

# Interactional Coherence in Twitter Messages on the Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon

Peniel Zaazra Nouhou<sup>1</sup>, Camilla Arundie Tabe<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Maroua, Faculty of Arts, Letters and Social Sciences, Department of English Language and Literature, Cameroon

Correspondence: Peniel Zaazra Nouhou, University of Maroua, Faculty of Arts, Letters and Social Sciences, Department of English Language and Literature, Cameroon.

Received: April 17, 2023

Accepted: November 15, 2023

Online Published: November 19, 2023

doi:10.5430/elr.v12n2p58

URL: <https://doi.org/10.5430/elr.v12n2p58>

## Abstract

This paper examines the coherent indicators in 269 Twitter messages on the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon. The data was collected through screenshots from Anglophone Cameroonians from 2016 to 2020. Insights were got from Oshima and Hogue (2006) who give four elements of coherence devices that writers can use in order to achieve coherence. These include the repetition of key nouns, the use of consistent pronouns, transition signals to link ideas and ordering of information in logical order. After quantitative and qualitative analyses, the findings indicated the repetition of key nouns, pronouns, transitional words and logical ordering of ideas. It was equally discovered that the coherent devices help in the smooth flow of ideas, and context displays an important role in the realisation of coherence.

**Keywords:** interactional coherence, twitter, anglophone crisis, context, Cameroon

## 1. Introduction

Increasing access to the internet has led to an increasing proportion of informal communication on social media platforms, and thus to enormous changes in the way English is written (Heinze & Procte, 2006; Arman, Yasin, Mohd & Heng, 2016; Lim, Ng, Yeo & Kerk, 2018; Tabe & Nouhou, 2021). Despite the rapid growth of messages, thanks to computer-mediated communication (CMC), its limlessness has rendered the media discourse highly incoherent (Herring, 1999, 2006). The lack of coherence in CMC poses problems for content analysis of online discourse archives (Chen, 2012; Herring, 1999; Crystal, 2006). Creating a text is not simply about expressing ideas by writing them in a bundle of words. A written text has to be built from adequate structural and grammatical resources. Thornbury (2005) states that a good text has elements bounded together and needs to make sense to readers. These elements are devices which are used in writing to achieve a coherent paragraph or writing. One method to build a coherent text is to use lexical cohesion markers, such as conjunctions. In contrast to, for example, academic writing, a specific kind of coherence is relevant in computer-mediated communication (CMC), namely, interactional (or communicative) coherence. Herring (1999, p. 8) opines that interactional coherence is created when chat partners commonly develop a topic and an individual turn ideally relates locally to the previous turn, and globally to the discourse topic. It is possible for CMC to be simultaneously incoherent and enjoyable because the availability of a persistent textual record of the conversation renders the interaction cognitively manageable, hence offsetting the major negative effect of incoherence in spoken interaction. It also opens up possibilities for other types of interaction that go beyond what is available in speech. It could be simply said that an interactional coherence is a form of communication that has arisen relatively recently, and is based on text messaging, internet chatrooms, and web-based instant messaging systems. Created in 2006 by Jack Dorsey, Noah Glass, Biz Stone and Evan Williams, Twitter is a free social networking site where users broadcast short posts known as tweets. These tweets can contain text, videos, photos or links.

The genesis of the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon goes back to the world political climate in 1916 when Germany was defeated in World War I by Britain and France's joint forces; they divided Cameroon into two, thus leaving two different political heritages. The sharing was confirmed in 1922 by the League of Nations Agreement. France governed its own portion of Cameroon as an autonomous part of its colony, while the British ruled Northern and Southern regions as part of its Nigerian colony (Eyongetah & Brain, 1974; Ngoh, 1987). The history of these two

regions took twists and turns. The Anglophones have been complaining of marginalisation and assimilation of their educational and judicial system by the Francophone Cameroonians. This situation led to teachers and lawyers strike in 2016. It sparked off a lot of protests in the English-speaking regions leading to bloodshed. These circumstances have created a lot of insecurity and trauma forcing many people to leave their homes to seek refuge elsewhere. This is the result of the degradation of the relationships between the two areas, which led to the use of hate language. Social media has played a role in fuelling the crisis as activists and texters have been constantly posting texts, voice notes, pictures and videos about the crisis. This has instigated Southern Cameroonians to respond with violence and hate speech both offline and online. In the course of time the international community and the state have not succeeded to bring a solution to the problem. Early research on the Anglophone problem focused on historical, geographical, and educational perspectives. Linguistic studies on the crisis have dwelt on metaphor, hate speech, speech act and language of peace (Tabe & Fieze, 2018; Tchouape, 2019; Nouhou, 2022, Tabe, 2023). In this paper, the researchers examine interactional coherence on Twitter tweets on the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon given that no previous work has dealt with the issue.

