

The Study on Thematic Progression Patterns in Economic Journalistic Texts from China Daily

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Abstract—Thematic Structure theory is one of the most important methods for analyzing texts. Based on the research of thematic structure, Danes proposed the concept of thematic progression pattern. Linguists at home and abroad have used thematic progression patterns to study various types of discourse. However, the research on the theme and thematic progression patterns of economic journalistic texts is rare. Based on this, This paper selects three articles of economic news from China Daily and uses quantitative method. Thematic progression patterns (TP patterns) used in economic journalistic texts and the frequency of occurrence of each thematic progression pattern (TP pattern) were analyzed in this paper. The aim of this paper is to help readers to understand economic journalistic texts, grasp the author's intention and discourse mechanism.

Index Terms—Economic journalistic texts, theme, thematic progression pattern (TP pattern).

I. INTRODUCTION

The text coherence is realized by both themes and thematic progression patterns. The study of texts is largely concerned with the study of themes and thematic progression patterns. It is important to conduct the study on text under the direction of themes and thematic progression patterns. By using the TP patterns, we can analyze the developing of a text clearly. It also can help us to find the dynamic distribution of themes and rhemes in a text [1]. It is successive themes and rhemes that push the whole text progress forward logically [2]. The proper application of TP patterns can help to guarantee the whole text more complete and fluent. Different types of texts tend to use different TP patterns to achieve their specific purposes. As the economic journalistic texts, It should have its own TP patterns to achieve its special effects. This paper selects economic journalistic texts from China Daily as the research objects and adopts TP pattern theory to analyze the inner structure of economic journalistic texts.

II. IDENTIFICATION OF THEME

According to Halliday, “the element at the starting point in the clause is regarded as the Theme and the rest is Rheme” [3]. A coherent text largely depends on the clauses linked together in each text. Such link among clauses are realized by TP patterns in organizing the text. In fact there are many different opinions about the divisions of theme.

This thesis uses Halliday’s identification of Theme. In Terms of Meta-function, he divides the theme into three types: Ideational Theme, Interpersonal Theme, and Textual Theme. In terms of the complexity, he divides the theme into three types: Simple Theme, Multiple Theme and Clausal Theme. In terms of markedness, the theme is divided into two types: Marked Theme and Unmarked Theme.

III. THEMATIC PROGRESSION PATTERNS

As for thematic progression patterns, there are many TP patterns brought up by many scholars. Because some of these patterns are same and there is no one TP pattern theory which can cover all the patterns occurring in one text, so this thesis adopts five thematic progression patterns to analyze American presidential inaugural speeches. These five patterns are Danes’ Derived Pattern [4] plus Huang Yan’s seven patterns.

Huang Yan (1985) puts forward seven patterns in Chinese. According to other scholars’ TP pattern theories, his patterns are named in English: (1) Simple Linear Pattern; (2) Constant Theme Pattern; (3) Constant Rheme Pattern; (4) Alternative Pattern; (5) Juxtaposed Pattern; (6) Irregular Pattern (7) Linear Constant Theme Pattern.

A. Simple Linear Pattern

This pattern is the case where the rheme of the preceding clause becomes the theme of the following clause.(T= Theme, R=Rheme):

$$\begin{aligned} &T_1-R_1 \\ &T_2 (=R_1)-R_2 \\ &T_3 (=R_2)-R_3 \\ &T_n (=R_{n-1})-R_n \end{aligned}$$

B. Constant Theme Pattern

The themes in different clauses are semantically related while the rhemes carry different information.

$$\begin{aligned} &T_1-R_1 \\ &T_2 (=T_1)-R_2 \\ &T_3 (=T_1)-R_3 \\ &T_n (=T_1)-R_n \end{aligned}$$

C. Constant Rheme Pattern

In this model, the rhemes in all the clauses are same or similar to each other and this pattern is called Constant

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Rheme Pattern.

T1-R1
 T2-R2 (=R1)
 T3-R3 (=R1)
 Tn-Rn (=R1)

D. Alternative Pattern

In this pattern, the previous themes become the following rhemes.

