



**DECONSTRUCTING THE LETTERS IN "YOUR LETTERS"
IN THE JAKARTA POST NEWSPAPER TO FIND THE MESSAGES
THROUGH THE EXPLORATION OF THE TEXTUAL METAFUNCTION**

THESIS

Presented as One of the Requirements to Obtain the S-1 Degree
at The English Education Program of The Language and Arts Department
The Faculty of Teachers Training and Education, The University of Jember

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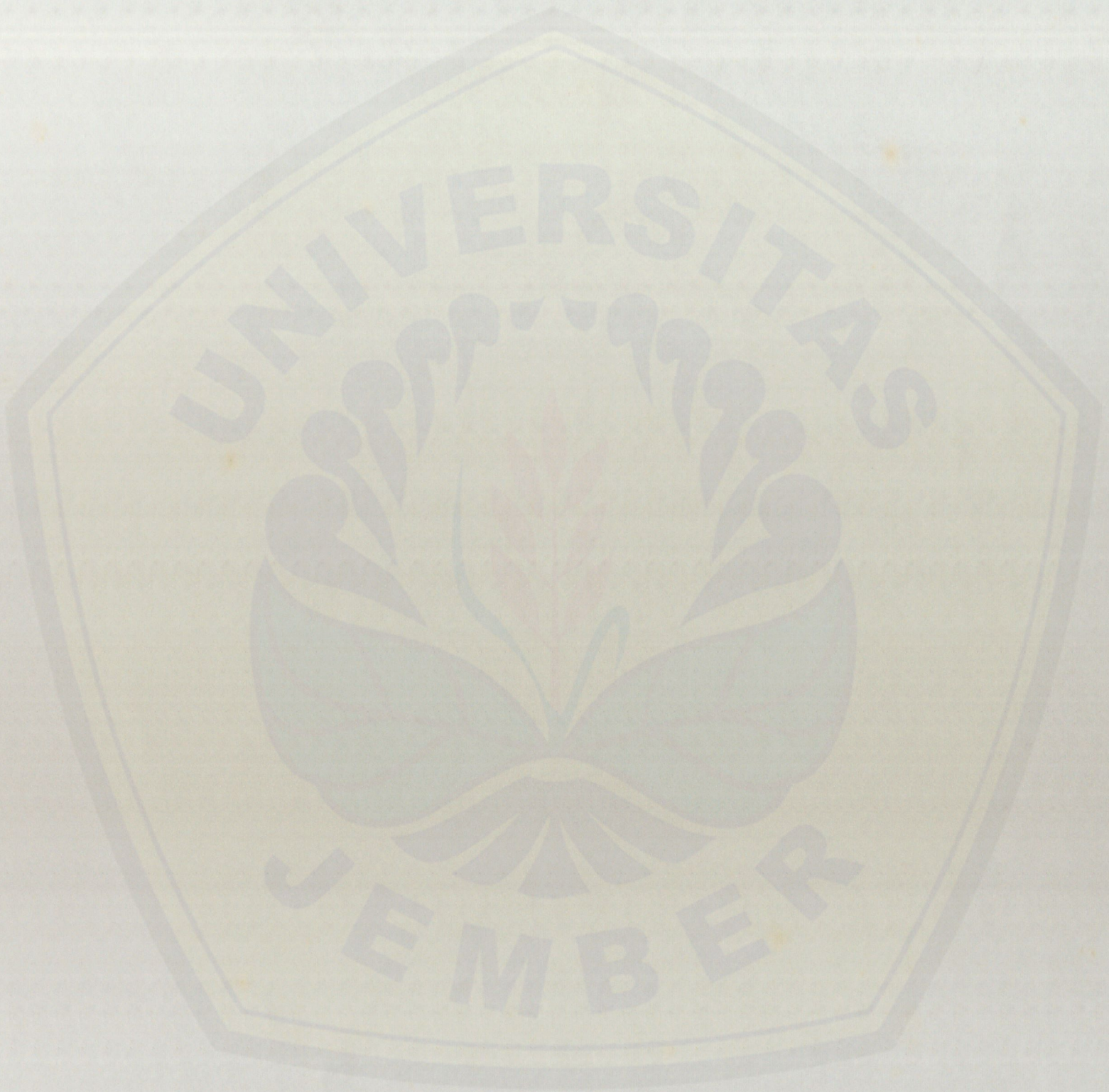
**ENGLISH EDUCATION PROGRAM
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MOTTO

“Knowledge and experience lead your heart and mind to the path of success”

(Suwarno)



DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to my beloved parents, Suwarno and Djumaidah, who give me countless attention in finishing this thesis and endless love for as long as my life.