The objectives of the study are:

- (1) to analyse coherence devices used in online messages on the Anglophone crisis, and find out how they contribute to the organisational pattern of the discourse;
- (2) to examine the functions of coherence indicators in the tweets.

Two research questions guided this study:

1. What coherence devices do Anglophone Cameroonians use in their tweets?
2. What are the functions of coherence indicators in the tweets?

## 2. Theoretical Framework

This study employs Oshima and Hogue (2006) theoretical framework on coherence. They aver that coherence is achieved when the sentences and ideas are connected and flow together smoothly. They proposed four ways to achieve coherence:

### *The repetition of key nouns*

"Repeating key nouns (key words) or use synonyms, and focus ideas through the text, are used to help the readers remain focused and headed in the right direction. It can keep the thought of the paragraph flowing from sentence to sentence, so that the sentences are linked together" (Oshima & Hogue, 2006, p. 22). It can be meant that through repetition of key nouns, the paragraphs or sentences will connect to each other.

### *The consistent use of pronouns*

Pronouns are used to link or connect sentences by referring to preceding nouns and pronouns. It can help to create paragraphs that are easy to read by eliminating wordiness and unnecessary repetition. According to Oshima and Hogue (2006, p.24), when using pronouns in the text, make sure that they are used to refer back to the same person and number throughout the sentence or paragraph. This means that writers or interactants should not change 'you' to 'he' or 'she' (change of person) or from 'he' to 'they' (change of number). It can be concluded that the use of pronouns should be consistent, it refers to the previous nouns or pronouns.

### *The use of transition signals to link ideas*

To achieve coherence, the writer needs to use transition signals. Oshima & Hogue (2006, p.25) proposed that transition signals are like traffic marks, they tell the readers when to go forward, turn around, slow down, and stop. This can be meant that transition signals are used to guide the readers from one idea to the next. They are connecting words or phrases that strengthen the internal cohesion and coherence of the writing. It is similar to change from one item of idea to another. Transition signals act like bridges between parts of the writing. However, without transition signals it is difficult for the writers to produce a coherent paragraph. "Using appropriate transition signals, the writers will not jump out of the blue or sound too abrupt. Their ideas will flow smoothly one after the other" (Bram, 1995, p. 22). Those explanations lead to the conclusion that coherence is the important element used by the writers in their writing text.

Transition signals are expressions such as first, finally, and however, or phrase such as in conclusion, on the other hand, and as a result. Other kinds of words such as subordinators (when, although), coordinators (and, between), adjectives (another, additional), and prepositions (because of, in spite of) can serve as transition signals. Moreover, they are like traffic signs and they tell the reader when to go forward, turn on, slow down, and stop. In other words, they tell your reader when you are giving a similar idea (similarly, and, in addition), an opposite idea (on the other

hand, but, in contrast), an example (for example), a result (therefore, as a result), or a conclusion. Transition signals give paragraph coherence because they guide your reader from one idea to the next.

#### *Arrangement of ideas in logical order*

The choice of one kind of logical order over another will, of course, depend on the topic and the purpose of the text. The combination of two or more different logical orders are recommended in the same paragraph. The important point to remember is to arrange the ideas in some kind of order that is logical to the readers accustomed to the English way of Oshima & Hogue, (2006, p. 34) define "some common kinds of logical order in English, they are chronological order, logical division of ideas, and comparison/contrast".

##### ✓ Chronological order

"It is order by time, a sequence of events or steps in a process" (Oshima & Hogue, 2006, p.34). It means that the text which contains the sequence of events, or describes the steps of a process is include chronological order.

##### ✓ Logical division of ideas

Oshima and Hogue (2006, p.34) state that, logical division of ideas is when a written text is divided into parts and each part of the discussion is distinctively organised into points and separately. This is meant that logical division is a pattern of discuss each point separately.

##### ✓ Comparison/contrast paragraph

"Comparison or contrast paragraph is when the similarities and/or differences between two or more items are discussed" (Oshima & Hogue, 2006, p. 34). It can be meant that the writers should write about the similarities and differences between two or more people, places, things, or ideas to interpret the comparison and contrast paragraph. Oshima and Hogue, (2006, p. 5) illustrate the example about synonyms compare and contrast word meanings. The tweets collected from Twitter are described, interpreted and explained following the aforementioned framework.

