

Signaling Nouns in English and Persian: A Contrastive Study

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Abstract—This study presents a comparison and description of a major class of vocabulary, signaling nouns, in English and Persian which have important discourse function in establishing links across and within clauses. This class of noun is prevalent in academic discourse. The comparison is based on three corpuses, Native English texts, Non native English, Native Persian texts. Signaling nouns in three corpora were identified in different stages. The data collected was analyzed and clarified on the basis of categories, adopted from Flowerdew (2004). The result showed that there are significant differences between Non-native English linguistics texts and Native English linguistics texts and also native Persian linguistics texts in the use and kind of signaling nouns. It was revealed that English writers used signaling nouns more than non-native English writers. And also non-native English writers used signaling nouns more than Persian writers. The description provides a framework which is likely to be of value to materials writers and teachers and learners.

Index Terms—anaphor, antecedent, discourse, text

I. INTRODUCTION

The text makes it possible for the reader and writer to go through an interaction process to achieve some communication. It is through the text that the writer encodes his message and it is through the text that the reader gets the meaning of the message by decoding it. A speaker of language can easily distinguish between a text and collection of sentences that don't constitute a text, because a text has a texture. For a text to have a texture, it must include ties that bind it together. "These ties are called cohesive ties that produce cohesion and coherence" (Halliday and Hassan, 1976).

Studies of coherence are often really about abstract cohesive devices, in the sense provided by Halliday and Hassan (1976). Some studies assume that coherence is produced by design, by appropriate use of cohesive devices. There are four ways by which cohesion is created in English: by reference, ellipsis, conjunction, and lexical organization. These resources collectively meet the text-forming requirements referred to earlier. They make it possible to link items at any size, whether below or above the clauses; and to link items at any distance, whether structurally related or not (Halliday 1976).

The definition of cohesion precisely accounts for the system of reference (Flowerdew, 2004). Referring elements establish a semantic relationship between them in which one of the elements provides the other with the meaning. One of the references and major class of lexical organizations which has important discourse function in establishing link across and within clauses are "signaling nouns. They are potentially any abstract noun, the meaning of which can only be made specific by reference to its context.

II. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions are to be investigated

1. What are the differences between native English texts and native Persian texts in the use of signaling nouns (quality and quantity) ?
2. What are the differences between native English texts and non-native English texts in the use of signaling nouns (quality and quantity) ?
3. What are the differences between native -Persian texts and non-native English (Iranian) texts in the use of signaling nouns (quality and quantity)?

A. Null Hypotheses

In regard to the above questions the following null hypotheses can be formulated.

1. There is no significant difference between native -English and native Persian texts in the use of signaling nouns.
2. There is no significant difference between non-native English and native Persian texts in the use of signaling nouns.
3. There is no significant difference between native Persian and non-native English texts in the use of signaling nouns.

B. Corpus

The corpus consists of three parts; (1) native English linguistics texts were chosen from among current native English books (2) Non-native English linguistics texts that were chosen from among current English journals and books, written by Iranian writers (3) Native Persian linguistics texts were chosen from Iranian journals and books written in Farsi.

Every corpus in the present study included 10 texts with the different writers. The idea of different texts writers (10) helps ensure that there is no problem of being peculiarities of an individual writer. Every text includes 3,000 words; this means that we have 30,000 words for every corpus and 90,000 words for the three corpora.

III. PROCEDURE

As mentioned previously, total of 30 texts were selected from native writers of Persian, native writers of English and also from non-native writers of English (Iranian writers). According to definition and classification provided by Flowerdew (2004) Signaling items for the corpora were identified in a number of stages. First, lists of all the different words occurring in each corpus were created by means of a computerized words frequency program (Microsoft Word). Then all signaling items which occurred in corpus were determined, and then these lexical signaling nouns were examined to establish if a given item functioned as a lexical signal.

Due to the fact that potential lexical signaling items can have more than one function, the next stage was to sort signaling nouns, eliminating non- signaling items i.e. homographs. Then the remaining items were divided into those which were realized across clauses, those that were realized within the clauses, and those which were exaphoric. Also all signaling nouns were studied to see whether they are anaphoric or cataphoric. The texts were analyzed by the researcher for the types and number of signaling nouns used. Then English texts were cross checked by my supervisor and advisor, Persian texts also were checked by a professor of Persian literature (Dr. Taki, from Shahreza Azad University).

A. Data Analysis

Signaling nouns in different corpora can have more than one function. The meaning of the given signal must be sought either earlier in the text or later in the text or outside the text, as assumed background knowledge.

The data collected was analyzed and clarified on the basis of following categories, adopted from Flowerdew (2004).

