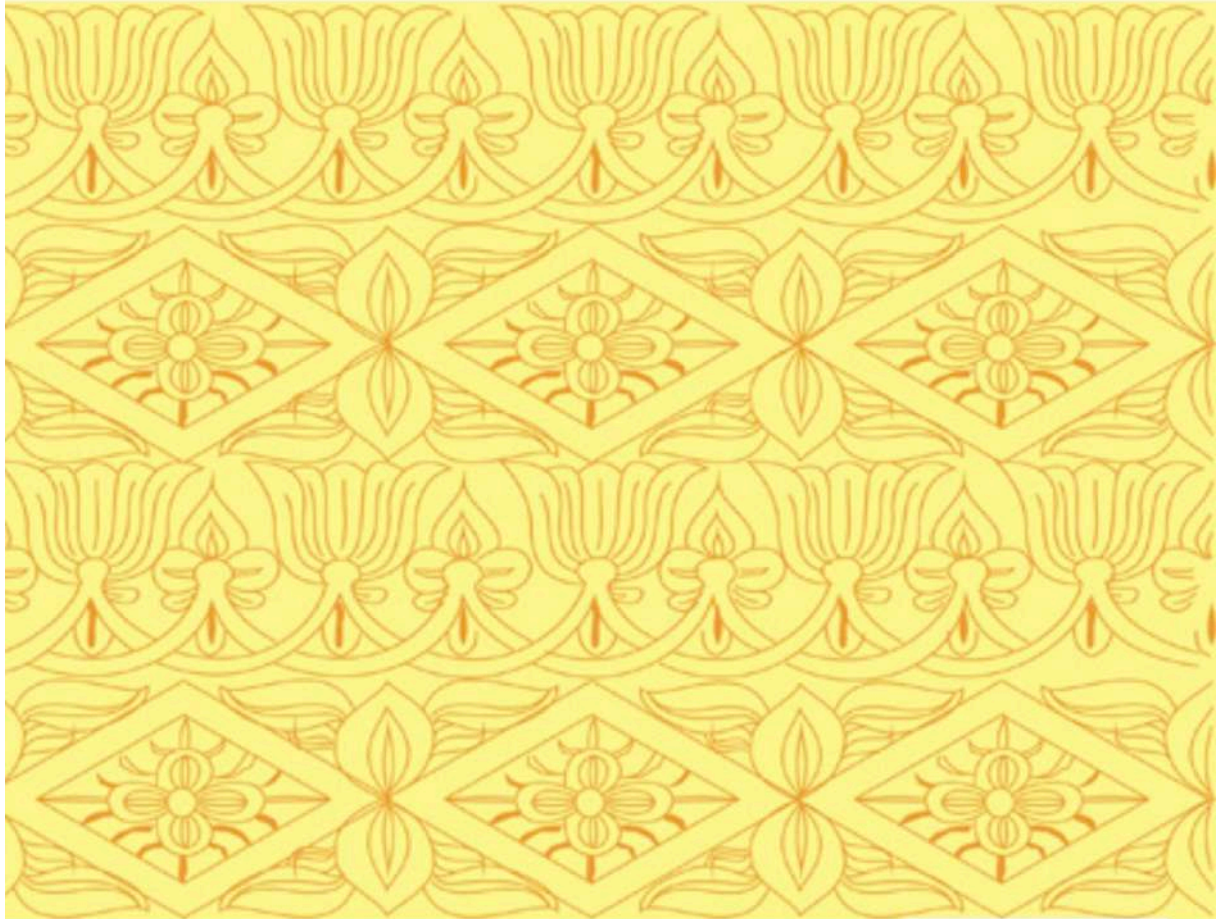




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Topical Theme Depicted in the Speech of Indonesian Minister of the State Secretariat

Tema Topikal dalam Praktik Wicara Menteri Sekretariat Negara Republik Indonesia

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Abstract: The speech of Indonesian stakeholders (SIS) is ideal for not only discourse analysis but also as an instance of language employed for systemic functional linguistics (SFL). According to the SFL perspective, the use of morphosyntax and morphosemantics features in the speech of the Indonesian ministry of state secretariat (MSS) is an expression of informational content that has been incorporated into the structure of language. The objective of this study was to describe the informative content in the form of a topical theme in the SIS practices conducted by the MSS in 2019–2024. The data for this study consisted of transcribed utterances taken from speeches by MSS. The MSS official broadcasting platform and other relevant YouTube channels were the data providers. Documentation, transcription, and comprehensive textual fragmentation techniques were used to collect and analyze the data. The results demonstrated that, with relation to the SFL, practically majority of the studied MSS utterances contain topical theme. The topical theme has been organized using phrases and sentences. Additionally, the topical theme has served as both a standalone theme and a component of multiple themes. This study proposal pertains to a more in-depth examination of the interrelationships between topical theme and other sorts of theme or rheme.