### **3. Previous Studies**

Problems related to interactional coherence in CMC have been discussed in many articles. Some focused on many-to-many chat communication (Herring, 1999; Markman, 2013), others on email and newsgroup communication (Severinson & Eklundh, 2010), instant messaging (Baron, 2010), forum discussions (Lapadat, 2007) and YouTube comments (Bou-Franch, Lorenzo-Dus & Blitvich, 2012). Herring (1999) published one of the first studies on this topic, describing frequently used methods to ensure coherence between messages by different interactants in group chats. Writers were found to use backchannels (postturn minimal responses), turn-change signals ("% " as a floor holding device), and cross-turn references (user names, explicit linkages to previous turns, quoting), to name a few examples. The list of devices proposed by Herring (1999) has been extended by follow-up studies by various authors, which show that the frequency of their use differs by CMC genre. For example, the use of quotations has been frequently found in both email and newsgroup conversations, but the way these are used is genre specific (Severinson, 2010). Glaznieks's (2022) investigation on syntactic variation and interactional coherence in online communication revealed that discret messages help to make the reference clause unambiguous. The findings also indicated that verb-final *weil*-clauses is used to achieve coherence by relating asynchronous to synchronous ones. Markman (2013) examined conversational coherence in small group chat and found that lexical cohesion, adjacency sequences, addresivity, and speakership roles contributed to the establishment of coherence.

According to Günthner (2012), utterance break pairs in CMC are sometimes jointly produced by the chat partners. In interactional linguistics, the term collaborative productions is used for this phenomenon. To indicate that an utterance is meant to be an extension and completion of a previous speaker's turn, a speaker can exploit various prosodic, syntactic, and lexical means, which then serve as cohesion markers (Szczepek, 2000). With respect to CMC, collaborative productions are yet to be analysed.

Based on the researchers' review of previous works on social media about the anglophone crisis in Cameroon, there has rarely been any research which specifically studies the phenomenon of interactional coherence on the problem. Some of the investigations from linguistic perspective (Tabe & Fieze, 2018; Tchouape, 2019; Nouhou, 2022) used different approaches and obtained both convergent findings (Tabe & Fieze, 2018; Tchouape, 2019) and divergent ones (Ekah, 2019; Ascone & Renaut, 2019). Some of these studies advocate the use of language of peace by some Anglophone Cameroonians (Nouhou, 2022) so as to get back a peaceful and conducive life in the regions concerned. It is clear from the above studies that there is no research on interactional coherence on the Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct further research on the topic in order to complete and update the established linguistic studies.

#### 4. Materials and Method

This research uses descriptive research design. Descriptive design was chosen because the researchers attempt to analyse and describe the coherence elements found in the participants threads of discussions. The data examined in this study was collected on Twitter from 2016 to 2020 as indicated in table 1. The reason for the choice of this period is that, many messages were sent over social media (Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter) on the crisis within these years. The data was collected through screenshots and later transformed into text form with the help of Google Translate App. We read and carefully selected posts and comments that were related to the Anglophone crisis. AntCon software helped in generating the coherence indicators by providing their frequencies.

Table 1. Corpus composition

Social Media	Years					Total	Participants
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		
<b>Twitter</b>							
<b>Tweets</b>	12	18	39	169	38	269	<b>128</b>

Statistics from table 1 shows a total number of 269 tweets on Twitter which were obtained from 128 informants made up of males (70) and females (58). Each of them provided at most three tweets. The extracts used as examples are presented the way they appeared on the tweets. Hence, some of the errors on the tweets are not from the researchers. In addition, the informants' tweets were coded for ethical reasons. Qualitative and quantitative analysis were applied to the data collected. The data were presented, described and interpreted following Oshima and Hogue (2006). The Twitter tweets provided the researchers with actual and complex patterns of tweets for the analysis of the elements of coherence.

#### 5. Results and Discussions

The data gathered from online posts on Twitter are classified and analysed on the basis of Oshima and Hogue (2006) ways to achieve coherence. Facts from the data reveal the various ways to achieve coherence which are presented in the following subsections.

##### 5.1 Repetition of Key Nouns/ Noun Phrases

The first way to achieve coherence is by repetition of key nouns/noun phrases. The use of key nouns in a text or stretches of discussion depends on the subject matter, which in this study refers to the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon. Repeating the key noun or noun phrases helps to keep the discussions from straying away from the main idea or subject matter. There are many repeated nouns/noun phrases on the tweets drawn from Twitter on the Anglophone Crisis. The repetition of key nouns with less than five occurrences are not taken into consideration due to the fact that they could make the table too long and wordy. Some of the repeated nouns/noun phrases are presented in table 2.

Table 2. Key nouns /noun phrases repeated in the corpus

Key nouns/noun phrases	Frequency
Paul Biya	137
Southern Cameroons	67
Ambazonia	67
Dictator Paul Biya	41
War	19
Genocide in southern Cameroon	15
Innocent	15
Anglophone	13
Regime	13
Dictator Biya	12
Shame (less)	11
Tribal militias	11
Election	10
Justice	10
Tyrant Paul Biya	09
Terrorist Paul Biya	10
Dialogue	08
Lunatic	08
Brutal (brutality)	07
Genocide	07
Human rights	07
Idiots	06
stop genocide in southern Cameroon	06
National dialogue /Biya's dialogue/ Biya logue	05
<b>Total</b>	<b>492</b>