CONSULTANTS' APPROVAL

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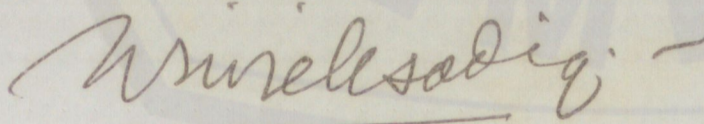
THESIS

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at The English Education Program of The Language and Arts Department
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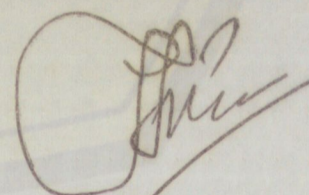
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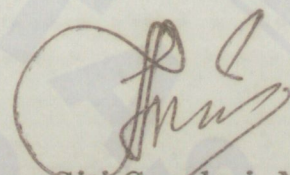
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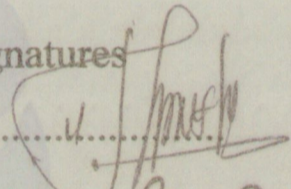
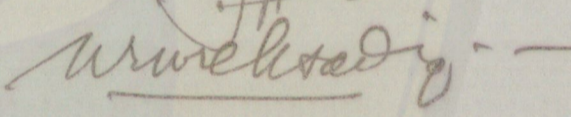
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The Writer

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ABSTRACT

Hendro Wardoyo, 2006. **Deconstructing the Letters in “Your Letters” in The Jakarta Post Newspaper to Find the Messages Through the Exploration of the Textual Metafunction.**

Thesis, English Education Program. Language and Arts Department, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education. Jember University.

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Keywords : Messages, Textual Metafunction, Theme, Rheme, Thematic Drift

This research was meant to find the messages that were conveyed by the addressers in the letters taken from “Your Letter” by using textual metafunction. It is a fact that English people put the main information in the beginning of a message that is known as Theme and what comes later is called as Rheme. Theme and Rheme constitute a message as a whole. The message carries out an important task of conveying information from the addresser to the addressee. The addressee or analyst may have an angle in deconstructing and interpreting the message in certain text by examining the sequential and cumulative patterns of Themes, which are called as Thematic Drift. The data of the research was gained from a column in The Jakarta Post, namely “Your Letters” which were analyzed qualitatively. The result of this research showed that the Thematic Drift in the selected texts was seen to be construing the world where the message is structured. The accumulated themes can be assumed that it can discover the degree to which the message concerns, so it comes to the message being carried by the letters. Those findings indicate that the textual metafunction allows us, as the language learners to develop processing knowledge of English by analyzing the authentic materials such as letters in newspapers.

I. INTRODUCTION

The present research sets out to conduct a detailed analysis of selected written texts in order to deconstruct the message through the choice of Theme. Therefore, in this chapter, the starting point of analysis in the present study is preceded by an introduction of the research, which covers the background of the research, the problem of the research, the objective of the research, the operational definition of the research, the significances of the research and the scope of the research.

1.1 Background of the Research

To communicate with others in a certain society, people need certain media that are responsible to maintain the circulation of information. For this reason, it is expected that people are not only able to gain information anywhere and anytime, but also they can use the information to flourish their daily life. Somehow the communication medium should rely on the good will of its local community in order to keep its existence. To achieve that stuff, the media should serve public with variety of programs. One of the media that can take this part successfully is newspapers, which is stated by Rucker and Stolpe's (1960:12) that many newspapers promote such affairs as music festivals, sports and home shows, medical clinics, science fairs, soil conservation programs and charity events designed to make the community a better place in which to work and live.

Basically, a newspaper is constructed by three major elements. Sumandira (2004:2) arranges the first element as news category that covers straight news, photo news, color news, comprehensive news and investigative news. The second is opinion space. The space includes editorial, corner, article, and reader's letter. The last element is categorized as advertisement. However, a vivid border is made to recognize the difference between opinion category and news category that is by separating them into different pages. This distinction is on the purpose of enabling the reader to distinguish between the news as an objective fact and the opinion as a subjective view.

