

A number of points need to be borne in mind here. In English, a temporal relation may be expressed by means of a verb such as follow or precede, and a causal relation is inherent in the meanings of verbs such as cause and lead to. In fact, a language user will often recognize a semantic relation such as time sequence even when no explicit signal of such a relationship exists in the text. There is some uncertainty in the literature as to whether conjunctions which occur within sentences can be considered cohesive, since cohesion is considered by some linguists to be a relation between sentences rather than within sentences (see Halliday and Hasan, 1976: 232; see also note 2 at the end of this chapter). For instance, temporal relations are not restricted to sequence in real time; they may reflect stages in the unfolding text.