The repetition of key nouns or noun phrases was found 492 times on Twitter tweets by the participants. The occurrences range from 05 to 137. From the repeated nouns, *Paul Biya* recorded the highest frequency (137), while *Biya's dialogue* and its variants *National dialogue* and *Biya logue* were the least (05) frequent in the tweets of the informants. Other nouns were used at varying frequencies. For instance, the nouns *Southern Cameroons* and *Ambazonia* stood at 67 occurrences respectively compared to *Dictator Paul Biya* (41), *war* (19), *Genocide in southern Cameroon* and *innocent* (15) respectively. The repetition of key nouns/ noun phrases was found to be the most frequently used way to achieve coherence. The kind of key nouns used, however, depended on the subject matter under discussion. It should be bore in mind that the repeated nouns are related to the ongoing crisis in Southern Cameroon. The interactants have in mind that President Paul Biya may be the *raison d'être* of the crisis. As such, almost all the interaction is directed against him so as to tarnish his presidential reputation. This is proven in Table 2 where *Paul Biya* is repeated 137 times and recorded the highest frequency. The repetition of this noun could be related to his lack of will to put an end to the crisis through an effective dialogue. This turned into mockery and laughter as seen in Twitter 73, 2019. Below are several examples on the repetition of key nouns found in the participants' tweets

- (1) *SDF threatens to withdraw from Biya's dialogue if her proposals for the dialogue is not set on the agenda. Fru Ndi made the statement as he delivers opening remark in today's National Dialogue aka **Biyalogue** (Twitter 73-30 Sep 2019)*

(2) Cue some systemic killing of unarmed young children by **terrorist leader and dictator Paul Biya** of Cameroun who blocked me on his official twitter handle for exposing his atrocities. He kills only English-speaking citizens & the Commonwealth is doing nothing about it (Twitter 18. 21 Apr 2018)

(3) #Cameroon soldiers torturing a youth to death in broad daylight and recording themselves enjoying the act. **Dictator Paul Biya**, 90, extends his seven-year mandate this year. @LeahHardingAJE @real Donald Trump @brendabiya @UN\_Spokesperson @innercitypress (Twitter 37. 01 Oct 2018)

(4) The people of **Southern Cameroons #Ambazonia** are determined to protest until their leaders who are illegally detained by **dictator #Paul Biya** are being released (Twitter 1. 03 Jan 2019)

(5) **#DICTATOR PAUL BIYA** you think you can win this war by burning down our houses and killing innocent people of **southern Cameroons #Ambazonia** your time will soon be up #ICC @tomas\_husted @mbachelet @realDonaldTrump @LabourSJ @AsstSecStateAF @ cwjroberts (Twitter 132. 10 Dec 2019)

The excerpts show that Paul Biya and Southern Cameroons and their variants are the most repeated key nouns. This indicates that the Anglophone crisis which is based in Southern Cameroon is being exacerbated by the government headed by Paul Biya who is unable to settle the problem. From the above analysis, it is clear that 24 key nouns were found in the corpus. All of these were repeated at varying frequencies ranging from the least (05) to the highest (137). The next section deals with the analysis of the consistent use of pronouns.

### 5.2 Consistent Use of Pronouns

The consistent use of pronouns is somehow directly linked to the use of the repetition of key noun in achieving coherence. As a result, the type of pronouns used depends on the type of key noun found in the interactants threads of conversations. For this reason, the researchers limited the listing of pronouns which relate to the repetition of key nouns. They espoused the idea of Oshima and Hogue (2006), who stated that the use of consistent pronouns is in line with the use of key noun in the achievement of coherence in any piece of writing either spoken or written. Based on the findings on the use of key noun, the researchers found the consistency in the use of some pronouns as presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Pronouns used in the interactants' tweets

Pronouns	Frequency
He, his, him	119
It, its, itself	65
This	62
Our, us	51
Their	47
They, Them, themselves	47
You, yourself	45
We	40
These	17
Those	17
Her	07
<b>Total</b>	<b>333</b>

It can be deduced from table 3 that many pronouns were consistently used on tweets by the informants on the Anglophone crisis. All in all, it should be noted that these pronouns refer back to the key nouns previously mentioned. There are 12 types of pronouns used at varying frequencies. For instance, *He* and its variants (*his*, *him*) scored the highest frequency (119) of use. It is worthy to mention that this particular pronoun refers to Paul Biya, Paul Biya and his soldiers and Paul Biya and his gang as seen in the following tweets:

(6) When dictator trousers dropped at an open ceremony then you know the end is near. Cameroun Biya's trousers shamefully dropped at their dictators CEMAC gathering. While the ancestors must punish **him**, #Ambazonia must be free #stop The Genocide in Southern Cameroons @lauren RinDC, (Twitter 105. 23 Nov 2019);

(7) *#Dictator Paul blya and his brutal soldiers are killing southern Cameroonians with no remorse #we are armless people # release all arrested, (Twitter 4. 31 Jan 2017) ;*

(8) *It's in the blood of every Ambazonian citizen. even if Paul Biya and his gang kill the activists and the leaders in Diaspora, Wonder how they will kill the 8 million Ambazonians who are not ready to stop at nothing but to reach their final Destination Buea, (Twitter 103. 20 Nov 2019).*

The way key nouns and pronouns are used make the discussion so easy to understand and know the subject matter effortless. The use of consistent pronoun proves there is close and direct link between the key noun and the pronoun. The combination of these indicators leads to a coherently built text.