T1-R1
 T2-R2 (=T 1)
 T3-R3 (=T2)
 Tn-Rn (=Tn-1)

E. Juxtaposed Pattern

This pattern refers to that the themes of the odd sentences are equal to each other and at the same time themes in the even clauses are identical with each other in a text.

T1-R1
 T2-R2
 T3 (=T 1)-R3
 T4(=T2)-R4
 Tn(=T1) -Rn
 Tm(=T2)-Rm

(note: n is odd; m is even)

F. Irregular Pattern

This pattern refers to the case where there is no apparent relations between themes and rhemes on the surface .

G. Linear Constant Theme Pattern

When the rheme of the preceding clause becomes the theme of the second clause, and the theme of the second clause serves as the themes of the next clauses, it is the Linear Constant Theme. Namely, the first two clauses are in linear pattern while the following clauses have identical themes.

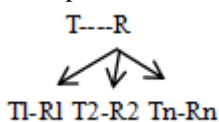
T1-R1
 T2 (=R1)----R1
 Tn(=R1)-Rn

In order to analyze the data from a comprehensive perspective, Huang Yan’s theory can’t cover all the patterns that occur in the speeches, so Danes’ Derived Pattern is also adopted in the analysis.

H. Derived Pattern

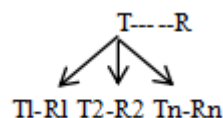
This pattern has two types, which are Derived Rheme and Derived Theme.

Derived Rheme: in adjoining clauses, when the following rhemes are derived from the preceding rheme in terms of the semantic relations or as an element of the preceding rheme, this pattern is called Drived Rheme.



Derived Theme: it is similar to Derived Rheme, which

refers to that themes are split from the theme of previous clause.



The above patterns are employed in the analysis of the collected speeches. Next part presents the specific analysis of themes and thematic progression patterns in economic Journalistic Texts.

IV. METHODOLOGY

This study mainly employs the quantitative research method. In the light of quantitative method, the thesis selects three economic journalistic texts from China Daily. Then, the statistics of these patterns will be presented in the form of tables. By analyzing the samples, the frequency of each pattern in the journalistic texts can be seen.

V. SAMPLE ANALYSIS

Example 1

Chinese firm to set up smartphone factory in Uganda

Kampala - The government of Uganda has endorsed a Chinese firm, Xinlan Group in establishing a smartphones factory in Uganda.

Bemanya Twebaze, the chief executive officer Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) said on Tuesday, a delegation from Xinlan Group is expected in Uganda next month to officially ink the 10 million deal.

The development comes a few weeks after President Museveni directed managers of telecommunication company to establish a cell phone factory in Uganda was hatched in July, 2017 when a government delegation that visited China asked Chinese authorities to give Uganda a comprehensive cyber-security solution, including technical capacity to monitor and curb increasing social media misuse.

“Once the project kicks off, a total of 5000 Ugandans are expected to get jobs and the project will also help enhance access to internet in the country,” Twebaze said.

The Chinese company is expected to use local minerals such as coltan to manufacture the telephones.

Xinlan is the overseas investment arm of the Amoi Group.

From the example 1 we can identify the Theme and Rheme in each sentence and lists them out.

T1= Kampala - The government of Uganda

T2= Xinlan Group

T3=Bemanya Twebaze, the chief executive officer Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB)

T4= a delegation from Xinlan Group

T5= The development

T6=a government telecommunication company

T7= Once the project kicks off

T8= The Chinese company

T9= Xinlan

The rest in each sentence is Rheme, which has certain relationships with Themes or Rhemes in each sentence, then the author demonstrates the TP for the whole text, from which we can count the number of each TP pattern.

- T1 -- R1
- T2 (=R1) -- R2
- T3 -- R3
- T4 (=T2) -- R4
- T5 -- R5
- T6 (=R5) -- R6
- T7 (=R2) -- R7
- T8 -- R8
- T9 (=T2) -- R9

TABLE I: THEMATIC PROGRESSION PATTERNS IN EXAMPLE ONE

TP Pattern	Number	Percentage
Constant Theme Pattern	2	28.5%
Simple Linear Pattern	3	42.8%
Constant Rheme Pattern	0	0%
Alternative Pattern	0	0%
Juxtaposed Pattern	0	0%
Derived Pattern	0	0%
IP	2	28.5%
Total	7	100%

From the above analysis, we can present the result as Table I.

