dialogue. This type of cohesion plays an important role in maintaining the unity and clarity of spoken language, especially in spontaneous and informal settings like sports-related talk shows.

This research focuses on several types of lexical cohesion, as explained by Cutting (2005) that cohesion is also maintained by lexical cohesion, namely repetition, synonymy, superordinate, and general words. Each serves a distinct function in sustaining coherence during conversations. Repetition emphasizes important concepts by reusing the same terms, while synonymy introduces variation without disrupting meaning. Superordinate and general words provide broader references that help maintain continuity in discussion.

The results indicate how often and to what extent each type of lexical cohesion appears in the spoken discourse under study. The following chart presents a detailed overview of their distribution, showing how each device functions within the flow of conversation. This distribution not only highlights which types are used most frequently, but also demonstrates how they work

together to maintain coherence and continuity across the dialogue. Such cohesion plays a vital role in ensuring that ideas in spoken media remain logically connected and easy to follow in real-time exchanges. The analysis in this study identifies the occurrence and proportion of each type of lexical cohesion found in episodes of the CBS Sports Golazo's UCL Today Playlist talk show. These findings help illustrate how cohesion is formed in casual yet structured conversations. The following chart presents the distribution of lexical cohesion devices and highlights patterns in how they support the flow and coherence of spoken interaction in sports media contexts.

Chart of Data Analysis
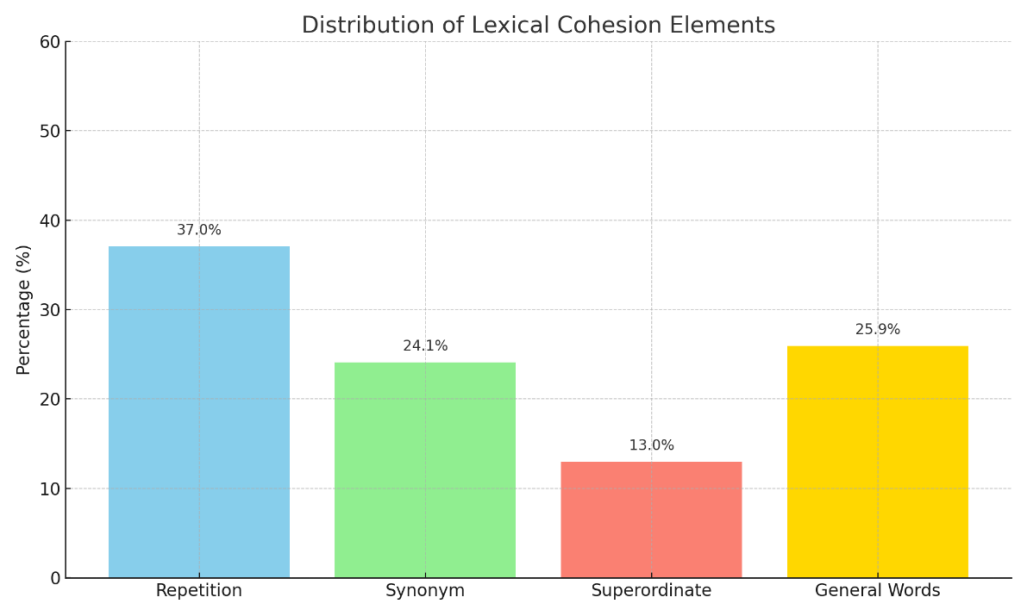
The chart presented above illustrates the proportion of lexical cohesion types identified in the spoken data from CBS Sports Golazo talk shows. The most frequently used type is repetition, which makes up 37% of all instances. This shows that speakers often rely on repeating words or phrases to strengthen meaning, highlight emotions, and maintain the flow of conversation. In spoken discourse, repetition is a powerful way to keep the message clear and help the audience stay focused on the topic.

The second most common type is the use of general words, which accounts for 25.9% of the total data. These are broad, unspecific words like "thing," "do," or "something," which help speakers refer to ideas or actions without having to describe them in detail. This kind of vocabulary is especially useful in informal or spontaneous speech, where speakers need to be quick and flexible with their word choices.

Synonyms are found in 24.1% of the data. This suggests that speakers often avoid repeating the exact same words by using alternatives with similar meanings. Using synonyms not only prevents the conversation from sounding too repetitive, but also makes it more dynamic and engaging. This type of cohesion shows how speakers try to maintain variety while still referring to the same idea.

The least common type is superordinate, which appears in 13% of the examples. Superordinate terms are more general words used to replace previously mentioned specific items. Even though they are used less frequently, superordinates still play an important role in keeping the conversation cohesive by summarizing earlier details in a simpler way.

These findings highlight how lexical cohesion devices support the structure and clarity of spoken interactions. In the next sections, repetition, synonym, superordinate, and general words will be explained further based on the context in which it appears. The explanation will also refer to theories by Cutting (2005), to provide a deeper understanding of how lexical cohesion works in casual spoken discourse such as sports media talk shows.