In addition, some pronouns such as *Our/us* (62), *They, Them, themselves* (47) and *Their* (47) bring out the helpless Southern Cameroonians who are subject to the violence perpetrated in those regions of the country. These pronouns refer back to the people of Southern Cameroon. consider the extracts below:

(9) *The rule of law must prevail in Ambazonia. Any weapon used by Cameroun military terrorists against our people would be seized by our civilian forces. We cannot accept terrorist hiding in neighboring Cameroun and launching attacks in Ambazonia. Enough!\$, Twitter 31. 20:18 09 Mar 2020.*

(10) *Dictator Biya has used the tension between USA and Iran to quickly kill all the people of Southern Cameroons because he thinks eyes will not be on him. Please UN and USA, rescue the lives of Southern Cameroons before biya kills them all and take their land, Twitter 1. 22:58 08 Jan 2020*

As mentioned earlier, the consistent use of some pronouns depends on the use of key nouns. In line with this, the pronouns used in the above abstracts refer back to a key nouns/noun phrases found in the corpus.

### 5.3 Transition Signals

Another way to achieve coherence is the use of transition signals. Transition signals, help reader in following the flow of ideas in the text. It connects the idea together in smooth way, avoiding gap or sudden jump of ideas. Each of the transition signals has different meaning and nuances. Table 4 presents the use of transition signals found in the corpus

Table 4. Transition signals used in the corpus

Transition Signals	Frequency
used to introduce an additional idea	141
used to introduce an opposite idea or contrast	40
used to introduce choice or alternative	18
used to introduce a result	17
used to introduce a conclusion or summary	03
used to introduce restatement or explanation	02
<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>

Facts glanced from table 4 show that 236 instances or cases of transition signals are found in Twitter tweets by English-speaking Cameroonians on the ongoing crisis. This puts the use of transition signals in the third position. Moreover, the most frequently used kind of transition signal is the one used to introduce an additional idea with 141 occurrences and the least frequently used transition signal is that which is used to introduce a restatement or explanation with 02 occurrences. Below are the examples of the use of each kind of transition signal.

#### **Transition signals used to introduce an additional idea**

(11) *The Presidency of La Republique Cameroun has officially blocked me on its Twitter page. Last week, seniorterrorist leader Paul Biya also blocked me on his Twitter page. pay my colonial taxes to the running of that Presidency page. @LeahHardingAJE (Twitter 20. 25 Apr 2018).*

*#Dictator Paul blya and his brutal soldiers are killing southern Cameroonians with no remorse #we are armless people # release all arrested (Twitter 4. 31 Jan 2017)*

#### **Transition signals used to introduce an opposite idea or contrast**

(12) #AMBAZONIANS have lived side by side with the Fulanis for years and for generations. **However**, the evil #Bulu/Beti mafia of #Paul Biya inciting violence by the Fulanis and arming them in an attempt to make the #AMBAZONIAN liberation struggle a religious fight. Stop feeding France (Twitter 85. 24 Oct 2019).

(13) Apart from his famous #IDo So Swear that comes out of his mouth after each #Rigged election, this #The Mandalorian day marks the #1st day the #brutal #dictator has spoken in #English n surprised 2 have embarrassed himself **though** in #leadership position in a #bilingual country since 1962 (Twitter 100. 12 Nov 2019).

#### **Transition signals used to introduce choice or alternative**

(14) Thanks AdamsR2P VIDE tions of genocida proportions mun ongoing as civilians killed for identifying as Anglophones #Biya must gram #HCHR full ecess to investigate Perce trators & those shielding them must race justice respective of position **or** affiliation (Twitter 34. 29 Spent 2018).

(15) Call them "extremists" **if** you like. But one thing remains - they have pushed Paul Biya to an extremely tight corner & #Biya is coughing out extreme blood from his old lungs (Twitter 6. 13 Apr 2018)

#### **Transition signals used to introduce a result**

(16) In #SouthernCameroons the number of people murdered by #Cameroon Biya forces is 10 times more than those dead across the world **as a result** of #Coronavirus. As the world battles to stop the virus, #Biya is more of a killer deadly virus which must be stopped. @hrw @AsstSecStateAF (Twitter 30. 06 Mar 2020).

