

THEME PATTERNS IN STUDENTS' PARAGRAPHS

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ABSTRACT

Coherence is a key attribute of successful undergraduate writing. One issue in students' writing is how students deal with cohesive device. Previous studies have shown that Systemic Functional Linguistics, and in particular the theme-rheme analytical framework, can be used to identify cohesion and coherence difficulties in student writing and should be incorporated into writing curriculum. This paper is centered on reviewing the theme patterns in students' paragraphs. This paper analyzed the theme patterns in thirty one (31) undergraduate paragraphs. Based on the findings, more than 80 percent of themes are topical unmarked theme. The second type which is used most is textual theme (around 30 percent). As for textual themes students use a variety of textual themes to create cohesion in the texts. This study showed that Theme structure is a highly effective and valuable technique in academic writing. It enhances connectivity between ideas in the text. In students' writings, Theme choices are very crucial in guiding the reader through the logical paths constructed by students