Keywords: topical theme, speech of Indonesian stakeholders, minister of state secretariat

Abstrak: Praktik wicara berbahasa Indonesia oleh pejabat negara Indonesia (SIS) tidak hanya dapat diposisikan sebagai fenomena kebahasaan untuk kajian Analisis Wacana tetapi juga kajian Linguistik Fungsional Sistemik (SFL). Berdasarkan SFL, teks SIS merupakan manifestasi dari struktur informasi yang dikonstruksikan melalui piranti kebahasaan, khususnya fitur-fitur morfosintaktis dan morfosemantik. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan struktur informasi tema topikal dalam teks SIS yang diproduksi oleh menteri sekretariat negara (MSS) 2019–2024. Data kajian ini berwujud transkripsi ujaran-ujaran MSS dari delapan wicara terpilih. Sumber data kajian ini adalah kanal resmi MSS dan beberapa akun kredibel di YouTube. Metode dokumentasi, transkripsi, and ekstraksi tekstual (pilah unsur penentu) digunakan secara berurutan pada pengumpulan dan analisis data. Hasil kajian ini berupa deskripsi kecenderungan penggunaan tema topikal pada teks wicara MSS. Tema topikal tersebut dikonstruksikan dalam bentuk frasa dan klausa. Bersamaan dengan itu, tema topikal difungsikan sebagai tema tunggal dan tema ganda. Rekomendasi kajian ini adalah diperlukan adanya analisis tingkat lanjut tentang relasi antara tema topikal dengan jenis tema yang lain dan konfigurasi dengan jenis-jenis rema.

Kata kunci: tema topikal, praktik wicara pejabat Indonesia, menteri sekretariat negara

1. Introduction

The language used for specific purposes, such as political communication, may vary from the language used in other fields, such as education. Using purpose as a comparison criterion reveals that the language of political communication is not only complex in its construction but also multidimensional in its pragmatic meanings (Castro Seixas, 2021; Davis, 2019; Drămnescu, 2016; Knox & Hao, 2022; D. Zhang, 2021). In this regard, one might agree that structural analysis is significantly distinct from pragmatic analysis and discourse analysis. Possibly, there was an approach to the structural layer of language use that utilized the functional perspective to describe the underlying construction of information in specific language forms that speakers spoke or wrote. Although, the systemic functional linguistics (henceforth: SFL) can serve as the theoretical basis for addressing language use in political communication (Eggins, 2004; Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013; Hasan, 2009; Martin, 2016; Matthiessen, 2019). If the Pragmatic Analysis or Discourse Analysis describes the speaker-hearer meaning of language usage, the SFL analysis describes the structure of information from the speaker's or writer's perspective. This is significant because we often pay more attention to the speaker or author than to what is being said.

In addition, with regard to the circumstances of Indonesia, there is a singular phenomenon of political communication that is referred to as the speech of Indonesian stakeholders (Henceforth: SIS). In point of fact, the SIS lends itself well to discourse analysis and the related methodologies, not only as a sociolinguistics or socio-pragmatics phenomena, but also as an in-the-moment presence of language that is used for the SFL. The speech of the Indonesian minister of state secretariat (henceforth: MSS) is a manifestation of informational content that has been incorporated into the structure of language, particularly at the level of grammatical content by using the morphosyntax and morphosemantics features, according to the SFL perspective (LaPolla, 2019; Newmeyer, 2001; Thompson et al., 2019).

Furthermore, additional linguistic-related study must be needed to analyze speeches delivered by the Indonesian MSS. While Discourse Analysis has been a popular approach for investigating these speeches, there needs to be more exploration from the perspective of SFL. This point of view presents a significant opportunity for further scholarly inquiry. On the one hand, according to the discourse analysis, this approach typically examines spoken or written discourse's structure, patterns, and communicative strategies. However, unlike discourse analysis, SFL delves into the functional aspects of language, emphasizing how language is used to fulfil various meta-communicative functions, i.e., logical patterns. It offers a fresh lens through which to analyze language, focusing on linguistic choices and their functions in achieving specific communication goals. Applying SFL to the analysis of these speeches holds strong potential for valuable insights to be gained. By examining the linguistic features, choices, and structures found within these speeches through the framework of SFL, researchers can uncover unique linguistic patterns and functions. This approach, to some extent, not only contributes to the field of linguistics but also offers potential insights into the political and communicative strategies of the Indonesian

MSS. Overall, this research gap presents a valuable opportunity for scholars in the field of linguistics, particularly those interested in SFL, to explore these speeches in greater detail and uncover meaningful perspectives.

Several earlier studies, for comparison, have used of the SFL as a general approach to Indonesian speech in order to uncover the pattern of informational content in educational communication. This has been done in a number of different contexts (e.g., Fadanelli, 2022; Fan & Ma, 2021; Fan, 2022; Nugraha, 2017; Qin, 2022; Wang, 2007; Wang, 2010; Zhang, 2022). Other researchers are also using SFL to address the organization of informational content in culturally related practices and communications (e.g., Christina & Shasita, 2022; Ismail & Kardina, 2021; Nugraha, 2020; Nugraha & Mbato, 2022). In contrast, some researchers were looking into the organization of themes in articles that are published in the mass media and literary works (e.g., Bateman et al., 2019; Caffarel-Cayron & Rechniewski, 2014; Faradika, 2019; Skorokhod, 2016). Concerning this study, it is important to point out that comparison analyses have been done between the various research that were mentioned earlier in this paragraph. To be precise, there has been no application of SFL in any studies related to SIS up to this point. This study, therefore, was conducted with the primary objective of filling the void that existed between them. In order to accomplish this, there are two primary research questions, which are as follows: (i) what is the construction of the topical theme in the speech of MSS, and (ii) to what extent has the topical theme been functionalized by the speaker within the scope of political communication?

2. Method

2.1. Research Design

This study employed a descriptive and qualitative methodology, with systemic functional linguistics (SFL) serving as the primary theoretical foundation. The descriptive approach might well produce the findings of the investigation in the form of a description of recurring patterns and rules associated with the subject matter of the investigation, i.e., topical theme of the speech of MSS. The qualitative approach was chosen because the type of data and method of data processing it employs do not require any kind of numerical analysis to be carried out. This design has been carried out in these phases, which are presented below.

