

An Analysis of Theme Rheme in Giving *Ulos* to Bride and Bridegroom in Toba Batak Wedding Ceremony

Rindu Veronika Sirait *¹
Arsen Nahum Pasaribu*²
Jubilezer Sihite*³

*1 the student of English Department, University of HKBP Nommensen
*2,3 the lecturers of English Department, University of HKBP Nommensen

Abstract

The objective of the reaserch were to identify the types, the patterns of theme rheme and dominant used in giving *Ulos* in Toba Batak Wedding Ceremony. This reaserch was conducted by using qualitative method in which the collected data will not be created by statistic procedure. The sources of the data were utterances in Toba Batak Wedding Ceremony and the data were 159 clauses of theme rheme that were analyzed by using some steps, they are segmenting the sentence into clauses, identifying the *Theme Rheme* for each clause, determining the types of *theme rheme* for each clauses, and determining the patterns and the dominant used. The findings of this reaserch were found that there 71 Topical Theme, 38 Interpersonal Themes, and 50 Textual Themes. And the pattern that found were The Constant Theme Pattern and The Linear Pattern or Zig-zag Pattern. And the Theme Rheme that dominant used is Topical Marked Theme.

Key words : *Theme Rheme, Giving Ulos, Toba Batak Wedding Ceremony.*

1. Introduction

Marriage is one of the interesting things. In Batak's traditional marriage, *Dalihan Na Tolu* becomes irrevocable because there is a connection between *hulahula* (uncle), *boru* (Woman) and *dongan tubu* (Playmate). Marriage in the traditional Toba Batak started with many processions from the beginning to the end which made the duration of the traditional Toba Batak wedding ceremony are long which can make the wedding party of the Toba Batak performed from morning to night. One that can not be released in this traditional marriage is the *Mangulosi* process. The *Mangulosi* process is a process whereby guests who come from *Paranak* (bridegroom side) and *Parboru* (bride side) embed *Ulos*, which is a traditional cloth of the Batak people, to bride and bridegroom. The guests who pinned the *Ulos* usually give prayers or hopes to the bride and bridegroom that are delivered directly by the party who gave the *Ulos* or represented by *Parhata* (Moderator in a traditional party).

There is a lot of researches that has been done using Theme Rheme theory, both in analysing songs or newspapers, some of the researches are Hepyin Samosir (2018) which analyses uncle's speech when giving *Ulos Saput* in *Saur Matua*, Maida

(2016) which analyses Themes Rheme used in Batak songs, and Vindy Melliany Puspa in the journal Theme And Rheme in Short Story of the Twelve Dancing Princesses: A Functional Grammar Approach (2016). Different from the researches that has been done before, there are differences with the research that is carried out by researcher later. The writer focuses on the theme rheme of the utterances when the wife-side (*Parboru*) gives *Ulos* to the bride and bridegroom, the writer also chooses the Theme Rheme theory because it is considered suitable by looking at the main function of the Theme Rheme which is conveying the message where the theme is considered a departure point clause and rheme are new information that follows the theme, so the writer chooses this theory as a reference in analysing the data.

Besides because the Theme Rheme theory is considered as a suitable theory for this research, researcher are also interested because this research has never been studied before, besides that researcher are also interested in how the sentences are expressed when giving messages and prayers in the *Mangulosi* process, how to use Theme Rheme in the process of giving *Ulos* at the traditional Batak Toba wedding ceremony so that the message and prayer and hope can be conveyed and what kind of Theme Rheme can be found in the giving *Ulos* process in the traditional Toba Batak marriage.

A text is any stretch of language, regardless of length, that is spoken or written for the purposes of communication by real people in actual circumstances. Both spoken and written texts are equally valid as objects for analysis. When linguists study or analyse a spoken text, they record the text, or part of the text, either in writing or electronically. Text is any part of writing or oral with an infinite length that still forms a unified whole (Halliday,2014:13). Text is not only a word written or a sentence written in a book. A sentence is said as text not because the sentence consists of several syllables because a syllable is also a text, as well as someone's speech is also categorized as text because what is said text is anything that can give meaning to the reader or the interlocutor.

