



## Analyzing Coherence and Cohesion in Sara Duterte's Vice Presidential Inaugural Speech

**Resyl C. Sebalda**

*Bachelor of Secondary Education Major in English, Department of Secondary Education University of Southern Mindanao, Kabacan Cotabato Philippines*

[resyl.sebalda@gmail.com](mailto:resyl.sebalda@gmail.com)

**Celeste Faye Taray**

*Bachelor of Secondary Education Major in English, Department of Secondary Education University of Southern Mindanao, Kabacan Cotabato Philippines*

[celestefayetaray@gmail.com](mailto:celestefayetaray@gmail.com)

**Donnie M. Tulud**

*Associate Professor V, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Southern Mindanao, Kabacan Cotabato, Philippines*

[dmtulud@usm.edu.ph](mailto:dmtulud@usm.edu.ph)

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**Abstract**

*This study examines the coherence and cohesion of Sara Duterte's inaugural speech as the newly elected Vice President of the Philippines. It aims the grammatical and lexical cohesion devices used in the speech to understand their role in enhancing clarity and logical flow. Using a qualitative descriptive approach and content analysis, the study identifies linguistic features that contribute to coherence. Data were extracted from the official speech transcript and analyzed to assess the effectiveness of cohesive devices. The findings reveal that various cohesion methods such as references, repetition, and conjunctions were employed to maintain logical progression and emphasize key points. The study concludes that these linguistic strategies are essential for ensuring the speech's readability and persuasiveness. Furthermore, the findings unveil the significance of language and the role of coherence and cohesion in influencing public opinion, exercising power, and shaping identities in Philippine political discourse. By understanding these cohesion techniques, citizens can become more informed and critical consumers of political information, fostering greater awareness in public discourse.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Humans rely on language to communicate verbally and in writing since communication is fundamental to our daily lives. Discourse grammar focuses on the relationship between linguistic structures and their functions in communication, particularly within extended texts or conversations. According to McCartney and Halliday (2005), discourse grammar is all about grammar rules and how they interact with context to make sense of spoken and written words.

This point of view shows how important language is for ensuring consistency, organizing ideas, and making them easier to understand. Discourse analysts have studied

language in conversation for a long time, focusing on how to persuade people and how power works. Extensive research has been conducted on political discourse, which employs many rhetorical tactics to persuade, unify, and alter individuals' perspectives. A classic instance of political discourse is political speeches.

When considering the specificity of political speeches, the purpose of which is "primarily persuasion rather than information or entertainment" (Dedaić, 2006, p. 700), it is essential to bear in mind that they are marked by features of both written and spoken discourse, i.e., they are an instance of what Havránek (1983) defines as oral public discourse using a 'complex discourse medium' (Crystal & Davy, 1969). On the one hand, the text of speeches is typically scripted in advance and, at the moment of performance, cannot be easily adapted to the audience's response, i.e., similarly to written discourse, the context is "split" (Fowler, 1986) and "there is no reciprocal management of the discourse" (Seidlhofer & Widdowson, 1999, p. 209).

Salvaleon's (2019) study examined Philippine former President Rodrigo Duterte's State of the Nation Addresses (SONAs) from 2016, 2017, and 2018 to determine how his statements will impact his political pledge to bring about change in the Philippines. The findings revealed that President Duterte mainly used the material process in the three SONAs. Moreover, the quantitative data would suggest that President Duterte recognized himself as the "prime mover of change for the Filipino" (pp. 46-47) in putting an end to corruption, lessening criminality, improving living, and eliminating the menace of drugs, transforming the Philippines into a progressive and safe place. It was also realized the insertions of Duterte's extemporaneous remarks were either in Filipino (the national language of the Philippines) or in Cebuano Bisaya (the language spoken in some parts of the Philippines). Duterte uses direct quotations to emphasize his innermost thoughts on some issues (49).

Research by scholars such as Van Dijk (1997) and Fairclough (2003) highlights how political discourse is structured to maintain social control and mobilize support. This research will help us gain a better understanding and necessary concept of how leaders in politics use language to organize their messages. It reveals that the research is logically clear, well-connected, and essential in creating a convincing speech. It is a strong and effective communication tool to connect with the public rather than an ordinary statement. When people investigate political statements, they typically examine the importance of coherence and cohesion. For instance, Tannen (1989) and Brown and Yule (1983) discuss the significance of coherence in ensuring that communication is clear and that ideas continue to flow.

Politicians can create coherently structured speeches that are easily understood by their audience by utilizing linguistic elements like pronouns, conjunctions, and lexical repetition. Sara Duterte's inaugural speech will help the audience understand her vision of her leadership and government by examining how she uses language to make her ideas clear and well-connected. Linguistic studies have widely explored coherence and cohesion, mainly spoken discourse.

Halliday and Hasan (1976) say that cohesion is a semantic one; it refers to the meaning of relationships present in the text and makes it a text. In their seminal work on cohesion in English, they identified key linguistic devices—such as referential cohesion (e.g., pronouns), conjunctions, and lexical cohesion (e.g., repetition and synonymy) which help organize a story that makes sense. These tools are essential for making complicated political ideas easier for

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people to understand by ensuring the speaker's message is well-organized and clear. They also divided cooperation into two main groups: the consistency of grammar and vocabulary, grammatical cohesion, and lexical cohesion. Grammatical cohesion is the surface marking of semantic links between clauses and sentences in written and oral discourse. In other words, cohesion includes the "grammatical formatting" of phrases, clauses, and sentences that bring connectivity to the text. However, vocabulary selection creates lexical cohesiveness.

