

# THE FINDING OF THEME AND RHEME TYPE IN THE JAKARTA POST ARTICLE

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## Abstract

In finding out the meaning of language, people should know how to understand the language whether by context or text. In Functional Linguistic, one of ways to find the text meaning can use the theme and rheme analysis. The theme and rheme analysis focus on the message of clause in the text. Theme is the main idea from the clause and rheme is the rest of clause that explain the main theme. Based on Gerot and Wignell, 1994 cited in (Puspa, 2016) Theme is, broadly speaking, what the clause is going to be about. The rest of the clause is called the Rheme. In other word, theme represents the idea represented by the constituent at the starting point of the clause and Rheme represents the rest of message. The researchers decided to analysis the use of theme and rheme in The Jakarta Post article to find out the type of theme and rheme analysis connecting one clause to another. The methodology that uses in this research is qualitative descriptive and data collected with analysis the text. The conclusion of this research is that most of the themes used in this text are topical themes

**Keywords:** Clause, Functional Linguistics, Theme and Rheme

## INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, the aspect of language is always improving to be more complex than before. Grammar is one of aspect of language improving to be more complex. In past we just know that traditional grammar that is talk about true or false. Now traditional grammar be improved be functional grammar according to (Gerot & Wignell, 1995) functional grammar that is grammar that view language as a resource for making meaning. To find out the meaning in one text, we as the reader can use several methods such as trying meaning by finding contextual meaning using pragmatics or analysis the clause. The analysis between one clause to another clause can be analyzed uses the theme and rheme analysis.

### Systemic Functional Linguistic

Systemic functional linguistics (SFL) provides a social semiotic theory of meaning making, learning, and social change. First developed in the 1960s, Systemic Functional Linguistics is a social theory of language use structured to make simultaneously three kinds of meanings, specifically ideational, interpersonal, and textual (Halliday, 1985 cited in Jomaa & Bidin, 2019). SFL is also defined as an approach that refers to the idea in which a language formed by a series of system in which the speaker or the writer has unlimited choice of ways in creating meaning (Yusuf, 2014). Based on the statement, it can be concluded that systemic functional linguistics is a collection of linguistic theories that discuss how language is used in various contexts.

### Theme and Rheme

According to Haliday (2004), cited in (Puspa, 2016), there are three kinds of meaning in the clause: 1) The Theme has a function as a message in a clause structure. A clause has meaning

as a message, a quantum of information; the Theme is the point of departure for the message. It is the element the speaker selects for prepare what he is going to say; 2) The Subject has a function as exchange in the structure of the clause. A clause has meaning as an exchange, a transaction between speaker and listener; the subject is the guarantee of the exchange. This is the element that makes the person in charge responsible for the truth of what they say; 3) The Actor functions in the structure of the clause as representation. A clause has meaning as a representation of several processes in continuous human experience; the actor is the active participant in that process. It is the element that speaker portrays the one that does the deed.

The topical theme is a description of the situation that is being experienced by the author, the first element in the clause that expresses some kind of “representational meaning” (Martin, Matthiessen & Painter, cited in (Emilia, 2014)). The theme of a clause ends with the first constituent related with transitivity function: participant or subject, circumstance adjunct or complement, process or function (Halliday, 2014). Topical theme is a theme that represents the meaning that is in the topic to be discussed. In addition, there are also interpersonal themes that are themes that want to be expressed from the person of the speaker, The interpersonal theme is the interpersonal part of the theme and it is often used to indicate the writer’s or speaker’s personal judgment on the meaning (William, 1993, cited Emilia, 2014). This is also the personality of the speakers. The textual themes are elements “ which do not express any interpersonal or experiential meaning, but which are doing important cohesive work in relating the clause to its context” (Eggins, 1994, cited in (Emilia, 2014)). It can also be interpreted as to where the theme covered by the speaker in accordance to the context will discuss it also aims to keep the text in the context that will be discussed.

In this research, the researchers focus on the first point of Halliday in usage of theme and rheme for analysis in text Jakarta post article entitled “Natural disasters loom large in Sulawesi”. The analysis in this research is analyzing the type of theme that uses in-text Jakarta post article “Natural disasters loom large in Sulawesi” related to several types of themes that will explain deeply are textual, interpersonal, and topical.

