



THEME SYSTEM IN NARRATIVE SHORT STORY ENTITLED “THE STAR-MONEY” BY BROTHERS GRIMM

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ABSTRACT

Theme system has an important role in organizing ideas more effectively both in written or spoken form. The objective of this study was to assess how the theme system is utilized in the narrative short story titled “The Star-Money” by Brothers Grimm. The source of the data used a narrative short story entitled “The Star-Money” by Brothers Grimm. The qualitative method was employed for analyzing the data and used content analysis. The result showed all of types of themes are employed by the Brothers Grimm. The textual themes were most frequently used in the story with 70.5% of all clauses in the story. The textual themes occurred 36 times from 51 clauses of the story. The second was the topical themes. They appear 13 times and have 25.5% of all clauses in the story. Subsequently, the least common category of themes in the text was the interpersonal themes, occurring only twice and making up just 4% of all the themes within the text. It could be concluded that the writer of a narrative short story entitled “The Star-Money” preferred to use the textual themes more frequently. It was the writer wanted to provide the connection between clauses more cohesive.

Keywords: *Theme system; theme-rheme; topical; textual; interpersonal; narrative text.*

INTRODUCTION

One of the abilities refined during the process of learning English is writing. Writing is the final skill to be employed after acquiring proficiency in listening, speaking, and reading. It serves as a tool for thought and knowledge acquisition, offering a distinct avenue for delving into concepts and information (Purba et al., 2021). Various strategies can be employed to enhance our writing proficiency, including analyzing the structure, theme and rhythm system of sentences.

Theme system has an important role in creating a text. It helps the writers organize their ideas more effectively. The theme system serves as both the starting point of the message and a recall trigger for the message (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). It means that through theme system which is employed by the writers, a good text can be created. Furthermore, theme-system can be used as the tool for analyzing the text. The theme-system and narrative text analysis can be applied to analyze various types of written text. In the narrative story from Brothers Grimm

especially in story of 'The Star-Money', the writer writes the story start with the theme in each part. Brother Grimm also write in various theme in story of 'The Star-Money'.

The narrative genre has enjoyed enduring popularity and remains one of the most frequently read and comprehensible genres (Knapp & Watkins, 2005). Furthermore, almost of bedtime stories are narrative. It is because narrative stories concern with protagonist characters that face and resolve problematic experiences (Eggins, 2004). It gives value for the children to have a good heart and attitude in their daily life. One of the famous bedtime stories is 'The Star Money' which was written by Brothers Grimm. It tells about the miracle that happens because of the sincerity of a little girl. The Brothers Grimm who are the most popular and often told to children English children's fairy tales are the creator of three fairy tales were chosen which are widely known to the public. Fairy tales by the Brothers Grimm include Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Hansel and Gretel, and Rapunzel (Sofyaningrum, 2021).

Theme system related to the flow of information which is well known by cohesion and coherence. Unfortunately, a few people have limited awareness of theme system. It has been proved in research about coherence and cohesion in four abstracts of the concluding assignment for students in the Undergraduate English Language Department focused on analyzing abstracts, and the outcome of their research reveals a lack of coherence in these abstracts (Suwandi, 2016). Therefore, this study is conducted to enrich the people awareness of theme system. The objective of this study is to explore theme system which was employed by Brothers Grimm in their story entitled "the Star-Money".

The theme system or coherence of the text is an interesting area to be researched. It causes a few researcher conducted research in that area. For instance, a study of analysis of textual metafunction in Thai EFL students' writing. The writer analyzed the textual meaning from students' writing through the theme system (Arunsirot, 2013). Research about the theme in English and Persian short story. They found that there are no significant differences between theme-rheme distribution in English and Persian short stories. Both of the stories mostly used the topical theme (Darani & Mansouri, 2015). Furthermore, research about theme analysis of the editorial in the Jakarta Post newspaper (Whilliandi, 2011). The last research which was conducted quite similar to this study. However the object of the study is different. This study analyze the theme system in narrative text, especially short narrative text which was written by Brother Grimms. Moreover, this study is aimed to find out what types of theme which usually employed in the narrative text.

METHOD

In this study, a qualitative approach is used especially by using Systematic Literature Review (SLR). SLR is a term used to refer to a particular research or research methodology and development carried out to collect and evaluate research related to a particular topic focus (Biolchini cited in Lusiana & Suryani, 2014). The source of data in this study is a narrative short story entitled "the star-money" by Brothers Grimm. To obtaining the data for this study is employing content analysis as the research design. Content analysis is a method that allows researchers to examine human behavior indirectly by analyzing their conversations (Fraenkel & Wallen, 2009).