Thus, a speaker or writer is unconscious or conscious in selecting certain connected lexical items, creating lexical cohesion. Besides, cohesion's function is based on relating one part of a text to another within the exact text. Al-Khalidy (2018) conducted a review to explore the utilization of cohesive devices in speech. The finding showed that the cohesions that showed up most in the discourse were conjunction, Reference, and lexical cohesion. Meanwhile, the events of substitution, ellipsis, and lexical collocation were the least.

Table 1: Cohesive types according to Halliday and Hasan (1976)

Aspect	Type	Category	Sub-type	
Cohesion	Grammatical	Reference	Personal Pronoun Demonstrative Comparative	
		Substitution	Nominal Verbal Clausal	
		Ellipsis	Nominal Verbal Clausal	
		Conjunction	Additive Adversative Causal Temporal	
		Lexical	Reiteration	
			Collocation	

While discourse analysis has been widely applied to political speeches globally, there is limited research on Filipino political speeches and how coherence and cohesion are utilized explicitly in this context. In the Philippine setting, political speeches are highly emotionally charged and often reflect the country's political climate and cultural norms. Espiritu (2000) and Gonzalez (2010) explored how Filipino politicians use rhetoric to establish connections with their audience through personal appeals, emotional expression, and political

discourse. Similarly, Schiffrin (1987) and Galtung and Ruge (1965) studied how political leaders structure their messages. Their speeches maintain coherence through carefully arranged ideas, like the nation-building process—promoting unity and serving the public.

In the same way, Schiffrin (1987) and Galtung and Ruge (1965) looked at how political leaders organize their speeches. Their talks make sense by carefully arranging ideas in a way that works like building a nation: they bring people together and serve the public. Looking at how she combines who she is as a person with her duty to serve the country can show how she uses language to make her speech current and influential. It is essential in the Philippines, especially where leaders' talking to people is very important. Her speech centers on hopes for the country, progress, unity, and service.

The study will analyze the internal consistency, external consistency, and logic of Sara Duterte's inaugural address. According to Halliday and Hasan (1976), coherence refers to a

message's overall consistency and logical flow, while cohesion involves linguistic elements such as pronouns, conjunctions, and lexical repetition that connect sentences and ideas within a text. By examining these aspects of the speech, the research intends to assess how Sara Duterte's speech was constructed to create a persuasive, unified, and clear message to the Filipino people.

Despite countless political speech and public speaking studies, little is known about how modern Filipino leaders use precise and related language in their inaugural speeches. Most studies on Filipino political leaders' speeches have focused on Nelson Mandela, Winston Churchill, and Obama. Therefore, little is known about how they interact with their audience. This gap in the study allows us to examine how Sara Duterte's inaugural speech, a major political event in Philippine history, employs discourse grammar to strengthen her argument.

Understanding how political leaders communicate requires understanding their speech's structural qualities, which make it clear and powerful. The clarity and persuasiveness of her remarks are vital for comprehending how political leaders navigate public communication.

This research is essential for a few reasons. First, it helps us understand how modern Filipino leaders, like Sara Duterte, use clear and connected language in their speeches. Since language and communication play a significant role in politics, studying how politicians speak can show us how they connect with voters, gain support, and explain complex ideas. Second, this study looks at how the next generation of political leaders communicates in a fast-changing world of politics and media. By focusing on how Sara Duterte's speech is organized and flows, this research gives a deeper understanding of how political messages are built and understood by the public. The findings can also help speechwriters, communication experts, and scholars learn how leaders' speech affects their messages and how people perceive them.

This study seeks to answer the following research questions:

1. How does Sara Duterte use cohesion devices (e.g., pronouns, conjunctions, lexical repetition) to link ideas and maintain the flow of her inaugural speech?
2. How is coherence achieved in the thematic structure of Sara Duterte's speech, and how does it support the clarity and persuasiveness of her political message?
3. What role does the interplay between cohesion and coherence play in creating a sense of unity, authority, and trust in the speech?

This research aims to understand how Sara Duterte's inaugural speech uses clear and connected language to deliver a strong and logical message. By examining her speech, this study will explore the language techniques used by political leaders in the Philippines. The goal is to help us understand how language works in political speeches and how effective communication is created through coherence (logical flow) and cohesion (connections between ideas).

## **2. METHOD**

The coherence and cohesiveness of Sara Duterte's inaugural speech as the newly elected vice president of the Philippines are being examined in this study utilizing descriptive qualitative research. To better comprehend ideas, views, or experiences, qualitative researchers gather and analyze data that is not quantifiable. According to Gay, Mills, and Airasian (2012:381), qualitative research involves collecting, analyzing, and interpreting narrative and visual data, which are not quantifiable, to understand a specific phenomenon.

Qualitative research investigates ideas, perceptions, attitudes, and beliefs that cannot be quantified mathematically. In this study, the researcher takes a qualitative approach to explain

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the grammatical and lexical cohesion devices utilized in Sara Duterte's inaugural speech and examine how the text maintains coherence.

This study focuses on the words or phrases in Sara Duterte's inaugural statement as a newly elected vice president of the Philippines that aid in linking concepts and enable the text to run naturally. The data used in the study includes these connecting words and phrases that help organize the speech and keep it coherent. Meanwhile, the source data used in this research is the text of Sara Duterte's inaugural speech, found on abs-cbn.com and published on January 19, 2022.

The data collection method used in this research was the documentation technique, which involves the analysis of documents, transcripts, magazines, and newspapers. In this study, the documentation refers to the text of Sara Duterte's inaugural speech as the newly elected Vice President of the Philippines. The researcher gathered data about the speech's cohesiveness and coherence devices. Content analysis was employed in this study. Crowley and Delfico (1996:1) state that content analysis entails looking at many types of recorded information, including text, video, and film. According to them, content analysis is a methodical approach to study that enables researchers to make conclusions from data by consistently evaluating textual information. It entails carefully analyzing the text as a whole, paying particular attention to its structure, meaning, and message.)

