

## Abstract

This study investigates cohesion usage in storytelling among Thai children aged between 4-7 years old. Similarities and differences in the use of cohesion in Aesop's storytelling and stories based on experience were explored. Moreover, comparisons in the use of cohesion in the storytelling of children growing up in a normal family setting and those from foster homes were addressed.

The subjects were 30 Thai children, aged between 4-7 years, attending schools and foster homes in Ang Thong province. They all took and passed an aptitude test and were classified according to their aptitude score, age, and care environment.

Cohesion in storytelling of children aged between 4-7 years old could be summarized as follows: **1. Reference** (2 types): pronominal and demonstrative reference **2. Ellipsis** (3 types): nominal, verbal, and clausal ellipsis **3. Repetition** (3 types): recurrence, parallelism, and paraphrase cohesion **4. Conjunction** (10 types): additive, comparative, contrastive, exemplificatory, causal, relation of result, relation of purpose, temporal, transitional, and continuative relation **5. Lexical Cohesion** (3 types): hyponymy and co-hyponymy, meronymy and co-meronymy, and antonymy.

As for the cohesion's usage frequency, different types of storytelling did not show a statistically significant effect. However, ellipsis cohesion appeared more frequently in experience storytelling and repetition cohesion more frequently in Aesop's story telling. In terms of age, it was found that different age groups did not differ in their cohesion frequency. However, children from two different care environments showed significant differences in their cohesion frequency. Children from the normal family setting used reference, ellipsis, conjunction, and lexical cohesion significantly more frequently than those from the foster homes, with no difference only for repetition cohesion.