1. Across Clauses

The meaning of signaling noun in across clauses must be sought before or next clauses. The across clause is exemplified below:

Native English texts: in this view the study of language is the study of human mind.

Here the item "view" encapsulates the meaning of the preceding stretch of discourse and labels it as a "view".

2. Within the Clause

The meaning of such signals is realized within the clause that it occurs. The within clause is exemplified in the following:

Native English texts: the suggestion is that the primitive words could have been imitations of the natural sounds.

3. Exophoric Function

Sometimes, as Ivanic (1991) has noted, a signal cannot be recovered in the discourse, but appeals to background knowledge. Example:

Language system is very effective and can carry out many important tasks.

Here the item "tasks" are not realized in the text. It is left to readers to work out what sort of tasks the writer is referring to.

4. Cataphoric and Anaphoric

The cataphoric function is exemplified in the following example.

_. The third goal of this paper is to suggest...

The next examples illustrate the anaphoric function.

_. CA became the basis of teaching foreign languages. This criterion was established by Fries (1945).

B. Statistical Analysis

After data collection and signaling nouns categorization, the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS-X) was applied to analyze data, to reject or confirm the null hypotheses stated in this research study.

IV. RESULTS OF THE STUDY

The aim of the project was to investigate how differently native Persian writers, native English and Non-native English writers use signaling nouns in the academic writing. On the basis of this corpora, this chapter provides the results of the study, both in terms of descriptive and inferential statistics and also a discussion of the results.

A. The Difference between Native English & Native Persian Texts

In regard to the first question of this research, "the difference between native English & native Persian texts", signaling items for the corpora were analyzed. Table 1 shows average frequency of lexical signaling items per thousand

words, for the two corpora, native English & native Persian. The table shows that there are on average 18 signals per thousand words in the native English texts and 12 in the native Persian texts.

TABLE 1
AVERAGE SIGNALING ITEMS PER 1000 WORDS

| Native English Texts | Native Persian Texts |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 18 | 12 |

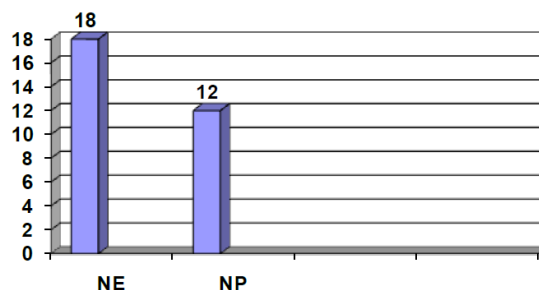


Figure1 Shows signaling nouns in Native English and Persian Texts

NP: Example: The Field as a whole represents **an attempt** to break down the broad questions about ...

Example: We can hope to answer, and in so doing establish reasonable **results** that we can build on in moving closer to answer to the larger questions.

By considering the kind of SN for the first question, the difference between native English & native Persian Texts, Table 2 shows some of those items most often used with high to low frequency in a signaling function in English and Persian linguistic texts. **Kind**, for example, occurs 35 times, more frequency than other words in the Native English texts **and** not occurring at all as a lexical signaling item in the Persian texts. **Question** for example is quite frequency for two corpora, 30 for (NE) and 13 for (NP). In Persian the words (نقش) occurs 25 times, more frequent than other words in the Native Persian texts. It must be emphasized that many of signaling nouns have a relatively low frequency.

TABLE 2
SIX MOST COMMON SIGNALING ITEMS IN THE TWO CORPORA

| NE | | NP | |
|----|----------|-------|----|
| 35 | Kind | نقش | 15 |
| 30 | Question | سؤال | 13 |
| 25 | Result | نکته | 10 |
| 20 | Reason | حالت | 7 |
| 15 | Case | تفاوت | 5 |

1. Across Clause signaling nouns

The meaning of such signals must be sought either in the text in the previous or next clause: Flowerdew(2004) categorises this group of signaling nouns as across clause. For finding the differences between native English & native Persian linguistic texts, table 2 provides us with the signaling nouns which function as across clauses, written by English native and Persian native writers. 205 signaling nouns occurred in native English texts, of which 160 function as anaphoric and 45 as cataphoric. 134 signaling nouns occurred in native Persian texts, of which 192 function as anaphoric, 42 as cataphoric.

TABLE 3
ACROSS CLAUSE SIGNALING NOUNS BY NATIVE PERSIAN AND ENGLISH TEXTS

| Across Clause | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Native English | | Native Persian | |
| Anaphoric | Cataphoric | Anaphoric | Cataphoric |
| 160 | 45 | 192 | 42 |

The across clause is exemplified in the following taken from the two corpora.

