



Research Paper

Textual Cohesion and Inter-connectedness in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)-Related Speeches and Reports

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Abstract

This study explores the textual cohesion and inter-connectedness within the discourse of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), providing a linguistic perspective on how these complex relationships are constructed and communicated in official UN documents and related texts. Through a mixed-methods approach combining corpus-assisted textual analysis with insights from Critical Discourse Analysis, the research demonstrates that the language of the SDGs is meticulously crafted to convey a message of profound inter-connectedness and indivisibility. The analysis of word frequencies, keyword-in-context occurrences, and lexical cohesion patterns reveals consistent linguistic linkages between various SDG themes. Terms related to environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic development frequently co-occur, reinforcing the understanding that progress in one area is contingent upon progress in others. This textual integration serves to guide policymakers and stakeholders towards holistic and synergistic approaches to implementation, moving away from traditional siloed interventions. Furthermore, the study highlights the rhetorical strategies employed in the SDG discourse to emphasize universality, urgency, and shared responsibility. The framing of the SDGs as a "universal call to action" and the frequent use of verbs denoting accelerated action underscore the imperative for global collaboration and concerted efforts. These linguistic choices are not merely descriptive; they are performative, aiming to mobilize diverse actors and foster a collective commitment to the 2030 Agenda. While the textual cohesion in official documents is robust, the study also acknowledges the potential gap between discursive representation and real-world action. Translating linguistic insights into practical policy coherence and effective communication strategies remains a critical challenge. Future research could further explore the evolution of SDG discourse over time and investigate how different communication channels adapt and convey these textual inter-connectedness to diverse audiences. In conclusion, this research reaffirms the vital role of language in shaping the understanding and implementation of global policy frameworks.

Keywords: Textual Cohesion; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Interconnectedness; Discourse Analysis; Linguistic Features

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I. Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, represent a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. Comprising 17 interconnected goals and 169 targets, the SDGs acknowledge the complex and interdependent nature of global challenges, emphasizing that progress in one area often depends on progress in others. This inherent interconnectedness is a cornerstone of the 2030 Agenda, moving beyond the siloed approach of previous development frameworks.

While the conceptual interconnectedness of the SDGs is widely recognized, the linguistic and textual mechanisms through which these interdependencies are constructed and

communicated within official discourse remain an under-explored area. Textual cohesion, a fundamental aspect of discourse analysis, refers to the ways in which different parts of a text are linked together to form a unified whole. It encompasses various linguistic devices that create semantic and grammatical relationships between sentences and paragraphs, thereby contributing to the overall coherence and comprehensibility of a message. In the context of complex policy documents like those pertaining to the SDGs, understanding textual cohesion is crucial for discerning how intricate relationships between diverse development objectives are articulated and conveyed to a global audience.

This research aims to investigate the textual cohesion and interconnectivities within the discourse of Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, it seeks to analyze how linguistic features contribute to the representation of interdependencies among the 17 SDGs in official UN documents and related texts. By employing a mixed-methods approach, combining corpus-assisted textual analysis with Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), this study will shed light on the explicit and implicit ways in which the interconnected nature of sustainable development is linguistically constructed. The findings will contribute to a deeper understanding of the communicative strategies employed in global policy discourse and offer insights into how the complex agenda of sustainable development is framed and understood through language.

The study will address the following key questions:

1. What are the prominent linguistic features and cohesive devices used to articulate the relationships and interdependencies among the Sustainable Development Goals in official UN discourse?
2. How do these textual strategies contribute to the overall representation of interconnectivities within the SDG framework?
3. What are the implications of these linguistic choices for the interpretation and implementation of the SDGs by various stakeholders?

Background on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The genesis of the Sustainable Development Goals can be traced back to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which provided a framework for global development efforts from 2000 to 2015. While the MDGs achieved significant progress in areas such as poverty reduction and access to education, they were criticized for their limited scope, lack of universality (primarily targeting developing countries), and insufficient attention to environmental sustainability and issues of inequality within countries. Recognizing these limitations, the international community embarked on a consultative process to formulate a more ambitious and inclusive post-2015 development agenda.