## METHOD

Data that collected by analysis the text news from Jakarta post article on Friday January 27, 2017 entitled “Natural disasters loom large in Sulawesi.” Methodology used in this research for processing the data was qualitative descriptive. Qualitative research is mostly associated with words, language and experiences rather than measurements, statistics and numerical figures, and the descriptive research according to (Gerot & Wignell, 1995) Descriptive research refers to research studies that have as their main objective the accurate portrayal of the characteristics of persons, situations or groups. The design of research for collecting the data is quasi-experimental. After determining the clause used to analysis clause use theme and rheme approach, they tried to classify the clause into the type of theme and rheme. To describe the result of data analysis, the researchers use descriptive.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

Based on the the text, there was several claused could be analysed using theme and rheme approach. The data will explain based on the clause to determine the type of theme.

*1. Natural disasters are looming large in some parts of Sulawesi, as floods have inundated hundreds of houses in Gorontalo and landslides have hit North Sulawesi.*

In that sentence is have two clauses, first clause :

**Natural disasters** are looming large in some parts of Sulawesi

Theme topical	Rheme
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Second clause :

**as floods** have inundated hundreds of houses in Gorontalo and landslides have hit North Sulawesi.

Theme topical	Rheme
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2. *The number of districts hit by flooding has continued to increase in North Gorontalo regency, Gorontalo province, with almost 500 houses in seven districts inundated as of Friday.*

From that sentence have two clause, first clause :

**The number** of districts hit by flooding has continued to increase in North Gorontalo regency, Gorontalo province

Theme topical	Rheme
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Second clause :

**almost 500 houses** in seven districts inundated as of Friday.

Theme topical	Rheme
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3. *“The houses (topical theme) are swamped by 30 to 80 centimeters [of water],” the North Gorontalo Disaster Mitigation Agency’s (BPBD) (interpersonal) emergency section head Nurdin Humolungo told kompas.com*

From that sentence hadtwo clauses, first clause :

**The houses** are swamped by 30 to 80 centimeters [of water],

Theme topical	Rheme
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Second clause :

**the North Gorontalo Disaster Mitigation Agency’s (BPBD)** emergency section head Nurdin Humolungo told kompas.com

Theme topical	Rheme
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4. *Nurdin (interpersonal) said the BPBD had encountered challenges such as landslides in Tolinggula district when (textual; subordination)distributing aid and evacuating victims from their homes amid flooding in the regency since Thursday.*

From that sentence have two clauses, first clause :

**Nurdin** said the BPBD had encountered challenges such as landslides in Tolinggula district

Theme topical (participant)	Rheme
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Second clause :

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**when** distributing aid and evacuating victims from their homes amid flooding in the regency since Thursday.

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Theme textual (conjunction)	Rheme
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5. *On Thursday (circumstance topical), landslides also hit Tambulinas, where (circumstance topical) a main road between Manado and Tomohon in North Sulawesi is located.*

These sentence just have clause because the theme in that sentence just theme topical (circumstance)

<b>On Thursday</b>	landslides also hit Tambulinas, where a main road between Manado and Tomohon in North Sulawesi is located.
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Theme topical (circumstance)	Rheme
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6. *Some 40 meters of the road is blocked by stones, soil and bamboo. We (participant) are still waiting for two excavators to clear the road of big stones," Tomohon BPBD head Robby Kalangi (participant) said on Friday.*

From that sentence, It had two clauses, first clause :

<b>Some 40 meters</b>	of the road is blocked by stones, soil and bamboo.
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Theme topical (circumstance)	Rheme
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First clause :

<b>We</b>	are still waiting for two excavators to clear the road of big stones
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Theme topical (participant)	Rheme
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Second clause :

<b>Tomohon BPBD</b>	head Robby Kalangi said on Friday.
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Theme topical (participant)	Rheme
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7. *The Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) has issued (topical) early warnings for several cities and districts in North Sulawesi on expected heavy rains and landslides. Bad weather (circumstance topical) is expected to hit North Sulawesi until February.*

From that sentence, It had two clauses, first clause:

<b>The Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG)</b>	has issued early warnings for several cities
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Theme topical (participant)	Rheme
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Second clause :

<b>Districts</b>	in North Sulawesi on expected heavy rains and landslides
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Theme topical (participant)	Rheme
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8. *Meanwhile, the Central Sulawesi BPBD also urged residents to remain on alert regarding extreme weather that was expected to hit the province.*

This sentence just had one clause :

**Meanwhile, the Central Sulawesi BPBD** also urged residents to remain on alert regarding extreme weather that was expected to hit the province.

