PREFACE

This study “The Analysis of Cohesion in Select Short Stories” is done with an aim to find the core elements of cohesion which contribute to the texture of the Discourse. Every text is a Discourse and it comprises sentences. Discourse is not confined to one particular form of text. All types of literary forms fall under the category of discourse. Discourse could be a poem, an essay, a speech or a dialogue. It is the use of language above and beyond the sentence level and the study of discourse is the study of text and contexts, focusing on the actual spoken sentences. The Discourse analyst investigates the spoken or written form and also the structural and functional aspects. The two different paradigms in linguistics i.e., formalist and functionalist, provide different assumptions about the general nature of language and the goals of linguistics. The formalist paradigm views discourse as ‘language above the sentence’ while the functionalists view it as ‘language use’. The Scope of Discourse Analysis is so vast that it is interconnected with several other disciplines like Text Linguistics, Genre Analysis, Semantics, Pragmatics and Stylistics.

Discourse is a higher level of language organization and refers to any self – sufficient sequence of sentences. The structure of discourse can be analysed in terms of two features namely Cohesion and Coherence. Cohesion is related to the way in which different textual units are linked together to form a higher unit. Coherence on the other hand, is concerned with the linking of communicative acts. Any text whether spoken or written, contains both cohesion and coherence. Cohesion is the study of structured sentences. These sentences are interlinked and the connecting links are called ties. Ties help in establishing semantic relationship among the
sentences. The interpretation of one element in a text depends on some other element in the text. Thus the text becomes coherent only with the establishment of proper semantic relationship between the sentences. Cohesion is broadly categorized into two types – Grammatical cohesion and Lexical cohesion. Both grammatical and lexical elements together contribute to the cohesion of a text. Cohesion is mainly concerned with extended discourse rather than with individual sentence. A brief outline of each chapter is given below for a quick insight of the study.

The first chapter is an introduction chapter dealing with the origin, development, definition, scope and significance of Discourse Analysis and the role of Cohesion. It started with Harris (1952), who was the first advocate of Discourse Analysis. Stubbs (1983) too like Harris focused on how sentences could be joined to form a connected speech and touched upon various theories like John Austin’s Speech Act Theory(1962), H.P.Grice’s (1975) theory of the ‘co-operative principle” and its attendant maxims which regulate the exchange of information between individuals involved in interaction. P.Brown and S.Levinson’s(1987) theory of ‘Politeness Phenomena’, the ontological dimensions of discourse, Hymes(1972) articles on the role of context, Halliday and Hasan’s semantic components in linguistic system and the role of cohesion in discourse.

The second chapter is the “Theoretical Background”. It gives a general description of cohesion, meaning of text and different views of Mcquillan (2000), Hoey (2000), Asher (1994) on text and also about text and context, significance of texture, the role of tie and different types of cohesion, the cohesive elements like reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction and lexical ellipsis with the semantic distinctions in the personal system, substitution types, ellipsis types and specific deictics.
The third chapter of the study is “Review of Literature”. It presents the seminal work starting from Harris (1952) to Fairclough on Discourse Analysis and also the current trends of Discourse. It then moves ahead surveying the literature of research studies abroad and research done on Cohesion and Discourse in India. Surveying a corpus of literature on Discourse Analysis and Cohesion Analysis gave the researcher a general idea of research carried forward in those areas and has helped in deciding the rationale behind the study The Analysis of Cohesion in Select Short Stories.

The fourth chapter discusses the aim of the research, scope and the method and procedure employed for the analysis. It also presents the short stories that are selected for the study, a brief description of the authors of those stories, the characteristics of short stories and the summaries of the select stories.

In the fifth chapter, five stories have been analysed. Each story belongs to different author. The five stories selected for this purpose are “Bade Bhai Saab” by Munshi Prem Chand, “The Hawk and the Tree” by Mohammad Azam Rahnavard Zaryab and “The Cop and the Anthem” by O.Henry, “Selvi” by R.K. Narayan and “A Devoted Son” by Anita Desai. These stories have been analysed basing on the model of Halliday and Hasan’s coding scheme. Passage wise occurrence of cohesive elements is shown at the end of every story. Below that the subcategory of lexical elements like synonyms, same items and morphological variants are listed to find out the number of items present in the story. Micro-analysis of each subcategory is done by calculating the percentage of its occurrence in the story. Along with this the percentage of pronames and deixis is also calculated and presented.

The sixth chapter presents the interpretation of the data in the five selected short stories of authors from different countries, cultures and language. The analyses of these stories reveal
the occurrence of cohesive elements. It also shows what type of cohesion is involved in terms of reference, substitution, ellipsis and so on. The interpretation of the data helps the readers in understanding the story from the perspective of the author to a certain extent. This chapter also shows how the linguistic elements used in the development of the stories contribute to the texture of the text.

The seventh chapter concludes the study. It presents the short story characteristics like the exposition or beginning, climax and denouement as used by the authors, quantitative analysis of the data, findings of the analysis, limitations of the study and suggestions for further research.

Thus the study has given substantial understanding of the types of cohesion involved in the text and how the occurrence of the cohesive elements contributes to the comprehensibility of the text. In my thesis, I made a humble attempt to discuss and explore a method that helps a teacher to make students engage with a text and teach them how to unravel the embedded meaning. I would like to emphasize that all devices employed by an author to make his work coherent are an inherent part of the creative process and it is the task of the teachers and students together to analyze the process through different ways, Cohesion Analysis being one of them.