1. Repetition

Repetition is the most commonly used form of all the lexical cohesion devices. repetition is simply repeated words or word-phrases, threading through the text Cutting (2005). Repetition plays a key role in maintaining textual cohesion, as it provides a clear link between sentences or sections of discourse. By repeating words, writers ensure that the reader remains focused on the main points of the text, creating a sense of continuity and coherence.

Repetition is the most commonly occurring lexical cohesion device identified in this study, accounting for 37% of all cohesive instances found in the analyzed transcripts. This high frequency highlights the natural tendency of speakers in spontaneous conversation, especially in dynamic settings like talk shows to reuse the same words or phrases to emphasize meaning, sustain topical focus, and express emotional nuances. Repetition was found not only in one-way statements but also in back-and-forth interactions between speakers, making it a central tool for reinforcing ideas and keeping the dialogue cohesive.

    a. Kate Abdo (00:26 – 00:27)   : "Good or great?"
        Thierry Henry (00:27 – 00:29)   : "No**, great**, **great** summer, **great** summer."

In this conversation, the repetition of the word "great" Thierry Henry functions as a strong emotional emphasis. In response to Kate Abdo choice-based question, Henry not only selects the higher option but repeats it three times to affirm an exceptional level of satisfaction and happiness. This repetition cohesively links the answer directly to the question while rhetorically exceeding the given

options, communicating a very positive sentiment.

b. Jamie Carragher (04:53 – 04:58)   : "The deal's **six**, isn't it?"
Thierry Henry (05:00 – 05:01)   : "I've got **six**. You didn't get **six**?"

In the segment about contracts, the repetition of the word "six" is used interactively by the speakers. Jamie Carragher uses it to correct, and Thierry Henry adopts and repeats it for confirmation about contract length that was mentioned earlier, and also as part of a joke. Cohesion here is created through a back-and-forth dialogue where repetition becomes a tool to negotiate facts and build shared humor, ensuring all participants are focused on the same topic, which is the contract length.

c. Thierry Henry [06:39 - 06:46]: "It's **a great moment**, Kate. It's **a great moment**."

The phrase "a great moment" is repeated by Thierry Henry when responding to the news of Kate Abdo's wedding. This direct repetition serves to reinforce and emphasize the sincerity of his congratulations. Rather than just saying it once, this repetition adds emotional weight to the statement. Lexical cohesion is created because this repeated phrase becomes the emotional center of the response, linking the two sentences into a single strong and positive expression.

d. Kate Abdo (00:00 – 00:03): "Champions League is **back**; the crew is **back**…"

The word "back" in this sentence is repeated directly. By repeating the word "back", the speaker builds a parallel structure that connects two main ideas: the return of the television show "Champions League" and the return of the hosts "the crew". This repetition cohesively establishes the theme of "return" as the foundation of the segment, creating a rhythmic and powerful opening. This makes the listener understand that both the show and the hosts are back, giving a welcoming and familiar feel to the new season.

e. Thierry Henry (01:48 – 01:54): "**I never** had moments with my kids, like **I never** shared victory or defeat..."

In this sentence, lexical cohesion is formed through the repetition of the phrase "I never" which Thierry Henry uses to emphasize the absence of sharing moments with his children during his career. This repetition functions as a lexical marker that creates a connection between the first part of the sentence (never had a moment) and the elaboration in the second part (never shared a victory or defeat). With this repetition, the listener is brought to understand the emotional

void Henry felt during his career and why the Olympic experience was so special because it allowed him to fill that void.

> f. Jamie Carragher (04:53 – 04:58): "**Three years**! **Three years**! Big **deal**. The **deal**'s six, isn't it?"

The phrase "Three years" is repeated to give an effect of surprise and emphasis. This repetition creates lexical cohesion by drawing attention to the duration of the contract being discussed. The identical repetition signals the speaker's emotional reaction to the information. Cohesion is further developed by the use of the word "deal" which appears twice "Big deal" and "The deal's six", creating a lexical chain that links both parts of the statement. This repetition pattern not only emphasizes the speaker's initial shock but also seamlessly transitions to a comparative question about the longer duration of the contract, creating a cohesive flow of argument.

> g. Thierry Henry (01:59 – 02:09): "**I've been in a situation** like that losing or winning finals, **I've been in a situation** where I had a big event at home"

The repetition of the phrase "I've been in a situation" serves to draw a parallel between his past experience (losing/winning finals) and his new experience (a big event at home with children). It creates cohesion by linking two different scenarios under one umbrella of personal experience.

> h. Kate Abdo (00:00 – 00: 06): "Three of your former teams are involved this **evening**, which we're excited about. You've got Monaco, Arsenal and Barcelona all playing this **evening**."