In general, text can be defined in terms of shape, structure or function. In a structural angle, text is part of a language whose position is above the sentence. From a linguistic point of view, the elements of language can be seen in the following order: morpheme → words → group or phrase → clause → sentence → text. However, sometimes one word or even morpheme can be called text, such as the example of the word "Exit" in a building that signifies "going out" or as in the word "S.O.S" which means "Asking for Help". While from the point of function, text is the language used in the context. Text can be found in various places not only by books or walls containing one or two words, without realizing that the signs in the building or the lights found on the road are also types of text because they can be read and have meaning in a context. In a different context, the meaning of a language or text is different. For example in the word "book", this word can have other meanings with different contexts, if this word is used in a school it can be interpreted as "book" but can also be interpreted as "ordering" with different contexts. This is why a text is related to context.

2. Review of Literature

People use language to communicate, work together, help others, and build things like marriage, reputation and institutions. They also use it to lie, benefit themselves, hurt people, and destroy things like marriage, reputation and institutions.

One study in language is discourse, and is commonly known as discourse analysis. Discourse analysis is a study that studies how a language relates to a given context (Michael McCarthy,1991:15). Discourse analysis is related to the study of the relationship between language and the context of language use. Through discourse analysis, we not only know what the text contains, but also how the message is conveyed through words, phrases, or sentences like what the message conveyed. By looking at the structure of the language, discourse analysis is better able to see the hidden meaning of a text. Discourse analysis includes how language, spoken or written, is used in real life and related to social life, so briefly discourse analysis can be interpreted as a way to understand social interaction by paying attention to language as the medium used. Discourse analysis is an analysis that deals with discourse with a broad division. Analysis discourse is a broad Linguistic science, so it has many parts, like Critical Discourse Analysis, Systematic Functional grammar, Multimodal and Functional Grammar.

2.1 Functional Grammar

Functional Grammar is one of the linguistic theories introduced by Michael A. K. Halliday. This theory focuses on the purpose and use of language. Functional Grammar has relevance to meaning (Halliday,2004:31). Functional grammar aims to build grammar for the purposes of text analysis: which makes it possible to say reasonable and useful things about text, oral or written. Functional Grammar views language as consisting of units of meaning rather than pieces of form. In accordance with this idea, functional grammar is interested in analyzing language at the text level rather than sentence.

a. Ideational Function

In its use, ideational functions explain how language is used to organize, understand, and express perceptions about the world with its own understanding. (Bloor,2004:29) Language has a theoretical theory that is related to human experience, and several sources of lexicogrammar are made for this function which is commonly called Ideational Functional and distinguishes it into two components, the experiential and the logical function (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014:30). The ideational function also explains that language is a thought. Experimental (ideational) metaphors are concerned with interpreting experience - it is language as a theory of reality, as a resource that reflects our real world.

b. Interpersonal Function

Interpersonal Function can be said as a clause that acts as a turnover, where the main language system is called MOOD (Halliday & Matthiessen,2014:134) Interpersonal functions are related to the interaction between the speaker and recipient where grammar plays a social role in general, and speaking roles in particular. In interactions to build, change, and maintain interpersonal relationships. One of the main grammar systems is MOOD. Briefly, interpersonal functions focus on using language to interact with others. (Halliday & Matthiessen,2014:30) also argue that clauses in grammar are not just forms, which represent several processes - some occur, say or feel, become or have - along with various participants and their circumstances; it is also a proposition, or proposal, where we inform or question, give orders or make offers, and express our judgments and attitudes towards whoever we are talking about and what we are talking about.

c. Textual Function

Language can be used as a link between linguistic texts and what is said or written (Thomas Bloor,20014:28). Textual function is manifested through a sequence of words from the sentence, where the author gives a message to the reader, and also through numbers, first, second, and fourth, which the writer uses to mark the important points of the message. Language is also used to arrange messages to fit other messages around them. Textual functions are related to the creation of text - by presenting ideational and interpersonal meanings as information that can be shared by speakers and listeners in texts that are open in context. One textual system is Theme to set the context in the clause by selecting the departure point.