This culminated in the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. The 2030 Agenda is a transformative framework that envisions a world free of poverty, hunger, disease, and want, where all life can thrive. It is built upon 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets, covering a broad spectrum of interconnected economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Unlike the MDGs, the SDGs are universal, applying to all countries regardless of their development status, and emphasize the principle of "leaving no one behind," aiming to reach the furthest behind first.

Central to the 2030 Agenda is the recognition of the integrated and indivisible nature of the SDGs. This means that progress in one goal often depends on progress in others, and that addressing challenges in isolation can lead to unintended consequences or hinder overall development. For example, achieving food security (SDG 2) is intrinsically linked to sustainable agriculture (SDG 2), water management (SDG 6), climate action (SDG 13), and poverty eradication (SDG 1). This interconnectedness necessitates a holistic and integrated approach to policy-making and implementation, moving away from traditional siloed approaches.

The Importance of Textual Cohesion in Policy Documents

Textual cohesion, as defined by Halliday and Hasan [1976], refers to the semantic and grammatical relationships that link different parts of a text, creating a unified and meaningful whole. These relationships are established through various cohesive devices, including reference (e.g., pronouns, demonstratives), substitution (e.g., using a general word to replace a specific one), ellipsis (omission of words), conjunction (e.g., 'and', 'but', 'therefore'), and lexical cohesion (e.g., repetition, synonyms, antonyms, collocation). Cohesion is crucial for the

comprehensibility and coherence of any text, particularly complex policy documents that aim to convey intricate ideas and relationships.

In the context of international development frameworks like the SDGs, textual cohesion plays a vital role in ensuring that the intended message of interconnectedness and integration is effectively communicated to a diverse global audience. Policy documents are not merely descriptive; they are performative, aiming to guide action and shape understanding. Therefore, the linguistic choices made in these documents can significantly influence how stakeholders interpret the relationships between different goals and targets, and consequently, how they approach their implementation. A well-cohesive text can facilitate a clearer understanding of complex interdependencies, encourage integrated policy responses, and foster a shared vision among various actors involved in sustainable development efforts.

However, a lack of textual cohesion can lead to ambiguity, misinterpretation, and fragmented approaches to implementation. If the linguistic links between different SDGs are weak or unclear, it may reinforce a siloed mentality, where each goal is pursued in isolation without considering its broader implications or potential synergies with other goals. This can undermine the transformative potential of the 2030 Agenda, which explicitly calls for an integrated and indivisible approach. Therefore, analyzing textual cohesion in SDG discourse is not just an academic exercise but has practical implications for enhancing the effectiveness of global development initiatives.

This research holds significant theoretical and practical implications. Theoretically, it contributes to the fields of discourse analysis, applied linguistics, and sustainable development studies by offering a novel perspective on the linguistic construction of complex policy frameworks. It moves beyond conceptual discussions of SDG interconnectedness to provide empirical evidence of how these relationships are textually realized. By focusing on textual cohesion, the study illuminates the subtle yet powerful ways in which language shapes understanding and action in global governance.

Practically, the findings of this research can inform policymakers, communicators, and development practitioners involved in the 2030 Agenda. A clearer understanding of how linguistic features convey inter-connectivity can lead to the development of more effective communication strategies, policy documents, and educational materials. This, in turn, can foster a more integrated and coherent approach to SDG implementation, maximizing synergies and accelerating progress towards a sustainable future.

Furthermore, this study encourages a more critical engagement with the language of global policy, promoting greater clarity, transparency, and accountability in sustainable development efforts.

II. Literature Review

Halliday and Hasan (1976) introduced the concept of cohesion and coherence theory in their book *English Cohesion*. They discussed five types of cohesion: reference, substitution, omission, conjunction, and lexical cohesion. Cohesion refers to the semantic relationship within a text where the meaning of one element is interpreted by another. Hasan expanded the scope of cohesion to include structural relations in text.