The word "evening" is repeated at the end of the first and second sentences. This repetition creates lexical cohesion that ties the two sentences together, emphasizing the timing of the three teams playing. This repetition serves to reinforce the idea that this is a special moment as Henry's three former clubs are all playing on the same evening. This makes the listener understand the temporal significance of the event and sets the stage for the subsequent discussion of Henry's career at all three clubs.

> i. Thierry Henry (01:19 – 01:21): "It was a **shock**. A cultural **shock**."

The word "shock" is repeated and reinforced by the addition of the adjective "cultural" in the second repetition. This repetition serves to emphasize the intensity of the psychological impact Henry experienced when moving to Monaco. This repetition not only emphasizes the feeling of shock, but also prepares the

listener for a more detailed explanation of why Monaco is so different from Henry's background. With this repetition, the listener understands that Henry's experience in Monaco is not just an ordinary adaptation challenge but truly a significant culture clash.

j. Guillem Ballague (05:36 – 05:43): "One out of three people that walk the streets is a millionaire. So, there's a game you can play. **Is it him**? **Is it her**? **Is it him**? Who is the millionaire?"

The phrase "is it him/her" is repeated three times in a parallel structure, followed by the summarizing question "Who is the millionaire?". This repetition creates an interesting rhythm in the narrative, building a visual image of the guessing game described by the speaker. Cohesively, this repetition links the statistic mentioned at the beginning ("One out of three") with its practical implications on the streets of Monaco. The listener can easily imagine the scenario described, where one is walking in Monaco and wondering who among the passers-by is a millionaire.

k. Thierry Henry (02:20 – 02:36): "I want a win like that away from home. Against PSG. Or whoever is going to come your way. Go at Inter and win **strong**. Be **strong** defensively."

The word "strong" is repeated in close proximity ("win strong" and "Be strong defensively"). By using this repetition, the speaker emphasizes the qualities he wants from the Arsenal team when playing away from home. These repetitions create lexical cohesion that reinforces the argument that a memorable win must include a strong defensive performance. The repetition of the word "strong" helps the listener understand that mental and physical strength, especially in defense, is the key to a meaningful away win in European competition.

l. Jamie Carragher (01:57 – 02:03): "It's not criticising PSG. I think that's more sort of giving... What do people say now? **Flowers**? **Flowers**? Correct, yeah?"

The word "flowers" is repeated with emphasis. This repetition creates cohesion that draws attention to a term that may not be familiar to all. The repetition of "Flowers" serves to clarify the new slang term used to give praise or recognition. The listener can understand that the speaker is attempting to use a contemporary expression to convey that he is giving credit to Arsenal, even though he may not be entirely sure of the use of the term.

m. Anita Jones (06:59 – 07:10): "Yeah, you have done it. But I guess, given what Arsenal have done in the last couple of years, coming so close in

the league, you feel with the additions in the transfer window, **why not**? **Why not**?"

The phrase "why not" is repeated for rhetorical emphasis. This repetition creates lexical cohesion that reinforces the argument that Arsenal have reason to be optimistic about their chances of winning the title. The repetition of this rhetorical question helps the listener understand the speaker's enthusiasm about Arsenal's prospects, conveying the belief that this team does have the potential to be champions this season after coming close in recent years.

n. Micah Richards (00:00 – 00:12): "81 shots. We had a conversation about **Mbappe** and **Dembele** not being there tonight, and the difference. So much of this team was relying on the brilliance of Kylian **Mbappe**."

This mention of "Mbappe and Dembele" was repeated several times in the discussion, which was then followed by Thierry Henry and Jamie Carragher, who also referred to the two players. The repetition of both players' names creates lexical cohesion that keeps the focus of the discussion on the impact of their absence on PSG's performance. This repetition helps listeners understand that the absence of these two key players is a central theme in the analysis of why PSG lost, even though the speakers have different opinions on how significant the impact was.

o. Jamie Carragher (00:08 – 00: 18): "What do you think is the actual solution there? How can they... This has to **work**. He's not going to be put on the bench, he's cost a lot of money. How do they make this **work**?"

The word "work" is repeated by Carragher in several adjacent sentences. This repetition cohesively frames the crux of the issue at hand, the urgent need to find a solution for a player to integrate into the team. This repetition emphasizes the urgency and pressure at hand. It makes the listener understand that the situation is not just a small problem, but an imperative that must be resolved.

p. Christian Pulisic (06:51 – 06:54): "I've heard some of your Italian. **It's getting better**, **it's getting better**."

The phrase "It's getting better" is repeated directly by Pulisic. This simple repetition serves to give genuine emphasis to the progress in his Italian. This repetition cohesively reinforces his idea of gradual improvement, making the statement sound more convincing.

q. Thierry Henry (07:37 - 07:43): "Congratulations. **Well deserved**. **Well deserved**, man."

The phrase "Well deserved" is repeated by Henry when congratulating him. This repetition is a common and effective way to show sincerity and strong enthusiasm. By repeating the compliment, he reinforces his sentiment, making it sound like more than just a platitude. Cohesion is created because the repetition focuses the moment on recognition and appreciation. This makes the listener feel the sincerity of the congratulations.

r. Thierry Henry (00:41- 00:53): "...**Inter gave them the ball**... / So were they brave or were Inter just... well, **inter gave them the ball**."

