

Types, Progression, and Markedness of Theme in The Jakarta Post News on the COVID-19 Outbreak

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Abstract

This study aims to find out textual function including the types, progression, and markedness in The Jakarta Post Newspaper on the Covid-19 Outbreak in order to identify how the information in the clause goes on and gives a significant contribution to keeping the text coherent. The texts were analyzed by applying the theory of textual Metafunction proposed by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014). This study used a qualitative approach by using the content analysis. The result of this study shows topical, textual, and interpersonal Themes were found. Moreover, Topical Theme has the highest occurrences (77,3%), followed by the Textual Theme (21,5%), and Interpersonal Theme (1,2%). Regarding to the occurrences of the Theme Markedness, Unmarked Topical Theme (UMT) has higher occurrences with 91,5% than Marked Topical Theme (MT) with 8,5%. Meanwhile, the Thematic progression analysis shows that the Linear pattern has the highest occurrences with 55,8%, followed by a Constant Pattern with 36,4%, then a Split-Rheme pattern with 5,2%, and the Derived Theme as the lowest occurrences with 2,6%. The highest occurrences of unmarked Topical theme and Linear patterns give that both of them play an important role in creating continuity clauses of the newspaper.

Keywords: metafunction, textual, interpersonal, pattern

1. Introduction

1.1 The Background of the Study

Amidst the pandemic's chaos, the role of the media has been pivotal in shaping public perceptions, disseminating critical information, and influencing behavioral patterns (Yusuf, Mono, & Humaizi, 2023). The Jakarta Post, reputable English-language newspaper in Indonesia, has been at the forefront of reporting on the COVID-19 situation. The urgency of exploring textual meaning in the news coverage of COVID-19 in Jakarta Post lies in its potential to unravel the subtle nuances that shape public understanding and response to the crisis.

In the vast realm of linguistic analysis, the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework provides a robust lens through which we can dissect the intricacies of language use (Sinar, et al., 2023; Yusuf, et al., 2021). In particular, delving into the themes, markedness, and thematic progression in news discourse can unravel profound insights into the way information is presented and constructed. As we confront the ongoing global crisis of COVID-19, examining how these linguistic elements manifest in news articles becomes not only an academic exercise but a crucial endeavor for understanding the dissemination of information during times of uncertainty.

At the heart of SFL lies the concept of Theme, a linguistic element that governs the structure of a clause by determining what the sentence is "about." Each clause on the texts contains one important element to the discourse which is called Theme and Rheme. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) states that elements in a Thematic position attract the readers' attention more than elements in rhematic position. The order of Theme and Rheme, as well as their placement in the clause as a message, is not random or valueless. They can be manipulated along with units of information, Given and New, to achieve a rhetorical purpose and reflect a specific angle of telling a story (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004). Halliday (1994) describes that Theme as what the message is concerned with: the point of departure for what the speaker is going to say. In addition, Theme makes to the cohesion and coherence of the text has to do with how Thematic elements succeed each other (Martin et al., 1997; Diaz, 2001). Bloor & Bloor (2004) said that we can express the Theme-Rheme structure of a text diagrammatically to show the thematic progression in the text. Thus, Thematic progression dealings with how ideas construct in text so that present continuity to arrange a text coherently. In other

word, Thematic Progression focuses on where Themes are from and how Themes relate to another Themes and Rhemes in the text. In the context of news discourse, understanding how Themes are employed can shed light on what aspects of the COVID-19 crisis are emphasized or downplayed. Jakarta Post's choice of Themes can be seen as a deliberate editorial decision that shapes the narrative, influences reader perception, and underscores the urgency or severity of certain elements related to the pandemic. So, this study tries to find out types of Themes, markedness, and Thematic progression in The Jakarta Post online newspaper on the Covid-19 outbreak.

This study is expected to give the beneficial both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study is expected to enrich the lectures. It is also a means for the writer to get more knowledge especially about an analysis of a Theme-Rheme system and the Thematic progression in clauses. Practically, this study gives the theoretical information, so it is also expected that this study will be beneficial for the reader to understand and be able to identify the Theme-Rheme system and Thematic progression on the text, in discourse analysis.

