



Thematic and Informational Structure in English Journalistic Discourse

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Abstract

Theme is the point of departure of a clause. The organization of sentence has two parts theme and rheme. The theme typically contains familiar known or given information , and frequently serves to present given information. Rheme is the rest of the message , so rheme contains new information. The present study investigates thematic and informational structure in journalistic discourse headline and text in nominalization , nominal group, and passivation. The journalistic discourse consists mainly of declarative sentences to avoid breaks. The word order of thematic element patterns and their organization occur according to the term of markedness , unmarked and marked themes. The sentence elements in thematic position attract the readers' attention as noted by Halliday (2014). The data of the study have been taken from varied English newspaper, magazine and journals. The models are Halliday's (1985,2014) functional grammar and Paltridge's thematic progressions (Zig-Zag , Continuous reiteration , C gap , C type and multiple theme /split rheme).

البنية الثيماتيّة والمعلوماتية في الخطاب الصحفي الانكليزي*

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المستخلص

تهدف الدراسة الحالية الى معرفة البنية الثيماتيّة والمعلوماتية في الصحافة الانكليزية اذ الثيم يعمل مع المعلومات المعروفة والريم تعمل مع المعلومات الجديدة . الثيم هو عنصر الذي يعد نقطة انطلاق في سياق الجملة والريم جزءاً مكملاً ومتطوراً في الجملة . هذه الدراسة توضح تراكيب الثيم في عناوين ونصوص الاخبار الصحفية العبارة الاسمية والمبني للمجهول. تنظيم الثيم يكون على جملتين : جملة مألوفة وجملة غير مألوفة كأنماط الثيم لذلك مؤلف الصحف يختار عناصر الثيم في بداية الجملة لجذب انتباه القراء الى ما يعده مهماً وموضوع اخبار . هذا البحث يستخدم نموذجين في تقارير الصحف الإنكليزية . النموذج الاول هو نموذج هاليدي في النحو الوظيفي ، والنموذج الثاني هو نموذج بالترج في انطلاق وتسلسل الجمل في نصوص الصحافة على كافة انواعها : الجدلية ، العلوم التفسيرية والنصوص الإخبارية التحريرية ، على مستويين: مستوى أدنى وهي الكلمات والجمل ، ومستوى أعلى هي القطع الإنشائية .

1. The Concepts of Theme and Rheme in Hallidayian Tradition:

The organization of the sentence is into two parts theme and rheme. Theme can be recognized by the fact that it is put in the first position (Halliday 1985,p.38). The theme typically contains known or given information. Theme is defined by Halliday (Ibid. :39) as (point of departure of a sentence) and in (2014;p.89) as (the point of departure of the message), and frequently serves to present (given information). Rheme is the remainder of the message. Theme is the starting point and rheme is the development of the message, so rheme contains new information. Halliday defines theme as the element that serves as the point of departure of the message.(Ibid. :83). It refers to the starting point of a message(Ibid.:89).

(*)مسئل من رسالة ماجستير الباحث الاول.



The topic theme has two kinds ; unmarked theme is the subject and marked theme does not coincide with the subject of the sentence,(Halliday, 1985,2004). Marked themes can be realised by circumstance , participant or process. Marked theme can be realized by adjunct ; adverbial group as in " Today " or prepositional phrase as in "Around the town" and also adverb of manner" with sobs and tears" or "with ships continually at sea", (Halliday, 1994:53).

2.Thematic and Informational Structure in English

Halliday considers the information structure a feature of context . The reason is that the notion of given and new information can only be determined by the context of the situation. Unlike the Prague school approach which analyses theme and rheme at the functional level of syntax and as a feature of the language system . According to Halliday (1967), the functions of theme and rheme are distinct from those of given and new information . Unlike the Prague school approach , the Hallidayian approach considers the two structures , the thematic and the informative structures as separate and hence the term of the splitting approach is used to describe his method of analysis. In English ,theme-rheme allocation can be marked by the co-occurrence the respective Subject or Object noun phrase with a definite or indefinite article(C. James,1980:112) e.g :

- The Philippine Embassy issued a statement.

Fries(1981) goes on saying that the feature (aboutness) is always part of the theme , that is the topic of the clause . So the two are separate features. Halliday (1993:92) approaches language from a social perspective, moving from thematic Given to a rhematic New allows a " movement in time " which construes iconically the flow of information in two points:

1- The combined function of theme and givenness.

2- The separated function of theme and notion of aboutness.



The notions of theme and rheme are context –dependent and context – independent elements .The " About-context " test was developed by Reinhart (1982) (e.g Mistrick ,1985) (Brown and Yule 1983).

According to Bloor & Bloor(cited in Wang ,2007:167), the problem of new theme which puts new information in theme position. It means that there will be new theme that does not connect to the previous theme-rheme and it is applicable to initial sentence in first paragraph of the text .Indefinite article(a/an) is used here. The example of first paragraph that has brand new theme:

New Theme

Rheme

- A strong earthquake struck on Thursday near the border of

Given Theme

Rheme

Thailand and Laos , the quake was felt across northern Thailand and by people in tall buildings as far away as the capital.

New theme Rheme

-Exams are tests of memories , working under pressure , not ability ...
(Wang 2007, 175).

As for Halliday &Matthiessen(2004:39-54), the theoretical link between theme and aboutness is loosened and theme is redefined as that which locates and orients the clause within its context (2004:64). Thomas (1991:253) claims that in unmarked sentence the grammatical subject is generally conveyed through aboutness.