The phrase "Inter gave them the ball" is repeated in a different context. This repetition is used to emphasize Inter Milan's passive action. Cohesion is created because of this repetition, which helps to articulate, that despite the question of bravery, giving the ball is an action that has already taken place, which is then central to the analysis. This makes the listener understand that Henry is trying to explain how Inter Milan's strategy affected the game.

s. Christina Unkel (03:29 – 03:46): "You know, and I can see why it's **harsh**... So, I get it, it is **harsh** but it will be called a penalty each and every time and has been consistently called a penalty easily over the past five years."

The adjective "harsh" is repeated. Repetition serves to explain Christina's perception of the incident. The phrase "it is harsh" is used to acknowledge that the penalty decision was indeed harsh. Lexical cohesion is created because repetition emphasizes the impact of the decision and highlights the consistency of rule enforcement. This leads the listener to understand that Christina acknowledges that the decision feels harsh, but also that the decision is consistent with the application of the rules so far.

t. Christina Unkel (03:54 – 04:02): "I think the hardest thing is the **handling offence** has been tinkered with since the beginning of time, right? Whether it's anytime it hits the hand, it's a **handling offence**."

The term "handling offense" (handball fouls) is repeated. This repetition serves to clarify the point of discussion. This repetition also allows Christina to emphasize the fact that handball fouls are a complex issue. Lexical cohesion is created by placing strong emphasis on the main topic of conversation. This makes the listener understand that the discussion centers on the rules and application of handball fouls.

2. Synonym

According to Cutting (2005), rather than repeating the exact same word, speakers or writers often opt for a different word with the same or nearly the same meaning, commonly referred to as a synonym. This technique serves as a means to maintain variety in expression while preserving the intended meaning. By using synonyms, the speaker or writer avoids redundancy and repetition, creating a more engaging and dynamic discourse. Synonym is the third most frequent type of lexical cohesion found in the data, accounting for 24.1% of the total instances. This shows that speakers often avoid exact repetition by using words with similar or related meanings an approach that adds variety and naturalness to the conversation.

    a. Kate Abdo (00:00 – 00: 09): "Champions League is back, the **crew** is back, season five everybody you already know the **team**, Kate, Thierry, Jamie, big Meeks we are all here, good to see you all."

The words "crew" and "team" in this segment are used synonymously to refer to the same group of individuals involved in the Champions League broadcast. According to Cutting, synonyms help create lexical cohesion in the text by avoiding repetition of the same word while maintaining the same meaning. The use of "team" after "crew" allows for lexical variation in the text, making the discourse sound more natural and interesting while still maintaining a clear reference to the group of broadcasters.

    b. Thierry Henry (00:24 - 00:26): "Yeah, very good, that was **good**, it was a **great**. uh. **great** summer."

In this statement, the words "good" and "great" function as synonyms with different levels of intensity. This usage shows gradations in the expression of positive judgment. This draws the attention of Kate Abdo who then asks "Good or great?" which results in Thierry increasing his assessment to "No, great, great summer, great summer." These synonyms create lexical cohesion while showing an increase in the intensity of positive feelings.

    c. Thierry Henry (07:24 - 07:33): "Of course it has. I thought it was a **family**, a **team**. He started giving a speech about... The little brother, the middle brother, the big brother. So, what happened to all of that?"

The words "family" and "team" are used as contextual synonyms in the specific context of referring to a group of broadcasters. The use of "family" adds an emotional dimension to the more professional concept of "team", indicating the closeness and bond felt between its members. The mention of "little brother,

middle brother, big brother" further strengthens the lexical cohesion by developing a family metaphor, while demonstrating how synonyms can be extended into a richer network of meanings in discourse.

d. Thierry Henry (01:23 – 01:28): "...we kept on thinking that **gold** was possible and obviously it wasn't because we lost in the **final**..."

In this sentence, the word "gold" is used to refer to first place, and later in the sentence, the word "final" is mentioned in the context of the team's defeat. Here, "gold" is semantically related to "first place" or "championship," while "final" refers to the match that determines that outcome. The use of "gold" and "final" demonstrates synonymy in the form of semantic association within the same context, the outcome of a sports competition.

e. Kate Abdo (05:54 – 06:03): "The **last name**, **Abdo**, has to go. We're gonna do this... Kate Scott."

In this excerpt, the terms "last name" and "Abdo" are linked semantically. "Abdo" is the actual surname, while "last name" is the general noun referring to a family name. This is a form of synonymy, where one word refers directly to a specific item mentioned earlier. By introducing the general term "last name" before replacing it with "Scott," the speaker avoids repeatedly using personal names and instead creates a narrative link that signals a personal change, maintaining cohesion in a natural, conversational way.

f. Thierry Henry (01:34 – 01:45)   : "You know, you have a casino, beautiful women, beautiful cars, beautiful city. The **scenery** is just outstanding."
Kate Abdo (01:50 - 01:52)   : "The **landscape**, right."