1.2 Literature Review

A. Metafunction in SFL

The SFL (Systemic Functional Linguistics) is also known as SFG (Systemic Functional Grammar). It is about a relationship between language and society (Hasan et al., 2005). SFL does not only ask functional questions about how people are using language, but it also interprets the linguistic system itself from a functional-semantic perspective (Eggins, 2004). The structure of language or the text is chosen by the function or purpose set by its speakers in using the language (Adawiyah, 2017; Fatmawati et al., 2019; Feri et al., 2023; Hidayah et al., 2023; Pasaribu, 2023; Sinar et al., 2020; Yunita, 2018). Therefore, SFL focusses on the aims and uses of language. They explore how language is used, and its effect. Their aims include revealing many if the choices of language users have in interaction and showing how meaning is made (Susilowati & Akmalia, 2019; Syahrizal et al., 2018). Bloor & Bloor (2004) interpreted the concept of Halliday's metafunctions as the ways in which human beings use language classifying into three broad categories: 1) Language is used to organize, understand and express our perceptions of the world and of our own consciousness (ideational metafunction); 2) Language is used to enable us to participate in communicative acts with other people, to take on roles and to express and understand feelings, attitude and judgements (interpersonal metafunction); and 3) Language is used to relate what is said (or written) to the rest of the text and to other linguistic events (textual metafunction).

B. Textual Function

Halliday (1994) states that the textual function of language is an interpretation of language in its function as a message, which is a text forming function of language. Halliday (1971) as cited from Eggins (2004) refers to the textual function of language as the 'enabling function'. This is the level of organization of the clause which enables the clause to be packaged in ways which make it effective given its purpose and its context. In English, since it represents the development of the text, the first position in a clause provides textual meaning. Eggins (2004:298) states that all language will somehow encode textual meaning since language users depend on signal which indicate the cohesive relation between the clause, its content and its purpose. Nurlela, et al. (2021) added studying thematic characteristics in text is important to reveal how themes play a big role in presenting a story by keeping the cohesiveness of the ideas in the text. We need a simple and special two meta-languages to analyze and address the textual meaning of the text, the THEME (starting point for the message) and the RHEME (new information about the starting point). The Theme element is the element which serves as the point of departure of the message; it is that which locates and orients the clause within its context. The remainder of the message, the part in which the Theme develop, is called the Rheme (Halliday & Mathiessen, 2004:64). Halliday (1994) proposes three metafunctions at a lexico-grammatical level: ideational (construing a model of experience), interpersonal (enacting social relationships), and textual (creating relevance to context). Eggins (2004) also provides the explanation of categories of Theme as the followings: 1) Topical Theme: in a clause, it is normally an element which is able to be assigned as transitivity label placed in the first position. A prominent thing is each clause must have only one topical Theme. Topical Theme also comprises of marked Theme (MT) and unmarked Theme (UMT). 2) Textual Theme: it deals with building the cohesion in text, and this kind of Theme is also defined as any elements which do not belong to any experiential and interpersonal meaning. The conjunction is mostly used in the beginning of the clause and as the signal of textual Theme. 3) Interpersonal Theme: It happens when at the beginning of a clause, a constituent called as a Mood label appears (not a transitivity label). The constituents consist of unfused finite, mood adjunct, vocative, polarity adjunct, and comment adjunct.

C. Thematic Progression

Eggins (2004) said that the final, but very significant, contribution that the Theme makes to the cohesion and coherence of the text has to do with how Thematic elements succeed each other. Bloor & Bloor (2004) said that we can express the Theme-Rheme structure of a text diagrammatically to show the thematic progression in the text. Bloor & Bloor

(2004:88) states there are four types of Thematic Progression. They are the constant Theme pattern, The linear Theme pattern, The Split-Rheme pattern, and Derived Themes (Butt et al., 2012).