Eyvazli (2015:144) states that the article describes the definiteness in the theme. theme is usually the subject and (in)definiteness is employed as an independent information structure used by speakers or Writers to express their intention.

Definiteness means the status of the information , such as definite article , the demonstration, the possessive adjectives pronouns , personal pronouns and proper nouns as the indicators of the definiteness, while indefiniteness are indefinite articles , the indefinite pronouns are seen as the indefinite



indicators : someone , anyone, no one , somebody, anybody, and nobody. Givon (1995:74) comes to the conclusion that the stated grammatical themes are observed in the definiteness of the theme more than in the rheme. Prince(1992: 16) thinks that definiteness can be looked through as information status , or in line with the conception of linguistic forms. Basing on Prince, we can consider the following as the signs of definiteness and indefiniteness :

Definiteness

- 1-The definite article
- 2-The demonstration
- 3-Proper nouns
- 4-Personal pronouns
- 5-The possessive adjectives pronouns
- 6- Comparative pronouns

Indefiniteness

- 1- The indefinite article
- 2- The indefinite modifiers

The definiteness and indefiniteness are considered to grammaticize the discourse status in some cases , in this case the definiteness is characterized by discourse-known and the indefiniteness by discourse-new . Inside the category of discourse-known , the pronouns can be used in the role of the subject. The definite articles and the pronouns refer to the theme that are used in the theme position.

Zero article is used in uncountable noun or mass noun ,no number is shown about the usage frequency of the zero article in uncountable noun. e.g :

- Salt Lake is recognized as one of north America 's finest ski destinations and has been selected to host the 2002 Olympic Winter games.



- Blood plasma treatment trial begins in UK.
- Oil prices plunge again to lowest in 20 years.
- Gas prices are too low.

Halliday (2014:114) states that all deictic elements are characteristically thematic structure at three distinct places :

d¹ (predeictic) all , both, half.

d² (deictic) the, this , that, these , those, his, its , John 's , mother 's , my , a , some , any, few, little , many, much, each, another, no, neither, every , several .

d³ (post- deictic) other, same.

The nature of the deictic is determined by the system of determination, the nominal group begins with the deictic, so the principle which puts the theme first in the clause is the same as that which puts the deictic first in the nominal group.

Table (1) Nominal Group

Modifier					head	Postmodifier
The	two	splendid	old	electric	train	with pantograph
deictic	numerative	epithet1	epithet2	classifier	noun	qualifier
determiner	numeral	adjective	adjective	adjective/noun		
		opinion	fact			

In term of uniqueness , Hewings (2002: 114) states that the definite article is used when there is only one of something such as : the sun , the moon , the earth , the universe , the world and the North Pole, e.g:

- The earth goes round the sun and the moon goes round the earth.
- There are millions of stars in the universe.
- Compasses point to the North Pole.

3.Thematic Organization in English language

Topical theme is the element(s) which occurs in initial position of the clause (Halliday, 1985,p.54). The system of theme in clause structure allows different constituents of a clause or a sentence e.g (subject ,predicator ,complement , and adjunct) SPCA , it is the obligatory thematic element that is assigned a transitivity role of (circumstance , participant or process) , and the element adjunct is realized by adverbial group (adverb, prepositional phrase). Halliday (1985,P.54) categorized themes as the elements which occur in initial position of the clause into marked and unmarked themes .Muir (1972:p.100) also divided them into the following :

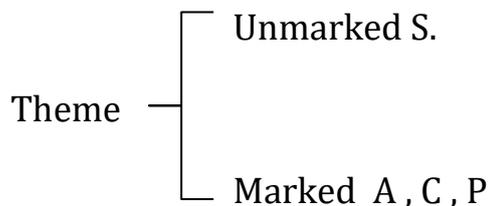


Figure. (1) Topical Theme

3.1 Marked Theme : are elements which occur in initial position in the clause ,(circumstance, participant and process) (Halliday 2014) .The most common form of marked theme is an adverbial group or prepositional phrase functioning as (adjunct). Marked theme is widely used in weather conditions and hard news , for example:

Marked theme

- On Friday the storm will hit Sweden.

Marked theme

- Worldwide , the pace of new infection is still climbing with over 100,000.

The least likely is a complement (participant),that is a nominal group which is not a subject ,and thematic selection is in terms of transitivity (Muir 1972,p.54-58). The element (C) complement is realized by nominal group either noun-headed nominal group with extensive verb or adjective-headed nominal group with intensive verb ,for example:

C

- Freezing cold it was.

C

- This inventory he afterwards translated into English.

3.2 Unmarked Theme: The only element of unmarked theme is the subject in a declarative clause, The subject is realized by nominal groups, proper noun, common noun ,pronoun, inanimate , instrument , entity and abstract (N.Bowen,2004: 8) and the prop subject (it) occurs mostly in clauses concerning time or weather (Quirk et al 1972:354), e.g:

Unmarked theme

- It is raining this morning .

Unmarked theme

- The COVID-19 outbreak is a global tragedy.

Unmarked theme

- The power of the Sun could slow coronavirus.

Topical Theme has a function in transitivity between two elements (S and C). It is also referred to by Halliday & Matthiessen (2004:81) as experiential theme that always contains one and only one experiential element. The participants' roles are related to the transitivity system and process involved (Halliday & Mathiessen ,2004, p.181):

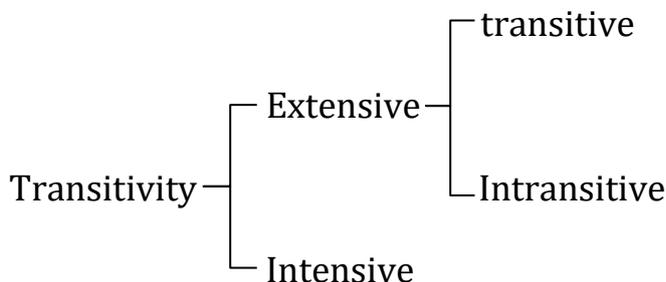


Figure (2) Transitivity System

For example, transitive(material process) :

- Dr. Sanofi used anti-malaria treatment for COVID-19.



