

# CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

## A. The Background of The Study

### 1. The Definition of Theme and Rheme

Theme is a part of thematic structure. Halliday (1994: 37) defines that thematic structure is one of the various structures, which when it is mapped on to each other make up a clause and will be considered first the one which gives the clause its character as a message.

Theme is the element which serves at the point of departure of the message. It is that with which the clause is concerned. Theme can be identified as an element which comes in first position in the clause. It is the starting point for the message. It is the ground from which the clause is taking off.

Rheme is the rest of the clause. It comes after the point of departure. In rheme, new information is typically contained.

#### a. The example of theme and rheme structure

- 1) The duke has given my aunt that teapot.

Theme Rheme

- 2) My aunt has been given that teapot by the duke.

Theme Rheme

- 3) That teapot the duke has given to my aunt.

Theme Rheme

Theme can also consist of more than one structural element. Theme of a clause may be represented by a complex of two or more groups or phrases.



In wedding ceremony, Gayonese speaks of the norm that governing social life as their culture “edet”, “Gayo edet” or Adat in Malay, a word that means variously appropriate, norms, or traditions. Theme is functionally occupied by the first element of the transitivity system of clause.

In the unfolding of the text of the Theme, in its turn becomes, the local context or background of the clause.

Pepongoten (ritual wailing) is a Gayonese edet in wedding ceremony. Pepongoten is the name of the way how to express this utterance but Sebuku is the name for content of utterance. Pepongoten means *meratap* in Malay. In Pepongoten all of utterances are used in poetic words and has deep meaning. Mother and her daughter speak while they crying.

In real communication, there are levels of Theme that is usually done by people. The levels of Theme used depends on how and in what situation where the interaction happen. Indeed, level of Theme used by Gayonese at wedding ceremony as formal situation will be different from the level of Theme used by Gayonese in informal situation.

Theme is realized (expressed, signaled) by position that is the initial element of clause is called Theme whereas the Rheme is element(s) that follow(s).

In the unfolding of the text the Theme, in its turn becomes, the local context or background of the clause. Thus, Theme is the starting point of the message, point of departure or local context of the clause as a piece of text. The Theme is functionally occupied by the first element of the transitivity system of clause.

Rheme is the rest of the message of the clause after the Theme. Thus, the Rheme is where the clause moves after the point of departure.

### **B. The Problem Of The Study**

How the utterance of Theme and Rheme used by Gayonese in Pepongoten at wedding ceremony.

In this case, will be shown how the Theme and Rheme performed by Gayonese in pepongoten at wedding ceremony.

1. What type of Theme and Rheme social function are used in Pepongoten by Gayonese at wedding ceremony?
2. What type of Theme and Rheme social function are dominantly used in Pepongoten by Gayonese at wedding Ceremony?
3. How do the Gayonese used Theme and Rheme in Pepongoten at wedding ceremony?
4. Why is this type of Theme and Rheme dominantly used at wedding ceremony?

### **C. The Objective of the Study**

In relation to the problems, the objectives of the study are to discover:

1. To describe the Gayonese use Theme and Rheme in Pepongoten at wedding ceremony.
2. To determine type of Theme and Rheme social function are used in Pepongoten at wedding ceremony.

3. To determine type of Theme and Rheme social function are dominantly used in Pepongoten at wedding ceremony.

#### **D. The scope Of the study**

The study focus on Theme and Rheme that is uttered in Pepongoten by Gayonese at wedding ceremony.

To avoid the broad discussion and to make this research manageable, this research concerneson Theme and rheme used by Gayonese at wedding ceremony in Takengon Gayohomeland.

#### **E. The significance of the study**

Findings of the study are expected to be significantly relevant theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the researcher assumes that the research finding will be useful for:

1. Lectures in teaching sociolinguistics, they can use this research to enlarge their knowledge about the kinds of Theme anf rheme that is used in Gayonese wedding ceremony especially in Pepongoten.
2. Better understand deeply the use of Theme and rheme in Pepongoten at Gayonese wedding ceremony in related to Gayo as a minority ethnic in Aceh.

Practically, this research will be useful for:

1. Other researchers who will conduct the relevance study, this will be very useful aid.
2. Those who are interested in using Gayonese wedding ceremony to be applied to their own marriage.
3. Gayonese to maintain Gayo's culture from the extinction by practicing the Pepongoten in their own life.



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