The term "landscape" used by Henry is a lexical synonym of "scenery," as both refer to the visual appearance or view of a place. In this context, the speaker avoids repeating "scenery" by using "landscape," creating variation while maintaining meaning. This lexical choice supports cohesion and helps the conversation remain fluent and engaging.

g. Thierry Henry (00:58 – 01:04): "We were **losing** on the day. But I made it 3–2 there. We **went out** of the Champions League."

The expression "went out" is used in place of more formal alternatives such as "were eliminated" or "got knocked out." This demonstrates the use of synonymy through casual or idiomatic vocabulary—common in spoken discourse—to

express the concept of losing differently. Here, speakers choose alternative words with similar meanings to avoid redundancy while maintaining textual cohesion.

> h. Thierry Henry (04:14 – 04:19): "What if... I have to **play.** You would have played. You go to **work**."

In this context, Thierry Henry uses "play" (referring to playing soccer as a professional athlete) and "work" synonymously to describe his obligations. When faced with a choice between attending an important personal event and his Champions League obligations, he equates "play" with "work," indicating that his profession as a player is his job. This is an example of contextual synonymy where "play" in the professional sense is perceived as "work."

> i. Thierry Henry (0:18 - 0:20)   : "...you went back to the **moustache**?"
> Micah Richards (0:28 - 0:29)   : "Talk us through the **trim**. What is this?"
> Thierry Henry (00:29 – 00   : "What is that? There was no **trim**."

In this conversation, the words "moustache" and "trim" are used synonymously to refer to the same facial hairstyle. Initially, Thierry Henry mentions Lionel Ritchie's "moustache," and then several other speakers use "trim" to refer to the style or cut of the moustache. By using "trim," the speakers avoid the direct repetition of the word "moustache" while still keeping the focus on the same topic, which is the facial hairstyle.

> j. Micah Richards (00:08 – 00:19): "So much of this team was relying on the **brilliance** of Kylian Mbappe. Now we're seeing, they're still creating chances because they're taking 81 shots. But there's no **killer instinct** in front of goal at this moment in time."

The word "brilliance" and the phrase "killer instinct" are used as contextual synonyms that refer to Mbappe's special abilities or qualities. Although these two terms have different basic meanings, in a soccer context they are used to describe a player's extraordinary ability to determine the outcome of a match. This use of contextual synonyms creates lexical cohesion by emphasizing different aspects of the same quality.

> k. Thierry Henry (01:06 – 01:10): "You don't have that **match winner**, that **game winner** that you had in the past."

The phrases "match winner" and "game winner" are clear synonyms, both referring to players who are able to win matches with their individual abilities. The consecutive use of both phrases strengthens the lexical cohesion in the text by

repeating the same concept using slightly different formulations, thus emphasizing the importance of the concept.

    l. Luka Modric (02:57 – 03:06): "...now the most important thing is to stick **together**, be **united** and try to find a solution to come out of this situation."

In this statement, the words "together" and "united" are used synonymously to describe the same condition or action of being in unity or solidarity. The consecutive use of these two words emphasizes the importance of collaboration and unity in dealing with difficult situations.

    m. Peter Schmeichel (06:37 – 06:40): "...they're **fighting** and they're really, really **scrapping** to get just one goal."

The verbs "fighting" and "scrapping" are used synonymously to describe Arsenal's intense effort and struggle to score a goal. These two words effectively convey the idea of the difficulty and hard work required of the team in their offensive situations. This not only avoids repetition but also reinforces meaning through the use of words that have similar connotations, keeping the narrative focus on the challenges Arsenal faced.

3. Superordinate

According to Cutting (2005), superordinate is a more general term than what is mentioned by the writer or speaker. Superordinate is another way of avoiding repetition and still referring to the referent with another word. Although less frequent, superordinate terms contributed 13% of the total lexical cohesion instances. Superordinate terms are more general words used to refer back to specific concepts already mentioned, offering a way to avoid repetition while still maintaining reference.

    a. Jamie Carragher (02:41 – 02:43) : "You've won the **World Cup**, you've won the **Euros**."
        Micah Richards (02:43 – 02:46) : "**Champions League**, **Premier League**, go on!"
        Jamie Carragher (02:47 – 02:50) : "Where does **it** fit?"

In this context, "it" refers back to all the previously mentioned tournaments and achievements. Although "it" is technically a reference, its antecedent is a group of specific nouns (World Cup, Euros, etc.), and the question "Where does it fit?" treats them collectively as one superordinate concept, career achievements. This

strategy avoids listing all the items again and keeps the conversation concise and cohesive.

b. Thierry Henry (01:34 – 01:45): "You know, you have a **casino**, beautiful **women**, beautiful **cars**, beautiful city. The **scenery** is just outstanding."