Actor	Goal
- <u>Her abduction</u>	<u>prompted</u> <u>alarm among Iraqi activists.</u>
Actor	Scope process Abstract Goal

Dickins et al. (2002:119) state that theme-rheme structure is not subject and object or predicator. Halliday (2014) classified the category meaning of processes. In English , there are four principal types of verbs and consequently four different types of processes that a sentence can use. First, material process which can be divided into transitive actions involving two or more participants, the actor and goal are in material process of action or scope process for abstract goal , and the intransitive action with only one participant. Second , mental processes such as thinking . Third , rational processes of being , such as "have" ,"been" and "be" which involve an agent and an attribute or circumstance . Fourth , Sayer/ Target in verbal processes.

4.Passivation

Halliday (2014,p.80) remarks that actives and passives are the kinds of variation that occur in the subject position ,in which the order of elements can vary ; passives can occur as well as actives in the same position (Grammatical Subject). Li and Thompson,(1976,p.465) state that other grammatical characteristics are also observed as related to subject-prominence as in the passive construction, since passive involves non-agentive subject which is closely linked to the obligatory appearance in the subject position of a sentence (James ,1980,p.111). Passivisation is the basic function of the passive transformation which is divided into two semantic categories Agent and Goal :

i- The pandemic Coronavirus have changed lifestyles.

Agent	V active	Goal
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ii-Lifestyles have been changed by the pandemic Coronavirus

Goal	V passive	Actor
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Halliday (2014,p.79) distinguishes three different kinds of subject : psychological Subject ,grammatical Subject ,and logical Subjects:



(i) Psychological Subject : is that which is the concern of the message, it was called psychological, because it was what the speaker had in his mind to start with, he used theme for Psychological Subject.

(ii) Grammatical Subject : is that of which something is predicated , the construction of (Subject +predicate).

(iii) Logical subject is ' the doer of the action '.

Table (2) Kinds of Subjects

Police	use tear gas on Hong Kong
Psychological subject Grammatical subject Logical subject	

The same item is functioning as psychological ,grammatical and logical subject

In the example below ,on the other hand :

1-the psychological subject is the concern of the message that the speaker had in his mind to start with in initial position. (theme)

2- the grammatical subject is the case of the noun or pronoun in subject position that functions as subject and the verb is determined by grammatical structure of active or passive voice of the verb phrase.

3-the logical subject is the actor (the doer of the action) the one who is said to have carried out the process that the clause represents. This is clear where the Agent (the doer of the action) is explicitly mentioned in a propositional phrase with ' by' ,since in these cases both potential subjects are present.

Table (3) Psychological ,Grammatical and Logical Subjects realized by different items.

Theme	Subject		Actor
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Psychological Subject	Grammatical Subject		Logical Subject
Death rates	Per100,000 population	categorised	by NHS England

In clauses of this type , the functions of psychological ,grammatical and logical subjects all coincide.

Psychological Subject: Theme

Grammatical Subject :Subject

Logical Subject : Actor

5.Thematic Structure in Journalistic Discourse

Van Dijk (1988:143) proposes that a journalist usually performs creativeness with headlines to express his philosophical vision related to the news story and what he wants to deliver because a headline is expected to be brief, appealing ,and attractive .The headlines use the present tense to describe events that have already happened (Baskette,1982:72).The readers mostly recite and remember just the headline from the text of news story. Hard news is presented as narratives in typical journalistic structure (Boyd,2014,p.4) :

- a. Headline (sub-headline).
- b. Lead sentence or paragraph.
- c. main body.

Headline plus lead paragraph in journalistic discourse can be considered prototypical, which is a relatively short , News writing facilitates various ideologies through using headlines , lead and the body of report .

5.1 Some Characteristics of Headline :

Journalistic headline is characterized by certain features , among which are the following :



1-Grammatical Simplifications : are represented by telegraphic forms of language in which the closed-class word or function words are omitted wherever possible such as: articles, demonstratives, and copular/auxiliary verbs , in certain style titles or headlines where messages must be reduced to the essentials (Akmajian, 2005:24) , e.g :

- Hotel collapses after magnitude 6.5 earthquake hits Philippines
- Two trains collide in Telangana.
- Strong quake shakes southern Philippines , one killed.

2-Block Language : It appears in such functions as labels , titles , headings, notices, and advertisements. Simple block-language messages most often consist of a noun or noun phrase or nominal clause in isolation with no verb needed because all else necessary to the understanding of the message is furnished by context (Quirk et al 1972:414). These points can be summarized as follows:

- 1- Reporters should use strong verbs and avoid using forms of the (verb to be) when a strong verb better expresses the meaning. Articles are often omitted because they are not considered strong (Mardh, 1980), The complete sentence style is similar to general writing but omits articles , whereas the incomplete sentence style omits the verb 'to be' (Laumsupanimit, 1986:55). One should avoid using parts of weak verb " to be" or " to have " as the main verb in the headline. The verb " to be" or "to have " are not needed even as auxiliaries. (Baskette, 1982:73),e.g:

- Election a landslide for socialists.(S.Cs)
- Share prices now higher than ever .(S.A.Cs)
- Lung Cancer in Women Mushrooms (S. A.)