Native English Examples: let me then quote Chastain first who recognizes at least four basic **characteristics** for communication. the first of which...

The lexical item characteristics here indicate to reader or listener that they should prepare themselves to received information which will indicate the nature of these characteristics.

Native Persian Examples:

زبان دستگاه منسجمی است که هر جزء به جزء دیگری بستگی دارد و ارزش هر واحد تابع وضع ترتیبی آن است. بر این اساس هیچ يك از اجزاء زبان را نمی توان مستقل از دیگر اجزاء در نظر گرفت.

2. Within clause signaling nouns

Another category, in regard to differences between Native Persian and English linguistic texts, is within the clauses signaling nouns. In this case the meaning of signal is realized within the clause that it occurs. Table 4 provides us with nouns which function as within clause, written by English native and Persian native writers. 235 signaling nouns occurred in native English texts, of which 5 function as anaphoric, 230 as cataphoric. 96 Signaling nouns occurred in native Persian texts, of which 18 function as anaphoric, 78 as cataphoric.

The within clause is exemplified in the following:

Examples:

Native English: another **aspect** of language which Widdson makes in the development is the question of ...

Native Persian:

کودکی که به شش سالگی می رسد از نظر زبانی فردی بالغ است به این معنی که او تا این سن به دستگاه صوتی زبان خود تسلط یافته است

TABLE 4
WITHIN CLAUSE SIGNALING NOUNS BY NATIVE PERSIAN AND ENGLISH TEXTS

| Within clause | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Native English | | Native Persian | |
| Anaphoric | Cataphoric | Anaphoric | Cataphoric |
| 5 | 230 | 18 | 78 |

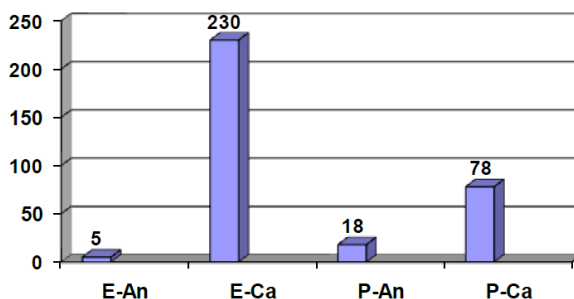


Figure 2 Shows kind of signaling nouns in with in clause in Native English and Persian Texts

3. Exaphoric signaling nouns

Exaphoric signaling nouns are another category supposed to have out of the text reference. Table 5 Shows lexical signaling items which function as exaphoric for the two corpora. The table shows that 100 signaling nouns occur in the native English texts and 30 in the native Persian texts.

Native Examples: It is only necessary to glance through the current issues of the British scientific journal "nature" or its American equivalent to appreciate the **extensiveness** and **ramifications** of linguistics, both pure and applied.

As it is clear, it is up to the readers to infer what **extensiveness** and **ramifications** the author has in mind. They are not specified in the text:

Native Persian:

از آن جا که دندان ها عامل سازنده برخی از صداها هستند اختلال در نظم طبیعی آنها اثر نامطلوب در کیفیت صداها می گذارد و حتی در پاره ای از موارد منجر به ایجاد صداهایی به اصطلاح معیوب می گردند.

TABLE 5
EXAPHORIC SIGNALING NOUNS USED BY NATIVE PERSIAN AND ENGLISH TEXTS

| Exaphoric | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Native English | Native Persian |
| 100 | 30 |

Further analysis of the first question is presented below:

Table 6 shows distribution of use of signaling nouns in the two corpora, English native and Persian native texts in 30000 words. As table 6 shows, in total 30000 words, 360 and 540 SN were used by native Persian and native English writers, respectively.

TABLE 6
DISTRIBUTION OF USE OF SIGNALING NOUNS IN TWO CORPORA

| Total Words | Other Words | Number of SN | Corpus |
|---|---------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 30000 | 29640 98.8 | 360 1.2 | Native Persian Texts |
| 30000 | 29460 98.2 | 540 1.8 | Native English Texts |
| 60000 | 59100 | 900 | total |
| $\chi^2 = 36.548$ $df = 1$ $Sig = .000$ | | | |

As chi-square analysis reveals, we feel safe that there is a significant difference between native English and native Persian linguistics texts in the use of signaling nouns. Table 7 also shows the distribution of kinds of signaling nouns in the two corpora.

