THE ANALYSIS OF THEMATIC PROGRESSION IN TAYLOR SWIFT'S POPULAR SONGS IN 2019-2022

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Abstract

This study is related to three types of Thematic Progression: reiteration/constant, zigzag/linier, and split/multiple. The data source is five songs entitled Anti Hero, Snow on the Beach, Maroon, Tis the Damn Season and False God by Taylor Swift's Popular Songs in 2019-2022. To obtain the objective of the study, the writers applied descriptive qualitative method. The steps of data analysis are: reading the whole lyrics, divided the texts into clauses according to each theme, determining the theme and rheme of each line of lyrics, describing the pattern of thematic progression observed in the song lyrics. The analysis result of thematic progression on these five songs is that the dominant

thematic progression type is reiterations/constant (23 clauses), zigzag/linier (22 clauses), and split/multiple (11 clauses).

A. Introduction

Eggins (2004:45) states that to achieve communication efficiency in a message, the information in a sentence must flow from topic to rheme. The term "Thematic Progression" refers to the information that is shared between subsequent theme and rheme pairs in a text. A texts cohesive development is aided by its thematic progression; that is, specific patterns must be followed in the distribution of both new and existing content in a cohesive text. For a text to be good, its contents must be coherent. It is evident from the way the language flows and how each sentence presents its information. The writing can remain cohesive and well-organized with a clear focus on the topic and clear information growth thanks to the thematic progression. Stated differently, the thematic progression identifies the text's cohesion.

The writers are interested in American singer namely Taylor Swift. Taylor Swift is known for her frank and intensely personal lyrics, which are frequently influenced by her own experiences. He is renowned for his ability to evoke strong feelings in his music. In addition, Swift is well known for often connecting on social media with his fans and for actively engaging with them. Taylor Swift has had many hit songs since her debut in the music industry. Every album he releases is guaranteed to have several songs that are hits and become trends. In 2019 Taylor Swift released the song 'False God' which is on the

album 'Lover', in 2020 she released the song 'Tis the Damn Season' on the album 'Evermore' and in 2022 she released the album 'Midnight' which contains several songs including 'Anti Hero, Snow on the Beach, and Maroon' which the writers will use as research data.

Studying thematic progression not only from long texts such as recounts and descriptive texts, such as songs that have a message that the song writer wants to convey. Aside from that, songs are literary works with a more poetic language than other types of writing, and they are distinguished from non-literary writing.

According to Paltridge (2006: 148), there are three kinds of thematic progression pattern: constant/reiteration theme, linear/ zigzag theme and split rheme. The reiteration/constant theme, in which theme 1 is taken up and repeated at the start of the subsequent clause. Whereas, zig zag/linier is where the clause fits in. Then, split/multiple is a rheme may contain several distinct details, each of which may serve as a theme for several phrases that follow.

B. Literature Review

The main focus of Systemic Functional Grammar is on the options that writers and speakers are given by the grammar. Michael Halliday is one of the specialists who creates and studies functional grammar. According to Halliday (1994:19), "The grammatical structure is being explained by reference to the meaning." According to that assertion, mastering functional grammar involves understanding both structure and meaning.

Textual Meaning is the arrangement of the text as a written or spoken work is referred to as its textual meaning (Eggins, 2004: 12). In textual meaning, the

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clause, according to Halliday (2004: 169), offers a new turn in response to a question focused on an English term that was recently questioned. A clause's message is arranged according to its textual meaning, which serves as a languages' s text marker.

Theme is a clause can have constituents in just two positions: the first portion and the last part. The term "theme" refers to the first portion of the phrase. According to Halliday (1985:39), The theme serves as the introduction to the message that determines the subject matter of the clause.

According to Eggins (2004: 300), the rheme is a section of the sentence that develops the theme. Based on Haliday and Matthiessen (2014:89), Rheme is the remainder of the clause that contains fresh information, whereas theme is the starting point from which the addressee in develops an interpretation of the message. The information that directs how the theme develops is included in the rheme. The clause is also reminded by the rheme.