- 2- Sentences are normally in the passive voice , continuous tense with adjective and prepositional phrases. The (verb to be) is often dropped.(Laumsupanimit, 1986:56),e.g:

- Italy's large elderly population bearing brunt of coronavirus .
- Three killed in Algeria bus collision.



- Iran freeing 70,000 over virus ' too little , too late.
- Legal uncertainty about cancelling leaving Certificate .

3- Reporters use the form of to + verb in the future event (Bowles &Borden , 2008: 183), e.g:

- Virgin Atlantic to seek bailout in coming days
- Pakistan unlikely to be out of FATF's Grey List Next Month.

4- Headlines should be written in the present tense or future tense (Leiter et al ,2000:10)(S.V.O), (S.V.O.A) and (S.V.A) for example:

- Canada Backs \$ 75 bn coronavirus relief bill. (S.V.O)
- Gold price may fall another 8 per cent. (S.V.O)
- Severe storms hit region. (S.V.O)
- Sunlight destroys Covid-19 quickly . (S.V.O.A)
- Train collision kills 20 in Pakistan. (S.V.O.A)
- Coastal communities will be washed away by rising seas. (S.V.A)

3- Nominalization: It is the use of noun phrases that are also used to emphasize the importance of a particular noun. (Bowles &Borden , 2008: 183), nominalization is a rendering of the content of a verb in the form of a noun and the deleted participants at any indication of time have no verb or no tense (Fowler,1985:71)e.g:

- Tracking the True Toll of the Coronavirus Crisis
- The killing of a Palestinian child.

4- Passivation : It is the action undergone by the subject of the passive which is more often adverse than beneficial, such as (arrested, abused , fined , fired , beaten up, burgled , kidnapped , killed , mugged sacked , shot, vandalized) and many more, e.g:

- Seven people arrested over Easter.
- German national kidnapped in central Baghdad.
- Four killed ,30 injured in boiler explosion in Jhajjar.
- Two Officers shot while serving arrest warrant .



- At least one killed , several injured in US mass shooting.
- Six killed in Germany shooting , suspect arrested.

5.2 Lead theory

Dijk (1988 b) proposed that the introduction of the news story is presented in the first sentence of the news story known as the lead, lead sentence or paragraph which contains the descriptions in the headline , information that proposed view of the news story details presented in the body. (Cutlip& Allen ,1971:69)Lead summarizes the entire news story in the first sentence as the opening of a news story and frequently it is only one paragraph long. e.g:

-Headline **Magnitude 5.7 Earthquake Hits Southeast Turkey**

Lead A magnitude 5.7 earthquake shook Southeast Turkey

-Headline **Skyway span collapses after fire erupts.**

Lead A fire erupted in a Manila warehouse on Saturday.

(Baskette F.k.1982:19) claimed that leads state facts and include :who, where ,when ,what ,why and sometimes how of the event or happening . William L.Rivers (1984:12) suggests that the initial sentence of the first paragraph or lead contained the gist of the news story. Lead provides the micro-story (Bell, 1991,p.170) which is the gist of the issues or events . It may include the 5Ws answer (when, where, who, what, why and how). One of the characteristics of the journalistic discourse is the existence of marked theme. McCabe (1999:180) found marked theme as peripheral theme . Peripheral theme is close to linear chains especially in English texts.

Peripheral theme falls into a separate group which does not fit into the thematic progression patterns (McCabe, 1999, pp. 180-189 cited in Jalilifar, 2009,pp.88-106).Here are some examples about peripheral theme:

UK Counterparts



(Peripheral marked theme)

Two years ago, New York worried that London was set to leave it behind, (Peripheral marked theme) today , it is the city that eyes Wall Street with creeping envy. (The Times: 9.9.2008)

5.3 Main Body : It is inverted- Pyramid structure . Martin (1992) called a title or headline 'a macro-theme ' at high level and the most important items of information in any newspaper report are presented at the top of the pyramid , while hyper-themes exist at paragraph level such as lead in the opening sentence of first paragraph and sequences of other paragraph of the text. This structure has implication on the (theme/rheme) structure of the journalistic text, thus creating hypertheme of a paragraph, (Boyd , 2013:4).

Van Dijk (1988 b) focuses on linguistic framework for the study of micro-linguistic structure (sound ,word , sentences ,and meaning) and talked about the semantic macro-structure or the hierarchical set of topics or macro-propositions forms (syntactic and semantic) that are the thematic or topical structure of the text including superficial sentence connecting device such as (pronouns , synonymy , antonymy, hyponymy, hyperonymy and conjunction) which are cohesion and coherence in news discourse. Macrostructures refer to the general topics or themes. They are about the semantic content of discourse and are governed by macro-rules which show how propositions in it are organized hierarchically from overall to specific ones forming a " thematic structure". These respectively refer to the linguistic devices for sentence connection , propositional coherence especially the one created by means of theme and rheme arrangements in the way thematic development in discourse affects information flow within and between sentences. Language users employ macro-proposition structure to summarize a text in newspaper expressed in the head line and the lead paragraph.

LOCAL STRUCTURE (Microstructures)

Sentence Structures (grammar)

Morphology

Relevance
Structure

For example :

T1 R1
Medicine is simply the refinement and repackaging of ancient remedies.

T2 R2
1061 remedies are currently being explored worldwide.