Furthermore, as a concrete evidence to serve the public consistently and widely, the publisher of newspaper provides a particular column for some short written opinions. The readers' short written opinion that contains comment, complaint, and other views are called as readers' letter column. Regarding to "Your Letters" in *The Jakarta Post* as the only English readers' letters column in English newspaper published in Indonesia, it is claimed that it is a representative example of the readers' letters that can be taken as the resource in providing authentic data in this research. The letters written in English is a favorable medium of reporting the intention for international scope of readership in exchanging message. Through this column, the written text, which represents the sender, tries to convey a certain message within four up to five paragraphs or perhaps more stands upon a particular purpose. In addition, 'Your Letter' is a kind of written text that is made of marks and printed words on paper. As a written language, letters should be meaningful in conveying the message in which the sentences are arranged logically and move from one idea to another idea smoothly. The message carries out the important task of conveying information from an addresser to an addressee. Somehow the addresser organize the letter in good arrangement to keep the addressee well inform about what information does the addresser want to convey. McCarthy (1991:52) states that in English, whatever item in the initial position of the clause signals the point that is understood and the remainder of the clause can be seen as conveying the point that is going to say. The information is segmented into given or old information that is put in the initial position in the clause and another one with new information, which is located in the final segment of the clause.

A meaningful theoretical approach to reveal the intention of the addresser is by looking at the textual metafunction attaches on the letter as the written text. It includes Theme and Rheme that go alongside with the information flow in constructing the whole text. The Theme is known as what the message is concerned with, so it function as a starting point of departure, while the Rheme is known as the remainder of the clause where the Theme is developed. The

configuration of Theme and Rheme in a clause represents the message that is sent by the addresser.

By exploring the Theme and Rheme in a certain letter, the addressee or analyst may have an angle of the message conveyed in the letter. As Martin notes (in Forey, 2005:89) that the selection of Theme builds a certain angle of interpretation on the topic of each text which resonates with other aspect of discourse organization. The Theme and Rheme become the resource for determining the angle of the intended meaning. In one side, it can be seen in the Subject as part of Theme in a clause acts as one feature of resource for organizing the message. On the other side, the feature of Markedness that affects the interpretation of Theme that is by placing another Theme before Subject in the main clause. Then, Forey (2005:52) argues that these overall features contribute to the construal of a text's meanings and to the organization of the ideas in a text.

As the focus of the present study deals with Theme and Rheme organization in constructing a message, an exploration of Theme and Rheme in revealing the message was called for. Another reason for analyzing the message by exploring the textual metafunction of the clause is that it allows the text analyst and others who are users of the text to understand the way in which a text is constructed and the role played by Theme and Rheme in organizing the message.

Belmonte and McCabe (1998:14) have noted that many researchers have paid much less attention to Theme/Rheme construction and its possible usefulness in second language teaching. Therefore, they conducted a research that has proved Theme/Rheme can be very helpful as a tool of instruction for the teacher to evaluate L2 writing at the level of the discourse. Finally, as the students of The English Department of The Faculty of Teachers Training and Education who have mastered the English structure it is necessary for them to understand this theory as the basis for analyzing the letters as discourse and to develop processing the knowledge in complete situation by taking account to what knowledge is already shared in communicating the message effectively, by considering to the textual metafunctions. So, the letters in the newspaper can be brought into foreign language classroom as the authentic materials for language teaching.

To sum up, with regard to the above explanation, it has been shown that choice of Theme and Rheme as the major elements of the textual metafunction to be the key factors for constructing and interpreting the message in a certain text. And after considering “Your Letters” in *The Jakarta Post* newspaper that serves the study with sufficient data, this recent study entitled “Deconstructing the Letters in “Your Letters” in the Jakarta Post Newspaper to Find the Messages Through the Exploration of the Textual Metafunction” is proposed.

1.2 Problems of the Research

Based on the background of the research above, the problems that prominently need to be solved are:

1. Which theme is the most applied in the letters?
2. What are the messages of some letters in “Your Letters” in *The Jakarta Post* based on the exploration of Textual Metafunction?