The data of this research were analyzed using three steps in the flow of activity: data condensation, data display, and drawing and verifying conclusions. (Miles, Huberman & Saldana, 2020:8-10). The steps in the data analysis process include data condensation, data display, and drawing and verifying conclusions. Data condensation is selecting, concentrating, simplifying, abstracting, and changing data from written materials, including field notes, interview transcripts, papers, and other empirical sources.

Organizing data into rows and columns creates a matrix for data display. The researcher decides how to enter data into cells and its format. Organizing data is an analytical activity that helps to manage and make sense of the data. Drawing and verifying conclusions is the final step, where the researcher describes the findings derived from the data analysis. From the moment of data collection, the qualitative analyst interprets patterns, assertions, propositions, explanations, and causal relationships. As conclusions are drawn, they are continuously verified and refined throughout the analysis. Verification can occur quickly, sometimes as brief reflections or insights that cross the analyst's mind during the writing phase.

### **3. RESULTS**

The presented data related to the main focuses of this research were to find out the grammatical, lexical, and coherence devices of Sara Duterte's inaugural speech as a newly elected vice president of the Philippines. In this research, the researcher used Halliday and Hasan's theory; they divided two cohesion devices: grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion. Grammatical cohesion is divided into four devices: Reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction.

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Meanwhile, lexical cohesion is divided into two devices: reiteration and collocation. Furthermore, the researcher used Oshima and Hogue's theory to find out the coherence of Sara Duterte's inaugural speech. They assert that four elements are necessary to generate coherent text: repeating essential nouns, employing consistent pronouns, utilizing transition signals to connect ideas, and organizing thoughts in a logical sequence.

Therefore, the data is presented in the tables below based on the data collected by the researcher from Sara Duterte's inaugural speech as the newly elected Vice President of the Philippines.

Table 1. Types of Cohesive and Coherence Devices

Sentences	Cohesive Devices				Coherence Devices		
	Reference	Substitution	Ellipses	Conjunction	Key Nouns	Consistent Pronouns	Transition Signal
1. "One of the most important lessons I have learned as I navigate life and the same thing that I believe we should ponder upon as one country united in our determination to overcome our difficulties and achieve our aspirations — is that we should commit to heart the priorities of God, country, and family" (Duterte, 2022, para.2).	<i>I we our the same thing same</i>	<i>the same thing</i>	<i>the same thing</i>	<i>As  and  that</i>	<i>"God"  "Country "</i>	<i>"Our"</i>	
2. "My life is a testament to the power of a God, whom we know by many names. My younger self was consumed by a dream to become a doctor. I pursued a pathway that I thought could help me realize that dream, but I was directed toward another way. And now I am a lawyer" (Duterte, 2022, para.3).	<i>My We I Me Another now</i>			<i>That But and</i>	<i>"God"</i>	<i>"My" "I"</i>	<i>" And now,"</i>
3. "When I committed myself to governance and public service, I was also determined to finish three consecutive terms as Mayor. That will not happen anymore. I am now the Vice President-Elect" (Duterte, 2022, para.4).	<i>I Myself  Anymore</i>	<i>"That will not happen anymore." e."</i>	<i>"I am now the Vice President- Elect."</i>				

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<p>4. “The voice of 32.2 million Filipinos was loud and clear with the message to serve our motherland. And this message has been reiterated in my oath: to consecrate myself to the service of the nation” (Duterte, 2022, para.5).</p>	<p><i>Our Myself This Loud and clear</i></p>	<p><i>the message</i></p>	<p><i>this message</i></p>	<p><i>And</i></p>	<p><i>“Country”</i></p>		
<p>5. “There is a God. A God whose will transcends the desires of our hearts, one whose will directs us to the way that we might not have imagined but a way that consecrates ourselves every day to help our fellowmen overcome the difficulties they face in their lives, to change lives, to save lives” (Duterte, 2022, para.6).</p>	<p><i>We Ourselves Their One A way</i></p>	<p><i>Way</i></p>	<p><i>“to help our fellowmen overcome the difficulties they face in their lives, to change lives, to save lives.”</i></p>	<p><i>That But</i></p>	<p><i>“God” “Life”</i></p>		
<p>6. “If we all take a moment to listen to the call to serve and decide to heed the call in the same way that many are already devoting their lives as hardworking farmers and fisherfolk that ensure there is food on our tables, dedicated health workers who help the sick, brave soldiers who fight for our country, honest and fair entrepreneurs who support our economy, patient school teachers that guide our children I believe the country will be heading toward a future of hope, security, strength, stability, and progress”(Duterte, 2022, para.7).</p>	<p><i>We Their Our Our I The call The same In the same way More (implicit)</i></p>	<p><i>The call to serve  Who are (omitting the repeated phrasing )</i></p>	<p><i>"Farmer s and fisherfolk that ensure... "  "Health workers who help..."</i></p>	<p><i>And  That</i></p>		<p><i>“We” “ They” “ Them”</i></p>	