#### **Transition signals used to introduce a conclusion or summary**

(17) **Finally**, Cameroun's Ministry of Terrorism (MINDEF) opens Investigations" into the brutal killing of innocent Tsobonyl Alphonse accused of protecting women & children Lebialem, Ambazonia. MINDEF's terrorists filmed themselves on camera chopping Alphonse's head with a machete. Twitter 26. 16 May 2018:

(18) **To conclude:** #Biya has not arrested any soldiers in line with the #Ngarbuh Massacre. It is all FAKE from the greatest world killer and manipulator called Biya. @antonioguterres @UNGeneva promised us #NeverAgain but yet they are failing kids and children from #Ngarbuh #Babanki (Twitter 25. 13.00-03 Mar 2020)

#### **Transition signals used to introduce restatement or explanation**

(19) Ambazonians have completely DESTROYED neighboring Bulu #Cameroon. **That is** the wages of political sin (Twitter 58. 23:09 29 Jul 2019).

The use of transition signals throughout the corpus prove that the stretches of discussions are linked through the various interactions and make the discussion flow smoothly. This allow the readers to go through the tweets without abruptions or breaks between the ideas, which in this study is centered on the fight for liberation from a manipulative and dominant regime which has been in power for more than forty years.

#### **5.4 Logical Order of Ideas**

The fourth way to achieve coherence introduced by Oshima and Hogue (2006) is the use of logical order. Since all of the tweets analysed in this research happened to be stretches of discussion, the logical order used should be logical flow of ideas. Examples of Tweets with the use of logical flow of ideas can be seen in table 5.



Table 5. Tweets with logical flow of ideas

<b>Tweets</b>	<b>Examples of logical order of ideas in the Tweets</b>
Twitter 8. 17 Apr 2018	<i>We can sustain the conflict for more than 100 years. But Biya cannot sustain it for the next six months. In less than 12 months, we sank Cameroun's GDP from 4 percent to 2 percent, a tremendous win. We are only raising the audience cost for the neighbouring dictator @Biya. (Twitter 8. 17 Apr 2018)</i>
Twitter 9. 17 Apr 2018	<i>It is a tie for both conflicting neighbours at this stage. Biya knows that we will not bow to his threats. Likewise, Biya will not cave in despite our grow- ing victories. Only the entire French #Cameroun will fall soon, thereby, kicking dictator #Biya out of hus throne. (Twitter 9. 17 Apr 2018)</i>
Twitter 19. 21 Apr 2018	<i>(24) A Cameroun BIK terronst who was sent to kill women and children inAmbazonia, Africa, has been arrested by the well-paid &amp; equipped Ambazonia soldiers. The BIR terrorist, it is reported, is a private bodyguard to senior terrorist leader Paul Biya. (Twitter 19. 21 Apr 2018)</i>
Twitter 20. 25 Apr 2018	<i>The Presidency of La Republique Cameroun has officially blocked me on its Twitter page. Last week, seniorterrorist leader Paul Biya also blocked me on his Twitter page. pay my colonial taxes to the running of that Presidency page. @LeahHardingAJE (Twitter 20. 25 Apr 2018)</i>
Twitter 122. 08 Dec 2019	<i>#DICTATOR PAUL BIYA military going around #Ambazonia burning down houses of innocent people (Twitter 122. 08 Dec 2019)</i>
Twitter 125. 9 Dec.2019	<i>They were picked up from their homes by the tribal militias #BIR of dictator (Twitter 125. 9 Dec.2019)</i>
Twitter 26. 04 Mar 2020	<i>The President of Cameroun, Paul Biya Bartholomew, would soon be a father-in-law. His only daughter @brendabiya is enjoying it with her Nigerian lover. The following media may contain sensitive material (Twitter 26. 04 Mar 2020)</i>
Twitter 27. 05 Mar 2020	<i>As stupid as you are, can you prove your point about "Tapang saying the same thing?" You are a fake news reporter and no genuine Ambazonian trusts you. USELESS FOOL! (Twitter 27. 16:41 05 Mar 2020)</i>

There are 27 tweets on which the use of logical order of ideas were found. All the Tweets explained how the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon is unfolding.

## 6. Discussion

The aim of this study was to analyse coherence indicators found in the corpus, and to find out the role of these devices. The findings showed that all the ways used to achieve coherence as listed by Oshima and Hogue (2006) were found in the stretches of interaction of the participants. This has been confirmed by the fact that the corpus bears the use of key nouns/noun phrases (492), consistent use of pronouns (333), the use of transition signals (236) and logical flow of ideas (27). All these indicators show that the corpus has devices that make a written or spoken text coherent. The findings of this study are similar to those of Wachidah (2016) ; Dasril, Zaim and Ningsih (2019) ; Septiwan and Al Hafizh (2021), and Ferdanes and Fatimah (2021) who found that the repetition of key nouns followed by the use of consistent pronouns and the use of transition signals are the most frequently used ways to achieve coherence in CMC contexts. Conversely, this study difers from all the reviwed works in the sense that the corpus is void of the transition signals used to list in order and and those used to introduce examples.