1.3 Objectives of the Research

Based on the problems above, the objectives of the research are:

1. To find the most applied theme in the letters.
2. To reveal the message of some letters in “Your Letters” in *The Jakarta Post* based on the exploration of Textual Metafunctions.

1.4 Operational Definition of the Terms

There are several terms that need to be operationally defined in order to avoid misperception between the researcher and the readers. They are the messages, Textual Metafunctions, Theme and Rheme and thematic drift.

a. The Messages

The messages are defined as the clauses that are structured by the comprising of a theme plus a rheme, which are activated by the mode of discourse concerning with the cohesion, coherence, and the organization of a text.

b. The Textual Metafunctions

The textual metafunction relates to the clause as message that provides the resource for determining the main information. The addresser and the addressee with two majors elements of theme and rheme can share the creation of language as information.

c. The Theme and Rheme

The Theme is the element that serves as the starting-point for the message and the point of departure for what the addresser is going to say.

The Rheme is the part in which the theme is developed where the position is in the final of the clause so that the two parts together constitute a message.

d. Thematic Drift

Thematic drift is the accumulated meanings emerging as overall patterns in a text by the examination of sequential and cumulative patterns of Theme to discover the degree to which the messages mesh with an overarching purpose or concern.

1.5 The Significances of the Research

The result of the research is expected to give contributions to the English students of the English Education Program of Jember University, the future researchers and the pedagogical implementation.

1. The English Students

This study is expected to provide deep knowledge for the English students, who want to have a teaching career to be more aware towards the letters in a newspaper since it can be used as authentic materials for language teaching and how to deal with the related theories in order to reveal the messages. In addition, language learners who have mastered the language structure need opportunities to develop processing the knowledge in complete situation by taking account of what knowledge is already shared, selecting items to communicate the message effectively, by considering the textual metafunctions.

2. The Future Researchers

Future researchers may use the result of this study as information or a reference to conduct a further research with a similar problem by using another research design. Therefore, it is expected that it can be used as an input for conducting the research dealing with the implementation of authentic materials such as letters in the newspaper for teaching and learning foreign language in the classroom by applying theories of discourse.

3. The Pedagogical Implications

The theory of textual metafunction that is used in this research may be applied in teaching English as a foreign language, especially in teaching writing and reading. The thematic progression can be used in writing a coherence text, while the thematic drift can be used in gaining the main information of a written text.

1.6 The Scope of the Research

Discourse analysis has got a wide aspect of linguistic field. Consequently, it is a necessity to limit the study in order to focus on the problem investigated. Firstly, the material is limited to 'Your Letters' in The Jakarta Post published in January up to March 2005. There are 265 letters during this first quarter of 2005. This research has taken 17 letters as the sample by using purposive sampling. Secondly, the theory that is used to analyze the letters is limited to the theory of textual metafunctions by using thematic drift. Thirdly, the analysis is limited to the analysis of the presented letters in order to reveal the message of the addresser.

II. RELATED LITERATURE REVIEW

The present study is situated in the field of discourse, where the texts at the heart of the study are written texts, produced and intended for communication between people in order to convey certain message. However, in establishing the distinction between the terms of 'Discourse Analysis', 'Texts', "'Your Letters" as a Discourse', 'Message', 'Language Metafunction', 'Textual Metafunction', 'Information Structure', Theme and Rheme, 'Topical Theme', 'Interpersonal theme', 'Textual Theme', and 'Thematic drift', it is important to view the related literature of those terminology in this chapter that tend to be used in this research.

2.1 Discourse Analysis

McCarthy (1991:5) states that discourse analysis is concerned with the study of the relationship between language and the context in which it is used. Dealing with the element of theme and its realization in English, McCarthy (1991:59) explains the theme in term of language teaching that it is an area of grammatical structure and discourse function that is allied closely, since discourse analysis influences how language is taught, then the ways of presenting variations in clause structure in relation to discourse functions may be useful to be applied. Moreover, Eriyanto (2005:xv) has confirmed that discourse analysis is not only enabling the analyst to know the content of the news text, but also how the message is conveyed. By viewing how its linguistics structure, discourse analysis is more capable to see the hidden meaning of the text.