Fries (1981:4-9) hypothesises that One feature of Zig-zag correlation is dependent clause especially relative clause .Muir(1972:56) states that dependent clauses may be classified into relative clause . The relative clause or relative pronoun usually introduced by a subordinator i,e a " wh-word" or " that" (Jucker, 2004:107), for example:

T1 R1
Castro had appointed Che Guevara ,

T2 R2
Who supervised special tribunals

Zig-zag subordination

T3 R3
That judged many of the prisoners firing squads had shot a few hours earlier.

2- Continuous reiteration : Pair theme and rheme are in combination , and **continuous** reiteration is a static style of writing in theme position .

T1 → R1

T2 → R2 Continuous reiteration TP

T3 → R3

Figure (5) Continuous reiteration

According to T. Hawes(2008 :39), there are two continuous reiteration models which are C gap and C type as references and lexical strings interacting with theme as follows :

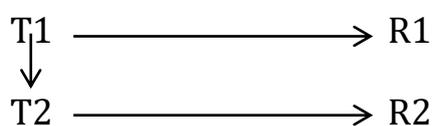


1- Continuous reiteration gap : Participant shift is the first lexical theme and its co-referent which require repetition in the following themes. It is a way of progression by alternating between referents , for example the two same themes are (Graham Taylor and he) . e.g:

England manager Graham Taylor was interviewed on TV for just 15 minutes after the match with Turkey , he could not explain why his team were so outshone. (The Sun ;18.10.2008).

Table (4) Continuous Reiteration C gap

Theme	Rheme
England manager Graham Taylor	was interviewed on TV for just 15 minutes after the match with Turkey
he	could not explain why his team were so outshone



Figure(6) based on Table (4) Continuous Reiteration C gap

2- Continuous reiteration type: Participant shift repeats the lexical item of theme and the lexis category of theme rather than the referent itself. The text organization leads to parallel phenomena , such as proper noun , common noun and semantic inferences of lexical item (synonymy , antonymy and hyponymy). For example :

New Jersey is flat along the coast and southern portion; the northwestern region is mountainous .The coastal climate is mild , but there is considerable cold in the mountain areas during the winter months . Summer is fairly hot. (The Cardiff Guide , Cardiff City Council)

Table (5) Continuous Reiteration C type

Theme	Rheme
New Jersey	is flat along the coast and southern portion
the northwestern region	is mountainous
The coastal climate	is mild
But there	is considerable cold in the mountain areas during the winter months .
Summer	is fairly hot

T1 → R1

T2 → R2

T3 → R3

T4 → R4

T5 → R5

Figure (7) based on Table (5) Continuous Reiteration C type

The frequent shift is from Continuous reiteration type progression to hypertheme progression , so hyperthemes are more abstract kinds of repetition of lexical chain , such as: synonymy , antonymy, hyponymy, hyperonymy and meronymy (Rosa et al,2017: 243).

Paltridge (2006) forms hierarchical relations of hypertheme or overall theme of a paragraph or text to the construction of theme with semantic implication or inference. Dubois (1987) raises direct point through semantic inference or semantic implication including relation obtained through hyponymy and hyperonymy and through associative relation.

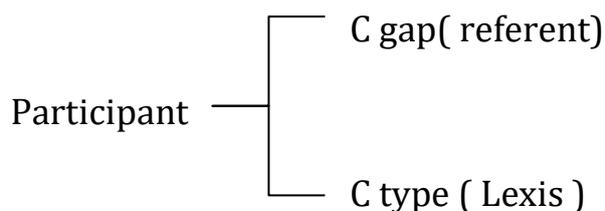
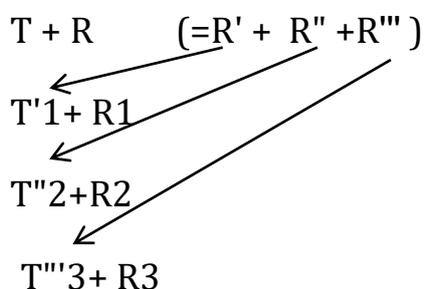


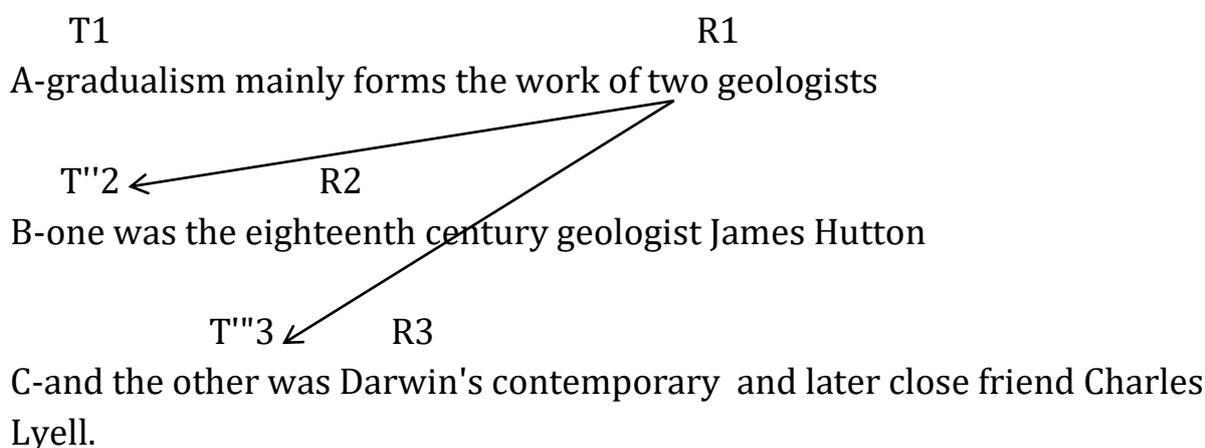
Figure (8) Two Continuous Reiteration Models