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According to Danes (1970:74–78), the substance of growth on a parallel thematic progression, which is extremely different and also dependent on a topic, is not enabling or even willing to shift from one phrase to the next.

Thematic progression is the material in the clauses that still shows the coherence of the text, namely the flow of a clause from theme to rheme

Thematic development is the process by which topic and rheme are paired in a text (Eggins, 1994). The placement of both new and existing material in a text must adhere to a specific pattern in order for the text to be cohesively developed. Thematic developments help achieve this goal. According to Paltridge (2006: 148), there are three kinds of thematic progression pattern: constant/reiteration theme, linear/ zigzag theme and split rheme.

1. The Pattern of Reiterations/Constant

In order to indicate that each clause has something to say about the topic, Paltridge first examines the Constant theme, in which theme 1 is taken up and repeated at the start of the subsequent clause.

2. The Zig Zag/Linier Pattern

Subjects that rhyme constitute the second category of thematic development. The theme of the next sentence is where the clause fits in. It's dubbed the "Linear theme" by Paltridge. It's evident from the image that a clause's rheme becomes the subsequent clause's topic. This pattern's application in a text can be seen in the text that follows.

3. The Multiple/Split Theme Pattern

Different Theme Patterns for the third kind he examined was known as "Split rheme," which was also known as "Multiple theme". In this instance, a rheme may contain several distinct details, each of which may serve as a theme for several phrases that follow. This pattern draws attention to a single recurring subject that gave rise to other themes.

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C. Method of Investigation

The writers applied descriptive qualitative method. The data source of this research is obtained from the lyric of Taylor Swift's popular songs in 2019-2022. The title of the song is "Anti Hero, Snow on the Beach, Maroon" in 2022, "Tis the Damn Season" in 2020, and "False God" in 2019. The lyrics was taken from website https://genius.com/albums/Taylor-swift/Midnights Accessed on 27 February 2024 at 20.10).

To analyze the data, the writers implemented these steps: reading the whole lyrics, divided the texts into clauses according to each theme, determining the theme and rheme of each line of lyrics, describing the pattern of thematic progression observed in the songs' lyrics. The writers also arranged the lyrics theme progression pattern, next providing an explanation of the songs' thematic progression pattern, interpreting the findings of the analysis, and drawing conclusions.

D. Findings and Discussion

There are total of thematic progression pattern consisting of 23 reiteration/constant theme, 22 zigzag/linier and 11 split multiple themes.

1. Anti Hero

In the song 'Anti Hero' there are two reiterations/constants, nine zigzags/linier, and three split. It can be concluded that the most often used 'Anti Hero' song is zigzag/linier type of thematic progression

2. Snow on the Beach

In the song 'Snow on the Beach' there are three reiterations/constants, four zigzags/linier, and six splits/multiple. It can be concluded that the most often used song 'Snow on the Beach' is split/multiple type of thematic progression.

3. Maroon

   In the song 'Maroon' there are six reiterations/constants, two zigzags/linier, and one split/multiple. It can be concluded that the most often used song 'Maroon' is the reiteration type of thematic progression.

4. 'Tis the Damn Season

   In the song 'Tis the Damn Season' there are six reiterations/constants, three zigzags/linier, and one split. It can be concluded that the most often used Tis the Damn Season' song is the reiteration type of thematic progression.

5. False God

   In the song 'False God' there are six reiterations/constants, three zigzags/linier, and 0 split. It can be concluded that the most often used False God song is zigzag type of thematic progression.

E. Conclusion

The writers discovered the result of thematic progression pattern on these five songs is that the dominant type is reiterations/constant (23), zigzag/linier (22 clauses), and split/multiple (11). Based on the findings of thematic progression analysis, the writers found that in Taylor Swift's Popular Songs in 2019-2022 mostly recognized on five songs: Anti Hero (9 zig zag/linier), Snow on the Beach (6 split/multiple), Maroon (6 reiterations/constant), 'Tis the Damn Season (6 reiterations/constant), False God (6 reiterations/constant).

Acknowledgement

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