# ANALYSIS OF THEMATIC PROGRESSION IN ENGLISH OF ECONOMIC ARTICLES OF *BATAMNEWS.COM*

**Analisis Perkembangan Tematik dalam Artikel Ekonomi Berbahasa Inggris di *Batamnews.com***

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**Abstrak**

Penelitian ini menganalisis pola perkembangan tematik pada artikel ekonomi berbahasa Inggris di Batamnews.com untuk memahami bagaimana informasi ekonomi disusun dan disampaikan dalam jurnalisme digital. Studi ini menggunakan pendekatan fungsional Halliday dan Hasan yang mengkategorikan tema menjadi tiga kelompok utama: topikal, interpersonal, dan tekstual. Dengan metode kualitatif, lima artikel ekonomi dipilih sebagai korpus penelitian, khususnya bagian pengantar, untuk mengidentifikasi pola perkembangan tematik seperti pola pengulangan, zigzag, dan multi-tema. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa pola pengulangan adalah yang paling dominan, diikuti oleh pola zigzag, dan pola multi-tema. Temuan ini mengungkapkan bahwa penggunaan pola-pola tersebut berperan penting dalam meningkatkan koherensi teks dan keterlibatan pembaca. Studi ini memberikan wawasan baru tentang strategi penulisan ekonomi digital dan berkontribusi pada penelitian linguistik serta praktik jurnalisme ekonomi, khususnya dalam konteks Batamnews.com sebagai platform digital yang berpengaruh di wilayah Batam.

Kata kunci: Jurnalisme digital, perkembangan tematik, pendekatan fungsional halliday dan hasan

**Abstract**

This study analyzes thematic progression patterns in English economic articles on Batamnews.com to understand how economic information is structured and conveyed in digital journalism. Using Halliday and Hasan's functional approach, which categorizes themes into topical, interpersonal, and textual groups, this qualitative research examines five selected articles, focusing on their introductions to identify thematic progression patterns such as reiteration, zigzag, and multiple themes. The analysis reveals that reiteration patterns dominate, followed by zigzag patterns and multiple theme patterns. These findings highlight the significant role of these patterns in enhancing textual coherence and reader engagement. This study provides new insights into the writing strategies of digital economic journalism and contributes to linguistic research as well as economic journalism practices, particularly in the context of Batamnews.com as an influential digital platform in the Batam region.

Key Words: *Digital journalism, thematic progression, halliday and hasan's, functional approach*

## INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary era of digital journalism, online news portals have emerged as key platforms for disseminating information across various domains, including the economic sphere. Batamnews.com stands as a prominent and widely accessed digital news outlet, delivering real-time coverage of economic developments in the Batam region and beyond. As an indispensable source of information for its readers, the linguistic analysis of its economic articles holds paramount importance in comprehending the underlying

structures and strategies that drive the communication of economic concepts. In this age of rapid information dissemination, understanding how economic news is crafted and presented on platforms like Batamnews.com is not only academically relevant but also offers practical insights for journalists and communicators striving to effectively engage their audience in the digital realm.

Thematic progression refers to the organization and development of topics within a text. It entails the organization of data, the creation of conceptual connections, and the seamless transition between various themes or topics. Thematic progression, as an integral aspect of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), offers an insightful framework to explore how writers organize information and ideas within a text. By examining how themes develop in translated texts, we can learn how translators deal with the difficulties presented by the source language and culture and how they modify the text for the intended audience. This exploration of thematic progression in translated texts adds a layer of complexity to our understanding of how information is presented, adapted, and conveyed, especially in the context of cross-cultural communication.

Therefore, the purpose of this study is to analyze the thematic progression of English articles on Batamnew.com. The researcher narrows the scope to a particular source text genre by concentrating on economic articles, ensuring consistency in terms of topic diversity and writing style. In order to accomplish this, a corpus of English translations for selected Indonesian news articles from Batamnew.com will be used. Using Halliday and Hasan's functional approach, which divides themes into groups such as topical, interpersonal, textual, and the progression of themes, will be analyzed.