TABLE 7.
DISTRIBUTION OF KINDS OF SIGNALING NOUNS IN TWO CORPORA

| Total | EX | Whit in | | Across | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|------------|-------------|----------------|
| 360 | 30 8.3 | 78 21.7 | 18 5 | 42 11.5 | 192 53.3 | Native Persian |
| 540 | 100 18.5 | 230 42.6 | 5 .9 | 45 8.3 | 160 29.6 | Native English |
| 900 | 130 | 308 | 23 | 87 | 352 | Total |
| $X^2 = 90.693$ $df = 4$ $sig = .000$ | | | | | | |

Again X^2 analysis shows that there is a significant difference between native English and native Persian linguistics texts in the kinds of signaling nouns. According to what was mentioned above, we feel safe to reject the first null hypothesis that there is no significant difference between native English and native Persian texts in the use of signaling nouns.

AAN=Across Clause Anaphoric ACA= Across Clause Cataphoric

WAN=Within Clause Anaphoric WCA= Within Clause Anaphoric

EX= Exaphoric

B. The Difference between Native English & Non-native English Texts

In relation to the second question of this research," the difference between native English & non-native English texts," Table 8 shows average frequency of lexical signaling items per thousand words for the two corpora, native and non-native English linguistics texts. The table shows that there are on average 18 signals per thousand words in the native English texts and 15 in the Non-native English texts.

TABLE 8
AVERAGE SIGNALING ITEMS PER 1000 WORDS

| Native English Texts | Non-native English Texts |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 18 | 15 |

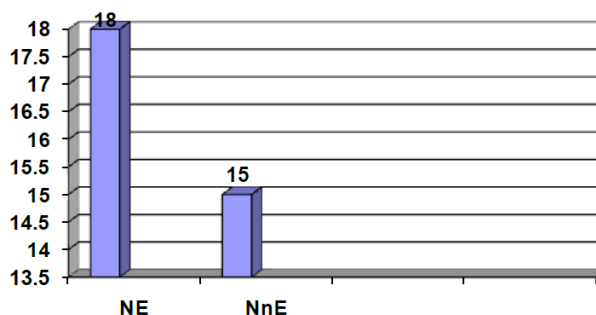


Figure 3 Shows signaling nouns in with in Native English and Non-native English Texts

By considering the kind of SN for the second question, table 9 shows some of those items most often used with high to low frequency in a native English and non-native English linguistic texts.

Way, for example, occurs in the Native English texts 50 times. **Way** occurs with only slightly less overall frequency (20 times) in the Non Native English texts. **Question** for example is quite frequent for the two corpora, 30 for (NE) and 25 for (NNE).

TABLE 9
SIX MOST COMMON SIGNALING ITEMS IN THE CORPORA

| | NE Texts | NNE Texts |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| Way | 50 | 20 |
| Kind | 35 | 37 |
| Question | 30 | 25 |
| Result | 25 | 5 |
| Reason | 20 | 10 |
| Case | 15 | 40 |

1. Across Clause signaling nouns

The reference of signaling noun in across clauses must be sought before or in next clauses. In regard to differences between Native English and Non-native English texts, the Across clause is analyzed in the two corpora.

Table 10 provides us with the signaling nouns which function as across clauses written by English native and non-native English writers (Iranian writers). 205 signaling nouns occurred in native English texts, of which 160 function as anaphoric and 45 as cataphoric. 192 signaling nouns occurred in non-native English texts, of which 160 function as anaphoric and 32 as cataphoric.

Native example: CA became the basis of teaching foreign languages. This **crit^{er}ion** was established by Fries (1945).

TABLE 10
ACROSS CLAUSE SIGNALING NOUNS USED BY NATIVE PERSIAN AND ENGLISH TEXTS

| Across Clause | | | |
|----------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| Native English | | Non-native English | |
| Anaphoric | Cataphoric | Anaphoric | Cataphoric |
| 160 | 45 | 160 | 32 |

2. Within clause signaling nouns

In this part signaling nouns which function as within clause used by native English and Non-native English writers (Iranian) were analyzed for differences. Table 11 provides us with the signaling nouns which function as within clause were written by native English and Non-native English writers, (Iranian). 235 signaling nouns occurred in native English texts, of which 5 function as anaphoric and 230 as cataphoric. 204 Signaling nouns occurred in native Persian texts of which 4 function as anaphoric and 200 as cataphoric.

TABLE 11
WITHIN CLAUSE SIGNALING NOUNS USED BY NATIVE PERSIAN AND ENGLISH TEXTS

| Within clause | | | |
|----------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| Native English | | Non-native English | |
| Anaphoric | Cataphoric | Anaphoric | Cataphoric |
| 5 | 230 | 4 | 200 |

Examples:

Native English: Another important **background assumption** that linguists make is that the various human languages constitute.

Non-Native English: The plan of the book tests on **the assumption** that we can predict and describe ...