In this excerpt, the term "scenery" is used as a superordinate to summarize the previously mentioned specific visual elements—casino, women, cars, and city. Instead of listing these again, the speaker uses the more general word "scenery" to cohesively refer back to them.

c. Kate Abdo (00:00 – 00: 09): "Champions League is back, the crew is back, season five everybody you already know **the team**, **Kate**, **Thierry**, **Jamie**, **big Meeks** we are all here, good to see you all."

In this case, the superordinate phrase found is "the team." This phrase is used to refer generally to the specific individuals mentioned after it, namely "Kate, Thierry, Jamie, big Meeks." The use of "the team" serves as a more general term to avoid repeating the list of crew members' names.

d. Thierry Henry (00:59 - 01:18): "So, you know, **Olympic games**, in your country, your kids in the stadium, obviously we didn't win the final as you all know but, it's the only it's the only **event** that you can say you you you won second place or you won third place and so it was an achievement especially the way everything was going if you guys followed actually"

In this passage, the word "event" is used as a more general term to refer to the previously mentioned "Olympic games". This helps to generalize the experience or competition.

e. Kate Abdo (00:00 - 00:16): "Three of your former **teams** involved this evening, which we're excited about. You've got **Monaco**, **Arsenal** and **Barcelona** all playing this evening. Can we can we take everybody back to your time at Monaco?"

In this passage, the superordinate word used is "teams". This general term is used by Kate Abdo to refer to the three specific soccer clubs mentioned afterwards, namely Monaco, Arsenal and Barcelona. The use of the word 'teams' serves as an introduction that categorizes the three entities into the same group before mentioning them one by one. This is an efficient way of introducing the topic, in accordance with the definition of superordinate as a term that is more general than the referent in question.

      f.   Thierry Henry (01:57 - 02:15): "I think it will be extremely difficult. Why? Because you have too many teams to catch. ... we're going to go **Liverpool**, **Man City**, right? I don't see two **teams** collapsing."

In this passage, the superordinate word used is "teams". Thierry Henry uses this word to refer generally to the specific clubs that are the main contenders for the title, namely "Liverpool" and "Man City". By using the word "teams", the speaker creates a general category (competing teams) to refer to the specific entities he has just mentioned. This is a concise way of talking about the group as a single entity, fitting the definition of superordinate as a way of referring back to the referent with a more general word and avoiding repetition.

      g.   Anita Jones (06:41 – 06:56): "Yeah, it's back to back Champions League games that they haven't scored in. I think the clear thing that they're missing is **their captain**, **Martin Odegaard**. It'd be interesting to find out when we speak to Mikel Arteta, whether he was fit enough to play more than those few minutes."

In this passage, the superordinate phrase used is "their captain". This phrase is used by Anita Jones to refer specifically to Martin Odegaard, who is the captain of the team being discussed, Arsenal. The use of the phrase "their captain" is a way to refer back to Martin Odegaard without repeating his name directly. This phrase functions as a superordinate term that identifies Martin Odegaard's role or position in the team, not just his name as an individual.

4. General Words

The final form of lexical cohesion to be discussed here is the use of general words. According to Cutting (2005) general words encompass broad and nonspecific terms, such as general nouns like 'thing', 'stuff', 'place', 'person', 'woman', and 'man'. Similarly, general verbs like 'do' and 'happen' serve the same purpose. In essence, general words can be viewed as an even higher-level superordinate, a comprehensive umbrella term capable of encompassing almost anything. General words, such as "thing," "do," or "guy," appeared with notable frequency, making up 25.9% of the cohesive elements found. These vague but context-dependent terms are particularly common in informal, spoken language. Their usage reflects the spontaneous and casual nature of the conversations within the talk show format.

a. Thierry Henry (00:30 – 00:37): "...it was just uh **something** that I never thought I was going to uh, to, to feel again..."

In this datum, the general word can be found in the word "something." By definition, "something" is a general noun that refers to a non-specific object, idea, or event. In this context, Thierry Henry uses "something" to refer to the overall emotional experience he felt-connecting with the audience and competing for his country-before he explains it further. This word serves as a placeholder for a broad meaning before specific details are given.

b. Kate Abdo (07:47 – 07:52): Well, one of the other **things** we have is a massive announcement we are super excited for.

In this datum, the common word can be found in the word "things." "Things" is the plural form of "thing," one of the common nouns mentioned in the definition. This word refers to some unspecified item, topic, or feature. In this context, "things" refers to the various segments or content that have been prepared for the event. The speaker uses it as a general marker before revealing one of the specific "things," which is a big announcement.

c. Thierry Henry (02:04 – 02:07): "...But then you concentrate on what you're supposed to **do** there."