3-Split Rheme: gives rise to (pair.....triple...or more ..R'+R" +R''' + R''''') of thematic progression in various combinations. Downing (2015: 229-230) called the themes which connect to their immediately preceding T-unit and reintroduce meanings mentioned earlier in the essays as back themes with the exception of themes in split and summative progression



For example :



Martin (1985:97) studies the relationship between text organization patterns and register from point of view of TP. Thematic progression patterns form an analysis of scientific and other professional text : Zig-zag progressions occur frequently in expository text ,for example, in editorials (Francis 1989,Hawes 2010, Thomas 1996, Nwogu and Bloor.1991). Continuous reiteration progressions occur frequently in narratives , scientific texts , popular medical texts (Fries ,1995a; Wang,2007), and in



news stories (Francis ,1989, 1990.Gomez 1994) . Nwogu(1991) speaks of hypertheme of a paragraph in medical text.

7. Gaps and Breaks of Thematic Progression in Journalistic Discourse

According to T. Hawes (2015:97) gaps are non-participant theme in the TP as follows :

1- Thematic equatives : According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014 :95) thematic equative is called (pseudo-cleft) sentence. It is a clause that has a thematic nominalization expressed by the predicator (be) and identified as having thematic equatives .e.g:

-What happened was that Benjamin Lee Whorf picked up Boas' example and used it.

-What one will not learn is anything about the Enlightenment.

It is revealing to compare WH-clauses as themes with WH-interrogative clauses. In both WH-elements there is a gap, whereas in thematic equatives it is the speaker who completes the message by filling the gap, particularly in speech .The thematic equative seems to serve more as a way of staging the message splitting it into two chunks that the hearer will find easier to process in spoken discourse such as on television. These marked equatives often occur with pronouns (e.g. that) which refer back to what has been said in the immediately preceding message. Note that some very common expression have this marked thematic equative structure , including all those beginning with (that's what, That's why etc). e.g:

that 's why it is not allowed .

That 's what we thought .



2-Predicated theme: which is traditionally called (cleft sentence) but which Halliday and Matthiessen (2014:122) prefer to call predicated theme or grammatical themes where there is usually dummy subject (it, there), that is another thematizing structure which allows the speaker to pick out a single element and give it emphatic thematic status. e.g :

T R

-It 's not the technology which is wrong.

Thematized comment : other ways are similar to predicated theme, (it) acts as a place –holder for the subject of the predicator (be) in the first clause; the real subject is the second clause. e.g:

T R

-It may be that the news reporters are manipulating the truth for reasons of strikingness.

3-Existential theme : Subject that is so called structural dummy (e.g there in an existential clause) or grammatical theme . e.g :

T R

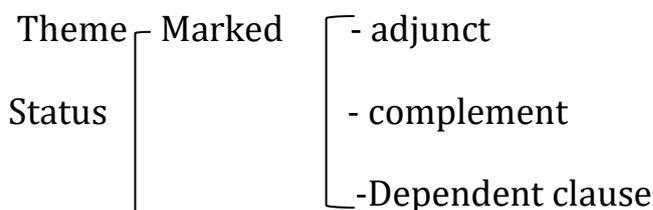
-There was another plane hijacked yesterday.

4-Proposed theme : One final thematizing structure is one in which speakers announce their theme as a separate constituent ,and then substitute a pronoun in the appropriate place in the following clause .e.g:

T R

-Happiness that is what life is about .

the gaps which occur in Brian Paltridge ' model TP are fronted extraposed element (it) , existential structure (there) , thematic equatives and WH-elements.



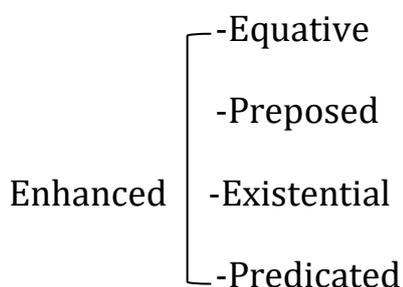


Figure (9) Theme Status (G. Thompson 2014:170)

According to T. Hawes (2010:6) breaks are non-participant theme, break is not human , animal, or any other entity and therefore could not be subject of a clause. These breaks are:

1-WH-interrogatives and polar -auxiliaries interrogatives (who, what, where, when ,How, why , etc).

2-Exclamative clauses : includes initial WH-words.

3-There and It predicates: called " dummy " elements that may be used to obscure transitivity relations.

4-Verb breaks: used in imperative clause.

5-Annex break: is the minimal clause with elided verb. i.e (Just freedom) for example :

All British need is a single law to allow businesses to open when they want , this is not revolution. Just freedom. (The Sun, 16.10.1991).

Table (6) Occurrence of Gaps and Breaks (T.Hawes ,2015)

Occurrence of gaps (non-participant themes)	Occurrence of breaks (non-participant themes)
1- Thematic equatives	1- WH-Questions words interrogatives
2- Preposed theme	2-polar -auxiliaries interrogatives



3- Existential there	3- Exclamative clauses
4- Predicated it	4- Verb breaks
	5- Annex break

8.Data Analysis:

The text has been analysed according to the two adopted models are Halliday's Functional Grammar (1994, 2004, 2014) and Paltridge's thematic Progressions(2006). The text is taken from Ashraq Al-Awsat newspaper , In terms of thematic progression patterns Paltridge(2006) pointed out that there are three main patterns namely : Zig-zag , Continuous reiteration , C gap , C type, and multiple theme /split rheme.

