

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This section discuss the background of the study, statements of the problem, research objectives, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and systematical writing. All the sections explained below:

A. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Thematic structure contained in the news text can be used to identify the function and meaning of the information conveyed, as well as how the information is arranged and organized. The theme-rheme structure is a grammatical resource that gives a clause a message¹. In other words, in terms of Theme and Rheme, Theme represents 'this is what I'm talking about, and Rheme is 'this is what I'm saying about it.' When considering clauses as messages, the theme goes backward and connects the current message with the previous message.² Thematic analysis is essential for understanding the experiences that provide the message direction and how these experiences are mapped into a cohesive message.³

Thematization is discussed through a textual framework, there are three types of themes, namely topical themes (unmarked and marked), interpersonal themes, and textual themes.⁴ Halliday explicitly states that the metafunctional hypothesis can be applied to other languages, albeit with different assumptions and conditions.⁵ SFL (Systemic Functional Linguistics) views language as having a social function, and every linguistic choice in a text will have a certain function, both in social relations and in

¹ Dewi Yulianti and English Literature, 'Thematic Structure Analysis Of Political News Reports In New York Times Online', *Komunikata.Id*, 2.3 (2022), 1–11.

² Oktavia, W. R., & Suprayogi, S. (2021). Grammatical Cohesion In Boris Johnson's Speech Entitled Coronavirus Spread In Uk. *Linguistics and Literature Journal*, 2(1), 8–16.

³ Emmanuel Botchwey, Stephen Kwaku Duah, and Douglas Adade, 'Thematic Analysis of President Akufo-Addo's 2023 State of the Nation Address', *Linguistics Initiative*, 3.2 (2023), 140–56 <<https://doi.org/10.53696/27753719.32104>>.

⁴ Wiratno, pg. 91.

⁵ Zaid Alamiri, 'SFL-BASED ANALYSIS OF THEMATIC STRUCTURE OF THE QUR'ĀN (19 : 41-50) : SOME Zaid Alamiri To Cite This Version : HAL Id : Halshs-02004971', *The Buckingham Journal of Language and Linguistics*, 10 (2019), 41–50.

certain interests. According to SFL, language is a social semiotic system, or a resource for meaning-making, and always occurs within a context.⁶ By analyzing the thematic structure of a news text, we can identify the information arranged to frame an event.

Studies using SFL theory to analyze various texts have shown significant results. Alamiri (2019), Rakhmyta et al. (2024), Noviandari (2019), and Denardi (2023) have examined topical themes, unmarked themes, and logico-semantic relations in academic, news, religious, and debate texts. These studies highlight how SFL helps organize meaning and build discourse integrity. Additionally, research by Najjar (2024), Wang (2024), Yulianti (2022), Botchwey et al. (2023), and Safdar (2019) explored thematic structures in news reports, translations, and political speeches, emphasizing how theme and rheme shape idea organization within a discourse context.

Research on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict shows various ways in which the media constructs the conflict narrative. Lim (2024), Laelasari (2023), Ahmad et al. (2023), and Qawaric (2022) highlighted the media's role in shaping public perceptions, particularly in framing conflict-related news. However, these studies focused more on media framing than linguistic structures. This research bridges this gap by analyzing thematic choices in news reports, revealing differences in neutrality, humanitarian focus, and security concerns. By combining thematic structure analysis with comparative discourse analysis, this research provides a deeper understanding of how language influences public perception of the conflict.

One of the most frequently debated issues is the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine. Conflicts continue to shape international relations in contemporary geopolitics, laden with complex political,

⁶ Zaid Alamiri, 'Sfl-Based Analysis Of Thematic Structure Of The Qur'ān (19 : 41-50)': Some Zaid Alamiri To Cite This Version : HAL Id : Halshs-02004971', *The Buckingham Journal of Language and Linguistics*, 10 (2019), 41–50.

historical, and socio-cultural factors.⁷ The conflict has also been covered by news media worldwide, making international news. The role of the media in delivering information to form public opinion plays a crucial role. Mass media, especially online journalism, is vital in documenting essential events and modern wars for the international community⁸. Thematic structure and news media are interconnected. Text requires understanding thematic structure which is an essential means of discourse organization and is closely related to discourse coherence.⁹ However, for anything the author wants to deliver, they must arrange the relative information around the topic logically, with thematic structure arranged and distinguished according to the specific aims.¹⁰

While many studies have applied SFL to various types of discourse, there is limited research focusing on thematic structures in conflict-related news. Prior research on media discourse, such as that by Lim (2024), Laelasari (2023), Ahmad et al. (2023), and Qawaric (2022), has primarily examined media framing rather than linguistic structures. Additionally, previous studies on thematic structures have not compared multiple media sources reporting on the same event. Furthermore, studies on framing opinion in conflict-related news have mainly focused on ideological bias and agenda-setting without closely analyzing how thematic structures contribute to shaping public perception. This study fills that gap by comparing thematic structures in news reports on the Israel-Palestine conflict from BBC, Al Jazeera, and The Times of Israel, focusing on their linguistic choices in constructing narratives and their role in framing opinion.