From the Table I we can see, Simple Linear Pattern takes the first place, 3 in 7, 42.8%. Then the next is Constant Theme Pattern and Irregular Pattern, 2 in 7, 28.5%.

Example 2

Chinese app is beautifying the whole world

Wai Wai Oo, a student from Myanmar, whips out her smartphone, and facing its screen, takes a selfie. Within seconds, BeautyPlus, a Chinese self-editing app on her phone, beautifies the image: face becomes slim, dark circles under her eyes disappear, and patches of rouge appear on her lips.

BeautyPlus is the flagship product of China's self-editing software leader Meitu Inc. It was developed specifically for users outside of China. More than 300 million overseas users use it. "Back in Myanmar, many of my friends use Meitu's products," said Wai Wai Oo.

BeautyPlus has location-specific features. In Brazil, for example, a function can darken skin and whiten teeth in an image.

"Our global strategy is to ensure that each of our overseas products is 'hyper-localized' to inspire our users in expressing their beauty," said Fox Lui, head of Meitu's international economic.

The different definitions of beauty in different countries inspired the company's designers to follow beauty trends and develop diverse products.

11 In India, the company unveiled BeautyPlus ME, a lighter version of Beauty-Plus, as many Indian users tend to use apps with smaller file-size due to bandwidth issues and slow internet connectivity.

This strategy has proved to be a success. Google Play named BeautyPlus ME as the first trending app in India in 2016.

"Each market has its own unique preferences when it comes to how local people want to express themselves through photos, videos and personal styles. The key to our success is to listen to our users and get to know their preferences," Fox said.

The company has established a number of offices abroad. More importantly, more than 20 nationalities are represented on Meitu's global team to be more localized.

With its hyper-localization strategy, Meitu has received a wide presence in the overseas market, with over 500 million users overall, it said. The company operates three beauty apps — Beauty-Plus, BeautyPlus Me and Airbrush — and virtual makeup app MakeupPlus in foreign markets.

To attract more users and drive growth, Meitu cooperated with well-known local celebrities such as Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty in India.

About future plans, Meitu said it will beef up its presence not only in Brazil and India but also the United States, Europe, Japan and Russia.

- T1= Wai Wai Oo, a student from Myanmar
- T2= Within seconds, BeautyPlus, a Chinese self-editing app on her phone
- T3= BeautyPlus
- T4= It
- T5= More than 300 million overseas users
- T6= Back in Myanmar, many of my friends
- T7= BeautyPlus
- T8= In Brazil, for example, a function
- T9= Our global strategy
- T10=The different definitions of beauty in different countries

- T11= In India, the company
- T12= as many Indian users
- T13= This strategy
- T14= Google Play
- T15= Each market
- T16= The key to our success
- T17= The company
- T18= More importantly, more than 20 nationalities
- T19= With its hyper-localization strategy
- T20= The company
- T21= To attract more users and drive growth
- T22= About future plans, Meitu

The rest in each sentence is Rheme, which has certain relationships with Themes or Rhemes in each sentence, then the author demonstrates the TP for the whole text, from which we can count the number of each TP pattern.

- T1--R1
- T2--R2
- T3 (=T2)--R3
- T4 (=T2)--R4
- T5 (=R4)--R5 (=T2)
- T6 (=R4)--R6
- T7 (=T2)--R7
- T8 (=R7)--R8
- T9--R9
- T10--R10
- T11--R11
- T12--R12
- T13 (=T12+R12)--R13
- T14 (=T11)--R14 (=R12)
- T15--R15
- T16--R16 (=R15)
- T17 (=T11)--R17

T18--R18 (=R9)
 T19 (=R9)--R19
 T20 (=T11)--R20
 T21--R21 (=T19)
 T22--R22 (=T9+R9)

TABLE II: THEMATIC PROGRESSION PATTERNS IN EXAMPLE TWO

TP Pattern	Number	Percentage
Constant Theme Pattern	6	28.5%
Simple Linear Pattern	5	23.8%
Constant Rheme Pattern	4	19%
Alternative Pattern	2	9.5%
Juxtaposed Pattern	0	0%
Derived Pattern	0	0%
IP	4	19%
Total	21	100%

From the Table II we can see, Constant Theme Pattern takes the first place, 6 in 21, 28.5%; the second is Simple Linear Pattern, 5 in 21, 23.8%; the third are Constant Rheme Pattern and Irregular Pattern, 4 in 21, 19%; the fourth is Alternative Pattern, 2 in 21, 9.5%.