2.2. Data Collection Procedure and Technique

The initial phase of the data collection processes the utterances extracted from speeches by MSS were transcribed, and those transcriptions were the study's data sources (see Table 1 for the detailed presentation of data sources). Documentation of the digital version of speeches, accomplished through the utilization of procedural task management (hereafter: PTM), served as the means of data collection. The PTM was comprised of procedural sentences, such as (i) select the official speech of MSS on his official YouTube platform broadcaster regardless of the minimum duration and regardless of the speaking partners; (ii) transcribe the speech making use of the automatic transcription tool that YouTube provides; and (iii) validating the

construction of the utterance by ensuring that the result of the transcription is accurate.

Table 1. Identification of Data Sources.

No.	Code	Code for Title of Speech	Length (in minutes)	Hyperlink
1.	MSS-1	MBTMDI	12:45	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pP34kSuHBk
2.	MSS-2	MKMPHBT	8:05	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPXYTYCIWZQ
3.	MSS-3	PSP60TK	16:33	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrQAgKC7y-8
4.	MSS-4	KPMPCPJHT	1:45	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIrXXDURteA
5.	MSS-5	KPMPTKATMII	16:13	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pP4e0Sjsc2o
6.	MSS-6	APBKPJ	14:37	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XPk8FLknNs
7.	MSS-7	GIMSNP	6:15	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dejnToliQZs
8.	MSS-8	KDMP	15:16	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yraSnTsV0hQ

Source: MSS's Data Collection, 2023.

In detail, the collection of data sources is based on several vital reasons. Firstly, Variety and Consistency. By examining a range of speeches, patterns and trends in their discourse can be identified, providing a more comprehensive understanding of their communication strategies and priorities. Secondly, Contextual Considerations. The selection of speeches provides a more nuanced view of how the Minister adapts their language and messaging to different situations and audiences. This contextual analysis can reveal how political discourse functions in various settings. Thirdly, Temporal Changes. By studying multiple speeches, researchers can track how the topics and themes addressed by the Minister evolve, providing valuable insights into the dynamic nature of political communication. Fourthly, a larger dataset of speeches offers a more robust basis for analysis and generalization. It reduces the risk of drawing conclusions based on isolated incidents or outliers. Lastly, analyzing multiple speeches allows for comparative analysis. Researchers can compare the Minister's speeches on similar or related topics, identifying variations in their rhetoric, language choices, and persuasive strategies.

2.3. Data Analysis Procedure and Technique

The next stage is the analysis of the data. The analysis was carried out by employing a technique known as in-depth textual fragmentation (also known as *Pilah Unsur Penentu* in Indonesian; Sudaryanto (2015) was the one who first proposed using this term). The reduction process, which involved filtering the unstructured data, was where it all began. In order to fragment the triangulated data, the key principles from syntax-based and SFL-based guidance are used. This direction served as the instrument for the analysis process, which was comprised of the management of procedural

analysis (hereafter: PAM). The PAM contained multiple sentences, such as (i) identify the syntactic function of the transcription of utterances, (ii) separate the theme and rheme by using the predicate (P) of the sentence as an indicator; the rest of the sentence after P is typically the rheme, (iii) indicate the type of construction in which topical theme may exist, and (iv) categorize the function of topical theme.

Third, the phase of the presentation of the results. At this stage, the results of the analysis will be presented, which is why this stage was organized. This research called for two different kinds of presentations: (i) a description of the rules and (ii) a tabulation of the fragmentation sample. Both were appropriate for the data that was collected. It is expected that the description will be supplemented with explanatory sentences and justificatory statements derived either from earlier researchers' work or from relevant theories developed by specialists. Within the matrix, the tabulation is going to be cast out. In addition to these three stages, researcher did adopt the practice of performing regular inspection on the mechanism to ensure that there was no deceptive behavior at any of the intermediate stages. The researcher was meticulous and conducted regular inspections of the mechanism to prevent fraudulent behavior during intermediate stages. This step maintained integrity throughout the process and prevented anyone from taking advantage of the system. By being thorough and proactive, the researcher provided reliable and trustworthy data that all parties involved could use confidently.

3. Results and Discussion

This study demonstrates that, with regard to the SFL, the topical theme has been utilized by MSS in the utterances that were analyzed (see Figure 1). The topical theme has been organized into phrases and clauses for clarity and comprehension. In addition, the topical theme has served both as a standalone topic and as an element of a number of different themes. The following subsections have been written, respectively, to discuss the construction of a topical theme as well as its functionalization in order to fulfill their intended purposes.

3.1. Results

3.1.1. Constructions of the Topical Theme

The idea of a “topical theme” refers to one of the categories under which the themes belong. The topical theme of the sentence has been interpreted as the essence of the “old information,” which is referred to in the previous phrase. The term “old information” refers to information that has been discussed by two or more people, including the person who produced the speech (Martin, 2007, 2014). If Mr. D mentions A and B to Mrs. K within the context of an SFL framework, for instance, the information about A is already known to Mrs. K due to the fact that it is considered shared knowledge. The information presented by A serves as the theme, or one could say that it is repeated information. Only if there is a specific grammatical construction that is being used for it will it be possible to separate itself from this topical theme. This study discovered at least two different types of grammatical constructions of topical theme in relation to the SIS of MSS (see Table 2). The first form of this construction takes the

shape of a phrase. The second construction that we will look at is a clause-based one. The following provides a detailed description and analysis of the two different constructions that have been explored.