			<i>"soldiers who fight</i>				
7. "Today, we celebrate the life and works of our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal. May his memory light up the fire within us to become patriots. Rizal taught us that selflessness and sacrifice could change our country's fate and shape our children's future. The bravery of Rizal completes the fabric of our identity as Filipinos" (Duterte, 2022, para.8).	<i>We His Us Us our  fabric of our identity</i>	<i>selflessn ess and sacrifice</i>	<i>life and works of our national hero</i>	<i>And</i>			<i>"Today"</i>
8. "Magkasama sana tayong bumangon bawat araw kasabay ang nag-aalab na pangako sa ating mga puso na mahal natin at patuloy nating mamahalin ang Pilipinas hangga't tayo ay nabubuhay" (Duterte, 2022, para.9).	<i>Ang Bawat (each)</i>	<i>na mahal natin</i>	<i>mahal natin at patuloy nating mamahal in ang Pilipinas "</i>	<i>At (and)</i>			<i>Magkasama sana tayong (Filipino phrase for "may we all</i>
9. "Let us show our love for our country by taking care of our families and communities despite the unending challenges that come our way" (Duterte, 2022, para.10).	<i>Us Our That our way</i>	<i>Show our love</i>	<i>despite the unending challeng es that come our way</i>	<i>And Despit e</i>	<i>"Family "</i>	<i>"You"</i>	<i>"let us"</i>
10. "Today is Father's Day. This is a time for families to celebrate — but you are here with me. Daghang salamat sa inyong pagtambong ug pagkuyog kanako niining adlaw. Happy Father's Day to all the fathers who make sure that another person is given the best of everything" (Duterte, 2022, para.11).	<i>You  Me  This</i>	<i>fathers who make sure</i>	<i>This is a time for families to celebrate together</i>	<i>But And</i>	<i>"you"</i>	<i>"today"</i>	



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	<i>The best of everything</i>						
11. “Today, our children are facing a very complex future, one that is rife with conflict and uncertainties. Some of these challenges include the winding cycle of poverty, the trauma of broken families, the life-long baggage because of irresponsible and bad parenting, the abandonment issues due to an absentee parent, the anguish of gender confusion and discrimination, the destruction brought about by drugs, the lure of easy money in criminality, cases of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, the failure to identify and speak up against different kinds of abuses, the life altering effects of teenage pregnancy, the detrimental effects of illiteracy, the emotional injury of bullying, unstable mental wellness, recruitment to support terrorism, misinformation in the internet — and the list could be endless” (Duterte, 2022, para.12).	<i>Our These The One</i>	<i>The list could be endless.”</i>	<i>The Could be endless</i>	<i>And</i>	<i>“Children” “Life”</i>		
12. “A strong, loving, happy family sets down all the basic foundations essential in the development and growth of a child. At home, parents have the duty to teach children the values of integrity, discipline, respect, and compassion for others. And we should never forget that it is the duty of each Filipino family to emphasize that education begins at home. Atong isil sil sa ilang alimpatakan nga ang maayong pamatasan, ang edukasyon, ug pagpaningkamot maoy magdala kanila palayo sa kinabuhi nga puno og kalisod, padulong sa maayong kinabuhi nga ilang gihandom. We should not as we could not afford to squander the future of our children” (Duterte, 2022, para.13).	<i>We It Our They That This Not</i>	<i>Maoy</i>	<i>We should not as we could not...”</i>	<i>And And That Ug</i>	<i>“Family” “Children”</i>		
13. “The days ahead of us may be full of challenges that call for us to be more united as a nation. But let me reiterate this — we can never go wrong if we are a people dedicated	<i>As We I</i>	<i>“to” before “protecti</i>	<i>“A proud Dabawe</i>	<i>But And</i>			<i>“ But”</i>

<p>to honoring the will of God, to serving our country and our fellowmen, and protecting the integrity of our families and the future of our children. Ako po si Inday Sara. A proud Dabawenya. A proud Mindanawon. Hindi ako ang pinakamagaling, o pinakamatalinong tao sa Pilipinas at sa mundo — ngunit walang makakatalo sa tibay ng puso ko bilang isang Filipino. Mabuhay ang Pilipinas! Daghang Salamat” (Duterte, 2022, para.14).</p>	<p><i>Our We This The The most</i></p>	<p><i>ng the integrity of our families, "</i></p>	<p><i>nya" and "A proud Mindan awon  "Hindi ako ang pinakam agaling, o pinakam atalinon g tao sa Pilipinas at sa mundo"</i></p>				
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Table 2. The Lexical Cohesion Devices found in Sara Duterte’s Inaugural Speech

SENTENCES	Repetition	Synonym	Superordinate	General word	Collocation
1. “One of the most important lessons I have learned as I navigate life and the same thing that I believe we should ponder upon as one country united in our determination to overcome our difficulties and achieve our aspirations — is that we should commit to heart the priorities of God, country, and family” (Duterte, 2022, para.2).	“I” “We”	"difficulties" and "challenges"  "aspirations" and "priorities"	"God, country, and family"	"difficulties" "priorities"	"united in our determination." "commit to heart."  "overcome difficulties"
2. “My life is a testament to the power of a God, whom we know by many names. My younger self was consumed by a dream to become a doctor. I pursued a pathway that I thought could help me realize that dream, but I was directed toward another way. And now I am a lawyer. When I committed myself to governance and public service, I was also determined to finish three consecutive terms as Mayor. That will not happen anymore. I am now the Vice President-Elect” (Duterte, 2022, paras.3-4).	“I” “Dream” “Now”	"Dream" and "pathway"  "Doctor" and "lawyer" "Governance" and "public service"	"God" "Way"	"Pathway" "Way"	"Testament to"  "Consumed by"  "Public service" and "governance" "Vice President- Elect"
3. “The voice of 32.2 million Filipinos was loud and clear with the message to serve our motherland. And this message has been reiterated in my oath: to consecrate myself to the service of the nation” (Duterte, 2022, para.5).	"Message" "Serve"	"Message" and "oath":  "Nation" and "motherland"	"Service"  "Nation"	Message"	"Loud and clear."  "Serve the nation."  "Consecrate to the service"
4. “There is a God. A God whose will transcends the desires of our hearts, one whose will directs us to the way that we might not have imagined but a way that consecrates ourselves every day to help our fellowmen overcome the difficulties they face in their lives, to change lives, to save lives” (Duterte, 2022, para.6).	“God” “Will” “way” “lives”	"Will" and "desires"  "Way" and "lives"	“Lives” “way”	“Lives” “way”	"Transcends the desires." "Help our fellowmen." "Overcome the difficulties" "Save lives"