Example 3

Xinjiang welcomes more tourists during Spring Festival

Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region **received** 1.76 million domestic tourists during Spring Festival holiday, up 16 percent year-on-year.

The tourists spent 2 billion yuan (\$314 million) during the week-long holiday ending Wednesday, up over 28 percent from last year, according to the regional tourism development commission Thursday.

Rural tourism and winter sports were the top choices, according to the commission.

Urumqi International Airport handled 408,000 passengers during the period, up 18 percent. A total of 2,994 flights departed from or arrived at the airport, up 8.5 percent.

During the holiday, trains in Xinjiang carried nearly 910,000 passengers, including 727,100 within the region.

Xinjiang saw robust growth of 32.4 percent in the number of tourists in 2017, receiving 107 million. Tourists spent over 182 billion yuan in the region, 30 percent more than in 2016.

As tourism is seen as a barometer of stability and harmony, Xinjiang's tourism performance "shows again that Xinjiang is a good place," said Shohrat Zakir, chairman of the Xinjiang regional government.

T1= Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region

T2= The tourists

T3= Rural tourism and winter sports

T4= Urumqi International Airport

T5= A total of 2,994 flights

T6= During the holiday

T7= Xinjiang

T8= Tourists

T9= As tourism

T10= Xinjiang's tourism performance

The rest in each sentence is Rheme, which has certain relationships with Themes or Rhemes in each sentence, then the author demonstrates the TP for the whole text, from which we can count the number of each TP pattern.

T1--R1
 T2 (=R1)--R2
 T3 (=R1)--R3
 T4--R4
 T5--R5 (=T4)
 T6--R6
 T7 (=T1)--R7
 T8 (=T2)--R8
 T9--R9
 T10 (=R7)--R10

TABLE III: THEMATIC PROGRESSION PATTERNS IN EXAMPLE THREE

TP Pattern	Number	Percentage
Constant Theme Pattern	2	28.5%
Simple Linear Pattern	3	42.8%
Constant Rheme Pattern	0	0%
Alternative Pattern	1	14.2%
Juxtaposed Pattern	0	0%
Derived Pattern	0	0%
IP	1	14.2%
Total	7	100%

From the Table III we can see, Simple Linear Pattern takes the first place, 3 in 7, 42.8%; the second is Constant Theme Pattern, 2 in 7, 28.5%; the last are Alternative Pattern and Irregular, 1 in 7, 14.2%.

VI. CONCLUSION

The last chapter gives the summary of the research. The present study is an analysis of TP patterns in economic journalistic texts with the help of statistics.

According to the previous studies and under the guidance of Halliday's Theme theory and Huang Yan's Thematic Progression theories, the two questions are answered:

What are the TP patterns used in economic journalistic texts?

What are the percentages of TP patterns in economic journalistic texts?

To begin with, in the light of Theme-Rheme theory, economic journalistic texts prefer to use the simple themes and unmarked themes. On the basis of analysis of themes, TP patterns are analyzed and the frequently-used TP patterns are found: constant theme patterns, simple linear patterns, constant rheme patterns, alternative patterns, irregular patterns. As for juxtaposed patterns and derived patterns, they are not found in economic journalistic texts.

This study is only tentative rather than exhaustive. So the limitations of this study are presented. The number of the selected data is limited because of the space and time. It is a relatively small scale research. To some degree, this may affect the results of the research. And this study is only conducted on economic journalistic texts, so there is no comparison with other data. It is also suggested that a comparative study can be done in the further study.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Xiangyun Zhang conducted the research, analyzed the data

and wrote the whole paper. Xiaolan Lei guided and revised the paper. All authors had approved the final version.

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