Table 2. Constructions Type of MSS’s Topical Theme.

No.	Type	Construction Patterns	Sample Data
1.	Phrase-based	Noun phrase + determiner ‘ <i>ini</i> ’	Excerpt 1
2.	Phrase-based	Noun phrase + determiner ‘ <i>itu</i> ’	Excerpt 2
3.	Phrase-based	Serialization of the noun phrase	Excerpt 3
4.	Clause-based	Coordinative clausal construction	Excerpt 4
5.	Clause-based	Subordinate clausal construction	Excerpt 5

Source: Primary Results, 2023.

First, construction of a topical theme using phrases. Regarding this construction, one may identify it as the manifestation of a topical theme in the grammatical surface of the text. This can be done by looking at it from a certain angle. Regarding this matter, the grammatical unit that should be referred to as the phrasal construction should be defined as the one in which the phrase functions as the primary constituent (Folli & Harley, 2013). This study found at least three different types of phrasal construction based on the analysis of MSS. These three types are referred to as the noun phrase (hereafter NP) as in (1), the adjectival phrase (hereafter: AP) as in (2), and the verbal phrase (hereafter VP) as in (3), respectively. The construction of the topical theme in MSS has made use of these types, as will be shown in the subsequent discussion, which can be found here.

(1) Excerpt 1

Perubahan ini membutuhkan talenta yang baru yang berbeda dengan sebelumnya. [T | R]

‘This change necessitates current skills that differ from the previous.’

perubahan ini	membutuhkan	talenta yang baru yang berbeda dengan sebelumnya
FN/NP	FV/VP	FN/NP
Topical Theme	Rheme	

Sample (1) uses the NP (noun phrase) *perubahan ini*, which literally translates to ‘this change’, as the phrasal construction of the topical theme. This kind of topical theme cannot be substituted for, nor can it be separated from, the overall unity of theme and rheme in (1). Sample (2) contains the other phrasal construction, which is referred to as *kehebatan itu* and translates as ‘that strength’. Both of them are NP as the phrasal construction of topical theme.

(2) Excerpt 2

Kehebatan itu bukan kehebatan selamanya. [T | R]

‘That strength of achievement is not lasting.’

kehebatan itu	bukan kehebatan selamanya
FN/NP	FN/NP
Topical Theme	Rheme

In addition to (1) and (2), there is also the other version of phrasal construction as in (3). This construction is longest version of NP, namely *shifting besar-besaran dalam landscape ekonomi, landscape social, dan landscape politik itu*, ‘Huge shifts in the landscape of the economy, social, and politics.’

(3) Excerpt 3

Shifting besar-besaran dalam landscape ekonomi, landscape social, dan landscape politik itu membutuhkan skill baru. [T | R]

‘Huge shifts in the landscape of the economy, social, and politics rely on new skills.’

Shifting besar-besaran dalam landscape ekonomi, landscape social, dan landscape politik itu	membutuhkan	skill baru
FN/NP	FV/VP	FN/NP
Topical Theme	Rheme	

Second, the construction of a topical theme using clausal utterances The SIS of MSS made use of the clause for its manifestation, despite the fact that it was phrased in a different way. The clausal construction is the grammatical unit in which the clause serves as the head of the constituent, as stated in the definition of the clausal construction (Martin, 2002; Paraskevas, 2022). The investigation revealed that the outcome comprised at least two clausal constructions, specifically a coordinative clausal construction (which will be referred to as CCC in the following) and a subordinative clausal construction (hereafter SCC). The presentation of the CCC can be found in sections (4) and (5), while the SCC can be found in section (6). Please take into consideration the discussion of those different kinds of clausal construction in the paragraph that follows.

(4) Excerpt 4

Karena kalau saudara-saudara keluar dari ilmu awal saudara seorang applied mathematics dari statistika kemudian belajar ilmu sosiologi belajar ilmu politik misalnya dia akan menjadi ilmuwan politik yang hebat. [T | R]

‘As if in illustrational condition, whenever you are putting yourself outside the current discipline, for instance from applied mathematics or statistics into sociology or politics, he/she might become a great politician in the future.’

Karena kalau saudara-saudara keluar dari ilmu awal saudara seorang applied mathematics dari statistika kemudian belajar ilmu sosiologi belajar ilmu politik misalnya dia	akan menjadi ilmuwan politik yang hebat.
Clause	FV/VP + FN/NP
Topical Theme	Rheme

There is no need to worry about being unable to convey an idea in a sentence due to the complexity of the language structure. It indicates that there are no constraints placed on the structure in which the speaker may place the topical theme that is being discussed. One could make the same observation as in (4), namely that the clause has been used as a construction for a topical theme.

(5) Excerpt 5

Oh ya dalam masa transisi ini tentu saja Taman Mini Indonesia Indah tetap beroperasi seperti biasanya para staf tetap bekerja seperti biasanya tetap mendapatkan hak keuangan dan fasilitas tetap seperti biasanya. [T | R]

‘Oh ya, in this transition period, surely, Taman Mini Indonesia Indah has no change to its opening hours and runs business as usual. The employees are working and receiving their right to payment, among other facilities.’

Oh ya dalam masa transisi ini tentu saja Taman Mini Indonesia Indah	tetap beroperasi seperti biasanya para staf tetap bekerja seperti biasanya tetap mendapatkan hak keuangan dan fasilitas tetap seperti biasanya
Clause	FV
Topical Theme	Rheme

A condition very similar to this one has also occurred in (5) and (6). The speaker of MSS has decided to use a particular clause in order to structure the topical theme. This mechanism of clause-like construction as the topical theme depends on the consideration of the speaker in prompting the old information, which is why it is referred to as the topical theme.