Online communication yields coherence that enables readers to follow the flow of ideas. This result shows that interactional coherence is accomplished in CMC contexts just like in offline written texts. However, the type and frequency of the coherent indicators may not be the same in the different contexts. Wachidah (2016), Dasril, Zaim and Ningsih(2019), Septiwan and Al Hafizh (2021) examined students' thesis proposals and Garing (2014), Fitriati and Yonata (2017) investigated argumentative essays and found that they were adequately coherent with high score on several indicators such as repetition of key noun, consistent pronoun, transition signals and logical order.

## 7. Conclusion

From the results above, there were four ways used to achieve coherence in the informants' stretches of discussions. The analysis showed awareness of the way coherence is achieved. The use of these elements establishes the flow of ideas from one stretch to the next one. They are repetition of key nouns, the consistent use of pronouns, the use of

transition signals, and logical order. To improve on coherence in online context, the researchers are in keeping with Herring (1999, p.10) that enhancements should be made to reduce incoherence (disruptive overlaps, uncertainly as to nterlocutor's intent, etc.) caused by insufficient feedback. Message transmission should ideally be two-way, so as to enable simultaneous feedback during message production. This would entail overcoming two additional problems. Two way systems (such as UNIX 'talk') are currently difficult to log, in that each participant's words scroll independently in a separate "window" or section of the screen, without access to temporal information, it is difficult to reconstruct after the fact the relationship between the utterances in the separate windows. This study is far from being exhaustive given the fact only focused on the Anglophone crisis which, to the best of our understanding is a political crisis. As such, a similar study could be carried out on social crises such as the one between teachers (OTS) and the state which is still going on. Moreover, further research could compare the same phenomenon in traditional media and new media.

### **Acknowledgments**

We thank the journal editors for removing the publication chage for this article.

### **Authors contributions**

PENIEL ZAAZRA Nouhou was responsible for data collection and methodology. Prof. Camilla Arundie Table was responsible for data analysis and revising. Both authors drafted the manuscript and proofread it.

### **Funding**

Not applicable.

### **Competing interests**

Not applicable.

### **Informed consent**

Obtained.

### **Ethics approval**

The Publication Ethics Committee of the Sciedu Press.

The journal's policies adhere to the Core Practices established by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

### **Provenance and peer review**

Not commissioned; externally double-blind peer reviewed.

### **Data availability statement**

The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author. The data are not publicly available due to privacy or ethical restrictions.

### **Data sharing statement**

No additional data are available.

### **Open access**

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

### **Copyrights**

*Copyright for this article is retained by the author(s), with first publication rights granted to the journal.*

### **References**

- Akame, G. J., Crockett, J., & Awutarh, R. B. A. (2021). *Baseline research: Education in crisis in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon*. London: Solidarity and Development Initiative
- Arman, M., Yasin, Mohd, L. S. A., & Heng, L. H. (2016). The Effect of Social Media on Intra-Organisational Communication. *World Journal of Management and Behavioral Studies*, 4(1), 01-07.
- Ascone, L., & Renaut, L. (2019). *How conflict is verbalized in counter-narratives to jihadist discourse: A comparative approach to hate speech in Asia and Europe*. Paris: University of Paris Diderot.
- Baron, N. S. (2010). Discourse structures in instant messaging: The case of utterance breaks. *Language@Internet*, 7(4), 1-25.