In this datum, the general verb can be found in the word "do." By definition, "do" is a general verb that refers to a broad, non-specific action. In this context, Thierry Henry uses "do" to summarize all of his duties and responsibilities as a professional football player at Monaco-such as training, playing, and maintaining focus-without necessarily detailing each of these activities.

d. Thierry Henry (02:41 – 02:46): ...it's way harder to win the league at Monaco than any other **place** that I know.

In this datum, the common noun can be found in the word "place." By definition, "place" is a general noun that refers to a non-specific location. Here, "place" is used by Henry to make a comparison between Monaco and all other clubs or cities in general. This word serves to create a broad category without having to name every rival club or city one by one.

e. Thierry Henry (00:35 – 00:39): "So it **happened** when Mbappe was there and it's still **happening** now."

In this datum, a general verb can be found in the words "happened" and "happening." According to the definition, 'happen' is a general verb that refers to an event without specifying its nature. Here, the speaker uses it to refer to the nonspecific event of PSG's scoring difficulties, both in the past "happened" and present "happening", without needing to re-state the specific details of the team's performance.

f. Thierry Henry (01:17 – 01:24): "They know what they need to do in and around the box. Apart from Barcola tonight that was trying to **do** something, we didn't see much."

In this datum, general words can be found in the verb "do" and the noun "something." As per the definition, 'do' is a general verb for an unspecified action. Here, it refers to the broad set of actions required to score a goal. 'Something' is a general noun used to describe Barcola's nonspecific and ultimately unsuccessful efforts. Both words allow the speaker to discuss actions without detailing them.

g. Thierry Henry (02:07 - 02:08): "I'll say one more **thing**."

In this datum, a general noun can be found in the word **"**thing." 'Thing' is a classic example of a broad and nonspecific term. The speaker uses it as a placeholder for the idea or point he is about to introduce. It signals that a new piece of information is coming without revealing what that information is, functioning as a general container for the subsequent statement.

h. Jamie Carragher (01:52 – 01:56): "I think very few **people** would think PSG would go there and win right now."

In this datum, a general noun can be found in the word "people." Similar to 'person' or 'man', 'people' is a general term that refers to an unspecified group of individuals. The speaker uses it to talk about the general opinion of football observers or fans without needing to identify any specific individuals, representing a collective but undefined group.

i. Thierry Henry (00:02 – 00:07): "On the ball, too, he has to **do** way more."

In this datum, the general verb can be found in the word "do." By definition, 'do' is a general verb that refers to action broadly. Here, the speaker is using it to state that a player needs to improve his contribution, but without detailing what specific actions he needs to do, such as shooting, passing, or dribbling more.

j. Luka Modric (02:57 – 03:06): "And now the most important **thing** is to stick together, be united and try to find a solution to come out from this situation."

In this datum, the common noun can be found in the word "thing." The word 'thing' is one of the prime examples of a non-specific general term. The speaker uses it as a placeholder to refer to the most important current priority or action. It serves as a substitute for a concept or idea "stick together" without the need to define it in detail in the sentence structure.

k. Thierry Henry (00:57 – 01:00): "I don't know what we're going to **do**, I'll be honest with you."

In this datum, the general verb can be found in the word "do." By definition, 'do' is a general verb that refers to action broadly. The speaker uses it to express uncertainty regarding Arsenal's game plan or strategy in the upcoming match, without necessarily detailing the specific tactics or formation that will be used.

l. Thierry Henry (01:39 – 01:41): "...let's see what's going to **happen** against Chelsea."

In this datum, the general verb can be found in the word "happen." By definition, 'happen' is a general verb that refers to an event without describing its nature. Here, the word is used to refer to the future outcome or course of the match as a whole. The speaker does not specify whether they are referring to a specific score, performance, or incident, but rather an overall event that is not yet known.

m. Jamie Carragher (02;45 – 02:49): "...for me, that is not **something** I should be getting too involved in because I haven't got the expertise for it..."

In this datum, the common noun can be found in the word "something." The word 'something' is a general term that refers to an unspecific thing. Jamie Carragher uses this word to refer to the topic of discussion about penalty rules, without the need to explicitly define the topic. It serves as a placeholder for a more complex idea or subject.

n. Christina Unkel (03:54 – 04:00): "I think the hardest **thing** is the handling offense has been tinkered with since the beginning of time, right?"

In this datum, the common noun can be found in the word "thing." By definition, "thing" is a general noun that is broad and non-specific. Speakers use it as a substitute for more specific words like 'problem', 'issue', or 'aspect'. It serves to introduce a concept (handball rules) as the main topic of discussion without the need to define it elaborately.

Discussion

This study was conducted to identify and analyze the types of lexical cohesion used in spoken discourse, especially in the context of casual conversations on the CBS Sports Golazo's UCL Today Playlist. The goal was also to understand how these cohesion types help maintain the clarity and connection of ideas in spontaneous talk. Based on the results, the objectives have been achieved successfully. The most frequently used type was repetition, which appeared in 37% of the data. This was followed by general words at 25.9%, then synonyms at 24.1%, and finally superordinate terms, which appeared the least, at 13%.