There were five steps for analyzing the data in content analysis (Hoonard & Will, 2008), those steps are;

- a. The gathering of data and the analysis of those data are iterative processes. In this step the researcher will read narrative text entitled the star-money which was written by Brothers Grimm.
- b. Memoing
In memoing process, firstly the researcher divided the story into some clauses by marked it using Roman numeral, for example i, ii, iii, etc.
- c. Coding
The third step that researcher do in data analysis is coding. Coding process makes researcher to code the clauses that researcher write in memoing process. The process of coding is aimed to easier in writing the data and the reader of this study. Example of coding can be seen in table 1.

Table 1. Example of Coding

Code	Meaning
I	Number of sentences in the story
I	Number of clauses in the story
S	Subject
P	Process Type
C	Circumstance
Conj.	Conjunction
Com. Adj.	Comment Adjunct

- d. Re-check the data that has been memoing
After coding all the data that will be analyzed the researcher need to review or recheck the data which has been collecting.
- e. Developing concepts or relating to already existing concepts.
The last step is the researcher analyzes the data. The data that has been memoing by the researcher then will be analyzed how the theme system applied by Brother Grimms in the narrative short story entitled the star-money.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of this study divided into four sections. The first section deals with the type of theme which dominates the theme system in the narrative short story entitled The Star-Money. The second section is the markedness of the topical themes which appear in the story. The third section tells types of the conjunction used in the textual theme which found in the story. Then, the last section deals with the distribution of coordination in the textual theme as found in the story.

The initial part of the study's findings delves into the presence of three theme types within the narrative short story "The Star-Money," which comprises a total of 51 clauses. Among these

themes, the textual themes take precedence, accounting for 70.5% of all themes in the story and occurring 36 times. Conversely, the interpersonal themes are the scarcest among theme types within the narrative, appearing only twice, making up a mere 4% of all themes in the text. In addition, topical themes are more frequently used in comparison to interpersonal themes, manifesting 13 times in the narrative and constituting 25.5% of all the themes in the text. The detailed distribution of these theme types is illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2. Distribution of the Types of Theme in the Story

Type of Theme	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Topical	13	25.5 %
Textual	36	70.5 %
Interpersonal	2	4 %
Total	51	100%

The second part of the findings in this study pertains to the markedness of the topical theme. This topical theme is classified into two distinct types: the marked topical theme and the unmarked topical theme. Unmarked topical themes are represented through the subject as the theme, while marked topical themes use circumstance or process types as the theme within the clause. In the narrative "The Star-Money," unmarked topical themes are more prevalent, occurring 10 times in the text, constituting 76.9% of all the topical themes in the narrative. On the other hand, marked topical themes only appear 3 times in the text, making up 23.1% of all the topical themes in the story. The distribution of marked and unmarked topical themes is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Distribution of the Marked and Unmarked Theme in the Story

Types of Themes		Frequency	Percentage
Topical Theme	Marked	3	23.1 %
	Unmarked	10	76.9 %
	Total	13	100%

The third section of the finding in this study deals with types of the conjunction used in the textual theme which found in the story. The textual themes dominate the theme system in the narrative sthort story entitled the star-money (see table 2). The textual theme divided into two main types namely continuity adjuncts as theme and conjunction adjuncts as theme (Eggins, 2004). However, the finding of this study only found the conjunction adjuncts as the themes in

the textual theme. This is because the star-money story is created in written form. Besides that, the continuity adjuncts as theme usually found in the spoken form (Eggs, 2004).

Textual theme can also be realized in structural conjunction, those are coordinating and subordinating conjunction, relatives and conjunctives (Martin et al., 1997). Based on the statement above, the textual themes as found in the narrative short story entitled the star-money are consists of some elements. Coordinating conjunction dominate the conjunction types in the textual theme. The coordinating conjunctions occur 26 times in the textual theme and have 76.5%. The second position is occupied by conjunctive. The conjunctive happen 5 times in the textual theme as found in the story and have 14.7% of conjunctions in the textual themes. The last position is occupied by subordinating conjunction which appears 3 times in the text and have 8.8% of conjunctions in the textual themes. The distribution of types of conjunctions in the textual theme as found in the narrative short story entitled the star-money can be seen in table 4 below.