1.3 The Constant Pattern

Bloor & Bloor (2004:88) states the constant pattern, where a common Theme is shared by each clause and this Theme equates with Given Information. The constant Theme patterns is also called as Theme Reiteration. In the theme, based on the information provided, each of these terms and Themes share this pattern. This pattern makes the same Themes always arranged in the order of clauses. Each clause's Rheme is information. This is how the pattern is expressed:

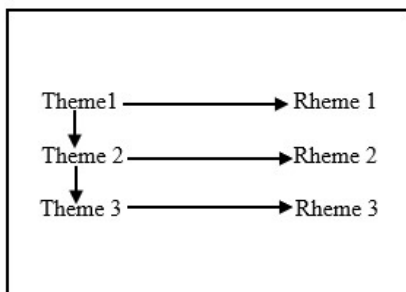


Figure 1. The Constant Pattern

1.4 The Linear Pattern

In this pattern, The Rheme of one clause is taken up as the theme of subsequent clause. Bloor and Bloor (2004). The following is a representation of the pattern:

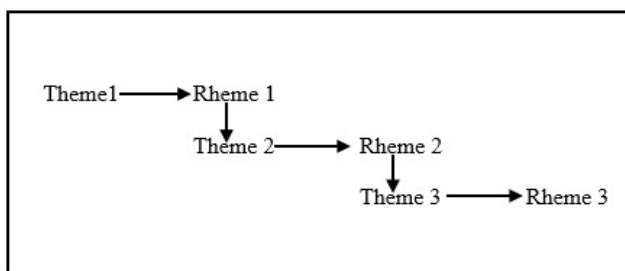


Figure 2. The Linear Pattern

1.5 The Split-Rheme Pattern

Danes (1974) also calls Split-Rhemes Pattern as The Multiple Pattern. This pattern occurs when the Rheme of a clause has two components, each of which is taken in turn as the Theme of the subsequent clause (Bloor and Bloor, 2004). The pattern is represented in the following:

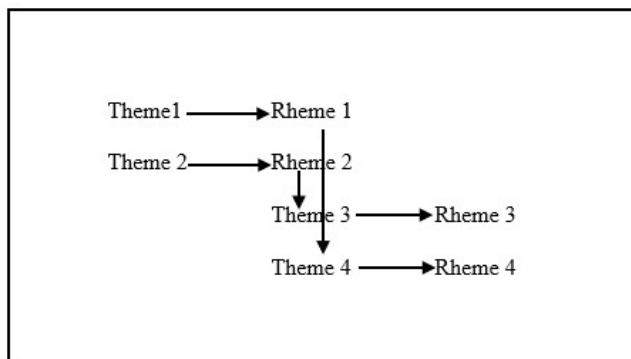


Figure 3. The Split-Rheme Pattern

1.6 Derived Theme

Derived Theme is used to describe expression in Theme positions which are cohesively linked in meaning, but not necessarily in form, to a topic which has been stated earlier in the text (Bloor and Bloor: 2004: 91). In this pattern, the theme position is closely related to the aforementioned subject in terms of meaning and content. The text of the entire

chapter involves a general idea. The theme of each clause of the compiler is derived from the general sense, but they are not exactly the same. The pattern is represented in the following:

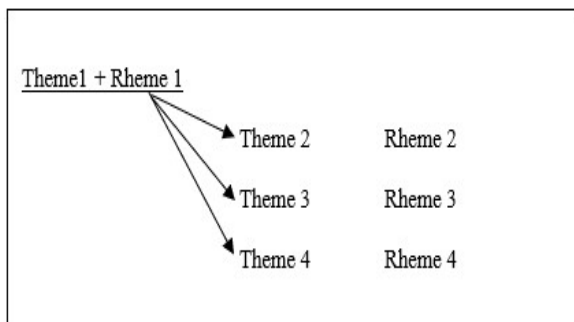


Figure 4. The Derived Theme

2. Method

This study employed qualitative approach and content analysis as research design. The data used in this study were the clauses contained in the Jakarta Post newspaper on the Covid-19 outbreak. The source of data was taken from www.thejakartapost.com, an official website of The Jakarta Post newspaper. Five news' are selected on 2nd-7th March 2020, they are Commentary: Let's not kid ourselves, Indonesia unlikely COVID-19-free (N1), Govt to test more people for COVID-19 (N2), Govt allocates more funds to cushion virus impact (N3), Bali tourism feels pinch of virus outbreak (N4), and Govt confirms new cases, calls for calm (N5). The stages of analysis in this study used the theory of Miles et al., (2014). First, the data collection was obtained in the Jakarta Post newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak. Second, the analysis was begun by selecting Themes and Rhemes in the clauses. After Theme and Rheme were selected and analyzed, then it was analyzed by the sorts of Theme type and Thematic Progression.

3. Results and Discussion

A. Types of Themes in The Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak

This part discusses the types of Themes found in the Jakarta Post Newspaper on the Covid-19 Outbreak. There were 5 selected news which published in 2nd-7th March 2020 constructed by 109 paragraphs and 292 clauses. Each clause was identified and classified according to the Theme it belongs to its type. The table below summarized the Theme found in The Jakarta Post newspaper on the covid-19 outbreak.

Table 1. The Total of Themes

News' Title	Types of Themes		
	Topical	Textual	Interpersonal
Commentary: Let's not kid ourselves. Indonesia unlikely COVID-19-free	93	30	1
Govt to test more people for COVID-19	68	17	0
Govt allocates more funds to cushion virus impact	45	7	1
Bali tourism feels pinch of virus outbreak	51	20	3
Govt confirms new cases, calls for calm	74	18	0
Total	331	92	5
Total in Percent	77,3%	21,5%	1,2%

The Topical Theme was the highly frequent Theme used. It almost appeared in every 292 clauses in the Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak. From a total of 428 Themes found in the text, the topical Themes appear 331 or 77,3% occurrences. It went along with what Eggins (2004) said that every clause must contain one and only one topical Theme. It is also along with Halliday (2014), the principle of Thematic structure is that Theme contains one, and only one, of experiential element. Therefore, every clause always had a topical Theme. The topical theme was divided into two parts. From a total of 331 topical themes found in the text, the unmarked Theme is the most dominant topical Theme that appeared in the texts with 303 or 91,5 % occurrences, while marked Theme with 28 or 8,5% occurrences. Meanwhile, the textual Theme occurs 92 or 21,5% of the total in the text the Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak. The total occurrences of textual Themes proved that the textual Theme had an important element in creating cohesive and coherent texts. On the other hand, the Interpersonal Theme is the lowest Theme that appears in the text The Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak. The occurrences of the interpersonal Theme in the text were 5 or 1,2% or 6 of the

total themes. The samples below presented how the Theme and Rheme were applied in The Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak:

“So, it is wrong to say that the coronavirus has yet to reach Indonesia. It already has. It just went undetected — at least four times!” (sentence 1)

Table 2. Theme Analysis (1)

	Theme	Rheme
Textual	Topical (MT) So, it	is wrong to say
Textual	Topical (UMT) that the coronavirus	has yet to reach Indonesia
	Topical (UMT) It	already has
	Topical (UMT)	just went undetected at least four times

From the sample in table 2, it shows that sentence 1 comprises of 4 clauses. is begun with Topical Theme “with the outbreak” as the nominal group as the head, and then followed by Rheme 1. The Clause 2 began with “the government” as Topical Theme as nominal group as head and then followed by Rheme 2. The Clause 3 begin with “it” as the Topical Theme as the subject (nominal group) as the head, followed by Rheme 3, Theme 4 begin with “we” as Topical Theme as Subject (nominal group) as the head.

“The Health Ministry has said it will now assign its regional labs to test people suspected of carrying the novel coronavirus amid concerns that it has not been proactive enough in detecting infected people to prevent its spread”.

(Sentence 2)

Table 3. Theme Analysis (2)

	Theme	Rheme
	Topical (UMT) The Health Ministry	has said it will now assign its regional labs to test people suspected of carrying the novel coronavirus amid concerns
Textual	Topical (UMT)	has not been proactive enough in detecting infected people to prevent its spread.