3. Exaphoric signaling nouns

In relation to the differences between Native English and Native Persian linguistic texts in the use of signaling nouns, in the category of exaphoric, table 12 shows lexical signaling items which function as exaphoric for the two corpora. The table shows that 100 signaling nouns occur in the native English texts *NE Texts* and 57 in the native Persian texts.

Examples: Native English: One language may have **terms** not Found in another language.

1). Non-Native English: Derivations from universal semantic inputs to language specific surface structure outputs **in five stages**:

TABLE 12.
EXAPHORIC SIGNALING NOUNS USED BY NON-NATIVE ENGLISH AND NATIVE ENGLISH TEXTS.

| Exaphoric | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Native English | Non-native English |
| 100 | 57 |

Further analysis of the second question is presented below:

Table 13, shows distribution of use of signaling nouns in the two corpora, non-native English and native English texts in 30000 words. As this table shows in 30000 words signaling nouns used 450 in non-native English and 540 in native English linguistic texts.

TABLE 13.
DISTRIBUTION OF USE OF SIGNALING NOUNS IN TWO CORPORA

| Total Words | Other Words | Number of SN | Corpus |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 30000 | 29460 98.2 | 540 1.8 | Native English Texts |
| 30000 | 29550 98.5 | 450 1.5 | Non-Native English texts |
| 60000 | 59010 | 990 | |
| $\chi^2 = 10.040$ $df = 2$ $Sig = .004$ | | | |

Inferential statistics shows that there is a significant difference between native English and non-native English linguistic texts in the use of signaling nouns (table 13).

TABLE 14.
DISTRIBUTION OF KINDS OF SIGNALING NOUNS IN TWO CORPORA

| Total | EX | Whit in | | Across | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|---------|-----------|-------------|--------------------|
| 540 | 100 18.5 | 230 42.6 | 5 .9 | 45 8.3 | 160 29.6 | Native English |
| 450 | 54 12 | 200 44.4 | 4 .9 | 32 7.1 | 160 35.6 | Non-native English |
| 990 | 154 | 430 | 9 | 116 | 320s | Total |
| $\chi^2 = 10.040$ $df = 4$ $sig = .040$ | | | | | | |

Inferential statistics in table 14 shows that there is a significant difference between native English and non-native English linguistics texts in the kinds of signaling nouns. So according to what was mentioned above, we feel safe to reject the second null hypothesis.

C. The Difference between Non-native English & Native Persian Texts

Regarding this question, the difference between non-native English & native Persian linguistic Texts Table 15 shows Average frequency of lexical signaling items per thousand words, for the two corpora. The table shows that there are on average 15 signals per thousand words in the Non- native English texts and 12 in the native Persian texts.

TABLE 15
AVERAGE SIGNALING ITEMS PER 1000 WORDS

| Native Persian Texts | Non-native English Texts |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 12 | 15 |

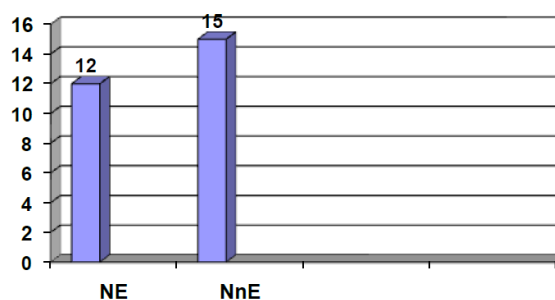


Figure 4 Shows signaling nouns in Native Persian and Non-native English Texts

Regarding the kinds of SN, as Table 16 shows the word **Case**, for example, occurs in the Non-native English texts 40 times. The equivalent of the word "case", "حالت", occurs only 7 times in the Native Persian texts. **خصوصیت** for example occurs 25 for (NP) and not occurring at all as a lexical signaling item in the Non-native texts. **Question** for example is quite frequent for the two corpora, 25 for (NNE) and 13 for (NP).

TABLE 16.
SIX MOST COMMON SIGNALING ITEMS IN THE CORPORA

| NNET | Freq | NPT | Freq. |
|----------|------|--------|-------|
| Way | 20 | خصوصیت | 25 |
| Kind | 37 | نقش | 15 |
| Question | 25 | سؤال | 13 |
| Result | 5 | نکته | 10 |
| Reason | 10 | حالت | 7 |
| Case | 40 | تفاوت | 5 |

1. Across Clause signaling nouns

As mentioned before one of the category that can show the differences between native Persian & non-native English Texts is across clause. Table 17 provides us with the signaling nouns which function as across clauses written by native Persian and non-native English writers (Iranian writers). 234 signaling nouns occurred in native Persian texts, of which 192 function as anaphoric and 42 as cataphoric. 192 signaling nouns occurred in non-native English texts, of which 160 function as anaphoric and 32 as cataphoric.

