

# Analysis of Thematic Progression in English of Economic Articles of Batamnews.com

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## Abstract

This study examines thematic progression patterns in English economic articles on Batamnews.com, focusing on how themes and rhemes are organized to ensure textual coherence and effectively convey economic information. Employing Halliday and Hasan's functional approach, themes are categorized into topical, interpersonal, and textual types. The research adopts a qualitative method, analyzing the introduction sections of seven articles using systematic segmentation into clauses and classification of thematic progression patterns into re-iteration, zigzag, and multiple-theme patterns. The results reveal that the re-iteration pattern is the most frequently employed (28 instances), followed by the zigzag pattern (26 instances), and the multiple-theme pattern (7 instances). Thematic progression patterns significantly contribute to enhancing the coherence and clarity of the articles, allowing economic concepts to be effectively communicated. The findings underscore the strategic role of thematic organization in digital journalism, providing practical insights for journalists and scholars in understanding how economic information is structured and adapted for diverse audiences. This study contributes to linguistics and media studies by offering a deeper understanding of the interaction between thematic patterns and the communication of complex economic topics in the digital age.

**Keywords:** *thematic progression, re-iteration pattern, zigzag pattern, multiple-theme pattern, digital journalism*

## Introduction

In today's era of digital journalism, online news portals have become important platforms for sharing information on various topics, including the economy. Batamnews.com is a well-known and widely accessed digital news platform, providing real-time updates on economic developments in Batam and beyond. As a key source of information for its readers, analyzing the language used in its economic articles is essential to understand the structures and strategies behind how economic concepts are communicated. In this fast-paced information age, knowing how economic news is written and presented on platforms like Batamnews.com is not only academically significant but also offers practical insights for journalists and communicators to better engage their audiences (Drid, 2019).

Thematic progression is the way topics are developed and organized in a text. It involves arranging information, creating connections between ideas, and ensuring smooth transitions between different topics. In Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), thematic progression is an important tool to study how writers structure their texts (Eggins, 2004; Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). By analyzing how themes progress in

translated texts, we can also see how translators deal with challenges from the source language and culture, as well as how they adapt the text for their target audience. This analysis of thematic progression in translated texts adds a deeper understanding of how information is presented and adjusted, especially in the context of cross-cultural communication (Humaizi, 2023).

This study aims to analyze the thematic progression in English articles on Batamnews.com. It focuses on economic articles to ensure consistency in topics and writing style. The articles used in this study are English translations of selected Indonesian news articles published on Batamnews.com. By applying Halliday and Hasan's functional approach, which classifies themes into topical, interpersonal, and textual categories (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013), the study will examine how themes are organized and developed in these texts.

Despite the growing body of research on thematic progression and its role in textual coherence, most studies have focused on academic texts, literary works, or general news articles, leaving a gap in understanding its application in economic journalism, particularly in digital platforms. Recent studies have extensively analyzed thematic progression patterns in cross-cultural and academic contexts (Eggins, 2004; Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014); however, limited attention has been given to how these patterns operate in translated economic articles, especially on widely accessed digital news portals like Batamnews.com. Furthermore, while previous research emphasizes the importance of thematic organization in enhancing textual coherence, few studies explore its practical implications for digital journalism in the economic domain. This study addresses these gaps by examining how translated economic articles on Batamnews.com utilize thematic progression patterns to achieve coherence and engage readers, offering new insights into the intersection of linguistics, digital journalism, and cross-cultural communication.

Based on the identified gap, this research seeks to answer the following question: *How do thematic progression patterns contribute to the coherence and communicative effectiveness of translated economic articles on Batamnews.com?* The objectives of this study are to analyze the types and frequencies of thematic progression patterns used in the articles, examine how these patterns contribute to textual coherence, and explore their implications for digital journalism and cross-cultural communication. The novelty of this research lies in its focus on thematic progression in translated economic articles within a digital news platform context, offering a fresh perspective on how linguistic strategies are employed to adapt economic information for diverse audiences, bridging the gap between linguistics and practical media communication.