5. "If we all take a moment to listen to the call to serve and decide to heed the call in the same way that many are already devoting their lives as hardworking farmers and fisherfolk that ensure there is food on our tables, dedicated health workers who help the sick, brave soldiers who fight for our country, honest and fair entrepreneurs who support our economy, patient school teachers that guide our children I believe the country will be heading toward a future of hope, security, strength, stability, and progress" (Duterte, 2022, para.7).	"call" "lives" "our" "to"	"Call" and "serve."  "Brave" and "dedicated"  "Health workers" and "teachers"	workers" or "individuals."  "workers" or "professionals."	"call" "lives" "future"	"Devoting their lives" "Help the sick." "Fight for our country" "Support our economy." "Guide our children." "Heading toward" "Future of hope, security, strength, stability, and progress"
6. "Today, we celebrate the life and works of our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal. May his memory light up the fire within us to become patriots. Rizal taught us that selflessness and sacrifice could change our country's fate and shape our children's future. The bravery of Rizal completes the fabric of our identity as Filipinos" (Duterte, 2022, para.8).	"Rizal" "life" "future"	"Life" and "works": "Memory" and "light up the fire":  "Selflessness" and "sacrifice":	"identify"  "hero"	"fire" "future"	"Celebrate the life"  "Change the fate."  "Shape the future"  "Bravery of Rizal"
7. "Magkasama sana tayong bumangon bawat araw kasabay ang nag-aalab na pangako sa ating mga puso na mahal natin at patuloy nating mamahalin ang Pilipinas hangga't tayo ay nabubuhay" (Duterte, 2022, para.9).	"mahalin" "tayo" "Pilipinas"	"Mahal" (love) and "mamahalin" (love)  "Bumangon" (rise) and "nabubuhay" (live):	"puso" (heart)  "Buhay" (life)	"Pangako" (promise)  "Bawat araw" (every day)	"Magkasama tayong bumangon" (together we rise) "Nag-aalab na pangako" (fiery promise) "Mahal natin" (we love): "Mahal" (love)
8. "Let us show our love for our country by taking care of our families and communities despite the unending challenges that come our way" (Duterte, 2022, para.10).	"Our"  "love"  "challenges"	"Love" and "care" "Families" and "communities" "Challenges" and "unending":	"Families and communities"  "Challenges"	"Country"  "way"	"Show our love."  "Take care" "Unending challenges"

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<p>9. “Today is Father’s Day. This is a time for families to celebrate — but you are here with me. Daghang salamat sa inyong pagtambong ug pagkuyog kanako niining adlaw. Happy Father’s Day to all the fathers who make sure that another person is given the best of everything” (Duterte, 2022, para.11).</p>	<p>“Father’s Day”  “fathers”</p>	<p>“Celebrate” and “pagtambong” (attend)/ “pagkuyog” (accompany)  “Best” and “best of everything”</p>	<p>“Time”  “fathers”</p>	<p>“Person”  “Time”</p>	<p>“Father’s Day”  Celebrate” and “time.”  “Make sure”</p>
<p>10. “Today, our children are facing a very complex future, one that is rife with conflict and uncertainties. Some of these challenges include the winding cycle of poverty, the trauma of broken families, the life-long baggage because of irresponsible and bad parenting, the abandonment issues due to an absentee parent, the anguish of gender confusion and discrimination, the destruction brought about by drugs, the lure of easy money in criminality, cases of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, the failure to identify and speak up against different kinds of abuses, the life altering effects of teenage pregnancy, the detrimental effects of illiteracy, the emotional injury of bullying, unstable mental wellness, recruitment to support terrorism, misinformation in the internet — and the list could be endless” (Duterte, 2022, para.12).</p>	<p>“Challenges”  “Effects”  “the”</p>	<p>“Challenges” and “issues”  “Trauma” and “anguish”:  “Destruction” and “detrimental effects”:</p>	<p>“Challenges”  “Effects”</p>	<p>“Issues”  “Effects”</p>	<p>“Facing a future”  “Winding cycle”  “Life-long baggage”  “Sexually transmitted diseases”  “Mental wellness”</p>
<p>11. “A strong, loving, happy family sets down all the basic foundations essential in the development and growth of a child. At home, parents have the duty to teach children the values of integrity, discipline, respect, and compassion for others. And we should never forget that it is the duty of each Filipino family to emphasize that education begins at home. Atong isil sil sa ilang alimpatakan nga ang maayong pamatasan, ang edukasyon, ug pagpaningkamot maoy magdala kanila palayo sa kinabuhi nga puno og kalisod, padulong sa maayong kinabuhi nga ilang gihandom. We should not as we could not afford to squander the future of our children” (Duterte, 2022, para.13).</p>	<p>“duty”  “family”  “Education”  “Children”</p>	<p>“Values” and “pamatasan” (values/morals)    “Integrity” and “honesty”  “Development” and “growth”</p>	<p>“family”  “values”  “Education”</p>	<p>“family”  “duty”  “future”</p>	<p>Teach children”  “At home”  “Squander the future”  “Basic foundations”</p>

<p>12. “The days ahead of us may be full of challenges that call for us to be more united as a nation. But let me reiterate this — we can never go wrong if we are a people dedicated to honoring the will of God, to serving our country and our fellowmen, and protecting the integrity of our families and the future of our children. Ako po si Inday Sara. A proud Dabawenya. A proud Mindanawon. Hindi ako ang pinakamagaling, o pinakamatalinong tao sa Pilipinas at sa mundo — ngunit walang makakatalo sa tibay ng puso ko bilang isang Filipino. Mabuhay ang Pilipinas! Daghang Salamat!” (Duterte, 2022, para.14).</p>	<p>“proud”  “a”  “Country”</p>	<p>“Nation” and “country”  “Integrity” and “will” (in a moral sense)</p>	<p>“people”  “future”</p>	<p>“challenges”  “people”  “Children”</p>	<p>“More united”  “Go wrong.” “Serving our country.” “Honoring the will” “Protecting the integrity.”</p>
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The grammatical cohesion devices contained within Sara Duterte's Inaugural Speech.