Discourse analysis concerns with two types of discourse; spoken and written discourse. There are some examples of spoken discourse such as, lectures, speeches, interviews, and so forth. In written discourse, the kinds of discourse include in this scope are news articles, letters, notices, and the like. Tobin and Fraser (2005:7) explain in their article entitled *Analyzing Verbal Data, Process, Method, and Problems* that discourse is contextual. Discourse analysis produces its greatest insights when rich contextual information can be factored into the analysis of each text.



2.2 Texts

In everyday life, people are surrounded by language in use to interact with others for various purposes. In doing the interaction, they produce texts either spoken or written. Language is always used as part of a complex cultural activity. Verbal data make sense only in relation to this activity context and to other social events and texts with which we normally connect them, their inter-texts. Meaning is not made with language alone, but also in writing by choices, or in the visual coding of words and other graphical information. The meaning of any text or discourse event always depends on how we connect it to some texts and events. As it is understood that a text is a unit of meaning which operates within a context, Halliday (1985:13) constrains text by saying that text is language that is functional and has meanings or functions in a context of situation. It is language that is dialogic and social. It can be spoken or written. It is not isolated words or sentences unfold from context. It can be viewed either as a product or as a process (Schirato and Yell, 1992:108). Text can be viewed as a product while it is an output that can be learnt and recorded, because it has a particular construction that can be expressed with systematic term. However, text is considered as a process when it is a process of continually meaning election, changes through the web of meaning power.

In brief, text is a unit of meaning that cannot be separated from its context. The text can be either a product of communication or a process of communication. The text as the product is useful for language learning since it can be learnt through analyzing it.

2.3 “Your Letters” as a Discourse

The forms of texts are various. It can be an article, notes, advertisements, announcement, and letter. Letter as a text is believed to bring a certain meaning. The following is an example of the notion of letter as it is appeared in “Your Letters” in the Jakarta Post newspapers. “Your Letters” is a column in *The Jakarta Post* newspaper that contains some readers’ letters. Every letter is intended for publication. In this column, the readers can write any case dealing

with private or social affairs, whether it is a complaint, opinion, or comment upon the hottest issue in the society. The editor of 'Your Letters' gives some requirements for the readers in sending a letter. First of all, it should be brief and accompanied by a fixed identity card with a note 'Your Letter' on it. Secondly, the letter should contain the writer's name, address, and phone number. The last, the editor will be not responsible to return the unpublished articles for the unsolicited features and opinion items that are welcomed. "Your Letters", as one part of the printed media and as the reader's letter column, plays an important role in giving a space for a personal view of a problem and the typical solutions. Many letters in 'Your Letters' give comment in reference to the previous text, such as news articles, opinion column, and the letters in "Your Letters" itself. It plays the role of communicator from the readers to the editors.

Meanwhile, in correlation with pedagogic implementation, the textual metafunction can be applied in analyzing the letters as the product of the information exchange. This theory helps in exploring the message in every letters in "Your Letters". Moreover, it is a good idea to bring letters taken from newspapers into the classroom as the authentic material, since the foreign language students also need to learn to use the target language in real situation. It is in line with McCarthy's opinion (1991:152) that letters are good examples of a discourse type compared with the classroom essay. The reason is that the receiver of a letter is usually a specified individual or group, unlike an essay, which is made for unknown audience. This helps the analysis of any information in the letter more workable because the receiver is known

2.4 Message

Lipson (2005:113) defines that the message is realized in clause that is activated by the mode of discourse concerning with the cohesion, coherence, and the organization of a text. In the circulation of the written text, the writer possesses less information about the reader. Therefore, the writer should assume that the reader shares the same contextual knowledge, and should construct a possible context of the situation for the text. The message structure in English is

comprised of a Theme plus a Rheme. Forey (2005:49) states that Theme is viewed to play a crucial role in focusing and organizing the message and to contribute to the coherence and success of the message, since each choice of Theme represents a different starting point for the message conveyed in the clause.