From the sample in table 3, sentence 2 comprises of 2 clauses. The clause is begun with the Topical Theme “The Health Ministry” as the nominal group as the head, and then followed by Rheme 1. The Clause 2 began with “that” as Textual Theme as conjunctive adjunct then followed by “it” as the Topical Theme as the subject (nominal group) and then followed by Rheme 2.

“The Finance Ministry would also accelerate the disbursement of tax refunds to improve manufacturers’ cash flows so that they could buy the raw materials for their factories”. (Sentence 3)

Table 4. Theme Analysis (3)

	Theme	Rheme
	Topical (UMT) The Finance Ministry	would also accelerate the disbursement of tax refunds to improve manufacturers’ cash flows
Textual	Textual Topical (UMT)	could buy the raw materials for their factories.

From table 4, the clause begins with the Topical Theme “the finance ministry” and as the nominal group, then followed by Rheme 1. Clause 2 began with “so” and “that” as Textual Theme and also as the conjunction, and “they” as Topical Theme and as a nominal group, and then followed by Rheme 2.

“Tourism areas such as Kuta, Legian and Seminyak appear to be quiet. Many hotel staff members say they are worried about layoffs, as fewer guests are arriving”. (Sentence 4)

Table 5. Theme Analysis (4)

Theme		Rheme
Topical (UMT)	Tourism areas	such as Kuta, Legian and Seminyak appear to be quiet.
Topical (UMT)	Many hotel staff members	say they are worried about layoffs,
Textual	Topical (UMT)	are arriving.
as	fewer guests	

Table 5 indicates that the clause is started from Topical Theme “Tourism areas” as the nominal group and then followed by Rheme 1. Clause 2 began with “Many hotel staff members” as a Topical theme as the nominal group, and then followed by Rheme 2. The last, Clause 3 begins with “as” as the textual theme as the conjunction and “fewer guests” as a topical theme as the nominal group and then followed by Rheme 3.

“The President said the biggest enemy was not the virus, but fear triggered by false information”. (Sentence 5)

Table 6. Theme Analysis (5)

Theme		Rheme
Topical (UMT)	The President	said the biggest enemy was not the virus,
Textual	Topical (UMT)	triggered by false information.
but	fear	

From table 6, Clause 1 shows that it begins with the Topical Theme “The president” as the nominal group and then followed by Rheme 1. Clause 2 began with “but” as Textual Theme as a conjunction, “fear” as the Topical Theme as “nominal group”, and then followed by Rheme 2.

B. Thematic Progression in The Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak

This section discusses the Thematic Progression in The Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak, which involves the source of the Theme and their relationship with other Themes and Rheme of the text, to provide the continuity of discourse and the coherence of the organization of the text. Each clause from 5 selected news which comprises 292 clauses is identified and classified in the table according to its pattern: Zig-zag pattern, Theme Reiteration pattern, Split-Rim pattern, and Derived- Theme pattern. Based on the analysis of Thematic Progression in The Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak, the patterns found are Constant/ Reiteration pattern, Theme Linear/Zigzag pattern, Derived-Theme pattern, and Split-Rheme pattern.

Table 7. The Total Occurrences of Thematic progression

News' Title	Types of Thematic Progression			
	Constant Theme Pattern	Linear Theme Pattern	Split Rim Pattern	Derived Theme
Commentary: Let's not kid ourselves. Indonesia unlikely COVID-19-free	7	10	1	2
Govt to test more people for COVID-19	3	11	0	0
Govt allocates more funds to cushion virus impact	1	6	0	0
Bali tourism feels pinch of virus outbreak	9	6	0	-
Govt confirms new cases, calls for calm	8	10	3	0
Total	28	43	4	2
Total in Percent	36,4%	55,8%	5,2%	2,6%

Table 7 shows that the most applied Thematic Progression found The Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak from the total of 77 patterns found in the Jakarta Post Newspaper on covid-19 Outbreak is the linear or Zigzag pattern with 43 patterns or 55,8%. It is then followed by a Constant Theme pattern with 28 patterns or 36,4%, then the Split Rim pattern with 4 or 5,2%, and derived Theme with 2 or 2,6% as the lowest pattern appeared in the news.