(6) Excerpt 6

Oh ya Jadi sebenarnya sudah sejak lama kita memberikan arahan untuk pengolahan yang lebih baik itu kemudian ada tim legal audit waktu itu. [T | R]

‘Oh ya, so far, factually, since a long time ago, we have been given instructions for better management, also supported by our legal-audit team.’

Oh ya Jadi sebenarnya sudah sejak lama kita memberikan arahan untuk pengolahan yang lebih baik itu	kemudian ada tim legal audit waktu itu
Clause	FV
Topical Theme	Rheme

Moreover, SFL provides a distinctive outlook on language by emphasizing its role in diverse communicative settings. SFL acknowledges that language is not comprised of merely random regulations but is a well-crafted system intended for effective communication. Within this framework, clausal constructions hold a crucial position. On the one hand, SFL adopts a unique approach to language, analyzing its various functions in communication. Clausal structures are crucial in achieving these functions, serving as the fundamental building blocks of sentences and discourse. Speakers and writers can proficiently communicate their intended messages by utilizing these structures. Clausal constructions play a crucial role in conveying meaning in the realm of language. They involve diverse grammatical elements, such as word order, tense, mood, aspect, voice, and various syntactic structures. It is important to note that these choices are not random; instead, they are closely linked to the communicative aim of language. SFL upholds this perspective.

On the other hand, the SFL framework categorizes language into three key meta-functions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual. In each of these meta-functions, clausal constructions play an essential role. For instance, in the ideational function, clausal constructions such as verb choices and transitivity structures are essential in representing experiences, actions, and processes. In the interpersonal function, mood

choices, modality, and other linguistic resources within clausal constructions are utilized to effectively engage with the audience, express attitudes, and convey intentions. Lastly, in the textual function, clausal constructions aid in organizing clauses and sentences, thus ensuring the coherence and cohesion of texts by logically flowing information.

In SFL, therefore, organizing information properly is crucial, and causal constructions assist in achieving this. Proficient speakers and writers use clausal components strategically to distinguish between established or familiar information (background) and fresh information (focus). Different methods can convey information structure, including word order, thematic structures, and marked elements in clauses. In short, clausal constructions serve as the foundation of SFL' exploration of language functionality. Far from being superficial components, they are essential in facilitating communication and practical language use. Acknowledging their significance within the SFL framework enables a thorough examination of language application, revealing valuable information about how individuals communicate, connect with their audience, and organize discourse in diverse situations.

3.1.2. Functionalization of the Topical Theme

The idea of functionalization is the second important concept related to the topical theme. The term “underlying relationship” refers to the relationship that exists within the informational structure. Since the SFL considers the surface structure of language, particularly the morphosyntactic layer, to be the device for informational disbursement, it is a mandatory mechanism to focus on defragmentation of the sentences. This is due to the fact that the SFL considers the surface structure of language to be the device for informational disbursement (Banks, 2017, 2019; Foley, 2014; Lewis, 2014). In addition to this, each of the mechanisms is subject to the law of causality. The interchangeable operation of a topical theme has been characterized as the principle. To put it another way, if there is no construction, then there is no functionalization of the topical theme, and this is something that can be understood by anyone. And the other way around is not like this at all. It follows a strict chronological order. This study reveals, in accordance with the pattern of analysis, that the topical theme in SIS of MSS has been functionalized both as a standalone theme and as a component of a larger number of themes (see Table 3). The following paragraph will devote a lot of attention to discussing these two different functions.

Table 3. Functionalization Type of MSS’s Topical Theme.

No.	Strain	Functions	Sample Data
1.	Monofunctional	topical themes as a standalone theme	Excerpt 7 Excerpt 8 Excerpt 9
2.	Dual function	topical themes as components of larger themes	Excerpt 10 Excerpt 11 Excerpt 12

Source: *Secondary Results, 2023.*

In its origin, the single theme should be derived from current events. The primary purpose is that of a single overarching theme. This type of functionality is the kind in which the topical theme does not require any other themes in order to convey the information, particularly the older material (cf. Nugraha, 2020, 2023; Nugraha & Mbato, 2022). The single theme totally affects the substance of the previous information, shifting it from the speaker's side to the speaker-side partner's because there is no more information that may be added as peripheral information. In addition to this, the single theme function is marked by a number of different morphosyntactic markers. The following are examples of markers: (i) the subject, which will be referred to as "S" from here on out, is typically the indicator for a single theme as in (7); (ii) the construction, or grammatical unit, for a single theme cannot be interchanged with other constituents within the same sentence as in (8); and (iii) the construction for a single theme can be separated but not replaced as in (9); and (iv) the construction for a single (9).

(7) Excerpt 7

Critical thinking ini penting agar gak mudah kejebak dengan hoax dan lain-lain.

[T | R]

'This critical thinking is important for not only the hoax barrier but also other related things.'

Critical thinking ini	penting agar gak mudah kejebak dengan hoax dan lain-lain
FN/NP	FAdj. + subclause
Topical Theme (S)	Rheme

As we can identify in (7), the single theme is defined as the only theme in a sentence construction. It means that there is no other representation of the theme, specifically a textual theme. The constituent of *critical thinking ini* is the single theme of (7). It is morphologically classified as an NP as in (8). We can find the NP of (8) as the single theme in the constituent of *Taman Mini Indonesia Indah itu*. These two NP are noun-based constructions in which the head of a phrase is a noun. The NP of (7) morphosemantically can be identified as abstract-NP since the construction refers to the mental entity. In addition, the NP of (8) can be itemized as concrete-NP since the construction refers to the physical entity such as a building.

