

# CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

## A. The Background of the Study

In Hallidayan grammar, there are two parallel and interrelated systems of analysis that concern with the structure of clause. The first of this called *Information Structure* and involves constituents that are labeled *given* and *new*. The second is called *Thematic Structure* and involves constituents that are labeled *theme* and *rheme*.

Theme is the element that serves as the starting point for the message that is what the clause is going to be about. Theme typically contains familiar or given information. Rheme is defined as the rest of the clause in which the theme is developed. Rheme contains unfamiliar or new information. Rheme can be simply found in a clause by identifying parts of the clause which do not belong to Theme. This organization depends on the context of using language that is purpose of the text.

The written language offers a wide variety of grammatical tools to mediate an author's intended message. In newspapers, as in other kinds of texts, events that take place out there in the "real" world are expressed through the linguistic choices that editors make. That is, events are reconstructed as text through discourse. This reconstruction involves linguistic choices at many turns and levels in the unfolding of the discourse. In Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is a linguistic theory which allows the analyst to shed light on just how it is these choices interact with the social context to imbue texts with the meanings that are expressed. One of the main assumptions of SFL is

that language serves three main purposes: the experiential (or ideational), through which language users express their view of the world; the interpersonal, through which language users establish and maintain social contact; and the textual, which allows for the first two to be brought together and organized in a way that is communicatively effective.

In the editorial column, many readers are difficult to interpret the news that written by editors because they do not understand the thematic structure contained in the sentence. It's happened because the editors often manipulating the thematic structure which was originally intended to attract the reader's attention to read the contents of the text that written by the editor. Editorial texts are typically means to voice missions of the newspaper. Thus, a newspaper has its own way of organizing the editorial texts. The thematic structures in *The Jakarta Post* editorials are problematized because their patterns highlight why *The Jakarta Post* editorial texts mean what they do.

The reason why the writer chooses theme and rheme as a topic to discuss is because theme and rheme common used in every text, but how to identify the theme and rheme in clause, how to label the elements of clause with references and how to analyze complex theme in text will be discussed in this study.

In this case, the writer takes three editorials in *The Jakarta Post* newspaper to analyze the uses of thematic Structure which is published in January 2014. The *Jakarta Post* is an English newspaper which published in every morning. The *Jakarta Post* has some column such as: headline, national, international, features, art and culture, entertainment news and also one of the columns is editorial.

Editorial column is an article in a newspaper or other periodical presenting the opinion of the publisher or editors. In presenting the editorial, the editor often used styles and variations of language. The style and variation of language are used to attract the reader's attention and to inform the interesting news.

The writer used editorials text to analyze the ways in which reporter and editorial make choices in topical, interpersonal and textual element through theme to show the value of the linguistic theory for explain the ways in which experiential meaning is encoded along with interpersonal intent through the textual function.

### **B. The Problems of the Study**

Based on the background above, the problems of the study are formulated as in the following:

1. What optional element dominates the structure of Theme in the editorials of *The Jakarta Post* newspaper?
2. In what context does the dominant element occurs?

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

In relation to the problem of the study, the objectives of this study are formulated as in the following:

1. To describe the optional dominant element in the structure of Theme in the editorials of *The Jakarta Post* newspaper.
2. To describe in what context the optional dominant element occurs.

#### **D. The Scope of the Study**

This study is to analyze the editorial column in *The Jakarta Post* newspaper. This study focuses on analyzing the editorial column in *Jakarta Post* newspaper based on theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics, specifically to analyze the thematic structure.

#### **E. The Significances of the Study**

The findings of this study are significant in two respects, theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the findings enrich theories of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), particularly on the use of English in national newspaper *The Jakarta Post* and Indonesian context of culture. Practically, it is useful for, namely (1) students, (2) journalists/editors and (3) teacher. This study equips the students with the knowledge and skill to comprehend English text. This study is also useful for Journalists/ editors in a way in which it provides them with knowledge and skill of how to write editorials. Further, this study is useful for teacher in preparing teaching material that need of the learners.