3.1 The Linear Pattern

The Linear Pattern is also called as Zig-Zag Pattern, is a pattern in which the Rheme in the preceding clause introduces an aspect, which is then promoted to become the Theme of the following clauses (Emilia, 2014). Based on the analysis of Thematic Progression in News, a total of 43 patterns or 55,8% are found, as illustrated in the following figure which is an example of a linear pattern found in The Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak.

Table 8. The Example of Linear Pattern

Theme	Rheme
The Finance Ministry	would also accelerate the disbursement of tax refunds to improve manufacturers' cash flows
So that they	could buy the raw materials for their factories.

Table 8 indicates the use of linear pattern of Theme progression. The Rheme has been promoted into Theme in the next clause. The Theme “They” refers to the word “manufacturers” in the previous clause.

3.2 The Constant Pattern

The Constant Progression, also known as Theme Reiteration, is a pattern that uses repetition to keep a text-centered or coherent. It happens if “a common Theme is shared by each clause”. In other words, a similar Theme is repeated in the Themes of subsequent clauses. - time the theme is repeated, it can be done in the same or different ways. Based on the analysis, a total of 28 or 36,4% of the Linear pattern are found in The Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak, as illustrated in the following as an example of Constant/Reiteration pattern found in the News.

Table 9. The Example of Constant Pattern

Theme	Rheme
Bali Tourism Agency head Putu Astawa	said that aside from Australia,
tourists from Europe	were still coming
And they	mostly stayed in Sanur.

From clauses in table 9, Theme 2 begins with Topical Theme “Tourists from Europe”. Theme 3 begins with “and they”, “and” as Textual Theme and “they” as Topical Theme. Theme 3 “they” refers to “tourist from Europe” in Theme 2. Theme 2 reiterated in the succeeding clause through the use of different noun, but still refers Theme 2.

3.3 The Split-Rheme Pattern

Based on the analysis, a total of 4 or 5,2% Split-Rim pattern are found in The Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak, as illustrated in the following as an example of the Theme Split-Rheme pattern found in the news. The Multiple-Rheme pattern is also called Split-Rheme Progression by Danes (1974) as cited in Jing (2015). In this pattern, the Theme of one clause introduces a number of different pieces of information, each of which is then picked up and made Theme in subsequent clauses (Eggs, 2004; Paltridge, 2006) as shown below.

Table 10. The Split-Rheme Pattern

Theme	Rheme
But	let me tell you this:
Indonesia	is unlikely free of the COVID-19 coronavirus
that	has infected thousands of people in over 50 countries
And you	need to be concerned that,
As of now, the government	has not been fully transparent about how it is handling the situation.

From the example above, Theme 4 is a repetition of the Rheme 1 clause through the same word “you”. In clause “let me tell you”, the word “you” is functioned as “Rheme” and then promoted into topical Theme in the next clause.

3.4 The Derived Theme

Based on the analysis, a total of 2 Derived patterns are found in The Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak, as illustrated in the following as an example of Derived Theme. The pattern found in The News. A derived-theme pattern is one in which specific Themes are descended from a "hyper theme." The topics of each sentence in the Derived-Theme

pattern are unique, but they are all derived from the same overarching Theme, or hyper-Theme, or overall Theme of a paragraph or text.

Table 10. The Derived Theme

Theme	Rheme
But questions	linger over
Whether the measures	are effective
And whether officials	are doing it right.
Indonesia	may have yet to report a single COVID-19 case
But the country	is by no means free from the lethal virus.