Table 4. Types of Conjunction in the Textual Theme Found in the Story

Types of Conjunction	Frequency	Percentage
Coordination	26	76.5 %
Subordination	3	8.8 %
Conjunctive	5	14.7 %

The last section of the finding of this study deals with the distribution of coordinating conjunctions in the textual theme as found in the story. Based on table 4 above, it can be seen that coordinating conjunction dominates in the textual themes. The coordinating conjunction used by the writer when he/she want to combine one clause to the other clause but both of the clauses should in the same position or hypotaxis. The coordinating conjunction itself consists of some words. The coordinating conjunctions which appear in the textual theme in the narrative short story entitled the star-money are ‘and’, ‘but’, ‘so’, and ‘or’.

One of the four coordinating conjunctions dominates the other coordinating conjunctions. The ‘and’ coordinating conjunction occupies the highest order. It occurs 22 times in the textual theme and has 84.6% of the coordinating conjunctions which appear in the textual themes. The second position is occupied by the ‘but’ coordinating conjunction. It happens 2 times in the story and has 7.8% of the coordinating conjunction in textual themes. Then, the last position is occupied by the ‘so’ coordinating conjunction and the ‘or’ coordinating conjunction. Both of them only occur once in the story and have 3.8% of coordinating conjunctions which appear in textual themes. The distribution of coordinating conjunction in the textual themes in the narrative short story entitled the star-money can be seen in table 5.

Table 5. Distribution of Coordination in the Textual Theme

Types of Coordination	Frequency	Percentage
And	22	84.6 %
But	2	7.8 %
So	1	3.8 %
Or	1	3.8 %

This study found that the textual themes are the common themes in the narrative short story entitled the star-money. The textual themes have 70.5% of all themes in the story (see table 2). The textual themes were employed by the writer to correlate one idea to the other one in an attempt to product cohesive text. The occurrence of the textual themes in the narrative short story entitled the star-money are realized by the use of coordinating, subordinating, and conjunctive conjunction (see table 4). The examples of coordinating conjunction used in the narrative short story entitled the star-money are, (5i.) *She reached him the whole of her piece of bread,* (5ii.) **and** said: 5iii. “*May God bless it to thy use,*” (5iv.) **and** went onwards.

Furthermore, textual themes which mostly appear in the initial clause mean that the writer gives the linking function from the previous element to the following elements (Martin et al., 1997). This means that Brother Grimms provide the connection between clauses to be more cohesive. The textual themes are most frequently used than the other themes because the writer wants to focus on the coherence of the text. Besides that, the writer also considers that the important thing to show up first is coherence in the story. Therefore, the narrative short story entitled the star-money which was written by Brother Grimm is easy to be understood. This is because Brother Grimm employed the textual themes which realized the conjunctions properly.

The topical themes occupy the second position of the theme system in the star-money short story. The finding shows that the writer mostly used the unmarked topical theme in the story (see table 6). When the writer mostly employed the unmarked topical themes, it means that the writer used the unmarked topical theme to provide the clear focus in the clause (Emilia, 2005). This means that, although the topical themes do not occupy the highest position in the theme system distribution in the story, the writer provides the clear focus for the reader. Besides that, the number of the topical theme in the narrative short story entitled the star-money is quite a lot. It is almost a third of the themes in the narrative short story entitled the star-money. This means that the writer quite effective to orient the readers to what the text about (Eggs, 2004).

The rarest type of themes which appear in the star-money short story is the interpersonal theme. The interpersonal themes only occur 2 times in the story (see table 2). The use of interpersonal themes in the story aimed to present the writer’s perspective in the story. This means that Brother Grimms do not express their perspective on the star-money story. However, the interpersonal themes are more often found in spoken texts (Butt et al., 2000). This means that

the narrative short story entitled the star-money appropriate with the statement above. This is because the story only presents twice the interpersonal meaning. Besides that, the story was created in written form. This means that the interpersonal themes will hard to find in the star-money story.

CONCLUSION

In light of the discoveries and the preceding discourse, we could derive several conclusions from this study. To begin with, concerning the theme system utilized in the narrative short story "The Star-Money," it encompassed all categories of themes, including the topical theme, textual theme, and interpersonal theme. Secondly, it was worth noting that the "The Star-Money" story predominantly makes use of textual themes when compared to the other types of themes. This was because Brothers Grimm concern with the coherence of the story. Besides that, it was because the writer wanted to provide the connection between clauses to be more cohesive. Besides that, the presences of the textual themes were aimed to create the sense of the text. Finally, Brother Grimms prefer to use the 'and' coordinating conjunction often in the story because they only wanted to add information to the clause. To complete this kind of research, the future researchers can try this theory with other types of texts and writers/authors.

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