**METHOD**

This research is classified as qualitative, emphasizing the in-depth analysis of economic articles on Batamnews.com through the lens of Halliday and Hasan's functional approach, which categorizes themes into topical, interpersonal, and textual groups. The qualitative nature of this research allows for a nuanced exploration of thematic progression patterns within the selected articles, providing valuable insights into how economic information is structured and presented. By delving into the intricacies of thematic progression, this study aims to shed light on the underlying strategies employed by writers to engage their audience and effectively convey economic information in the digital journalism landscape. This qualitative approach enables a more holistic understanding of the intricate dance of themes and rhemes within the economic discourse, contributing to the broader field of linguistics and enhancing our comprehension of communication in the realm of economics.

To ensure methodological rigor and consistency, a systematic approach is employed in data collection and analysis. Initially, five journal articles are carefully chosen for analysis, with a specific focus on their introduction sections. These introductions serve as crucial entry points for readers, setting the stage for the subsequent content of the articles.

By examining how themes progress within these introductions, we can gain a deeper understanding of how economic concepts are introduced and contextualized.

The first step involves the extraction of the introduction segment from each selected journal article. This process ensures that the analysis is concentrated on a specific and consistent section of the articles, allowing for meaningful comparisons and observations. Once these introductions are isolated, a meticulous examination is conducted to identify thematic progression patterns. Following this, the introduction sections are further segmented into clauses and organized into a tabular format. This systematic organization aids in streamlining the analysis process, making it easier to identify and categorize thematic progression patterns. This step ensures that the analysis is conducted in a structured and organized manner, enhancing the reliability of the findings.

Thematic progression patterns are then categorized into constant, linear, or multiple-theme classifications. This categorization enables the researcher to identify recurring patterns and variations in how economic themes are developed within the introductions. By classifying these patterns, the research can highlight the strategies used by writers to engage readers and convey economic information effectively. Additionally, the frequency of each identified thematic progression pattern in the introductions is calculated. This quantitative aspect of the analysis provides valuable data on the prevalence of different thematic progression strategies, shedding light on which approaches are commonly employed in the presentation of economic information.

The research study utilized a set of five distinct articles as the primary dataset for its investigation. These selected articles represent a comprehensive and purposefully curated collection that serves as the foundation for the research's analytical endeavors. The meticulous choice of these articles adheres to rigorous academic standards, ensuring the integrity and reliability of the study's findings. The five articles in question have been thoughtfully chosen to provide a diverse and comprehensive perspective on the subject matter under examination. Each article within this selection has been meticulously reviewed, assessed, and deemed pertinent to the research objectives. The deliberate curation of this dataset serves to encompass various facets of the research topic, allowing for a multifaceted analysis that captures the richness and complexity of the subject matter.

Furthermore, it is essential to highlight that these articles were selected based on stringent inclusion criteria, encompassing factors such as relevance to the research's central theme, publication date, and credibility of the source. This meticulous approach ensures that the dataset is not only robust but also representative of the current academic discourse and reliable for scholarly investigation.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**
**The First Article**
The first article is titled Governor Ansar Wants to Revive Cooperation Between Singapore, Johor, and Riau Island. The article discusses Governor Ansar Ahmad of Riau

Islands aims to enhance collaboration between Singapore, Johor, and Riau Islands. Discussions with Singapore's Trade and Industry Minister focus on diverse areas like labor-intensive industries, infrastructure projects, and healthcare. The effort emphasizes mutual interests and private sector involvement.

**The Second Article**

The second article is titled Recession Threat, Don't Let Batam Hit by 'Tsunami' Layoffs. The article discusses about the global recession threat raises concerns about potential layoffs in Batam City. Labor unions reject layoffs during the downturn, as the region's export-oriented nature makes it susceptible to decreased global demand. Government intervention, incentives, and bank support are crucial to mitigating economic challenges.

