

THEMATIC PROGRESSION IN THE MOST READ SECTION OF BBC ONLINE NEWSPAPER

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Abstract

In this thesis, the writer discussed one aspect of writing which is thematic progression in BBC online newspaper especially the most read section. Thematic progression itself is the coherence aspect in the writing, it deals with how the clauses are linked each other and build up a pattern in a text. The main purpose of this research is to examine the thematic progression and the level of coherence in BBC online newspaper particularly in the most read section. To do the analysis structurally, the writer applied qualitative method. The data source was taken from BBC online newspaper's article especially the most red section page. The data that analyzed are in form of clauses, both simple and complex clauses. The data were analyzed in each paragraph of each article. The result of this analysis showed that the most frequent pattern applied in the most read section's articles was zig-zag and constant theme. In addition, the levels of the coherence were mostly fair and there is one article had a good level. The result also showed that, using constant or zig-zag is easier and the level of the coherence will be good if use constant type of thematic progression.

Key words: BBC News, Composing a good writing, Text genre, Thematic progression

INTRODUCTION

Urban society in Indonesia starts turning from consuming news through printed media to online media. Indonesian people consuming online news increased up to 96 percent compared to television and newspaper (A. Afrianto & Inayati, 2016; K. Sari & Pranoto, 2021). Based on the result of the survey, it shows that reading activity of Indonesian people is increasing. Therefore, the ability of catching the idea of the text is crucial. In reading itself, there are several aspects that need to be understood. There are three main principles should be master in reading, which are fluency, breadth of vocabulary, and domain knowledge (Erya & Pustika, 2021; Oktaviani & Mandasari, 2019; Septiyana & Aminatun, 2021). The key of element of news are headline, place line, lead, body, and quotation (Purwaningsih & Gulö, 2021a; S Suprayogi & Pranoto, 2020). Instead of understanding those elements, another practical way to understand the idea of the text easily is by understanding the pattern of the text which called thematic progression (Evayani & Rido, 2019; Pradana & Suprayogi, 2021; Puspita & Pranoto, 2021).

In the text of a news there must be a certain message that want to be delivered to the readers (Purwarianti, 2014; Wahyudin, 2016). Therefore, in compiling a text must be clear

and should be coherence in order to portray the message nicely. One aspect that plays an important role in writing is the coherence (Fadilah & Kuswoyo, 2021; SURYONO & Indra, 2020). In addition, coherence is "the internal [resource] for structuring the clause as a message", including the notions of Theme and information (Puspita et al., 2021; Puspita & Amelia, 2020; Suprayogi Suprayogi & Eko, 2020). The thematic organization of the text is closely connected with discourse coherence or text connectivity (Ayu, 2020; Gulö, 2019; Novanti & Suprayogi, 2021). It means that, the coherence is a crucial aspect in building up a paragraph, since it gives the connectivity between one clause to another clause which create pattern. Thematic Progression contributes to the cohesive development of a text and it can strengthen the text's coherence and cohesion (Kuswoyo & Susardi, 2016, 2017).

Thematic progression is a salient aspect in the study of Systemic Functional Linguistics as it can function as a cohesive tie in meaning that as a tool to give cohesion in the text (Kuswoyo, Sujatna, Indrayani, et al., 2020). Thematic Progression it self is a term which refers to the way in which the Theme of a clause may pick up, or repeat, a meaning from a preceding Theme or Rheme. In other hand, Thematic Progresion to the exchange of information between successive theme and rheme pairings in a text. Furthermore, thematic progression is a crucial aspect in tracing the global flow of information throughout the text (Kuswoyo, Sujatna, Rido, et al., 2020). Therefore, in analyzing the pattern of a pragraph in news articles, the present writer use thematic progression as a tool to examine it.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theme and Rheme

The relationship between theme and rheme in a clause and its contribution to the focus and flow of information in a text (Paltridge,2006). It is in line with Halliday and Mathiessen (2004), theme can be understood as the element which serves as point of departure of the message and rheme as the remainder of the message in which the theme is developed. Further, Theme can be identified as the elements which come first in a clause (Gerot and Wignell, 1994). Theme indicates what the text is about. In addition, There are three catagories of theme; ideational or topical theme, textual theme, and interpersonal theme (Gerot and Wignell,1994). The idea of theme and rheme furthermore leads to the analysis of thematic progression or method of development of texts (Fries, 2002, cited in Paltridge, 2006).