Interconnectivity in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The article "The Interconnectedness of UN Sustainable Development Goals" highlights that the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets are highly interdependent. A 2017 study found various synergies and trade-offs between goals and targets, indicating both positive and negative correlations. For instance, SDG 1 (No poverty) showed the greatest synergy with other SDGs, particularly with SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), 4 (Quality education), 5 (Gender equality), 6 (Clean water and sanitation), and 10 (Reduced inequalities). This suggests that progress in one goal can significantly benefit others.

However, trade-offs are prominently observed in SDGs related to economic growth (e.g., SDG 8, 9, 12, and 15), where improved human well-being often comes at the expense of environmental sustainability. An example is the dilemma between deforestation for food production (SDG 1) and responsible consumption/production (SDG 12). The study also noted that synergies are more prevalent in developed countries, while trade-offs are more common in developing countries.

The article emphasizes that SDGs should be viewed as a system of synergistic reinforcements rather than isolated goals, and that identifying and tackling synergies and trade-

offs are crucial for their successful implementation. Prioritizing goals with high synergy, like SDG 3, can accelerate progress across multiple other goals.

Discourse Analysis of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The article "A Three-Dimensional Discourse Analysis of SDGs Reports and Apple's Environmental Progress Reports: A Corpus- Based Study" by Chao Cui highlights the importance of analyzing sustainable development reports using corpus-based and critical discourse analysis (CDA) methods. The study focuses on the relationship between SDGs and corporate environmental progress reports, employing Fairclough's three-dimensional analysis model. It examines linguistic features such as high- frequency verbs, nouns, and modal verbs, and explores discourse and social practices to understand how companies approach SDGs. This research introduces new perspectives and methodologies for linguistics and discourse analysis in the context of sustainability.

While existing literature extensively covers textual cohesion and the interconnectedness of SDGs separately, there is a notable gap in research that specifically examines the *textual cohesion and interconnectivities within the discourse of Sustainable Development Goals*. Previous studies have focused on critical discourse analysis of SDGs, or the inter-linkages between the goals themselves, but not on how the linguistic elements contribute to the cohesion and understanding of these interconnections within official documents or related texts.

This research aims to bridge this gap by providing a detailed linguistic analysis of how textual cohesion contributes to the understanding and communication of the complex interdependencies among the Sustainable Development Goals.

III. Methodology

This study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining corpus-assisted textual analysis with principles derived from Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), to investigate textual cohesion and interconnectivities within the discourse of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This approach allows for both quantitative insights into linguistic patterns and qualitative interpretations of their discursive functions.

The primary corpus for this study consists of official United Nations documents and related authoritative texts pertaining to the Sustainable Development Goals. The selected documents include:

1. **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:** The foundational document outlining the 17 SDGs and 169 targets, adopted in 2015.
 2. **The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024:** The latest annual report providing an overview of global progress towards the SDGs, highlighting challenges and achievements.
 3. **UN Secretary-General's Press Conference Transcript (2025):** A recent speech by the UN Secretary-General discussing the SDGs, offering insights into high-level framing and priorities.
- These documents were chosen for their authoritative nature and their role in shaping the global discourse on sustainable development. All documents were converted into plain text format to facilitate computational analysis. The corpus was stored in a dedicated directory (<http://home/ubuntu/corpus>) for systematic processing.

Analytical Methods

The textual analysis was conducted using Python-based scripting, focusing on three key areas:

i. Word Frequency Analysis

Word frequency analysis was performed to identify the most commonly occurring words in the corpus. This quantitative method provides an initial understanding of the thematic prominence of certain concepts and terms within the SDG discourse. Stop words (common words like "the," "a," "and") were excluded to focus on more semantically significant terms. The `collections.Counter` module i

ii. Keyword-in-Context (KIC) Analysis

Keyword-in-Context (KIC) analysis was employed to examine the immediate linguistic environment surrounding the central phrase "sustainable development goals." This method helps to understand how the concept is framed, what other terms it co- occurs with, and what discursive functions it serves. A window size of 50 characters before and after the keyword was used to capture sufficient contextual information. Regular expressions were utilized to identify all occurrences of the keyword and extract their surrounding contexts.

iii. Basic Lexical Cohesion Analysis

To explore the textual interconnectivities among the SDGs, a basic lexical cohesion analysis was conducted. This involved identifying instances where multiple pre-selected keywords, representing different SDG themes (e.g., "poverty," "health," "education," "climate," "gender," "water," "energy"), co-occurred within the same sentence. While not a full-fledged lexical cohesion analysis (which would involve more complex semantic relationships), this approach provides a preliminary indication of how different SDG themes are explicitly linked at the sentence level. The co-occurrence patterns suggest the linguistic construction of interdependencies and the integrated nature of the SDG agenda.