**The Third Article**

The third article is titled Workers Demand 2023 Batam Minimum Wage of IDR 5.3 Million. The article discusses about Batam workers protest the wage increase based on Government Regulation (PP) 36/2021, citing stagnant wages and increased living costs. National demands include a 13% minimum wage rise for 2023, taking into account inflation and economic growth. The regulation's constitutionality is questioned.

**The Fourth Article**

The fourth article is titled Amazing, 33,795 Application Forms Submitted to 32 Companies during Batam Job Fair 2022. The article discusses about The 2022 Batam Job Fair draws thousands of applicants submitting 33,795 applications to 32 companies. Despite high demand for certain positions, efforts are made to fill 1,880 vacancies, highlighting Batam's potential as an employment hub.

**The Fifth Article**

The fifth article is titled BP Batam and Japan Collaboration to Make Batam Water Catchment Healthy. This article discusses about The Batam Concession Agency (BP Batam) collaborates with Japanese experts to conserve Batam's water catchment area, symbolized by planting Dipterocarpaceae trees. The initiative seeks to sustain local water resources and improve environmental health.

**Findings and Discussion**

Thematic progression analysis serves as a critical tool for unraveling the intricate web of how information is presented within extended segments of discourse. By discerning patterns of Theme/Rheme alternation, researchers can gain valuable insights into how writers structure their content, impacting the overall textual coherence. This method provides a lens through which we can analyze the flow of information and understand the hierarchy of ideas within a text. For instance, in academic writing, thematic progression

helps readers follow the logical flow of arguments, enabling them to grasp complex concepts more easily.

The sequential arrangement of thematic constituents within these economic articles plays a pivotal role in shaping the reader's experience. Depending on the intended purpose and contextual milieu, these patterns can either enhance or diminish textual coherence. Authors must carefully consider the arrangement of themes to effectively convey economic concepts and developments to their readers, especially in the fast-paced world of digital journalism. Additionally, thematic progression analysis offers a valuable tool for editors and writers to enhance the clarity of their work. It allows for fine-tuning the organization of information to ensure that the intended message is conveyed seamlessly, ensuring that readers can engage with economic content more effectively in today's information-rich environment.

Table 1 serves as a visual summary of the outcomes obtained through the examination of thematic progression patterns within the introduction sections of five selected economic articles from Batamnews.com. This table not only categorizes these patterns as constant, linear, or multiple-theme but also provides insights into their frequencies. These frequencies offer a quantitative perspective on how often these patterns appear, shedding light on their prevalence and significance within the analyzed articles.

The findings presented in Table 1 offer a comprehensive overview of the thematic progression strategies employed by authors in the context of economic reporting on Batamnews.com. This research endeavor contributes to our understanding of how writers structure and communicate economic information, with implications for both scholarly research and practical journalism. It underscores the importance of coherence in conveying complex economic concepts and demonstrates the value of systematic analysis in exploring the nuances of digital journalism.

**Table 1**
**Examination of Thematic Progression Patterns**

| Text No | Number of Clause | Reiteration Pattern | Zigzag Pattern | Multiple-Theme Pattern |
|---------|------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 17 | 6 | 6 | 4 |
| 2 | 16 | 7 | 5 | 3 |
| 3 | 12 | 5 | 6 | - |
| 4 | 15 | 7 | 7 | - |
| 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 | - |
| TOTAL | 66 | 28 | 26 | 7 |

From the table, it can be seen that the most pattern used on Batamnews.com are re-iteration pattern which occurred 28 times out of 66 clauses. Followed by zigzag pattern which occurred 28 times and the last is multiple pattern which occurred 7 times.

**Main Clause (Theme and Rheme)**

Theme and rheme are concepts in linguistics used to analyze the structure of sentences. They help identify what the sentence is about (theme) and provide information about the action or details related to the theme (rheme). The theme is the starting point of a sentence. It introduces the main subject or topic of the sentence. It can be a noun, pronoun, or group of words that provide context for what follows. The rheme is the rest of the sentence following the theme. It includes the information, action, or details that elaborate on or provide new information about the theme.