Table 4. The Grammatical Cohesion Devices Contained in Sara Duterte's Inaugural Speech

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Grammatical cohesion devices	Total
Personal reference	38
Demonstrative Reference	16
Comparative Reference	15
Substitution	14
Ellipsis	16
Conjunction	29
Total	128

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Designed by researcher 2025.

a. Reference

1) Personal Reference

One of the demonstrative reference examples contained in Sara Duterte's inaugural speech is: "I have learned as I navigate life and the same thing that I believe we should ponder upon as one country united in our determination to overcome our difficulties and achieve our aspirations is that we should commit to heart the priorities of God, country, and family" (Duterte, 2022).

Based on the example above, the sentences are cohesive. It contains cohesiveness between the lines: *I, we, and our*. *I* refer to the speaker directly. It marks the subject of acting, learning, and navigating life; *we* refer to the speaker and the people being addressed (audience), and *our* refers to the collective group's determination. More information about personal References can be seen in Table 1, *Types of Cohesive Devices found in Sara Duterte's inaugural speech*.

2) Demonstrative Reference

One of the demonstrative reference examples contained in Sara Duterte's inaugural speech is: "When I committed myself to governance and public service, I was also determined to finish three consecutive terms as Mayor. That will not happen anymore. I am now the Vice President-Elect" (Duterte, 2022).

Based on the example above, the text is cohesive. Because it contains cohesiveness between sentences, *it* refers to the previous idea of the speaker's plans as Mayor, clarifying that the plan will not be realized. It points to something already mentioned, marking a shift in the speaker's political role. More information about demonstrative References can be seen in Table 1, *Types of Cohesive Devices found in Sara Duterte's Inaugural Speech*.

### 3) Comparative Reference

One of the comparative reference examples contained in Sara Duterte's inaugural speech is "One of the most important lessons I have learned as I navigate life and the same thing that I believe we should ponder upon as one country united in our determination to overcome our difficulties and achieve our aspirations" (Duterte, 2022).

Based on the example above, the text is cohesive. Because it contained a comparative Reference between sentences, which is *the same*, this uses the word *same* to refer, referring to a previously mentioned idea about what is important (the lesson to commit to the priorities of God, country, and family). More information about comparative References can be seen in Table 1. *Types of Cohesive Devices found at Duterte's Inaugural Speech.*

#### b. Substitution

One of the substitution examples contained in Sara Duterte's inaugural speech is: "I have learned as I navigate life and the same thing that I believe we should ponder upon as one country united in our determination to overcome our difficulties and achieve our aspirations is that we should commit to heart the priorities of God, country, and family" (Duterte, 2022).

Based on the example above, the text is cohesive because it contains the substitution between sentences, which is *the same thing*. The phrase *the same thing* substitutes for the idea of "one of the most important lessons" or "the lesson I have learned," thus avoiding the need to repeat that specific concept. More information about substitution can be seen in Table 1, *Types of Cohesive Devices found in Sara Duterte's Inaugural Speech.*

#### c. Ellipsis

One of the ellipses examples contained in Sara Duterte's inaugural speech is: "When I committed myself to governance and public service, I was also determined to finish three consecutive terms as Mayor. That will not happen anymore. I am now the Vice President-Elect" (Duterte, 2022).

Based on the example above, the text is cohesive because it contains ellipses between sentences, "*I am now the Vice President-Elect.*" The phrase "*I am now the Vice President-Elect*" implicitly omits what would have been a redundant statement like "I was elected as Vice President" because the earlier context already makes clear the change in the speaker's position. More information about ellipses can be seen in Table 1, *Types of Cohesive Devices found in Sara Duterte's Inaugural Speech.*

#### d. Conjunction

One of the conjunction examples in Sara Duterte's inaugural speech is, "One of the most important lessons I have learned as I navigate life, and the same thing that I believe we should ponder upon as one country united in our determination to overcome our difficulties and achieve our aspirations is that we should commit to heart the priorities of God, country, and family" (Duterte, 2022).



### Analyzing Coherence and Cohesion in Sara Duterte's Vice Presidential Inaugural Speech

Based on the example above, the text is cohesive. Because it contains conjunctions, they are *as*, *and*, *that*. *As* is used to indicate a condition or simultaneous occurrence, this suggests that learning happens while navigating life, showing a simultaneous process. It is also used to connect similar ideas or items to a list. It links two ideas (navigating life and the "same thing" being pondered upon). *That* is used to introduce a noun clause, provide additional information, or specify what is being discussed. *That* introduces the clause about what the speaker believes should be pondered. More information about conjunctions can be seen in Table 1, *Types of Cohesive Devices found in Sara Duterte's Inaugural Speech*.

#### 2. The lexical cohesion devices contained within Sara Duterte's Inaugural Speech.

The data analysis found that Sara Duterte's inaugural speech contained several lexical cohesion devices: reiteration (repetition, synonym, superordinate, general word) and collocation.

Table 5. The Lexical Cohesion Devices  
Contained in Sara Duterte's Inaugural Speech

Lexical cohesion devices	Total
Repetition	35
Synonym	30
Reiteration	
Superordinate	24
General word	26
Collocation	48
Total	163

Designed by Researcher 2025

##### a. Reiteration

###### 1) Repetition

One of the repetition examples in Sara Duterte's inaugural speech is, "One of the most important lessons I have learned as I navigate life—and the same thing that I believe we should ponder upon as one country united in our determination to overcome our difficulties and achieve our aspirations—is that we should commit to heart the priorities of God, country, and family" (Duterte, 2022).