2.2 Theme-Rheme

Theme Rheme are two terms that characterize the way in which information is spread in a sentence. The theme is the starting point in a sentence whose task is to direct the sentence in its context (Halliday,2014:89). A Theme is chosen to be the initial topic in a clause and usually at the beginning of the sentence is intended to clarify a meaning or message to be conveyed while rheme is the rest of the message that has been built by the theme, in other words rheme is new information with the purpose of delivering messages from the theme that want to convey. Enggins (2004:300) defines that : “The definition of the Rheme is the part of the clause in which the Theme is developed. The identification criteria for the Rheme are simple: everything that is not the Theme is the Rheme. Thus, once you have identified the Theme in a clause, you have also identified the Rheme, which is just ‘everything else’”. From the Bloor’s explanation, Theme Rhemeis part of sentence that can not be separate. Rheme will be always find after Theme is identified, by this explanation can be said that in all sentence that have Theme, it will have Rheme (Pasaribu, 2019).

Here is an example of a Theme Rheme:

Theme	Rheme
The girl	is reading a book
Rina	makes a cup cake for her mother
Nommensen HKBP University	is one of many universities in Medan
He	is the best student in his school
All of students	go to Samosir this July

A theme usually placed in front is based on information that needs to be communicated, but a theme is not only used to analyse a sentence but also a paragraph and all texts that seek meaning. The Theme of a clause is frequently Topical Marked off in speech by intonation, being spoken on a separate tone group; this is especially likely when the Theme is either an adverbial group or prepositional phrase; or a nominal group not functioning as Subject – in other words, where the Theme is anything other than that which is most expected. In a text, the used of theme rheme can found in some kinds of sentence like in declarative sentence where the theme is distinguished into Topical Marked and unTopical Marked theme, in exclamative clauses where the WH-element become the theme, Theme in interogative sentence where the theme have function to ask question where the polarity (yes/no) can be found and theme in imperative sentences where the predicator (the verb) become the theme.

a. Ideational or Topical Theme

Ideational, or Topical Themes are usually but not always the first nominal group in the clause. They can also be nominal group complexes, adverb groups, prepositional phrases, or embedded clauses (Linda Gerot and Peter Wignell, 1994:104). Topical Theme has 2 types of types namely Topical Unmarked and Topical Marked Topical Theme. In Unmarked, Topical Theme is a subject and the rest is called Topical Marked Topical Theme. Topical themes are always manifested by one of the following elements: Subject (S), Predator (P), Complement (C), or indirect addition (A). As can be seen in some interrogative clauses, Finite (F) precedes the subject and hence can be a theme, but in this case it is not a topical theme. This topical theme also co-exist with two others that known as Interpersonal and Textual Theme and this both theme are term as *Multiple Theme*

b. Interpersonal Themes

The interpersonal Theme is the interaction between writer and reader, or speaker and hearer. It is any combination of vocative, modal, and mood-marking (Halliday, 2014:107). A vocative is any item, typically (but not necessarily) a personal name, used to address; it may come more or less anywhere in the clause, and is thematic if preceding the topical Theme.

These are some elements that found in interpersonal function

1. Modal/comment Adjunct[‘Modal theme’]. These express the speaker/writer’s judgment on or attitude to the content of the message.
2. Vocative. This is any item, typically (but not necessarily) a personal name, being used to address
3. Finite verbal operator [in yes/no interrogative]. These are the small set of finite auxiliary verbs construing primary tense or modality; they are the unTopical Marked Theme of yes/no interrogatives.

c. Textual Theme

The Textual theme is related to the clause for the context. Clauses can be Advanced and Additional and Conjunction. "Continuous as well, right, okay, basically, of course. Conjunctive as on the other side. (Linda Gerot and Peter Wignell, 1994:105)

The textual Theme is any combination of continuative, structural and conjunctive (Halliday, 2014 :108). A continuative is one of a small set of discourse signalers such as “yes”, “no”, “well”, “oh”, “now”, which signal that a new move is beginning; it can also be a response, in dialogue, or a move to the next point if the same speaker is continuing. A structural Theme is any of the obligatorily thematic elements, namely conjunctions and WH-relatives (the group of phrase containing the relative is simultaneously the topical Theme). by connecting one clause to its context (Eggs,2004:64).