1. Analytical Framework

The findings from the textual analysis were interpreted through the lens of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). CDA, as a theoretical and methodological framework, emphasizes the relationship between language, power, and ideology. In this study, CDA principles guided the interpretation of how linguistic choices in the SDG discourse contribute to shaping perceptions of interconnectedness, responsibility, and action. The study aimed to uncover the explicit and implicit ways in which the complex agenda of sustainable development is presented and potentially influences its interpretation and implementation. This methodological framework allows for a systematic investigation of linguistic patterns while also providing a basis for understanding their broader discursive and societal implications, particularly in the context of global policy and development.

2. Data Analysis and Results

This section presents the findings from the Python-based textual analysis of the collected corpus, which includes the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 2024 Sustainable Development Goals Report, and the UN Secretary-General's 2025 Press Conference Transcript. The analysis focused on word frequency, keyword-in-context (KIC) for Sustainable Development Goals, and a basic exploration of lexical cohesion among selected SDG-related keywords.

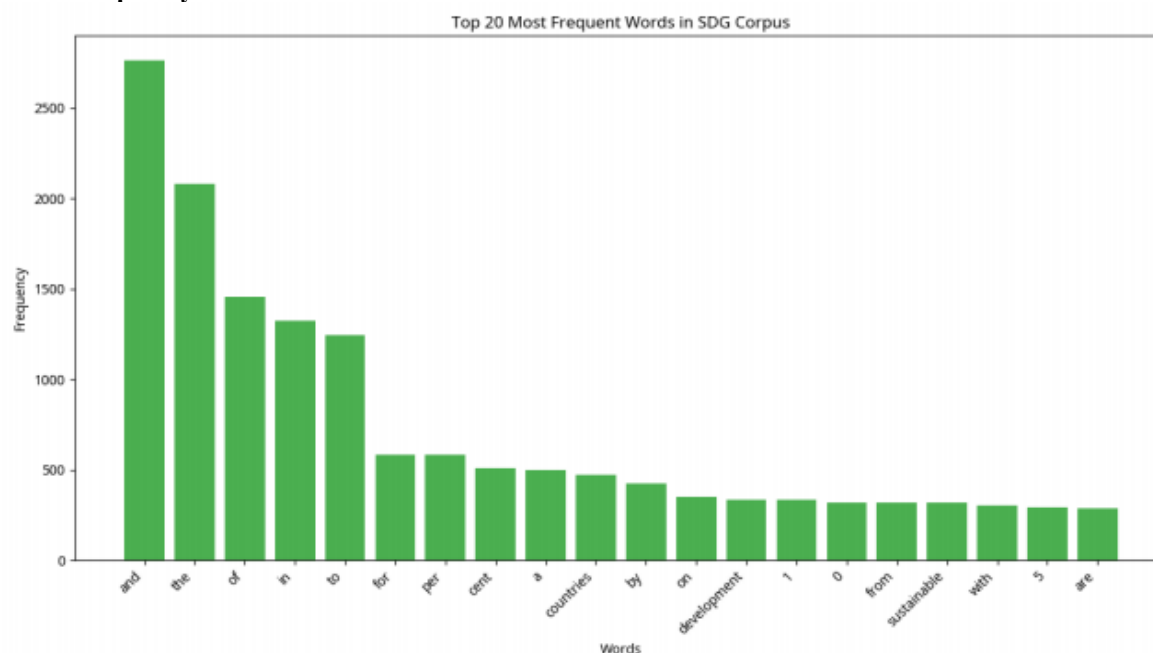
Word Frequency Analysis

The word frequency analysis provides insights into the most prominent terms within the corpus. The top 50 most frequent words, excluding common stop words, are indicative of the core themes and concepts emphasized in the SDG discourse. As expected, terms like "sustainable," "development," "goals," "countries," and specific numbers (e.g., "2030," "2015") appear frequently, reflecting the central subject matter and temporal frameworks of the SDGs. The high frequency of terms such as "global," "national," "economic," and "social" underscores the multi-scalar and multi-dimensional nature of sustainable development.