The high use of repetition shows that repeating words or phrases is very useful for emphasizing ideas, expressing emotions, and keeping the conversation focused. This finding is also supported by Maftuha et al. (2024) who stated that repetition occurs when words are referred to or rewritten several times in the text, creating continuity and emphasis. The dominance of repetition supports Cutting's claim that repetition the most commonly used form of all the lexical cohesion devices. This study also shows how general words serve as adaptive shortcuts in real-time discourse the frequent use of general words like "thing" or "do" shows that speakers prefer simple and flexible words when speaking naturally. General words may dominate not only due to informality but also because of time pressure in live settings, where speakers often have to respond quickly with minimal planning.

Synonyms were also often used to keep the conversation varied but still clear in meaning. This is in line with Cutting (2005) said, that rather than repeating the exact same word, speakers or writers often opt for a different word with the same or nearly the same meaning. Although superordinate words appeared less, they still played an important role in summarizing or referring to ideas without needing to repeat specific details. Morris & Hirst (1991) argue that reiteration includes not only identity of reference or repetition of the same word, but also the use of superordinate's, subordinates, and synonyms, indicating that these categories all support the continuity of lexical meaning across a text. Therefore, the findings match the research goals and show how different types of lexical cohesion help make spoken conversation more connected, easy to follow, and meaningful, especially in digital media formats like sports talk shows.

The use of synonyms can help avoid sounding too repetitive, while superordinate words can be used to refer back to something without repeating the same words. These techniques make the conversation sound more natural and

organized. Understanding lexical cohesion can help speakers improve the quality of their spoken communication. It also helps them create messages that are easier to follow and more enjoyable to listen to. As Karim (2015) said, lexical cohesion is the way aspect of vocabulary getting text to 'hang together as a whole', making it an essential feature of coherent and comprehensible discourse. Media trainers may benefit from emphasizing how to use repetition and lexical variation effectively during live commentary, especially in maintaining coherence while addressing multiple topics under time constraints.

Compared to previous studies, this research offers a fresh perspective by focusing on lexical cohesion in two-way spoken discourse, specifically within a sports talk show setting. Sinambela & Zein (2021) and Sidabutar (2021) analyzed written or monologic texts, identifying antonymy and repetition respectively as dominant devices, but did not explore interactive spoken discourse. Ndruru & Johan (2024) examined student speeches and found repetition, synonymy, and meronymy, yet their data remained prepared and one-directional. Maulana et al. (2024) focused on podcasts but limited their analysis to grammatical cohesion, identifying reference as the most frequent device.

Other works such as Ngongo & Ndandara (2024) and Indah Nuraini (2024) dealt with academic or motivational speech, where cohesion types like repetition and synonymy were also present, but within non-conversational contexts. In contrast, the current study explores how lexical cohesion—particularly repetition, synonym, superordinate, and general words—functions spontaneously in interactive, multi-speaker discourse, highlighting its role in maintaining coherence during real-time exchanges. This dialogic nature sets it apart from prior studies and contributes a new understanding of cohesion in live media interaction.

The present study emphasizes real-time, interactive discourse in the form of sports media talk shows from CBS Sports Golazo's UCL Today Moments playlist. The findings show a unique lexical cohesion pattern that differs from those in political, academic, or scripted settings, highlighting how cohesion devices adapt to the demands of informal, fast-paced, digital interactions. Thus, this study fills a gap by showing how lexical cohesion works in casual, dialogic spoken discourse, an area that has received limited attention in earlier research.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of lexical cohesion in the CBS Sports Golazo's UCL Today Moments playlist, this study finds that repetition is the most dominant type of lexical cohesion, accounting for 37% of all data. This suggests that repetition plays a major role in emphasizing ideas, expressing speaker emotion, and maintaining conversational focus in spoken discourse. General words appear in 25.9% of the data, showing that speakers often use broad and flexible vocabulary such as "thing" or "do" to express ideas efficiently in spontaneous talk. Synonyms, which represent 24.1% of the data, help maintain variation without losing meaning, making the

conversation more dynamic. Meanwhile, superordinate terms, although used least at 13%, still function effectively to generalize or refer back to specific ideas, thus maintaining coherence across dialogue turns.

However, this study has limitations. The data was only taken from five episodes within a single playlist. As such, the findings may not fully represent lexical cohesion use across other forms of talk shows or spoken genres. Future studies are encouraged to explore a wider variety of spoken media, including different talk show formats, interview-based podcasts, or multilingual discussions, to compare whether similar cohesion patterns occur.

In addition, exploring the impact of lexical cohesion on listener comprehension and engagement could provide further insight into its communicative value. In light of these findings, it becomes evident that lexical cohesion plays a vital role in sustaining the flow of meaning in real-time, two-way discourse, especially in informal and media-driven settings. This study provides a foundation for continued exploration of how vocabulary choices shape the coherence of spoken texts in the digital era.

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