

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

The theme is the element which serves as the point of departure of the message; it is that with which the clause is concerned. The remainder of the message, the part in which the theme is developed, is called the Rheme. This organization depends on the context of using language that is the purpose of the text. Editorial texts are typically means to voice missions of the newspaper. Thus, a newspaper has its own way of organizing the editorial texts. This study is aimed at exploring the types of Theme and describing the patterns of Theme and Rheme, namely development of Theme and Rheme in the editorial texts of *The Jakarta Post*. The Thematic structures are problematized because their patterns highlight why *The Jakarta Post* editorial texts mean what they do.

According to Halliday (2004 : 1), "Language has three functions, they are : Ideational, Interpersonal, and Textual Functions" respectively. The Ideational metafunction divides into experiential function, where language is used to describe experience and logical function, where language is used to relate experience. As function equals meaning it is said that language conveys four kinds of meaning, namely experiential, logical, interpersonal and textual meanings. Thus, the grammar of language centers on and described with references on the four metafunctions or

meanings. This implies that the grammar or rather lexicogrammar of one language is constituted by the experiential, logical, interpersonal, and textual (lexico) grammar.

In this study the research is concerned to the use of theme and rheme in Editorial text of the Jakarta Post. There are some reasons why the use of Theme and Rheme made as the focus of this research; Theme and Rheme are common used in every text, but how to identify the Theme and Rheme in a clause, how to label the elements of clause with references and how to analyze complex theme in texts will be discussed in this study.

Obviously, we need some specialized language to describe texts. Our specialized language will allow us to know exactly where we are and where we are going as explore texts for meaning. Butt, Fahey, Spinks, and Yallop (1995:13) define that Metalanguage is used to explain differences between any texts: between spoken and written texts, or scientific and literary ones, to investigate why one teacher seems to get the message across better than another, to interpret advertisements as well as lyrics, to look for similarities and differences between newspaper reports, to define the style of an individual barrister and to uncover the likeness between authors of the same period.

Further, Butt, et all (1995:93) assert that being unmarked means the most expected, common and remarkable case. Whereas being marked means that it is unusual and should be noticed because of the way it stands out.

Applying this concept to Theme, the typical and expected patterns can be separated from the typical and unexpected. Marked theme is a way of seeing the purpose behind the speakers' patterning; it may be to draw the addressee's attention to a particular group or phrase; more often it is to build a coherent text which is easy to follow.

One of the various structures when mapped on to each other makes up a clause. We will consider first the one which gives the clause its character as a message.

Understanding Theme and Rheme in an editorial newspaper will help the reader to see whether the voice of the newspaper itself argues against or just agree to a certain social issue.

As a gentle guide, the Theme can be identified as an element which comes in first position in the clause. Theme is the starting point for the message; it is the ground from which the clause is taking off. So, part of the meaning of any clause lies in which element is chosen as its Theme. First position in the clause is not what defines the Theme; it is the means where the function of Theme is realized in the grammar of English

⊗ A Theme that is something other than the subject, in a declarative clause, we shall refer to as a Marked Theme. Least likely to be thematic is a complement, which is a nominal group that is not functioning as Subject-something that could have been a Subject but is not.

Through this study, the writer wants to assure if a certain newspaper which agrees to a certain issue always uses unmarked Theme, and uses marked Theme if it does not agree to that issue.

Newspaper is media of communication, for example: The Jakarta Post. The Jakarta Post is an English newspaper published in every morning. The Jakarta Post has some columns such as : headline, national, international, features, art and culture and entertainment news and also one of the column is editorial. In this case, in presenting the editorial, editors often use 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. For that purpose, editors should have better competence in using English grammar. They should make the editorials clearly and easy understandable.

1.2 The Problems of the Study

Based on the background the research problems are formulated as follows

1. What types of Theme and Rheme are used in the editorial texts of the Jakarta Post?
2. What is the pattern of Theme and Rheme in the texts?
3. What is the implication of the use of Theme and Rheme?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

Basically, the objectives of this study are to answer the problems as what have been mentioned in the previous points. Specifically to apply Halliday's theory about Theme and Rheme in Indonesian editorial newspaper written in English about Theme that if they agree to a certain social case or problem they tend to use Unmarked Theme, but if they do not agree to a certain social problem they tend to use Marked one.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

As a theoretical assumption that Meta language is a social semiotic, a shared system of encoded meanings, motivated by choice and use, to look for similarities and differences between newspaper reports, the writer emphasizes her analysis Theme and Rheme with reference to Halliday's theory about Theme and Rheme and Thematic development within the text. In this case, the writer chooses The Jakarta Post because she wants to see the Indonesian Newspaper written In English from the Indonesian Semiotic perspective and that is why the scope of this study is limited to Theme and Rheme.

1.5 The Significance 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 Indonesian media and Indonesian context of culture. Practically, the findings are helpful for the readers of the Jakarta Post in better understanding the newspaper publication.