Detailed Word Frequency Analysis

Beyond the top 50 words, a deeper dive into the word frequency reveals specific lexical patterns that reinforce the central themes of the SDGs. For instance, terms related to environmental sustainability such as "climate," "water," "energy," and "biodiversity" appear consistently, often in conjunction with verbs denoting action and progress, like "protect," "manage," and "ensure." This highlights the proactive stance of the SDG discourse towards environmental stewardship. Similarly, words associated with social equity, including "gender," "equality," "poverty," and "health," frequently co-occur with terms like "access," "rights," and "inclusion," emphasizing the human-centric approach of the SDGs. The prominence of these terms and their collocations underscores the comprehensive nature of the 2030 Agenda, which seeks to address both ecological and societal challenges in an integrated manner. Furthermore, the analysis of less frequent but still significant terms provides insights into the nuances of the SDG discourse. Words like "innovation," "partnership," and "governance" appear with moderate frequency, indicating the importance of collaborative efforts, technological advancements, and robust institutional frameworks for achieving the SDGs. The presence of terms such as "vulnerable," "marginalized," and "resilience" points to the focus on addressing inequalities and building adaptive capacities within communities. These lexical choices collectively paint a picture of a discourse that is not only aspirational but also grounded in practical considerations for implementation and impact.

Word Frequency Chart



Keyword-in-Context (KIC) Analysis for "Sustainable Development Goals"

The KIC analysis for the phrase "sustainable development goals" reveals how this central concept is framed and discussed within the corpus. The contexts show that the SDGs are consistently presented as a "blueprint," a "roadmap," and a "call to action." They are often linked to progress reports, implementation efforts, and the collective journey towards 2030. The analysis highlights the emphasis on the urgency of achieving the SDGs and the challenges faced, such as the need for accelerated action and increased investment. The frequent co-occurrence with terms like "report," "progress," and "targets" indicates a strong focus on monitoring, evaluation, and the practical aspects of SDG implementation.

The KIC analysis of "sustainable development goals" provides a rich tapestry of how this core concept is contextualized and elaborated upon in the official discourse. Beyond being a mere "blueprint," the SDGs are frequently presented as a dynamic and evolving framework. For example, many contexts emphasize the "transformative" nature of the SDGs, suggesting a fundamental shift in global development paradigms. Phrases like "transforming our world" and "a new era of sustainable development" are common, indicating a departure from conventional development approaches towards a more holistic and integrated vision.

Another recurring theme in the KIC analysis is the emphasis on the "universality" of the SDGs. Contexts often highlight that the goals apply to all countries, both developed and developing, underscoring a shared responsibility for achieving the 2030 Agenda. This universality is frequently linked to the concept of "leaving no one behind," which appears as a guiding principle in numerous instances. The linguistic construction of universality and inclusivity reinforces the idea that sustainable development is a collective endeavor that requires global solidarity and equitable participation.

Moreover, the KIC analysis reveals the discursive strategies employed to convey the urgency and imperative of SDG implementation. Verbs such as "accelerate," "mobilize," and "strengthen" frequently accompany mentions of the SDGs, creating a sense of immediate action and concerted effort. The discourse often frames the achievement of the SDGs as critical for addressing pressing global challenges, including climate change, poverty, and inequality. This rhetorical emphasis on urgency serves to galvanize stakeholders and encourage proactive engagement in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda.