Thematic Progression

For the themes of the hyper or superior texts to function as one or build a single idea, they must be coherent. It is thematic progression that gives text coherence. It involves how the speaker chooses the various themes and arranges them in such a way that they relate (Gulö, 2014; Kuswoyo, 2016; Suprayogi Suprayogi, Puspita, et al., 2021). In other words, thematic progression refers to how the various themes of the superior texts (paragraphs and chapters) relate together to produce meaningful texts. The view that the information flow in a sentence from theme to rheme is crucial in achieving communicative effectiveness in a message (Keith et al., 1974; Pranoto & Suprayogi, 2020b). The exchange of information between successive Theme and Rheme pairings in a text is called thematic progression. Thematic progression contributes to the cohesive development of a text, that is to say, in cohesive text the distribution of given and new information needs to follow certain patterns. Progression refers to the way in which the theme of a clause may pick up, or repeat, a meaning from a preceding theme or rheme (Fakhrurozi & Puspita, 2021; Gulö, n.d.; Pranoto & Suprayogi, 2020a). The thematic progression is the key way to create information flow in a text (Amelia, 2021; Kardiansyah, n.d.; Qodriani & Kardiansyah, n.d.).

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL)

Basically, SFL is a functional account of lexico grammar which systematically relates language structure to language function and to the meaning potential available to speakers of a language. Meaning is taken in a wider sense than is generally covered by other linguistic theories, incorporating the expression of ideational, interpersonal and textual meaning into its account of the organization of the lexicogrammar of a language (Al Falaq & Puspita, 2021; Ayu et al., 2017; Purwaningsih & Gulö, 2021b). All three 'strands' of meaning are seen as contributing simultaneously to the structure of clauses. However, these choices in meaning contribute to the overall meaning of discourses (Pratiwi et al., 2020; Puspita, 2021; Sujatna et al., 2020). Moreover, SFL seeks to provide an appropriate analytical and interpretative framework for the insightful analysis of text and discourse.

Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL) is divided into three branches of metafunctions which are; Ideational, Interpersonal, and Textual Metafunction. Those three branches have different focus. Ideational focus on the grammatical resources for building up grammatical units into complexes for combining two or more clauses (Oktavia & Suprayogi, 2021; B. N. Sari & Gulö, 2019; Widianingsih & Gulö, 2016). Furthermore, the interpersonal metafunction relates to a text's aspects of tenor or interactivity. Like field, tenor comprises

three component areas: the speaker/writer persona, social distance, and relative social status (A. Afrianto, 2017; Suprayogi Suprayogi, Samanik, et al., 2021). The last, The textual metafunction relates to mode; the internal organization and communicative nature of a text. In addition, cohesion explore the context of both lexical and grammatical as well as intonational aspects with reference to lexical chains and, in the speech register, tonality, tonicity, and tone (L. M. I. Afrianto & Seomantri, 2014; Puspita, n.d.).

METHOD

In this research, the present writer uses qualitative method. Qualitative performance analysis is chosen as the design of this study. Qualitative performance analysis is defined as the qualitative performance validation and diagnosis of applications (Choirunnisa & Sari, 2021; F. M. Sari & Oktaviani, 2021). Further, qualitative performance validation assesses whether an observed behavior is expected or unexpected. In addition, qualitative performance diagnosis searches and offers the application user possible causes of unexpected behavior. There are two dominant research paradigms in modern western scholarship, namely quantitative and qualitative research. Quantitative research, as the name implies, seeks verification of specific hypotheses through measurement of a unitary exterior reality (Yuniara et al., 2020). Qualitative research, on the other hand, allows for inferential interpretation of narratively constructed, plural and interior realities". Next, qualitative methods emphasize aspect of meaning, process and context: the 'why' and the 'how', rather than 'how many'.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Thematic Progression Pattern in Most Read Section, BBC Online News and the level of coherence

Article 1: Dover Banksy mural shows star chiselled off EU flag

This article reported about an artwork of graffiti that a mural of workman removing a star from EU flag, but it has been confirmed that the artwork is merely graffiti. Even though, some netizen thought that it was mean of something will be happened to EU. This article showed that the topic is about politics and the genre of the text is report text. In this article contain of four indented paragraphs in this case, contain of more than clauses which made it possible to be analyzed.