Examples: Non-native English :Passive constructions relative construction, etc. such **comparisons** can be conducted within...

Native Persian:

نحوه ترتیب همسازها از موجی به موج دیگر فرق می کند و همین موضوع باعث ایجاد صدا با طنین خاص می گردد.

In these examples the meaning of the given signal must be sought earlier in the text.

TABLE 17
ACROSS CLAUSE SIGNALING NOUNS USED BY NATIVE PERSIAN AND NON-NATIVE ENGLISH TEXTS

| Across Clause | | Non-native English | |
|----------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| Native Persian | | Non-native English | |
| Anaphoric | Cataphoric | Anaphoric | Cataphoric |
| 192 | 42 | 160 | 32 |

2. Within clause signaling nouns

Table 18 provides us with the signaling nouns which function as within clause used by native Persian and Non-native English writers (Iranian). 96 Signaling nouns occurred in native Persian texts, of which 18 function as anaphoric and 78 as cataphoric. 204 Signaling nouns occurred in native Persian texts, of which 4 function as anaphoric and 200 as cataphoric.

TABLE 18
WITHIN CLAUSE SIGNALING NOUNS USED BY NATIVE PERSIAN AND NON- NATIVE ENGLISH TEXTS

| Within clause | | Non-native English | |
|----------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| Native Persian | | Non-native English | |
| Anaphoric | Cataphoric | Anaphoric | Cataphoric |
| 18 | 78 | 4 | 200 |

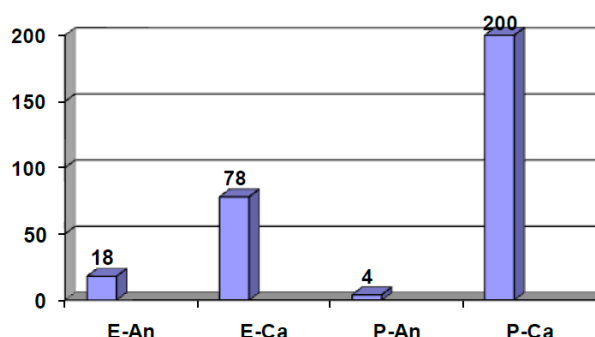


Figure 5 Shows kind of signaling nouns in With in clause in Native Persian and Non native English Texts

3. Exaphoric signaling nouns

In regard to the differences between non-native English & native Persian Texts, Table 19 Shows lexical signaling items which function as exaphoric for the two corpora. The table shows that 30 signaling nouns occur in the native Persian texts and 57 in the non-native English texts.

Example: In some cases, words seem to have a use but no meaning as such.

TABLE 19
EXAPHORIC SIGNALING NOUNS USED BY NON-NATIVE ENGLISH AND NATIVE ENGLISH TEXTS.

| Exaphoric | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Native Persian | Non-native English |
| 30 | 57 |

Further analysis of the third question is presented below:

Regard to the same question, Table 17 shows the distribution of use of signaling nouns in the two corpora, Native Persian and Non-native English texts in 30000 words. As table shows in 30000 signaling nouns, non-native English used 450 and native Persian linguistics texts 360 respectively.

TABLE 20
DISTRIBUTION OF USE OF SIGNALING NOUNS IN TWO CORPORA

| Total of Words | Other Words | Number of SN | Corpus |
|--|---------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 30000 | 29640 98.8 | 360 1.2 | Native Persian Texts |
| 30000 | 29550 98.5 | 450 1.5 | Non-Native English Texts |
| 60000 | 59190 | 810 | |
| $\chi^2 = 111.260$ $df = 8$ $Sig = .000$ | | | |

Inferential statistics shows that there is a significant difference between Non-native English and native Persian linguistics texts in the use of signaling nouns.

TABLE 21.
DISTRIBUTION OF KINDS OF SIGNALING NOUNS IN TWO CORPORA

| Total | EX | Whit in | Across | |
|---|-----------|-------------|---------|------------------------|
| 360 | 30 8.3 | 78 21.7 | 18 5 | 42 11.5 |
| 450 | 54 12 | 200 44.4 | 4 .9 | 32 7.1 |
| 810 | 84 | 278 | 22 | 74 |
| | | | | 192 53.3 |
| | | | | 160 35.6 |
| | | | | 352 |
| | | | | Persian |
| | | | | Non-native English (P) |
| | | | | Total |
| $\chi^2 = 64.361$ $df = 4$ $sig = .000$ | | | | |

As regards the kinds of signaling nouns, table21, make us feel safe to say that there is a significant difference between native Persian and non-native English linguistics texts in the kinds of signaling nouns. So according to what was mentioned above, we feel safe to reject the third null hypothesis as well.