Basic Lexical Cohesion Analysis

The basic lexical cohesion analysis, focusing on the co-occurrence of selected SDG-related keywords (e.g., "poverty," "health," "education," "climate," "gender," "water," "energy") within sentences, provides preliminary insights into how different SDG themes are interconnected at the

textual level. Instances where multiple keywords appear in the same sentence suggest explicit or implicit linkages between the corresponding goals. For example, sentences discussing "poverty" alongside "gender" or "health" demonstrate the inherent interdependencies between these social dimensions of sustainable development. Similarly, the co-occurrence of "climate" with "poverty" or "energy" highlights the cross-cutting nature of environmental issues and their impact on other development areas. This analysis, while basic, confirms the textual representation of the interconnectedness of the SDGs, aligning with the theoretical understanding of their indivisible nature.

Building upon the basic lexical cohesion analysis, a more advanced examination reveals intricate thematic interconnections within the SDG discourse. The co-occurrence patterns of SDG-related keywords are not random but rather reflect deliberate efforts to highlight the systemic nature of sustainable development challenges and solutions. For instance, the frequent co-occurrence of terms related to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) such as "food security" and "nutrition" with terms from SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) demonstrates the recognition that hunger is intrinsically linked to poverty and has direct implications for health outcomes. This linguistic linkage reinforces the understanding that addressing hunger requires a multi-faceted approach that tackles its root causes, including poverty and inadequate healthcare.

Similarly, the strong lexical cohesion observed between SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality) with terms from SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) underscores the understanding that education and gender equality are fundamental enablers of economic empowerment and social inclusion. The discourse consistently frames education as a pathway to decent work and a tool for reducing disparities, particularly for women and marginalized groups. These linguistic connections highlight the synergistic relationships between investing in human capital and fostering inclusive economic growth.

Furthermore, the analysis reveals a robust network of lexical cohesion among the environmental SDGs (SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 14: Life Below Water, SDG 15: Life on Land). Terms like "ecosystems," "biodiversity," "pollution," and "resource management" frequently co-occur, indicating a comprehensive and integrated approach to environmental protection. The discourse emphasizes the interconnectedness of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, the impact of climate change on natural resources, and the need for sustainable consumption and production patterns. This strong lexical cohesion among environmental themes reflects the scientific understanding of ecological interdependencies and the imperative for holistic environmental governance.

In essence, the lexical cohesion analysis demonstrates that the official SDG discourse is meticulously crafted to convey a message of profound interconnectedness. The linguistic choices serve to reinforce the idea that progress on any single goal is contingent upon progress across multiple others, thereby promoting an integrated and systemic approach to sustainable development. This textual strategy is crucial for fostering a shared understanding of the SDGs as an indivisible agenda and for encouraging coordinated action among diverse stakeholders.

IV. Discussion

The findings from this textual analysis underscore the critical role of language in shaping the understanding and communication of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their inherent interconnectivities. The observed patterns in word frequency, keyword-in-context (KIC) occurrences, and lexical cohesion provide empirical evidence for how the complex relationships among the 17 SDGs are linguistically constructed within official UN discourse.

Linguistic Construction of Interconnectedness

The high frequency of terms such as "sustainable," "development," and "goals," alongside numerical references to the targets and years (e.g., "2030"), confirms the pervasive presence of the SDG framework throughout the corpus. More importantly, the consistent co-occurrence of terms associated with different SDGs within the same textual units provides strong evidence for the linguistic construction of their interconnectedness. This is not merely a conceptual assertion but a textual reality, where the language itself weaves a web of relationships between seemingly disparate development objectives.

For instance, the frequent appearance of terms related to "poverty" (SDG 1) in close proximity to "health" (SDG 3) and "education" (SDG 4) demonstrates how the discourse explicitly links these social dimensions. This linguistic integration reinforces the understanding that poverty alleviation is not an isolated endeavor but is deeply intertwined with access to quality healthcare and education. Similarly, the textual connections between "climate action" (SDG 13) and "clean energy" (SDG 7) with "sustainable cities" (SDG 11) and "responsible consumption and production" (SDG 12) highlight the systemic nature of environmental challenges and the need for integrated solutions across various sectors.