2.3 Toba Batak Culture

Toba Batak is one of the tribes that occupy in Sumatera Island, especially North Sumatra. Toba Batak is one of the 6 sub-known Bataks, namely, Toba Batak, Karo Batak, Simalungun Batak, Angkola Batak, Pakpak and Mandailing Batak (Sinaga, 2017: 13). Of the 6 sub-divisions, they certainly have different cultures from each other. Toba Batak have a culture inherited from ancestors which until now can still be seen and enjoyed, for instance a song that describe the culture and ideology of Toba Batak (Pasaribu, 2014)

In Toba Batak , wedding is one traditional ceremony where this ceremony can also name as *mangan juhut ni boru* as a ritual to announce officially the alteration *Si boru muli* become the other clan (husband's clan) from her origin clan (Sinaga,2017:173). In Toba batak wedding ceremony there are many items that cannot be forgotten like *Jambar, Sinamot,Ulos* and still many more. In the Toba Batak tradition, *Ulos* is one of traditional cloth that cannot be forgotten. *Ulos* itself basically has the meaning of a blanket or cloth that is shrouded in body with a function as a warmer (Sinaga,2017:52). The warmth is reflected to the warmth of the soul that makes someone strong to live life. *Ulos* has a strong connection with *dalihan na tolu* (*somba Marhula-hula, elek marboru, manat mardongan tubu*) which is a guideline for the Batak tribe while socializing and carrying out customary events, for example in marriage. In the traditional Batak wedding ceremony, the presence of *Ulos* is very important because *Ulos* is symbolized as a form of respect for *Tulang* (Uncle) or commonly called *Hula-hula* (Mother's Brother) and a form of love from *Hula-hula* to *Boru* (niece). This is in accordance with the Batak's philosophy which says *Dangka dupang amak do bere, Ama do bone anak do bere* which means that *Hula-hula* (Uncle) is treated as a father and *Bere* (niece) is treated as a daughter (Sinaga,2017:51)

3. Research Method

Research method is need to help in making the research method and feasible. Research methodology covers research design, such as technique of collecting the data, technique of analysing the data and the data resources. Every research carried out certainly has certain purposes and uses that cannot be separated from a method. The research method is basically a scientific feature to obtain data with specific purposes and uses (Sugiyono, 2016:2.) The data source for this study is the utterance of the *ulos* transcribed from video recordings when giving *Ulos* to the bride and bridegroom at the Toba Batak wedding. This data is taken from 3 cassettes that took from wedding in Medan. These 3 videos take to clarify the use of Theme Rheme types and patterns in traditional Toba Batak marriages and to find out whether the Theme Rheme that dominant use in traditional Toba Batak marriages.

This research used documentation as a technique for collecting data. In ways such as: watching the videos of a traditional Toba Batak wedding party, especially when giving *Ulos* to the bride and bridegroom by bride side (*Parboru*). In this process the writer will use 3 cassettes and laptop to watching the video, transcribing the idiomatic expression in utterance during *mangulosi* by bride side (*parboru*). In the technique of analysing data, the writer uses Miles and Huberman's data analysis theory. There are 3 types of components analysing the data introduced by Miles and Huberman, namely Data condensation, Data display, and Conclusion drawing / verification (Miles,et.al,2014:31)

Condensation, display, and conclusions / verification play a role as analysis of episodes following each other. Such a process is actually no more complicated, conceptually, than the analytical mode used by quantitative researchers. Like their qualitative counterparts, they also have to be absorbed in the condensation of data (how to calculate, standard deviation), by display (correlation table, regression mold), and by drawing conclusions / verification (significance level, difference in experimental / control group). But their activities are well done, familiar methods; guided by canon; and is usually more sequential than iterative or cyclical. Qualitative