Halliday (in Matthiessen and Halliday, 1997:8) defines textual metafunction engenders resources for presenting interpersonal and ideational meanings as information organized into text that can be ongoing exchanged between speaker and listener. Then, the Theme is called by Halliday (in Matthiessen and Halliday, 1997:8) as a resource for organizing the interpersonal and ideational meanings of each clause in the form of a message. Furthermore, the system of Theme sets up a local environment that providing a point of departure by reference to which the listener interprets the message, while the Rheme deals with what is presented in this local environment. Thus, Gil (2005:1) assumes that while the sum of a Theme and Rheme is regarded as message, and text is the sum and concatenation of several message, then it follows that the sequence of thematic and rhematic segments constitutes one of the pillars of textual organization.

To sum up, the message deals with the clause that is structured by the comprising of the Theme followed by the Rheme, which are activated by the mode of discourse concerning with the cohesion, coherence, and the organization of a text.

2.5 Language Metafunctions

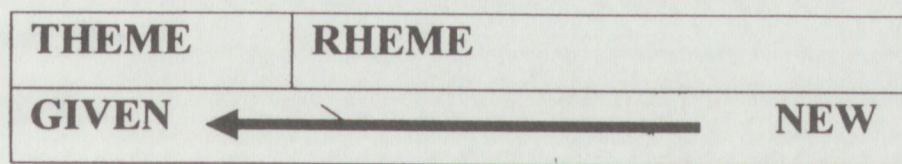
Halliday (1985:61) posits that in order to serve human life, language expresses two kinds of functions: an ideational metafunction, which allows participants to understand the environment, and an interpersonal metafunction, which allows participants to act on others. The two functions hold together and make operational by a third component, the textual metafunction as the textual resources with information flow. Forey (2005:48) explains that the analyst may employ each metafunction simultaneously as tools to deconstruct any message

encoded within text in relation to the linguistic realizations whenever language is realized. However, the present study focuses on the textual metafunction as the tools in exploring the Theme and Rheme to reveal the message of some letters collected from *The Jakarta Post* newspaper.

2.6 Textual Metafunction

Textual metafunction concerns with how the text is structured and describes how elements in a text are related to one another. It relates to a textual knowledge. Leckie-Terry (1985:23) explains that this knowledge is gained from other texts, that involve conventions of the realization and organization of texts, the knowledge of the means by entire text are structured, and knowledge of semantic relations. It enables language to be relevant and have texture in real context of situation. The text is related to itself and to the preceding and the following text, and the context of situation. Then, it divides the clause into the Theme, the initial position in the clause, and the Rheme, the remainder of the clause. Halliday (1994), in Butt, et al. (1995:90), states that the Theme is the element that serves as the starting-point for the message: the point of departure for what the speaker is going to say. This may be a person or a thing, an action, a time, a place. The whole nominal or verbal or adverbial group in the first position becomes Theme. In addition, one element in the clause is enunciated as the Theme; this then combines with the remainder so that the two parts together constitute a message (Halliday, in Ping, 2003:2). The Rheme is defined as the remainder of the message, the part in which the Theme is developed. In fact, English speakers and writers use the first position in the clause to signal to their audience what the message is about.

The textual metafunction characterizes the clause as message and provides an insight into the information structure, the *given* and the *new*. The *new* is either not previously mentioned or is presented by the addresser as not being recoverable from the preceding discourse, while the *given* is in the opposite side of it. The following is the realism of the Theme and the Rheme selection correlates to the information structure of the *given* and the *new*.



Adopted from Freddi (2005)

Following Halliday, Lipson (2005:113-116) classifies the Theme that it concerns with the status of elements as components of message. The notion of Theme and Rheme can be subdivided into topical, interpersonal and textual theme. The explanations on Theme are presented in the following pages.

2.7 Information Structure

Information structure is defined by Halliday (in Leckie-Terry, 1995:151) as the process of interaction between what is already known or predictable and what is *new* or unpredictable. Next, Calhoun, et al. (2005:4) explain the information status by looking at Theme/Rheme structure. The Theme and the Rheme guides how an element fits into the discourse model, if it relates back it is thematic, while if it advances the discourse it is rhematic.