⁷ Lim Lai Hoon, "A Content Analysis of the 2023 Israel-Palestine Conflict News Reporting in *The Star Online, Malaysia*," *e-Bangi: Journal of Social Sciences & Humanities* 21, no. 3 (2024): <https://doi.org/10.17576/ebangi.2024.2103.17>.

⁸ Lim Lai Hoon, "A Content Analysis," 212

⁹ Shan Wang, *Thematic Structure and Discourse Coherence in Neural Machine Translation of News Discourse: A Comparative Analysis of GPT-4 Based Translate and Google Translate* (Atlantis Press SARL, 2024) <https://doi.org/10.2991/978-2-38476-263-7_36>.

¹⁰ Yulianti, pg. 2.

Therefore, This study aims to analyze how thematic structures are used to create meaning in news reports about the Israel-Palestine conflict. By applying an SFL-based thematic analysis, this research examines how different media outlets utilize thematic organization to emphasize particular perspectives. This approach provides a linguistic perspective on how news narratives are shaped beyond media framing. Therefore, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of language use in international conflict reporting, especially by textual meaning and social purpose in news about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Based on the explanation above, with an in-depth analysis of language choices and framing techniques. Researchers explore all the elements that contribute to applying a particular ideology or point of view. The researcher would find meaning and function by analyzing thematic structure based on Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). Especially in international news media. Therefore, the researcher wants to discuss this issue with a study entitled "**A Comparative Analysis of Thematic Structure In News Reports On The Israel-Palestine Conflict: An SFL Approach** "

B. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Based on the above background, the researcher can state the problem as follows:

1. How is the thematic structure in the news media of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict by *BBC*, *Al Jazeera*, and *Times of Israel* news sites?
2. How is the framing opinion of the news media about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict by *BBC*, *Al Jazeera*, and *Times of Israel* news sites based on thematic structure?

C. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Based on the statements of the problem above, this study aims to:

1. Analyzing how thematic structure in news media of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict by *BBC*, *Al Jazeera*, and *Times of Israel* news site.

2. Revealing the framing opinion of the news media about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict by *BBC*, *Al Jazeera*, and *Times of Israel* news sites based on thematic structure

D. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Considering the proposed research, this section describes some expected significances. This research is supposed to benefit readers, academics, and media. They are revealed below:

1. For Teachers

It provides insights into thematic structures in news texts, helping teachers develop students' analytical skills in reading comprehension and media studies using an SFL approach.

2. For Students

It aids students in recognizing framing and ideological statement in news, improving their critical thinking, argumentation, and source evaluation skills.

3. For Curriculum Development

The findings support integrating SFL-based discourse analysis into language and media studies, fostering deeper language awareness in education.

E. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

The research conducted using a descriptive qualitative method. This research focuses on thematic analysis of news text structure regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah, which was taken from the official websites of three international news media: *Al Jazeera*, *BBC*, and *Times of Israel*. These three media were chosen because they represent diverse perspectives *Al Jazeera* tends to reflect the point of view of the Arab world, the *BBC* as a media that claims global neutrality, and the *Times of Israel*, which is oriented towards the Israeli perspective. The scope of the research includes identifying thematic patterns based on the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) approach, particularly in analyzing ideational meaning, to understand how the three media frame the conflict in their news. The limitation of this study lies in the number of

texts analyzed, which only includes news published within a certain time span and in English, so the analysis results cannot be generalized to all news content from the same media or news in other languages. In addition, this study does not include audience analysis or the impact of the news on readers but is limited to analyzing the text itself.

F. SYSTEMATICAL WRITING

The first chapter discusses some information to find the basic concept of this research. It explains the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the research objectives, the study's significance, and the study's scope and limitations.

Following the basic information in Chapter I, the second chapter discusses some review of related literature. The discussion is all about Systemic Functional Linguistic and thematic Structure.

Following the information on the review of related literature in Chapter II, the third chapter describes the research design, the instrument for collecting data, the technique for collecting data, and the technique for data analysis.

The fourth chapter discusses data presentation, analysis of data, and discussion about the result of the research.

The last chapter concludes the conclusion of the research offers suggestions.