(8) Excerpt 8

Taman Mini Indonesia Indah itu milik negara Republik Indonesia tercatat di Kementerian Sekretariat Negara. [T | R]

'The state of Republik Indonesia owns Taman Mini Indonesia Indah, which is officially registered in Kementerian Sekretariat Negara.'

Taman Mini Indonesia Indah itu	milik negara Republik Indonesia tercatat di Kementerian Sekretariat Negara
FN/NP	FV/VP + subclause
Topical Theme (S)	Rheme

The other pattern found in the speech of MSS is the usage of personal pronouns as the topical theme. If one analyses (9), there will be a constituent of *kami* 'we'. This type of personal pronoun is also useful in representing the topical theme that has been functionalized as a single theme.

(9) Excerpt 9

***Kami* berkomitmen untuk mengelola aset negara secara baik secara akuntabel.**

[T | R]

‘We are committed to better managing state assets through accountable management.’

Kami	berkomitmen untuk mengelola aset negara secara baik secara akuntabel.
FN/NP	FV/VP + subclause
Topical Theme (S)	Rheme

Second, topical themes as components of larger themes. The analysis of MSS SIS reveals a second function of topical themes as part of multiple themes, in addition to the function of a single theme. Multiple themes should be understood in this context as the configuration of more than one type of theme (Krifka, 2008; Leong, 2022a, 2022b; Nugraha & Mbato, 2022). This function’s most common pattern is [topical theme + textual theme]. The textual theme is a type of theme that is used to connect one informational structure to the previous informational structure. If there are two informational structures [A & B] and [D & K], for example, the textual theme may appear in D-position to establish a chained relationship with [A & B]. For further discussion, we can look at (10), (11) and (12), respectively.

(10) Excerpt 10

***Sekarang ini, misalnya dulu* enggak kebayang bahwa ahli komputer Eh pada banyak matematika statistika berkolaborasi dengan ilmu bahasa.**

[T | R]

‘Currently, for example, a long time ago, there was no imagination of expertise in computers. Eh, a lot of mathematicians or statisticians are collaborating with linguists.’

Sekarang ini,	misalnya dulu	enggak kebayang bahwa ahli komputer Eh pada banyak matematika statistika berkolaborasi dengan ilmu bahasa
Fkonj	FV	FV/VP + subclause
Textual Theme	Topical Theme	Rheme

The common pattern of multiple themes was the configuration of the Textual Theme and Topical Theme as in (10). The textual theme of (10) is *sekarang ini* ‘currently’ and the topical theme is *misalnya dulu* ‘for example, a long time ago’. In addition, the textual theme of (11) is *dari pagi* ‘since the morning’ and the topical theme of (11) is *Bapak presiden* ‘Mr. President’.

(11) Excerpt 11

***Dari pagi bapak presiden* sudah memanggil Pak Menko Perekonomian Ibu Menteri Tenaga Kerja.** [T | R]

‘Since the morning, Mr. President has been called Pak Menko Perekonomian and Ibu Menteri Tenaga Kerja.’

Dari pagi	bapak presiden	sudah memanggil Pak Menko Perekonomian Ibu Menteri Tenaga Kerja
Fkonj	FN/NP	FV + FN
Textual Theme	Topical Theme	Rheme

Example (12) uncovered an additional configuration based on the possibility of multiple themes. The phrase *tetapi lebih dari itu* ‘hence more than expected’ serves as the textual theme of the sentence, while the word *kita* ‘we’ serves as the topical theme. It is the sample of the topical theme that has been configured with textual theme. The description of the topical theme of (12) is as follow.

(12) Excerpt 12

Tetapi lebih dari itu kita harus mendorong lembaga pendidikan untuk fleksibel memberikan kemerdekaan kepada mahasiswa kepada anak-anak didiknya untuk Merdeka belajar. [T | R]

‘Hence, more than expected, we must guide the educational institutions to give university scholars freedom of choice in learning and also for students at other levels to get an opportunity to choose the design of learning that is suitable for them.’

Tetapi lebih dari itu	kita	harus mendorong	lembaga pendidikan untuk jail untuk fleksibel memberikan kemerdekaan kepada mahasiswa kepada anak-anak didiknya untuk Merdeka belajar
FKonj.	Pron.	FV	FN
Textual Theme	Topical Theme	Rheme	

Furthermore, in terms of the functionalization, it is worth noting that the topical theme as the single theme is a popular or common function in any language. According to Jerome & Ting (2022), Martin (2014, 2016), and O’Halloran (2008), this notable result is connected to “meaning matters” and the “stratified content plane.” On the one hand, meaning is the only source for functionalization. What type of meaning? Which is it, the grammatical or the pragmatic one? Based on the systemic functional approach, the type of meaning can be both. The function has been determined based on the sense of utterances and the goals of speaking. Based on this foundation, the topical theme has been used as a single theme by many speakers from various languages. On the other hand, the selection of function is also related to the existence of stratified content. The stratified content is about the hierarchical knowledge structure. It is about the order of informational selection. For instance, “A” as an information will be the theme, while “B” as an information will be the theme. How do we select the position of that information? The only consideration is the hierarchical issue. In other words, one may consider which one is the most important among the others.