One of the ways by which the analysis of Theme and Rheme can be useful through its combination on the description of the information structure of the clause is classified as *given* and *new*. Halliday (1985:274) views it as the interplay between *given* and *new* in the information unit that generates information in the linguistic sense. However, they are equal in organizing information as a message, *given* and *new* are not the same thing with Theme and Rheme. The Theme and the Rheme is addresser-oriented, while *given* and *new* is addressee-oriented. The theme is what the addresser chooses to take as the point of departure. The *given* is what addressee already knows about or have accessible to him/her. What the addresser treats as *given* may be so because it has been mentioned before or something that is not around at all but that the addresser wants to present as *given* for rhetorical purposes. Likewise, what is treated as *new* to the addressee may be something that has not been mentioned or it may be something unexpected, whether previously mentioned or not. Givon, in Leckie-Terry (1995:152), develops the principle that sentence with only *new* information

will be incoherent, while sentence with only old information would be redundant. Thus Leckie-Terry concludes that old information prevent a text from becoming totally incoherent, while *new* information avoids the eventually of a text becoming totally redundant.

Van Dijk (1977:117) gives an example of integration of the *new* information and the known information. The example is as follows:

"Peter is ill."

This utterance is assumed that the addressee have already known about Peter with all the inherent information about him. In this case, the knowledge about Peter is enriched with the proposition that he is ill at present and is attached to the concepts of Peter in the addressee's knowledge.

2.8 Theme and Rheme

The Theme and Rheme form the major elements of textual metafunction. Forey argues (2005:88) that the Theme appears to be a key factor for the success of clause and text. Halliday (in Forey, 2005:48) defines the Theme as is the "point of departure; it is that with which the clause is concerned". Forey (2005:49) states that the Theme is viewed to play a crucial role in focusing and organizing the message and to contribute to the coherence and success of the message as each choice of the Theme represents a different starting point for the message conveyed in the clause. Halliday (in Forey, 2005:50) defines the Rheme as everything that is not in the position of the Theme and it is the part of the clause where the Theme is developed. One function of the Theme would seem to be the organization of the message. The message structure in English is comprised of a Theme plus a Rheme with a common order that the Theme comes first, followed by the Rheme. In addition, the Theme of a clause includes an obligatory a topical Theme and may also include optional features such as a textual and an interpersonal Themes.

Matthiessen (1999:2) suggests three features in recognizing the boundary between the Theme as the initial position of the clause and the Rheme as the

remainder of the clause. He explains that the Theme extends up to and including the first element of transitivity structure, they are as follows:

1. A verbal group serving as Process, and interpersonally typically as Predicator but not Finite, as in an imperative clause.

Example: Remove the casserole from the oven.

2. A nominal group or down ranked/embedded clause serving as Participant, interpersonally either as Subject or as Complement.

Example: They removed the casserole from the oven.

3. An adverbial group or prepositional phrase serving as Circumstance, interpersonally as circumstantial Adjunct.

Example: From the oven they removed the casserole.

2.8.1 Topical Theme

The topical Theme is an obligatory part of theme. It is the first element that also functions as a constituent of the ideational element in the clause. The topical Theme is a term used to refer to any or all of the above features, which are found in the Theme of a clause. Lipson (2005:114) refers topical Theme as the first element that also functions as a constituent of the transitivity system in the clause, thus it could be a participant, a process or a circumstance. The topical Theme is useful in recognizing the Rheme of the clause, since the Theme includes the topical Theme and anything else that precedes it, thus elements that come after the topical Theme are not included as the Theme of the clause namely as the Rheme of the clause. The topical Theme is also delivering a notion of markedness. Butt, et al. (1995:93) mention that unmarked Theme is the most expected, common and unremarkable case. In contrast, marked Theme is unusual and should be noticed because of it stands out. In a certain clause pattern, the Theme is conflated with the subject that refers to as unmarked Theme. Halliday (in Forey, 2005:74) states that the subject is the element that is chosen as Theme unless there is good reason for choosing something else, while a Theme that is not subject is referred to as marked Theme. The examples of marked Theme are circumstantial adjuncts such as *today, currently, on 13 August, at the meeting* and complements such as *that meeting we could not attend*. Lipson (2005:116) shows the examples of the topical Themes as follows,

1. **Police** shoot 15 African Demonstrators.

(**The Police** is unmarked, since the Theme roles as an Actor in the transitivity structure.)

2. **In Salisbury**, 15 demonstrators were shot by police.

(**In Salisbury** is marked Theme since it roles as circumstance in the transitivity structure.)