V. SOME GENERAL POINTS (FINDINGS)

Having described and exemplified the various functions of signaling nouns, in this part, the following tables cast more light on the findings of this study. Table 22(NE), Table 23(N-n E) and Table 24 (NP) show all of those items identified in the three corpora.

70 different items were identified as fulfilling the signaling function for the Native English texts 67 for the Non-native English texts and 122 for Native Persian texts within 30000 words. Although, as table 1, 2 and 3 show a considerable range of items functioning as signaling nouns, given the low frequency of many of them, as noted earlier, it is probable that larger corpora would be likely to yield an even wider range of items.

TABLE 22.
SIGNALING ITEMS IN THE NATIVE ENGLISH CORPUS

| |
|--|
| Topic-question-field-way-aspect-assumption-stage-issue-pattern-result-style-example-group-word-variation-clause-qualification-fact-regulation-rule-analyses-data-point-evidence-situation-approach-view-process-principle-function-part-type-ability-aim-reason-answer-problem-definition-hypotheses-case-kind-position-difference-feature-categories-technique-idea-cause-criterion-condition-Factor-Theory-reaction-support-subject-implication-pattern-Task-work-studies-respect-context-danger-detail-choice-chance-occasion-discovery-knowledge-modification- |
| TOTAL = 70 Words |

TABLE 23
SIGNALING ITEMS IN THE NON- NATIVE ENGLISH CORPUS (IRANIAN)

| |
|--|
| Approach-course-aspect-attempt-discipline-stage-result-studies-source-issue-type-group-feature-aim-branch-assumption-technique-change-theory-criterion-attitude-view-evidence-idea-fact-principle-system-procedure-step-categories-example-item-kind-rule-process-element-difference-definition-point-purpose-part-section-position-activity-factor-situation-content-question-argument-case-way-size-use-rate-form-solution-need-information-class-reason-condition-contrast-effect-basis-association-formation-progress-Approach-course-aspect-attempt-discipline-stage-result-studies-source-issue-type-group-feature-aim-branch-assumption-technique-change-theory-criterion-attitude-view-evidence-idea-fact-principle-system-procedure-step-categories-example-item-kind-rule-process-element-difference-definition-point-purpose-part-section-position-activity-factor-situation-content-question-argument-case-way-size-use-rate-form-solution-need-information-class-reason-condition-contrast-effect-basis-association-formation-progress- |
| TOTAL = 67 Words |

TABLE 24.
SIGNALING ITEMS IN THE NATIVE PERSIAN CORPUS

| |
|--|
| علم - خصوصیت - دانش - بررسی - چیز - علم - منظور - کلمه - اندام - نگرش - مزیت - - دسته - رابطه - نشانه - - نوع - رویه - مرحله - نکته - مجموعه - سخن - صورت - لحاظ- اساس - حرف- نظریه - امر - محور - تعریف - اوصاف - نتیجه بعد - مصداق - عمل - سطح - - مسئله - ارتباط - محدودیت - نقش - جهت - واقعیت - گمان - انتقال - رکن - نظر - احوال - رابطه - اطلاع - ترتیب - گروه - اجزا - کار - قسمت - واژه - حقیقت - بخش - پدیده - جهش -جواب - پیشرفت - خدمت - وضع - تصور - زمینه - طریق - تفاوت - معنی- نکات - پاسخ - واکنش - دستگاه - اختلاف - شاخه - شعبه - دلیل - روش- شیوه - مراحل - موفقیت - را ه - بحث - مفهوم - مطلب - دیدگاه - تمایز - جهت - موضوع - اثر - رشته - معیار - انتخاب - موقعیت - فعالیت - مثال - اصول - مشکل - راه حل - هدف - فرضیه - حالت - قدم - پیشنهاد- خطر - جزئیات - عبارت - جنبه - نام - وظیفه - محاسبه - نرخ - قانون - اشتباه - محدودیت - - مورد - رفتار - - مقایسه - اعتراض - یادگیری - بدین گونه - ماده - مسافت - مذکور - ارتعاش - |
| TOTAL = 122 Words |

Table 25 shows the frequency of some of those items most often used as signaling nouns. The word "**Way**", for example, occurs in the Native English texts 50 times. The word "**way**" occurs with only slightly less overall frequency (20 times)in the Non Native English texts and does not occur at all as a lexical signaling item in the Persian texts. The words **question** for example is quite frequent for the three corpora, 30 for (NE) 25 for (NNE) and 13 for (NP).It must be emphasized that many of them have a relatively low frequency. In relation to pedagogy, of course, the differing frequencies of the various items may suggest a different criterion for the selection and grading of such nouns in teaching.