3.2. Discussion

3.2.1. Arrangement of MSS’s Topical Theme

Regarding the results that was just presented, one may be left wondering why only two different types of construction in the Indonesian language are suitable for the subject matter being discussed. There is a connection between the syntactical categories and this question. Indonesian has a relatively small number of syntactical categories. It is impossible to use a sentence as a subject constituent, which is the syntactic function in which the topical theme sometimes occurs in a natural way. If you want to construct a topical theme using a series of sentences, there is no other way to do it. This limitation is also connected to the fact that the unit of informational content

has been separated into a sentence form. This signifies that there is only one piece of informational content contained within a single sentence in Indonesian. A topic and a rhyme are included in each of the pieces of informative writing. The theme is capable of being constructed in at least two different ways, and it is possible that there are more than four different ways it can be constructed. According to Hasan (2009) and Matthiessen (2019), this possible structure of a topical theme is dependent on the “place of context” and “register.” The first notion is about a certain pattern of topical theme. The pattern has been determined by the use of structural units. The type of phrases and clauses used in Indonesian plays a role. Additionally, the register is also considered an interrelated factor. In this case, the register has been understood as the whole nuance of the text where the topical theme has been configured. Needless to say, the structure and possibility of a topical theme in Indonesian MSS are both affected by place in context and register (cf. Adrias et al., 2020).

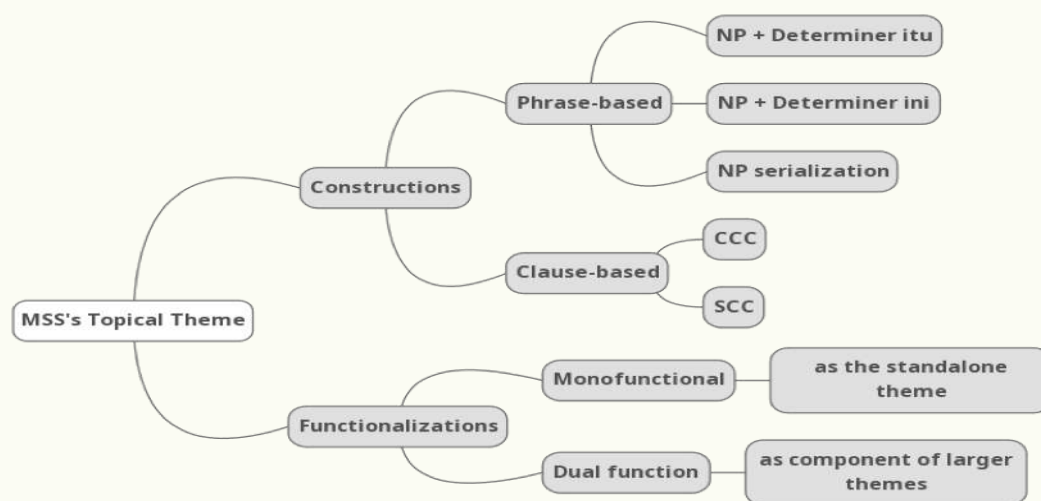
In relation to the three types of phrasal constructions, it is possible to see that the Indonesian phrasal construction of topical themes has been typologically marked by the determiners *ini*, which means ‘this’, and *itu*, which means ‘that’. Both types of determiners in Indonesian serve as morphological markers for topical theme. According to Nugraha (2023), this kind of morphological marker is useful in order to identify the location of a topical theme in an Indonesian grammatical context. In addition, according to Halliday & Matthiessen (2013), the presence of textual meta-function may be associated with the relationship between a linguistic unit and its meaning. Furthermore, it is the conventionalized coding system. On the one hand, the system is dependent on the grammatical rules of language. In this case, Indonesian will be different from English or any other language. It is quite interesting since Indonesian morphemes, such as determiners, have played a role in thematic configuration. On the other hand, the system can only be built from a functional perspective. It means that, without any purpose, the system just gives a block of words or phrases with no apparent meaning. Thus, it can be claimed that either as grammatical units or informational components, the Indonesian determiners play a role in thematic configuration.

Furthermore, the role of phrasal constructions is crucial in comprehending how language operates and expresses meaning within the SFL framework. Developed by Halliday, SFL provides an all-encompassing approach to linguistics by exploring language as a dynamic system utilized for communication in various contexts. On the one hand, phrasal constructions are fundamental to the structure of sentences, as they involve arranging and combining words into phrases and clauses. They serve as the basic units of communication and are necessary for conveying meaning effectively. Phrasal constructions encompass many components, such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, and more. Phrasal constructions play a crucial role in both grammar and communication. They allow us to construct syntactic patterns following grammatical rules while also facilitating the expression of diverse meanings. SFL recognizes the close relationship between grammatical structures and their communicative functions.

On the other hand, the SFL approach highlights the practical roles of language. SFL proposes that language serves multiple functions, including expressing personal experiences, facilitating social interactions, and organizing discourse. To effectively fulfil these functions, phrasal constructions play a crucial role. In SFL, language is a semiotic framework for expressing meaning. Phrasal constructions act as the means for actualizing this meaning. The decisions made in crafting phrases and clauses, such as word choice, word arrangement, and grammatical characteristics, are intricately connected to the desired meaning.