Theme Topical (participant )	Rheme
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9. *Floods (participant ) have also hit the northern part of Central Sulawesi, Antara news agency(participant) reported.*

From that sentence, It had two clauses, first clause :

<b>Floods</b>	have also hit the northern part of Central Sulawesi
Theme topical (participant )	Rheme

Second clause :

<b>Antara</b>	news agency reported
Theme topical (participant )	Rheme

### Discussion

Based on the data1, First and second clause is use topical theme, first talk about natural disaster as the main idea and the second talk flood as the main idea, this sentence is cohesion, in other word first clause and second clause is cohesion, because first clause and second clause talk about same case and kind of disaster of main idea of first clause as flood. In data two, First clause and second clause in that sentence is using theme topical on their clause. From clause one reader can know how many district that hit by flood and second clause use ‘500 houses’ as the theme that indicate and inform the reader thing that hit by flood in the district that explain in first clause is houses and number of houses is 500. In data three, in this sentence reader can know the theme that uses is topical theme, because the house and the North Gorontalo Disaster mitigation agency’s (BPBD) is kind of noun and their as the subject. the previous sentence the theme is house and in this sentence the theme on the first clause is house too. In data four, the sentence has two clause first clause has ‘Nurdin’ as theme (topical) and second clause has ‘when’ as the theme (textual), first and second clause has different kind of theme, meaning that can get by the reader from the first clause is theme “Nurdin’ said something about condition in tolinggula, and theme ‘when ‘ followed the first clause and meaning that can get from second clause is that condition that show in first clause is happen in time or in process that explain on second clause. In data five, the analysis shows theme that use in this sentence is word “on Thursday” is adverb of time based on theory on introduction that word is belong to topical theme (circumstance) and rheme is the rest after theme. It divided into two sentences. In the first sentence, sentence number 1 that appears in table above have theme topical (circumstance) and the rest is rheme. This sentence has cohesion with previous sentence, meaning that make by cohesion is in previous sentence reader can find word “ main road between...” the condition that happen in the main road on previous sentence is explained in this sentence. Meanwhile in second sentence, has two clause. First clause has theme topical “we” and the second clause have theme topical “tomohon BPBD head robby kalangi” and the rest of the clause, on first and second is rheme. The clause of sentence two has cohesion that is condition of the main road and hope from BPBD and the cohesion all of that with second clause of sentence two is, all of condition and hope said by Robby kalangi that explained in second clause. in data six, there

consisted two clauses. The first clause is has theme topical “BMKG” and the rest of the clause is call rheme. This clause is not has cohesion with previous clause on previous sentence. Second clause : In second clause on first sentence has theme topical “district” and, this clause has cohesion with previous clause and make previous clause be have cohesion with this clause. Moreover, in the second clause, it has theme topical “bad weather” and the rest of the clause is call rheme. This clause has cohesion with previous clause and also has cohesion between this sentence with previous sentence. All the data is similar with the theory used in reserach. Haliday (2004), cited in (Puspa, 2016), there are three kinds of meaning in the clause: 1) The Theme has a function as a message in a clause structure. A clause has meaning as a message, a quantum of information; the Theme is the point of departure for the message. It is the element the speaker selects for prepare what he is going to say; 2) The Subject has a function as exchange in the structure of the clause. A clause has meaning as an exchange, a transaction between speaker and listener; the subject is the guarantee of the exchange. This is the element that makes the person in charge responsible for the truth of what they say; 3) The Actor functions in the structure of the clause as representation.

## CONCLUSION

From the data, it shows the type of theme that commonly used is theme of topical second is textual, and no theme interpersonal, and the second one sentence with other sentence or one clause with other clause is cohesion and reader can take same meaning that text talk about natural disaster flood, so the text is cohesion.

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