To identify theme and rheme in a sentence, focus on understanding the main subject or topic and thenpay attention to what the sentence is telling you about that subject, whether it's actions, descriptions, or other details.

For example, in article 1, in the clause

"Both discussed the potential and plans for developing cooperation between Riau Islands and Singapore," The theme and rheme can be identified as follows:

Theme: The theme of this clause is "Both." This refers to the individuals mentioned previously, which in this context is likely "Governor of the Riau Islands, Ansar Ahmad" and "Minister of Trade Industry Singapore, Gan Kim Yong." The theme connects back to the previous sentence where these individuals were introduced.

Rheme: The rheme is "discussed the potential and plans for developing cooperation between Riau Islands and Singapore." This part of the clause provides new information about what the individuals did. It includes the action (discussed), the topic of discussion (potential and plans for developing cooperation), and the entities involved (Riau Islands and Singapore).

**Re-Iteration**

Reiteration is a technique used to emphasize and reinforce key points or ideas in a text. It involves repeating important information or concepts in a slightly different way to help the reader better understand and remember them. Reiteration is particularly useful when you want to drive home a specific message, highlight a central theme, or enhance the coherence of your writing. It helps create a stronger connection between ideas and ensures that important information is clear and memorable to the reader.

For example, in article 5;

Main clause 5: Roby said that Sei Ladi Forest was chosen because it is the best quality ditero forest in Batam.

Main clause 6: Meanwhile, on another occasion, the Head of BP Batam, Muhammad Rudi, said that rain water reservoirs in Batam are very important and crucial for the community's survival.

To enhance coherence and maintain a smooth progression of ideas, we can use the "Reiteration" technique to emphasize the significance of both Sei Ladi Forest and rain water reservoirs.

**Zigzag Pattern**

The zigzag pattern is a writing technique that involves alternating between two related ideas or concepts, creating a smooth and balanced flow between them. This pattern helps maintain coherence by connecting the ideas in a back-and-forth manner, which can make the text more engaging and easy to follow. It is often used to compare or contrast two points, show progression, or provide different perspectives on a topic. The zigzag pattern is like a dance between ideas, guiding the reader through a logical and dynamic exploration of the subject matter.

For example, in article 1;

Main clause 6: The Minister of Trade of Singapore welcomed this very well.

Main clause 7: So in the future, it will try to open 1 or 2 international classes at the Health Polytechnic.

**Multiple Theme Pattern**

The multiple aspect pattern is a writing technique that involves presenting different facets or perspectives of a single topic. It's about examining the subject from various angles to provide a comprehensive understanding. This pattern can add depth and richness to the writing by showcasing the multifaceted nature of a subject. It is particularly useful when discussing complex or nuanced topics, as it allows you to explore different dimensions and aspects, providing a well-rounded view for the reader.

For example, in article article 1;

Main clause 2: Both discussed the potential and plans for developing cooperation between Riau Islands and Singapore.

Main clause 3: Ansar said that previously he had also visited the Minister of Johor, who was also with Singapore, encouraging to revive the cooperation between Singapore, Johor, and Riau Islands (Sijori) in the past, which has been dim.

**CONCLUSION**

The conclusion of this study is that thematic progression plays a crucial role in establishing coherence and communication effectiveness in English economic articles on Batamnews.com. The most dominant thematic progression pattern is reiteration, which reinforces key ideas and strengthens readers' retention of essential information. The zigzag pattern provides a dynamic flow of ideas and maintains narrative balance, while the multiple-theme pattern, though less frequently used, offers depth to complex discussions.

These findings emphasize that the writers of economic articles on Batamnews.com strategically employ these patterns to achieve their communicative goals in presenting economic issues. By contributing to linguistic understanding, the results of this study are relevant for media practitioners to enhance the quality of economic information delivery

in the digital era. It also underscores Batamnews.com's role in shaping public perceptions of economic issues in the Batam region.

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