- Bou-Franch, P., Lorenzo-Dus, N., & Blitvich, P. G. (2012). Social Interaction in YouTube text-based polylogues: A study of coherence. *Journal of Computer-Mediated-Communication*, 17(4), 501-521. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1083-6101.2012.01579.x>
- Bram, B. (1995). *Write well improving writing skill*. Yogyakarta: Kanisius.
- Chen, H. (2012). Dark web research: Computational approach and techniques. In H. Chen (Ed.), *Interactional coherence analysis* (pp.105-126). New York: Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4614-1557-2>
- Crystal, D. (2006). *Language and the internet (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Dasril, Z. M., & Ningsih, K. (2019). Coherence and unity of students' writing on background of the study of research proposal. *Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities*, 335, 399-404. <https://doi.org/10.2991/icesshum-19.2019.65>
- Ekah, R. E. (2019). The Anglophone crisis in Cameroon: A geopolitical analysis. *European Scientific Journal*, 15(35), 141- 166. <https://doi.org/10.19044/esj.2019.v15n35p141>
- Eyongetah, T. M., & Brain, R. (1974). *A history of Cameroon*. London: Virginia State University.
- Ferdanes, D., & Fatimah, S. (2021). An analysis of coherence use in the essay written by English language and literature students'. *Journal of English Language Teaching*, 10(4), 697-706.
- Fitriati, S. W., & Yonata, F. (2017). Examining text coherence in graduate students of English argumentative writing: Case study. *Arab World English Journal (AWEJ)*, 8(3), 251-26. <https://doi.org/10.24093/awej/vol8no3.17>
- Garing, A. G. (2014). *Coherence in the argumentative essays of first year college of Liberal arts students*. (Unpublished Masters Dissertation). Manila, Philippines, De La Salle University.
- Glaznieks, A. (2022). Syntactic variation and interactional coherence in online communication: The german conjunction "weil" in written interactions. *Psychology of Language and Communication*, 26(1), 331-352. <https://doi.org/10.2478/plc-2022-16>
- Günthner, S. (2012). "Geteilte Syntax": Kollaborativ erzeugte dass Konstruktionen. *Gidi Arbeitspapierreihe*, 43(08/2012).
- Heinze, A., & Procte, C. (2006). Online Communication and Information Technology Education, *Journal of Information Technology Education*, 6, 246-249. <https://doi.org/10.28945/245>
- Herring, S. (1999). Interactional coherence in CMC. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 4(4). <https://doi.org/10.1109/hicss.1999.772674>
- Lapadat, J. (2007). Discourse devices used to establish community, increase coherence, and negotiate agreement in an online university course. *The Journal of Distance Education / Revue de l'Éducation à Distance*, 21(3), 59-92.
- Lim, Y. S., Ng, T. H., Yeo, T. H., & Kerk, Y. H. (2018). The influence of formal and informal communication in social media on generation online purchase intentions. *The Turkish Online Journal of Design, Art and Communication*, 8, 721-728. <https://doi.org/10.7456/1080SSE/104>
- Markman, K. M. (2013). Conversational coherence in small group chat. In S.C. Herring, D. Stein, & T. Virtanen (Eds.), *Pragmatics of Computer-Mediated-Communication* (pp. 539-564). Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Mouton
- Ngeh, V.J. (1987), Cameroon, 1884-1985: *A hundred years of history*. Yaoundé: Navi-Group Publications. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110214468.539>
- Nouhou, P. Z. (2022). Language and Peace on WhatsApp and Facebook Messages on the Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon. *International Journal of Linguistics and Translation Studies*, 3(4), 26-41. <https://doi.org/10.36892/ijlts.v3i4.282>
- Oshima, A., & Hogue, A. (1991). *Writing academic English*. New York: Addison Wesley Publishing Company.
- Oshima, A., & Hogue, A. (1997). *Introduction to academic English (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)*. New York: Addison Wesley Longman.
- Oshima, A., & Hogue, A. (1998). *Writing academic English (3<sup>th</sup>ed.)*. New York: Addison Wesley Longman.
- Oshima, A., & Hogue, A. (2006). *Writing academic English (4<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. White Plains, NY: Person/Longman.
- Rakma, F. (2020). *The coherence analysis on the background of skripsi written by students of English education program at IAIN Parepare*. (Unpublished Masters Dissertation). Tarbiyah faculty, State Islamic Institute (IAIN) Parepare.

- Septiwan, R., & Al Hafizh (2021). An analysis of coherence in writing essay written by students at Universitas Negeri Padang. *Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research, volume 599*. Proceedings of the Tenth International Conference on Languages and Arts (ICLA 2021). <https://doi.org/10.2991/assehr.k.211129.022>
- Severinson, E. K. (2010). To quote or not to quote: Setting the context for computer-mediated dialogues. *Language@Internet, 7*(5).
- Szczepek, B. (2000). Functional aspects of collaborative productions in English conversation. *Interaction and Linguistic Structures, 21*(17), 1-35.
- Tabé, C. A. (2023). Inside the virtual 'state': A speech act analysis of the discourses of the Anglophone problem in Cameroon. In C.A. Tabé & S. J. Ngong (Eds.), *Responding to global challenges: Voices in language and literature* (pp. 1-21). Denver: Spears Books.
- Tabé, C. A., & Fieze, N. I. (2018). A critical discourse analysis of newspaper headlines on the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon. *British Journal of English Linguistics, 6*(3), 64-83.
- Tabé, C. A., & Nouhou, P. Z. (2021). The changing patterns of English spelling in Cameroon social media. *Clarep Journal of English and Linguistics, 3*, 21-45. <https://doi.org/10.56907/g3fby37h>
- Tchouape, O. R. S. (2019). *The study of Anglophone crisis related to metaphors in some selected, Cameroonian newspapers*. (Unpublished Master Dissertation). FALSS, University of Maroua.
- Thornbury, S. (2005). *Beyond the sentence: Introducing discourse analysis*. Oxford: Macmillan.
- Wachidah, W.D.N.A. (2016). An analysis of cohesion and coherence in the students' writing text. (Unpublished Masters Dissertation). English Education Department, Salatiga State Institute for Islamic Studies.