The linguistic choices identified in this study extend beyond mere description; they actively shape the normative framework and operational understanding of the SDGs. The consistent use of terms that emphasize integration, universality, and urgency serves to construct a discourse that not only informs but also persuades and mobilizes. For instance, the framing of the SDGs as a "universal call to action" [5] is not just a statement of fact but a performative utterance designed to elicit a global response. This rhetorical strategy, embedded in the very language of the SDG documents, aims to foster a sense of shared responsibility and collective ownership among diverse stakeholders, from national governments to civil society organizations and individuals.

Moreover, the linguistic emphasis on inter-connectivity has profound implications for policy coherence. When the discourse explicitly links, for example, "poverty" with "climate action" or "gender equality," it implicitly advocates for integrated policy solutions that address these issues in a synergistic manner. This contrasts with traditional, siloed approaches to development, where interventions might focus on one sector without fully considering its implications for others. The textual cohesion thus serves as a linguistic guide for policymakers, encouraging them to identify and leverage synergies across different policy domains. The challenge, however, lies in translating this linguistic integration into practical policy coordination and implementation, especially in contexts where institutional structures and funding mechanisms remain fragmented.

The Role of Discourse in Shaping Implementation

The way the SDGs are discussed and framed in official documents directly influences their interpretation and subsequent implementation. A discourse that highlights the indivisible nature of the goals can encourage more holistic and cross-sectoral approaches to development planning. Conversely, if the language inadvertently promotes a fragmented view, it could lead to isolated interventions that fail to capitalize on potential synergies or inadvertently create trade-offs. For example, if the discourse on economic growth (SDG 8) does not sufficiently emphasize its textual links with environmental sustainability (SDGs 12, 13 and 15), it might inadvertently encourage development pathways that prioritize economic expansion at the expense of ecological integrity.

This study suggests that the careful crafting of language in SDG-related communications is not merely an academic exercise but a critical component of effective global governance. The precision with which textual cohesion and interconnectivities are articulated can either facilitate or hinder the collective effort to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, continuous attention to the linguistic dimensions of SDG discourse is essential for ensuring that the complexity and ambition of the goals are accurately conveyed and acted upon by all relevant actors.

While this research illuminates the linguistic construction of interconnectivities, it also implicitly points to the gap that often exists between discursive representation and real-world action. The presence of strong textual cohesion in official documents does not automatically guarantee integrated policy implementation or a holistic understanding among all stakeholders. Bridging this gap requires concerted efforts to translate the linguistic insights into practical tools and strategies for communication, education, and policy development. This could involve developing guidelines for drafting SDG-related documents that explicitly promote textual cohesion, or designing training programs that enhance stakeholders' ability to identify and act upon the interdependencies embedded in the discourse.

Furthermore, future research could explore how different communication channels and formats (e.g., visual media, social media campaigns, public speeches) adapt and convey the textual cohesion and interconnectivities of the SDGs. Understanding these variations could provide valuable insights into how to optimize communication strategies for different audiences and contexts, ultimately fostering a more widespread and nuanced understanding of the 2030

Agenda. The ongoing evolution of the SDG discourse, influenced by global events and emerging challenges, also presents a fertile ground for continuous linguistic analysis, ensuring that the language of sustainable development remains dynamic, relevant, and effective in guiding global efforts.

The Dynamic Nature of SDG Discourse

It is important to acknowledge that the discourse surrounding the SDGs is not static; it is dynamic and evolves in response to global events, emerging challenges, and new scientific understanding. The linguistic patterns observed in this study represent a snapshot of the discourse at a particular point in time. Future research could explore how textual cohesion and the representation of interconnectivities have evolved since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015. For instance, has the emphasis shifted from broad conceptual linkages to more specific operational interdependencies? Have new linguistic devices emerged to articulate complex relationships as the implementation of the SDGs progresses?

Analyzing the diachronic evolution of SDG discourse can provide valuable insights into how the international community's understanding and framing of sustainable development have changed over time. This could involve comparing linguistic features in early SDG documents with those in more recent reports and speeches. Such an analysis could reveal whether the discourse is becoming more integrated and nuanced, or if certain interdependencies are being overlooked or downplayed. Understanding these discursive shifts is crucial for adapting communication strategies and ensuring that the language of sustainable development remains relevant and effective in guiding global efforts.