Text Analysis (1)

After George Floyd, Historical Figures Reassessed Around Globe

Friday , 12 June, 2020 – 09:30

The rapidly unfolding movement to pull down Confederate monuments around the US in the wake of George Floyd's death at the hands of police has extended to statues of slave traders ,imperialists , conquerors and explorers around the world including Christopher Columbus , Cecil Rhodes and Belgium's King Leopold II.

Statue of Christopher Columbus that drew chaotic protests in Chicago's Grant Park was taken down early Friday amid a plan by President Donald Trump to dispatch federal law enforcement agents to the city .

At the University of Oxford , protesters have stepped up their longtime push to remove a statue of Rhodes, the Victorian imperialist who served as prime minister of the Cape Colony in southern Africa. He made a fortune from gold and diamonds on the backs of miners who labored in brutal conditions.



In Bristol, England , demonstrators over the weekend toppled a statue of 17-century slave trader Edward Colston and threw it in the harbor. City authorities said it will be put in a museum, but it was unclear where the statue could be taken.

Across Belgium ,statues of Leopold II have been defaced in half a dozen cities because of the king's brutal rule over the Congo , where more than a century ago ,he forced multitudes into slavery to extract rubber, ivory and other resources for his own profit. Experts say he left as many as 10 million dead.

Discussion : Multiple Theme/ Split Rheme

Split Rheme is widely used in counting list . the headline is macro- theme with hypertheme in the text (coherence) , split rheme , continuous reiteration C gap , C type and zig-zag are used in this text.

Peripheral marked T

R New

After George Floyd, Historical Figures Reassessed Around Globe

-Headline T is peripheral marked T **After George Floyd** and **Historical Figures** is given information realised by (classifier adjective + plural) and it is macro-theme with hyper-theme which is synonymy or C type (coherence) (**Figures** = statues) , R is circumstance.

1-T1 Given

The rapidly unfolding movement to pull down Confederate monuments around the US in the wake of George Floyd's death at the



R1 New

hands of police has extended to statues of slave traders ,imperialists , conquerors and explorers around the world including Christopher Columbus , Cecil Rhodes and Belgium's King Leopold II.

T1 The rapidly unfolding movement is given information realised by nominalization , **R1** is realised by the plural without article.

2-T2 Given

Statue of Christopher Columbus that drew chaotic protests

R2 New

in Chicago's Grant Park was taken down early Friday amid a plan by President Donald Trump to dispatch federal law enforcement agents to the city.

T2 is given information realised by (proper noun + of-genitive) and it is agentless passive which is synonymy hyper-theme with macro-theme or C type (**coherence**) (statue = **Figures**), **R2** is circumstance.

3- Peripheral marked T3 Given

R3 New

At the University of Oxford , protesters have stepped up their longtime push to remove a statue of Rhodes, the Victorian imperialist

T3 is peripheral marked T **At the University of Oxford** and **protesters** is given information realised by the plural without article and it is synonymy hyper-theme (protesters =demonstrators) or C type (**coherence**), **R3** is circumstance.

4-T4 Given R4 New

Who served as prime minister of the Cape Colony in southern Africa.



T4 is given information realised by relative pronoun (**the Victorian imperialist Who**) or relative clause occurs in zig-zag subordination , **R4** is (common noun + of-genitive).

5-T5 Given R5 New

He made a fortune from gold and diamonds on the backs of miners who labored in brutal conditions.

T5 is given information realised by personal pronoun or C gap (**cohesion**) , **R5** is indefiniteness.

6- Peripheral marked T6 Given

R6 New

In Bristol, England , demonstrators over the weekend toppled a statue of 17-century slave trader Edward Colston and threw it in the harbor.

T6 is peripheral marked T **In Bristol, England** and **demonstrators** is given information realised by (the plural without article + qualifier) nominal group and it is synonymy hyper-theme (demonstrators = protesters) or C type (**coherence**) , **R6** is indefiniteness.

7-T7 Given R7 New

City authorities said it will be put in a museum,

T7 (sayer) is given information realised by (classifier noun + plural) , **R7** is target or reported clause with omitted (that).

T Given R New

it will be put in a museum

T is given information realised by non-personal pronoun or C gap (**cohesion**) and it is agentless passive , R is circumstance.

8- Gap T8 R8 New

but it was unclear where the statue could be taken.

T8 It was unclear where.... is gap because **It** is predicated theme or dummy subject , **R4** is a cleft sentence.



9- Peripheral marked Theme T9 Given

R9 New

Across Belgium ,statues of Leopold II have been defaced in half a dozen cities because of the king's brutal rule over the Congo , where more than a century ago

T9 is peripheral marked **T Across Belgium** and **statues** is given information realised by (proper noun + of-genitive) which is synonymy hyper-theme with macro-theme or C type (**coherence**) (statues= **Figures**), **R9** is realised by (predeictic + circumstance).

10-T10 Given R10 New

he forced multitudes into slavery to extract rubber, ivory and other resources for his own profit.

T10 is given information realised by personal pronoun or C gap (**cohesion**) , **R10** is the plural without article.

T11 Given R11 New

Experts say he left as many as 10 million dead.

T11 (sayer) is the plural without article, **R11 is** target or reported clause with omitted (that).