## 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.

In summary, this qualitative research employs a rigorous and systematic approach to analyze economic articles on Batamnews.com. By focusing on introduction sections and utilizing Halliday and Hasan's functional approach, it aims to uncover the intricate ways in which economic concepts are structured and communicated to readers. The combination of qualitative and quantitative methods ensures a comprehensive examination of thematic progression patterns, contributing to our understanding of economic discourse in the digital journalism landscape.

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**

### **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.

### **The Sixth Article**

The sixth article The article discusses concerns raised by the Indonesian Employers Association (Apindo) regarding a 6.5% increase in the Provincial Minimum Wage (UMP) for 2025. Apindo's Chairperson, Shinta Kamdani, warned that the significant wage hike could lead to layoffs and hinder job creation. She explained that the increase comes at a time of economic challenges, both globally and domestically, and could raise production costs, reducing the competitiveness of Indonesian products in the market. Kamdani expressed fear that this could negatively impact employment opportunities.

### **The Seventh Article**

The seventh article discusses Elon Musk's significant role in supporting Donald Trump's 2024 presidential campaign. Musk donated millions of dollars, acted as a policy advisor, and used his platform, X, to promote Trump's "Make America Great Again" movement. His financial contributions and political shift to the right have made him a key figure in Trump's political comeback.

### **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	Re-Iteration 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	-
6	14	5	6	3
7	15	6	7	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	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 26 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 then pay 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).

Another example is from article 6, in the clause

"The Indonesian Employers Association (Apindo) expressed concerns that the 6.5% increase in UMP for 2025 could lead to layoffs and hinder the creation of new jobs."

Theme: The Indonesian Employers Association (Apindo). The theme introduces the main subject of the sentence, which is the organization expressing concerns.

Rheme: expressed concerns that the 6.5% increase in UMP for 2025 could lead to layoffs and hinder the creation of new jobs. The rheme elaborates on the nature of their concerns, focusing on the implications of the wage increase.

### **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.

Another example is from article 7: the Re-iteration pattern is evident in the repeated references to Elon Musk and his roles as both a financial supporter and a key figure in Trump's campaign. For example, Musk is first described as a donor who provided millions of dollars to Trump's campaign. Later, he is presented as an advisor and active supporter, while his influence extends to his ownership of X, a platform that supported Trump. Musk's personal political shift is also reiterated, linking his support for Trump to his broader ideological changes. Through this repetition, the article reinforces Musk's significant role, making it clear how his actions directly contributed to Trump's political comeback. This technique ensures the reader fully understands Musk's multifaceted influence on the campaign and the broader political landscape.

### **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

In conclusion, the study of thematic development within lengthy discourse segments yields important knowledge about the structure and coherence of the text. The theme/rheme alternation that characterizes the arrangement of thematic components is crucial in determining how effective communication is as a whole. It is clear from the analysis of thematic progression patterns used in five economic articles from Batamnews.com how these patterns are used to accomplish particular communicative objectives and contextual resonance.

Reiteration, zigzag, and multiple theme are the three main thematic progression patterns that are covered in detail by the outcome. The results show that the reiteration pattern is the most frequently used pattern on Batamnews.com, demonstrating its efficacy in emphasizing important points and encouraging discourse coherence. This strategy, which is characterized by the repetition and light rephrasing of important information, strengthens the reader's understanding of key ideas and increases the impact of main messages.

Additionally, the zigzag pattern, which was found to be the second most common pattern, helps to balance and keep the flow of ideas interesting. This pattern efficiently leads readers through comparisons, contrasts, and dynamic shifts by alternating the presentation of related concepts, leading to a cogent exploration of the subject.

The multiple theme pattern, which reveals various perspectives and facets of a single topic, is the least frequent but still noteworthy. When used, this pattern enhances the story by providing a thorough understanding of difficult subjects, making it especially appropriate for complex discussions that call for multifaceted understanding.

In the final analysis, the deliberate efforts made by writers to structure their content for the best coherence and reader engagement are illustrated by the strategic deployment of these thematic progression patterns. Understanding these patterns gives writers the tools they need to adapt their discourse to particular purposes and contexts as well as deeper insights into the practice of effective communication. The study of thematic progression patterns continues to be an essential component in understanding the complex interactions between content organization and comprehension as we navigate the diverse field of textual communication.

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