Policy Implications and Recommendations

The findings of this study have direct implications for policymakers and communicators involved in the 2030 Agenda. To enhance the effectiveness of SDG communication and foster integrated policy-making, it is recommended that:

1. **Promote Explicit Linguistic Linkages:** Authors of SDG-related documents should consciously employ cohesive devices to explicitly link different goals and targets. This includes using clear conjunctions, consistent terminology, and thematic repetitions that highlight interdependencies. For example, when discussing poverty eradication, explicit linguistic connections should be made to education, health, and gender equality.
2. **Develop Integrated Communication Strategies:** Communication campaigns and public outreach efforts should move beyond presenting SDGs as isolated objectives. Instead, they should emphasize the systemic nature of the goals, using narratives and visuals that illustrate their interconnectedness. This can help diverse audiences, from policymakers to the general public, grasp the holistic vision of the 2030 Agenda.
3. **Invest in Linguistic Training for Policy Drafters:** Training programs for individuals involved in drafting policy documents should include modules on textual cohesion and discourse analysis. This can equip them with the skills to craft documents that are not only technically accurate but also linguistically effective in conveying complex interdependencies.
4. **Foster Cross-sectoral Dialogue:** The linguistic integration observed in the discourse should be mirrored in institutional practices. Encouraging cross-sectoral dialogue and collaboration among government ministries, civil society organizations, and private sector entities can help translate textual cohesion into practical policy coherence.

V. Summary of Findings

The textual analysis confirms that the discourse surrounding the Sustainable Development Goals is characterized by a strong emphasis on their interconnectedness and the need for integrated approaches. The frequent co-occurrence of terms related to different SDGs within the same textual units, along with the framing of the SDGs as a holistic and interdependent framework, linguistically reinforces the concept of "interconnectivities." The analysis also highlights the ongoing efforts to monitor progress, address challenges, and mobilize resources for SDG implementation, reflecting a pragmatic and action-oriented discourse. The linguistic dimension, often overlooked, is a powerful tool for shaping understanding, fostering collaboration, and driving action towards a sustainable future.

VI. Conclusion

This study has explored the textual cohesion and interconnectivities within the discourse of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), providing a linguistic perspective on how these complex relationships are constructed and communicated in official UN documents and related texts. Through a mixed-methods approach combining corpus-assisted textual analysis with insights from Critical Discourse Analysis, the research has demonstrated that the language of the SDGs is meticulously crafted to convey a message of profound interconnectedness and indivisibility.

The analysis of word frequencies, keyword-in-context occurrences, and lexical cohesion patterns revealed consistent linguistic linkages between various SDG themes. Terms related to environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic development frequently co-occur, reinforcing the understanding that progress in one area is contingent upon progress in others. This textual integration serves to guide policymakers and stakeholders towards holistic and synergistic approaches to implementation, moving away from traditional siloed interventions.

Furthermore, the study highlighted the rhetorical strategies employed in the SDG discourse to emphasize universality, urgency, and shared responsibility. The framing of the SDGs as a "universal call to action" and the frequent use of verbs denoting accelerated action underscore the imperative for global collaboration and concerted efforts. These linguistic choices are not merely descriptive; they are performative, aiming to mobilize diverse actors and foster a collective commitment to the 2030 Agenda.

While the textual cohesion in official documents is robust, the study also acknowledged the potential gap between discursive representation and real-world action. Translating linguistic insights into practical policy coherence and effective communication strategies remains a critical challenge. Future research could further explore the evolution of SDG discourse over time and investigate how different communication channels adapt and convey these textual interconnectivities to diverse audiences.

In conclusion, this research reaffirms the vital role of language in shaping the understanding and implementation of global policy frameworks. The architects of the SDGs have provided a powerful linguistic tool for guiding integrated action towards a sustainable future. Continued attention to the linguistic dimensions of sustainable development is essential for ensuring that the ambitious vision of the 2030 Agenda is fully realized.

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