researchers are in a more fluid and more humanistic position. So, as we suggest, qualitative analysis needs to be well documented as a process – primarily to help us learn. Readers need to understand more clearly what is happening when we analyse data, to reflect, improve methods, and make it more commonly used by others. After recording the utterances, writer make a transcript then writer classified the utterances into clauses and analyse the clauses by Theme Rheme to identify the types, patterns and dominant use in utterances when giving *Ulos* in Toba Batak wedding ceremony. The data were analysed by using Halliday’s theory (2014) as main theory and theory from Gerot and Wignell (1994) and Danes’s theory (1974) as supported theory to find out the types and patterns of Theme Rheme. The writer recorded and transcribed of the videos and then the writer identified every clauses based on the types and patterns of Theme Rheme. According to Gerot and Wignell there are three types of Theme rheme, they are Ideational or Topical theme that identify into 2 types Topical Marked and Topical Unmarked Theme, Interpersonal Theme, and Textual Theme. And according to Danes the patterns of Theme Rheme identify into fours named, The Constant Theme Pattern, The Linear Theme Pattern or Zig Zag Pattern, The Split Rheme Pattern, and Derived Themes or Multiple Theme Pattern. There are 159 clauses from the transcript and all the clauses will be analyse to find the types and pattern theme rheme.

4. Research Finding

To make the reader more easy to see the occurrences of Theme rheme in Toba Batak wedding ceremony. It can be seen in this following table:

Table 1
 Table Types of Theme Rheme

No	Types of Theme Rheme	Total
1	Topical Theme	71
2	Textual Theme	50
3	Interpersonal Theme	38
Total		159

After analyzing all the data on this chapter, the writer found the most dominant types of theme rheme used at giving *Ulos* to bride and bridegroom in Toba Batak wedding ceremony is Topical Marked Theme about 54 the second is Textual Theme about 50 the third is Interpersonal Theme about 38, and the last is Topical Unmarked Theme about 17. The total of theme rheme that had been analyzed are 159. Topical Marked Theme is the dominant type at at giving *Ulos* to bride and bridegroom in Toba Batak wedding ceremony because in Toba Batak utterance people who speak usually use the verb or pronoun in first position, then followed by finite and the other structural grammatical that different in other language. In this research writer also found that there are some finite that found in Toba Batak language, named *Pe, Ingkon, Ma, and Sai*.

Beside the types, the pattern in Theme Rheme are The Constant Theme Pattern, The Linear or Zig-Zag Pattern, The Split Pattern and Derived Theme or Multiple Theme Pattern, and writer found one pattern in this research that is The constant pattern. In this thesis, writer found two patterns namely The Constant

Theme Pattern, The Linear or Zig-Zag Pattern. The constant Theme Pattern is found in this thesis because in Toba Batak language the speaker choose the theme in a clause and for the next clause they make the new theme also, but in some utterance the rheme can continuous to the next clause and become the theme and it called The Linear or Zig-Zag Pattern.

The dominant used is Topical Marked theme. The Topical Marked Theme found become the most dominant used in Toba Batak language because in Toba Batak language, the speaker most used Predicate first when talk, the second one is Textual Theme because from the data that already collected by the writer, Toba Batak language used the conjunction to continue the previous speech, and then in third position is Interpersonal Theme because the speech in Toba Batak language they have Vocative that have function to be the connector in called someone, and it known as *Ale*, and Topical Marked Theme become the last position because in Toba Batak language, the speakers not often used Subject in first position when speak up.

5. Conclusions

Through considering the analysis and determining the types and pattern in Theme rheme in giving *Ulos* to bride and bridegroom in Toba Batak wedding ceremony, the conclusions are presented as follows: There are four types of theme rheme that found, they are Topical Marked Theme, Topical Umarked Theme, Textual Theme and Interpersonal Theme, and researcher found all the types in the analysis. The all types can found in this analysis because in Toba Batak language not all the time the speaker speak by using verb or finete first, in some utterance the speaker also use the strusctural grammatical like use the Subject in fist position. There are four patterns in theme rheme they are The Constant Theme Pattern, The Linear Pattern or Zig-zag Pattern, The Split Pattern, and Derived Theme or Multiple Theme, and the writer found two patterns name The Constant Theme Pattern and The Linear Pattern or Zig-zag Pattern. The pattern is needed to know is the previous theme can be the next theme for the next clause. In this thesis the speaker just found one pattern that mean in Toba Batak language . The most dominant types of theme rheme that found in this research is Topical Marked Theme because in Toba Batak utterance people usually use the predicator, or verb, or adjunct in first position when speak. Topical Marked Theme become the dominant used because in Toba Batak language, the speaker mostly use the Predicator or verb first, then the other word will followed behind it.

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