Datum 1

A mural of a workman removing a star from the EU flag has been confirmed as the work of graffiti artist Banksy. The artwork, which is near Dover's ferry terminal, appeared near the A20 in Kent on Sunday morning.

Theme	Rheme
A mural of a workman removing a star from the EU flag	has been confirmed as the work of graffiti artist Banksy.
The artwork	which is near Dover's ferry terminal, appeared near the A20 in Kent on Sunday morning.

The pattern of this paragraph in the first article is Zig-zag/Linear theme, because the second theme which is “*The artwork* “ taken from the first rheme which is “*The work of graffiti*”. In the first theme is “*A mural of a workman removing a star from the EU flag*” because that is the beginning of the clause and what the clause about. The second theme got from the previous rheme which is “ *the work of graffiti*” , the word “*the artwork*” is correlated with the “*the work of graffiti*”.

Article 2: Cloned cars sold in Greater Manchester eBay scam

This article reported about a criminal happened in online market, Ebay. The criminals used fake account and picture of car in Ebay and sold the car with very cheap price. There were some victims that reported this case to the police and it still on investigation. After reading the article, the writer noticed that the topic of this article is about criminal and the genre of this article is report text. This article contain of four indented paragraphs, The pattern of each paragraph that contain pattern are presented below;

Datum 2

Criminals are using eBay to sell stolen and cloned cars, a BBC investigation has revealed. The vehicles were being sold in Greater Manchester via at least three accounts after having their details switched with legitimate cars.

Theme	Rheme
Criminals	are using eBay to sell stolen and cloned cars , a BBC investigation has revealed.
The vehicles	were being sold in Greater Manchester via at least three accounts after having their details switched with legitimate cars.

This paragraph use Zig-zag/Linear, because the second theme which is “*stolen and cloned cars*” in line with the first rheme which is “*The vehicles*”. The first theme is “*criminals*” which come in the beginning of the clause. The second theme “*The vehicles*” is referring to the words “*Stolen and cloned cars*” in the first rheme, so the word “*the vehicle*” and “*stolen and cloned cars*” is actually connected. Even though, there is coma after *stolen and cloned cars*, but the word *a BBC investigation*, still include to the rheme, not forming new pattern.

Article 3: Emmanuel Macron defeats Le Pen to become French president

This article reported about Emmanuel Macrone’s won as French president and defeated his rival Le Pen. May of his supporters congrated him for his win in that election. This article showed that it has politics as its topic and the genre of this article is report text. This article contain of four indented paragraph. The pattern of this article is presented below;

Datum 3

Centrist candidate Emmanuel Macron has decisively won the French presidential election, defeating far-right candidate Marine Le Pen. Mr Macron won by 66.06% to 33.94% to become, at 39, the country's youngest president.

Theme	Rheme
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Centrist candidate, has decisively won the French presidential election, defeating
Emmanuel Macron far-right candidate Marine Le Pen.

Mr Macron won by 66.06% to 33.94% to become, at 39, the country's youngest president.

The first paragraph in the third article is applying constant theme, because the second theme which is “*Mr Macron*” in line with the first theme which is “*Centrist candidate, Emmanuel Macron*”. The first theme “*Emmanuel Macron*” is repeated in the second theme into “*Mr. Macron*”.

CONCLUSION

The result of the analysis, in general, BBC used thematic progression almost in all their articles and the level of the coherence are some good level and some fair. Hence, there are two out of nine articles did not have any of thematic progression and there is one article which not applied report text genre. The focus of the writer is to the article which contain indented paragraph with more than two clauses as the requirement in analyzing the thematic progression and the article that has report text as its genre. Therefore, the writer only found 3 articles that meet the criteria of this research.

In the article 1, there is indented paragraphs that possible to be analyzed, but there are only two paragraphs out of five that have thematic progression pattern, because the other two pattern did not apply any thematic progression. It is in the first and second paragraph only apply the pattern. The patterns applied on the paragraphs are zig-zag pattern.

In the article 2, there is indented paragraphs that have been analyzed, but, in fact, from those five paragraphs there are three paragraphs that have thematic progression pattern, two paragraphs did not have thematic progression pattern of paltridge which as the main guideline of the finding. The pattern that used on those three paragraphs are two zig-zag pattern and one constant pattern.

In the article 3, there is indented paragraphs and all the paragraphs have thematic progression pattern. The pattern used also the same in all paragraphs, which are constant theme pattern.

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