Based on the findings of research of the Theme and Thematic Progression in The Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak are in line with Sinaga's previous research (2019). In Sinaga's research (2019) which examined Theme-Rheme analysis on The Jakarta Post Newspaper, it was found that the Topical theme was the most dominant, followed by textual Themes and then interpersonal Themes. This is aligned with the results of the study found in this analysis which found that the most dominant Theme used in The Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak was topical Theme, followed by textual Theme and then interpersonal Theme. Unmarked Topical Theme as the dominant in Topical Theme, and Linear Pattern become the most dominant pattern used in The Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak. As has been discussed in 4.1, the Topical Theme was the highly frequent Theme used. It almost appeared in every 229 clauses in the Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak. From a total of 428 Themes found in the text, the topical Themes appear 331 or 77,3% occurrences. It went along with what Eggins (2004) said that "every clause must contain one and only one topical Theme. It is also along with". Halliday (2014), "the principle of Thematic structure is that Theme contains one, and only one, of experiential element". Therefore, every clause always had a topical Theme (Gerot & Wignell, 1994). The topical theme was divided into two parts. From a total of 331 topical themes found in the text. The unmarked Theme is the most dominant topical Theme that appeared in the texts with 303 or 91,5 % occurrences, while marked Theme with 28 or 8,5% occurrences. Meanwhile, the textual Theme occurs 92 or 21,5% of the total in the text the Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak. The total occurrences of textual Themes proved that the textual Theme had an important element in creating cohesive and coherent texts. On the other hand, the Interpersonal Theme is the lowest Theme that appears in the text The Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak. The occurrences of the interpersonal Theme in the text were 5 or 1,2% or 6 of the total themes. This was because interpersonal Themes were usually found in dialogue. From a total of 77 patterns found in the text, the Thematic progression pattern that was widely used by students was the linear pattern with 43 or 55,8% occurrences, the second pattern was constant with 28 or 36,4% occurrences, then split-Rheme pattern with 4 or 5,2%, and the last the derived Theme with 2 or 2,6%. Since the linear pattern can be used by repurposing the Rheme from the previous clause as the Theme in the following clause, it was chosen because it was simpler. It indicated that the news' writers used the linear pattern to develop the text through the introduction of new information. The Rheme was shifting to become a Theme of the subsequent clauses. The constant Pattern was the second Thematic progression mostly used in the Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak. It also revealed that the news writers formed a habit of repeating the clause's Thematic aspect in subsequent clauses. The split-Rheme pattern was the third most used pattern in The Jakarta Post Newspaper on the Covid-19 outbreak to developed the text. Meanwhile, the derived Themes were the lowest Thematic progression that appeared in the text. It can be said that the fourth of the thematic progressions above help in the structure of the coherent text in The Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak.

4. Conclusion and Limitation of the Study

There are 428 themes found in The Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak. The most dominant Theme used in the news was topical Theme with 331 or 77,3%, while textual Theme with 92 or 21,5% of the theme and interpersonal with 5 or 1,2% used. Regarding the Topical Theme, the total of Topical Themes was found in The Jakarta Post Newspaper on Covid-19 Outbreak, UMT was the dominant theme used with 303 or 91,5% and MT with 28 or 8,5%. Second, from total of 77 Patterns found, Linear Pattern was the dominant thematic progression with 43 or 55,8%, followed by Constant pattern with 28 or 36,4%, then Split-Rim Pattern with 4 or 5,2%, and the Derived Themes was the lowest themes found in the text with 2 or 2,6%. The results showed Topical Theme was the dominant Theme and linear Pattern was the most dominant Pattern used. This means that the News' writers conveyed the messages by applying Topical Themes and linear patterns as the thematic development. It also showed that Topical Theme and linear pattern also correlated, because, The Rheme of one clause was taken up as the Theme of the next clause in the linear pattern. So, this would make continuity from one text to another.

This study has limitation since this study only provides a snapshot of themes during the COVID-19 outbreak. However, the dynamic nature of news reporting, especially during a rapidly evolving event like a pandemic, raises questions about how well the findings represent changes over time. A longitudinal approach could address this limitation. In addition,

further study can explore the interpretation of these patterns in terms of their impact on reader comprehension, engagement, or the framing of information.

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Authors contributions

Laras Septina was responsible for study design and data collection. Muhammad Yusuf and Laras Septina drafted the manuscript and Nurlela revised it. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Obtained.

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The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author. The data are not publicly available due to privacy or ethical restrictions.

Data sharing statement

No additional data are available.

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