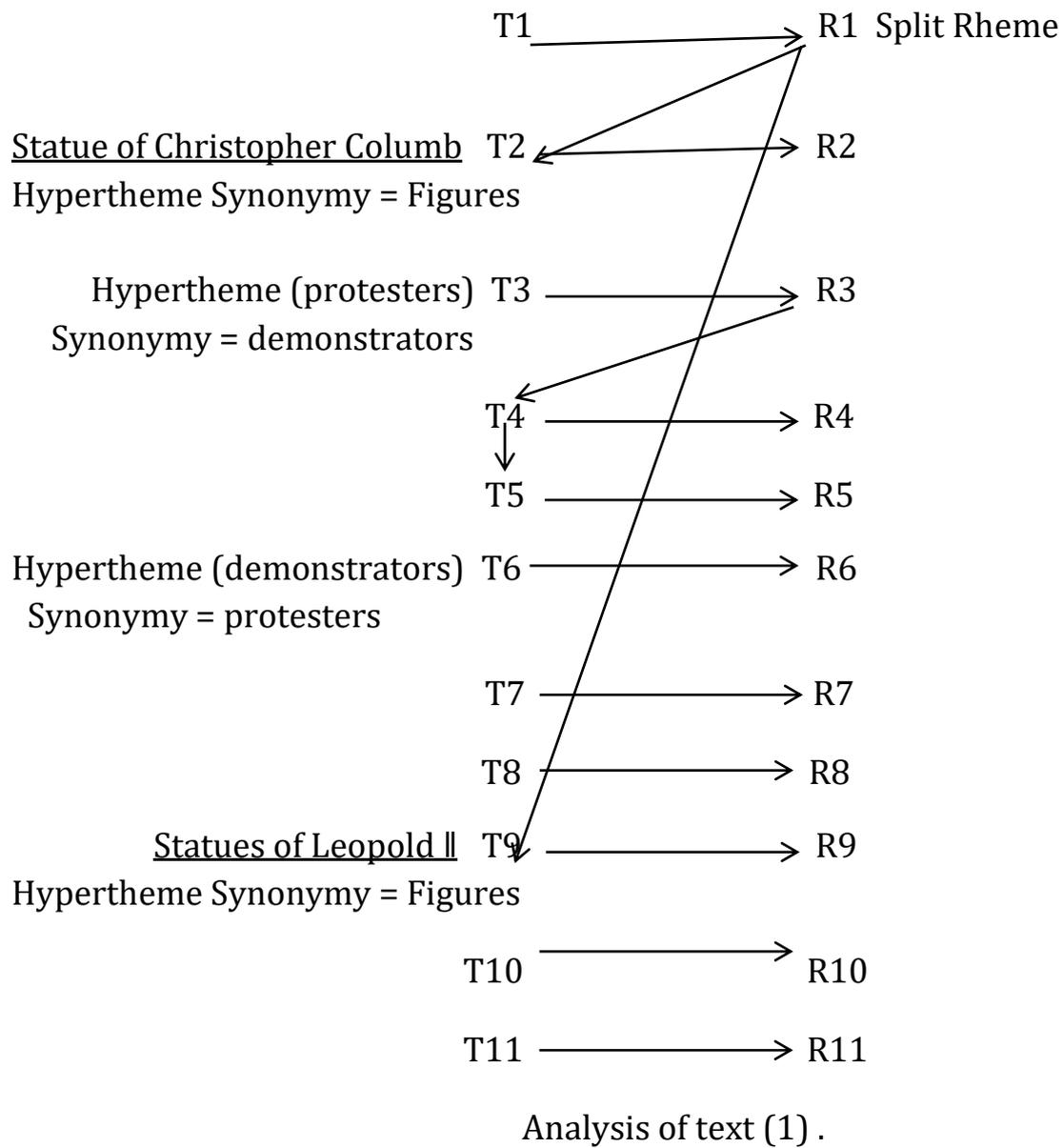
T Given R New

he left as many as 10 million dead.

T is given information realised by personal pronoun or C gap (cohesion), **R** is realised by (numeral + common noun).

Diagrammatically , : Zig-zag , Continuous reiteration , C gap , C type, and multiple theme /split rheme are presented as below :

Headline	Figures
Macro-theme	Synonymy = Statues



9. Conclusions

The study comes up with the following conclusions :



1-Theme and rheme structure is combined with given and new information as theme-given and rheme-new . Theme structure is usually definiteness whereas rheme is usually indefiniteness. Definiteness includes proper noun , common noun , personal pronoun , possessive pronoun , comparative pronoun and non-personal pronouns (It), all deictic elements are characteristically thematic structure and finally Zero article is used in mass noun and abstract noun.

2-New theme is indefinite article (a/an) which occurs only in Lead sentence of first paragraph and puts new information in theme position that is about-context or aboutness.

3- Unmarked theme coincides with subject in transitivity. Different nominal groups occupy in subject position giving the bundles of features : human agentive , inanimate instrument, entity or abstract. Active and passive or actor and goal are in oriented agent.

4-Marked theme elements are called topical theme, which occur in initial position of the clause , marked themes are elements which occur in initial position in the clause ,(circumstance, participant and process) circumstance (time and place) as adjuncts realised by adverbial group and prepositional phrase. Marked theme is peripheral theme in thematic progression

5- Headlines is as telegraphic forms of grammatical simplifications and block language messages most often consist of a noun or noun phrase or nominal clause in isolation with no verb needed in which the closed-class word or function words are omitted wherever possible such as: articles, demonstratives, and copular, in certain style titles or headlines .

6-Zig-zag creates a dynamic style of writing from rheme to theme while continuous reiteration is a static style of writing in theme position, Zig-zag pattern of thematic progression occurs in subordinate or dependent clause as relative clause. While two continuous reiteration models are repetition of participant shift Continuous gap is a repeated participant referent ,and continuous type is lexis or lexical device of text cohesion.



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