TABLE 25
SIX MOST COMMON SIGNALING ITEMS IN THE CORPORA

| NE Texts | Freq NE | Freq NNE | NP Texts | Freq NP |
|----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|
| Way | 50 | 20 | خصوصیت | 25 |
| Kind | 35 | 37 | نقش | 15 |
| Question | 30 | 25 | سؤال | 13 |
| Result | 25 | 5 | نکته | 10 |
| Reason | 20 | 10 | حالت | 7 |
| Case | 15 | 40 | تفاوت | 5 |

VI. DISCUSSION

By selecting 90000 words of linguistics texts from three corpora, (1) Non-native English linguistics texts that were chosen from among current Iranian journals and books, (2) native English linguistics texts were chosen among current books and internet, (3) native Persian linguistics texts were chosen from Iranian journals and books written in Farsi. According to definition and classification of Halliday and Flowerdew, signaling items for the corpora were identified in a number of stages. All signaling items which occurred in corpora were realized then these lexical was examined to established if a given item functioned as a lexical signal. Then the kind and number of signaling nouns were identified .after data collection, the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS-X) was applied to analyze data.

The result showed that there are significant differences between Non-native English Native English and native Persian linguistics texts in the **use** of signaling nouns. And also the result revealed that there are significant differences between Non-native English, Native English and native Persian linguistics texts in the use of the **kind** of signaling nouns.

It was revealed that English writers used signaling nouns more than non-native English writers. And also non-native English writers used signaling nouns more than Persian writers: a justification for such a case may be that in English language lexical cohesions are consciously taught in writing classes like paragraph writing but in Persian no mention is made of the principles and mechanics of writing in classes at all. So this can show the language problem of Persian language.

Several interesting highlights were observed through this study which will be mentioned here: there is considerable variation in the proportion of the two functions (across clause and in clause) in the two corpora, Persian and English. English writers used more in clause and exophoric functions than Persian writers. For instance 96 signaling nouns were used in Persian and 235 in English.

Another feature worthy of note is that as seen in table 1 Native English texts have a higher average occurrences of signaling nouns per 1000 word .while table 21 shows there are more instances of any given item in the Native Persian texts. This can show that the number of signaling nouns in Persian is more than in English. But because there is no explicit teaching of these cohesive devises in Persian language, Iranian writers use less than in English language. Also it is probable that the larger corpora would be likely to yield an even wider range of items.

Sometimes signals may be accompanied by modification, in such a way as to make its reference more specific:

However it is to be noted here that sometimes the modification may be of more semantic importance than the signal which it modifies. In an example like **functional studies** the writer labels what he has been referring to as a studies but it seems that the modifier **functional** is what the writer wants to priorities in terms of his message. It is the fact that this study is **functional** (in contrast to the **structural** studies) that is important, not the fact that they are studies. The main role of the signal studies here is in creating an information structure in which the term functional can be introduced into the discourse and made salient.

Realization of a signal within the clause can also be at the level of the noun group. This most often takes the form of post – modification:

Native English Examples: A process of internal propagation:

Its function of providing mechanical...

In some cases realization within clause is performed by a pre modifier:

Examples: pumping action, the division process.

VII. PEDAGOGIC IMPLICATIONS

Text writers should whole-heartedly consider their readers as susceptible beings. While writing texts, they should take mental trips to the minds of the readers, whether the text is appropriate in terms of organization, types of questions or physical presentation. Understanding the reference links of a text may help to facilitate students' comprehension of the text even on an unfamiliar topic. It is also well-known that the best way to create motivation for reading is by the choice of an interesting and readable text. Not surprisingly but interestingly, sometimes a potentially motivating and interesting text can give readers motivation to continue their efforts to overcome a lake of content schemata for a particular text.

VIII. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The present study investigated is there any differences between native English, native Persian and non- native English (Iranian) texts in the use of signaling nouns, quality and **quantity**. Various areas for research on signaling words such as, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs may also have such a function can be investigated. Only nouns are dealt with this study... As a case in point, one may wish to investigate are there any differences between native English, native Persian in the use of signaling verbs. Another area to investigate could the effect of signaling nouns on overall reading comprehension. In this case the effect of co – referential ties on reading comprehension can be more deeply investigated.

Part of the information involved in identifying referents of signaling items comes from the text itself. Can we investigate how information in the text can enhance the readers' ability to identify referents of signaling items? Another area to investigate could: As a third case further research we may ask: what is the effect signaling nouns on the speed of reading?

Another suggestion is: Can text structure, the pattern and frequency of signaling items be considered as criterions in measuring the difficulty level of materials?

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