SFL, therefore, brings forth an intriguing notion of functional stratification that categorizes language into three distinct strata: ideational, interpersonal, and textual. Analyzing phrasal constructions regarding these strata enables a better understanding of how they effectively represent experiences, engage with others, and structure discourse. This approach can achieve a comprehensive and in-depth evaluation of language use. As the limitation of this research, the analysis has been done only in the textual strata. In short, the SFL framework holds that phrasal constructions are the essential components of language, facilitating meaning expression and serving various communicative purposes. Through the lens of SFL, linguists and researchers can delve into the intricacies of language usage in diverse contexts and registers, making it an invaluable resource for linguistic analysis and discourse studies.

Figure 1. Map of MSS's Topical Theme.



Source: *Data Analytic Process*, 2023.

3.2.2. The Practicality of MSS's Topical Theme

Concerning the practicality, we need to keep in mind that the function of a topical matter is not in any way determined by chance. This indicates that the function is dependent on the complete content of the material. There is no free combination that a topical theme can use to freely choose as its function because there are no free pairs of combinations (Calhoun, 2010; Domínguez et al., 2022). The theme-rheme configuration has allowed for the linearization of the process of function determination. In other words, the provenance of informative material, which includes

both old and new information, serves as the controller for any sub-classification of information, regardless of the subject matter or the tone of the information. This linearization on the second functionalization of a topical theme, according to Bloor et al. (2004), Foley (2014), Halliday et al. (2014), and Lewis (2014), may be related to these two folds. First is regarding the “mode of expression.” This term refers to a method of constructing information on a specific topic that can be built. There is a way in which the topical theme will be placed at the structural level (Bartlett & O’Grady, 2017; Stosic, 2022). The topical theme can be expressed as a single or multiple theme. If the expression has more than one theme, the other theme selection must be done simultaneously. Otherwise, there will be no such functionalization if this process fails. Additionally, the other consideration is about “contextualism.” This notion is regarding the context of the thematic arrangement. This context can be an intra- or extralinguistic one. As a result, both considerations provide a possible context for the second functionalization of MSS’s topical theme in the Indonesian context.

Moreover, the significance of linguistic constructions cannot be emphasized enough in expressing meaning across various levels of communication. These patterns form the basis for establishing and executing the Functional Structure. Constructions allow us to shape and communicate our thoughts and ideas precisely. These fundamental building blocks are crucial for achieving effective communication. The SFL, in other word, highlights the fundamental interrelation between function and form in language. The selection of constructions is purposeful and not arbitrary, designed to suit the intended communicative objective. For instance, a passive construction (a structural modification) may be employed to accentuate the receiver of an action, thereby fulfilling an ideational function of drawing attention to the “recipient” of the action (cf. Haslina et al., 2023).

One interesting aspect of language is the variability that exists across different languages. It is fascinating how various languages use different constructions to achieve similar communicative functions. SFL provides a framework for cross-linguistic comparison, allowing us to examine how different languages employ constructions to fulfil universal communicative functions while accommodating language-specific features (cf. Hatab et al., 2024). This framework can help us better understand the intricate ways in which language works and how it varies across different cultures and regions. To put it succinctly, SFL regards constructions not as mere linguistic components but as indispensable tools that enable language to actualize its Functional Structure (Nurlela et al., 2024). These constructions are deliberately selected to serve diverse communicative purposes following SFL’s fundamental principles that highlight language’s functional and systemic aspects. Acknowledging the crucial significance of constructions assists linguists and scholars in unravelling the intricate interplay between language form and function.

4. Conclusion

In summary, the conclusion of this study consists of two parts. First, some concluding thoughts about the structuring of the topical theme in MSS’s speech. We could agree that MSS’s speech is both a rhetorical performance and a “product of thought.” Since

the speech employs a logical structure of argumentation and a linearization of informative pattern, it is not too difficult to trace the topical theme throughout the entire speech. From the standpoint of SFL, the depicted topical theme has been developed not only as phrases, but also as clauses. By employing both constructs, the topical theme has served both as a single theme and as multiple themes. Therefore, functionalization was the distinguishing characteristic of MSS as an Indonesian speaker doing SIS. Additionally, our findings demonstrate the versatility of linguistic choices, such as word order and thematic structures, to emphasize particular issues or themes of importance.

However, it is essential to acknowledge that this research has some limitations. Firstly, the sample size was limited to a small number of ministerial speeches, which may not accurately represent the full range of linguistic strategies used by Indonesian ministers. To obtain a more comprehensive understanding, future studies could use a larger dataset. Secondly, this research solely focused on the Indonesian language. Although valuable insights were obtained, analyzing multiple languages could offer a broader perspective on language use in politics. Lastly, the study should have thoroughly examined contextual factors, such as the political climate or audience reception. These factors can significantly influence linguistic choices. Therefore, further investigation into these factors is necessary for a more complete analysis.

As the recommendation of the study, this work proposal pertains to a more in-depth examination of the interrelationships between topical themes and other sorts of themes or rheme. Using this comparison and contrastive way of analysis, one might be able to expose the whole description of informative content in the SIS performance of MSS from an SFL standpoint. Future research can also explore cross-linguistic patterns in political speeches, expand datasets to include a broader range of political communication genres, examine contextual factors and pragmatic frameworks, and investigate sociopolitical implications. Integrating multimodal analysis can provide a more holistic perspective on political communication. Although we have uncovered valuable insights, we acknowledge the necessity for additional research to overcome limitations and delve into the intricate nuances of language usage in political discourse. Doing so can further enrich our comprehension of linguistic theory and the practical applications of language in politics.

Declaration of Conflicting Interest

The author affirms that there are no issues regarding the publication of this paper that could influence the content presented.

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