Based on the example above, the text is cohesive because it contains the repetition of words such as "I" and "we" in the first line. "I" is repeated, helping to create a personal and consistent voice, and "we" is repeated, linking ideas about collective action and unity. More information about repetition can be seen in Table 2, *The Lexical Cohesion Devices found in Sara Duterte's Inaugural Speech*.

## 2) Synonym

One of the synonym examples contained in Sara Duterte's inaugural speech is: "I believe we should ponder upon as one country united in our determination to overcome our difficulties and achieve our aspirations is that we should commit to heart the priorities of God, country, and family" (Duterte, 2022).

Based on the example above, the text is cohesive because it contains synonyms of *difficulties*, *challenges*, *aspirations*, and *priorities*. The collocations of *difficulties* and *challenges* (implied meaning, though "challenges" is not used in the text, it can be inferred as a synonym for difficulties). While *aspirations* and *priorities* are semantically related terms in this context, both relate to goals and values. More information about repetition can be seen in Table 2, *The Lexical Cohesion Devices found in Sara Duterte's Inaugural Speech*.

## 3) Superordinate

One superordinate example in Sara Duterte's Inaugural Speech is: "We should commit to heart the priorities of God, country, and family."

Based on the example above, the text is cohesive. Because it contained words such as *God*, *country*, and *family*, it is a superordinate category because it is a broader concept encompassing many specific values or priorities that fall under the categories of religion, national identity, and family life. More superordinate information can be seen in Table 2, *The Lexical Cohesion Devices in Sara Duterte's Inaugural Speech*.

## 4) General word

One of the general word examples contained in Sara Duterte's inaugural speech is: "I believe we should ponder upon as one country united in our determination to overcome our difficulties and achieve our aspirations is that we should commit to heart the priorities of God, country, and family" (Duterte, 2022).

Based on the example above, the text is cohesive because it contains general words such as *difficulties* and *priorities*. *Difficulties* is a general word encompassing various challenges or obstacles without specifying exact types and *priorities*. It functions as a general word, standing for specific values, goals, or concerns that individuals and society may prioritize. More information about general words can be seen in Table 2, *The Lexical Cohesion Devices in Sara Duterte's Inaugural Speech*.

## b. Collocation

One collocation example in Sara Duterte's inaugural speech is: "My life is a testament to the power of a God, whom we know by many names. My younger self was consumed by a dream to become a doctor. I pursued a pathway that I thought could help me realize that dream, but I was directed toward another way. Moreover, now I am a lawyer. When I committed to governance and public service, I was determined to finish three consecutive terms as Mayor. That will not happen anymore. I am now the Vice President-Elect" (Duterte, 2022).

### Analyzing Coherence and Cohesion in Sara Duterte's Vice Presidential Inaugural Speech

Based on the example above, the text is cohesive because it contains the collocation of words such as *Testament to*, *Consumed by*, *Vice President-Elect*, and *Public Service and Governance*. *Testament to* is a standard collocation, where "testament" often collocates with "to" to refer to evidence or proof of something. *Consumed by* is another collocation, where "consumed" frequently collocates with "by" to indicate being fully absorbed or engrossed by something (in this case, a dream). *Vice President-Elect* is a collocation, as this is a common term in political contexts referring to an individual who has been elected but has not yet assumed office. *Public service* and *governance* are collocations commonly used in political and governmental contexts, reinforcing the idea of leadership and community service. More information about collocation can be seen in Table 2, *The Lexical Cohesion Devices found in Sara Duterte's Inaugural Speech*.

### 3. The Coherence Devices

Based on the data analysis, Sara Duterte's inaugural speech contained several coherence devices: repeat key nouns, consistent pronouns, transition signals, and logical order.

Table 6. The coherence devices contained in Sara Duterte's Inaugural Speech

Coherence devices	Total
Key nouns	7
Consistent pronouns	7
Transition signals	7
Total	21

Designed by researcher 2025.

#### a. Repeat key nouns

One of the repeat key noun examples in Sara Duterte's inaugural speech is: "One of the most important lessons I have learned as I navigate life... is that we should commit to heart the priorities of God..." "There is a God. A God whose will transcends the desires of our hearts..." (Duterte, 2022).

Based on the example above, *God* was mentioned in the first part of her inaugural speech. It appears throughout, central to the message, anchors the speaker's message, and maintains the theme of unity, duty, and national pride. More information about key nouns can be seen in Table 1, *The Coherence Devices Contained in Sara Duterte's Inaugural Speech*.

#### b. Consistent pronouns

One of the transition signal examples in Sara Duterte's inaugural speech is: "I pursued a pathway that I thought could help me realize that dream, but I was directed toward another way" (Duterte, 2022).

Based on the example above, "my" name and "I" were mentioned in the first part of her inaugural speech. Pronouns "I" and "my" are used consistently to maintain clarity and unity in the speech. Shifting between personal reflection, national unity, and direct address helps keep the reader or listener engaged. More information about key nouns can be seen in Table 1, *The Coherence Devices Contained in Sara Duterte's Inaugural Speech*.

c. Transition signals

One of the transition signal examples in Sara Duterte's inaugural speech is: "I pursued a pathway that I thought could help me realize that dream, but I was directed toward another way. And now, I am a lawyer" (Duterte, 2022).

Based on the example above, the 'And' now was mentioned in the first part of her inaugural speech. These transition signals help the speech flow logically from one idea to the next, emphasizing key themes like patriotism, service, and family values. More information about key nouns can be seen in Table 1, *The Coherence Devices Contained in Sara Duterte's Inaugural Speech*.

#### **4. DISCUSSION**

The current study aims to analyze the cohesion and coherence of a speech text. The inaugural speech of Sara Duterte as Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines was chosen as the subject of this study. Halliday and Hasan (1976) said that cohesion was a way to tell if a text had good connections or was just a bunch of words that did not go together. In this theory, cohesion was divided into two categories. They are lexical cohesion and grammatical cohesion. Reference, substitution, ellipsis, and conjunction are the four devices that constitute grammatical cohesion.

Conversely, lexical cohesiveness is separated into four devices: repetition, synonym, superordinate, generic term, and collocation. Furthermore, the researcher applied Oshima and Hoyle's theory which specifies the four strategies to attain a coherent text to ascertain the coherence of Sara Duterte's speech, "Inaugural Speech of Sarah Duterte as Vice President of the Philippines." These strategies include repeated important words, consistent pronoun usage, and transition signals to organize ideas logically.

The study's findings show that Sara Duterte's opening speech uses cohesion devices, which are important for connecting ideas and keeping the speech's flow. Cohesion devices, like pronouns, conjunctions, and lexical repeats, are essential for keeping speech organized and making sure that ideas flow smoothly from one to the next. Personal references happen 38 times, which suggests that Sara Duterte talks about herself and other people a lot, making a direct and personal link with the audience. This way, she grounds her speech in her leadership and clarifies that her message is for everyone. Moving from one thought to the next is easier when using demonstrative references (16) and comparative references (15) to connect ideas. Also, conjunctions (29) and ellipses (16) help keep the logical connections between ideas. By carefully using these tools, Duterte ensures that her audience can easily understand what she is saying, making the speech clear and easy to understand.)

The study of lexical cohesion devices also shows how important repeat (35 instances) and collocation (48 instances) are for bringing out the main ideas and ensuring the speech flows smoothly. By repeatedly using the exact words and sentences, Sara Duterte drives home her main points and helps people remember her political message. By using general words and

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synonyms (30), she avoids repetition even more while keeping her speech flow and ensuring that her audience stays interested without getting bored with too much language. Duterte uses these lexical cohesion devices to make her speech flow naturally. The lexical cohesion helps her speak clearly in English and Filipino.

According to Halliday (1994), a sentence's or discourse's theme serves as its beginning point, structuring the phrase and guiding the thought flow. Sara Duterte's Inauguration Speech exhibits a theme structure crucial to the logical progression of ideas. Similarly, coherence is defined by McCarthy (1991) as how various textual elements logically relate to one another and make sense as a cohesive whole. Sara Duterte's chosen words in her speech show cohesion, coherence, and thematic structure. The words are organized, orderly, and coordinated through her applications of 7 key nouns, seven consistent pronouns, and transition signs.

Another prominent and recurrent topic is serving God, family, and nation. The information provided is crucial because the themes are interconnected and logically build upon one another, significantly influencing the fluidity of the discourse.

Using pronouns, conjunctions, and lexical repetition ensures that Sara Duterte's Inaugural speech is coherent, natural, and understandable by the audience. These components contribute to a deliberative, well-organized, and thoughtful speech, allowing Duterte to project authority and trustworthiness. By connecting concepts seamlessly and maintaining clarity in theme development, Duterte might be a leader who commands attention and inspires faith in her audience.

Additionally, portraying herself as a reliable source of information eager to share her knowledge and opinions with the audience and reaffirming the veracity of her statements, cohesion, and coherence strengthen Sara Duterte's speech's persuasiveness and authority. Another is the sense of camaraderie she expresses by using the phrase "let us, " which makes her message convincing and transparent to the audience. Cohesion and coherence are closely related elements that are essential in discourse. Both are necessary for connecting the parts of a text or speech, making it grammatically and semantically transparent so that the reader or listener can understand it.

In a political context where political discourse plays a significant role in constructing and representing the identities of politicians, language is one of the aspects that needs to be examined in which cohesion and coherence are closely related elements that are essential in discourse because they are part of the grammar in which language is structured. They are necessary for connecting the parts of a text or speech, making it grammatically and semantically clear so that the reader or listener can understand it. The language used by the political actors should reflect, reinforce, or motivate their audience.

In Sara Duterte's inaugural speech, cohesion and coherence are both present. Grammatical and lexical links that connect ideas and sentences, achieving cohesion while grouping and arranging ideas in a logical order, make it coherent and give clarity to her audience. The cohesiveness and coherence of her speech support its persuasiveness, which affects and influences the beliefs of others by asserting her credibility with a coherent presentation of her professional and personal identity and by asserting the reliability of the content conveyed. Besides, it was also realized that the speech even had insertions of extemporaneous remarks either in Filipino (the national language of the Philippines) and Cebuano Bisaya (language spoken in some parts of the Philippines), emphasizing education

begins at home and her gratitude for the Filipino people making the message comprehensible for them.

Analyzing the language in political discourse and the role of coherence and cohesion in a political speech is significant to empower citizens to become more informed and critical consumers of political information, especially in Philippine politics. A speech or text is comprehensible, convincing, and trustworthy if it utilizes and applies the concepts of cohesion and coherence.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

This paper emphasizes how crucial consistency and cohesiveness are for producing a convincing and strong political statement. By means of grammatical and lexical coherence devices such as references, conjunctions, and lexical repetitions strategic use of these elements improved the logical flow and clarity of Sara Duterte's first presentation. These components strengthened the unity, leadership, and service themes of the speech by helping the audience to connect strongly with it. The speech was more powerful and authoritative since coherence and cohesiveness helped to contribute to its persuasiveness. The results underline how successfully political speeches transmit messages depending on substance, organization, and language devices. This study offers insightful analysis for speechwriters, teachers, and linguists in developing effective and ordered communication by knowing how coherence and cohesiveness operate in conversation.

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