The subject, according to many scholars, should be included as the Theme of the clause. Davies (in Forey, 2005:55) argues that Theme has two potential functions of the identification of topic, realized by subject, and provision of contextual frame, realized by elements preceding the subject, for example circumstantial, modal, conjunctive adjunct and conjunction. The subject in a clause plays significant roles in the development of a message. Ravelli, (in Forey, 2005:56) believes that the Subject is an important element in understanding thematic development and is a necessary part of Theme. Further, Berry and Davies (in Forey, 2005:55) argue that understanding the ideational meaning in the initial part should include the subject as the part of the theme.

Therefore, the recent research include the subject as the part of the Theme as the initial part of the clause in constructing a certain message. The following example shows two ideational elements realized in the Theme, which are a circumstantial adjunct of location of time and a subject of the clause.

But	at that time	of course	we	will follow personnel's guidance as always, to make sure we are doing everything fairly.
Textual Theme	Marked Theme	Interpersonal Theme	Subject/ Theme	Rheme

(Taken from Forey, 2005:59)

2.8.2 Interpersonal Theme

Forey (2005:67) explains that interpersonal Theme is not obligatory element of Theme as it can occur in other positions in the clause. However it is natural to make this the point of departure as it is commonly in thematic position to present some elements of the addresser's own angle on a certain matter that is included within the message. Lipson (2005:116) clarifies that interpersonal

Theme functions to construe addresser's viewpoint and can be reviewed that it precedes the topical Theme and indicate the kind of exchange or interaction between participants, for instance the position they are taking. The modal adjuncts can function as interpersonal Theme. The modal adjuncts have two subtypes, comment adjuncts and mood adjuncts. The comment adjuncts are realized by expressions that comment on the clause as a whole, such as *generally*, *unfortunately*. The mood adjuncts are more commonly linked to the finite within the clause, for example *of course*, *in my opinion*, *in general*. The initial vocatives, which is defined as an optional nominal in interactive discourse that clearly signals to the person or persons concerned, which the clause refers to him/her/them can also function as interpersonal theme. Lipson (2005:115) gives the examples of the interpersonal themes as follows:

1. *May be* the labors needed to increase their performance more. (Mood adjunct)
2. *Hopefully*, James can complete all the tests. (Comment adjunct)
3. *Dr.*, I need a prescription for my allergy medicine. (Vocative Adjunct)

Furthermore, interpersonal Theme has one type of clause besides the adjuncts. It is a projection clause that is realizing an interpersonal function, which reflects the addresser's viewpoint. The addresser can convey his/her message in a subjective or more objective manner. In addition, Forey (2005:174) the projection is explicitly accomplish the clause by presenting the addresser's viewpoint and a certain angle on the topic construed. The addressee's interpretation of the preceding and the following clause much depends on the preview of the projection clause. The reason is that the addresser may make explicit viewpoint through the selection of a projection clause. The example below is a projection clause in a subjective manner in order to establish the sincerity of what the addresser has to say about Mr. Woo. The addresser states what he thinks and uses the modal adjunct '*entirely*' to emphasize his viewpoint. The example is '*I believe entirely that Mr. Woo has ordered his air ticket in good faith*'. In contrast, the following projection is the rather objective manner since there is not any human participant was taking on the thought process. The example is '*it was understood that*' and '*it was contemplated that*'.

2.8.3 Textual Theme

Forey (2005:66) explains that textual Theme has its nature as thematic structure as it comes first in order to realize the linking role and is used to connect a piece of text to another to be a coherence message. It can occur along with interpersonal Theme, both preceding the topical Theme. The textual Theme includes continuity adjunct, conjunctive adjunct, which links a clause to the preceding text or to another clause complex and the conjunction, which connects a clause to a piece of text within the same clause complex.

Halliday gives the examples of the continuity adjunct, as quoted by Thalib (2005:4), as consisting of a small set of items such as **yes, no, well, oh, now**. These items are used to signal initiating or continuing moves in interactive discourse. The examples are shown as follows:

1. **Oh** maybe the battery's running down.
2. **Well**, honey, are you feeling ok?

The conjunctions in textual Theme are not only establishing semantic relationships between meanings, but also construct two parts into a single structural unit. Butt, et al shows the examples of conjunctions that are likely to introduce dependent clauses that enhance the argument. The conjunctions are *before, after, if, unless, because, and in order to*. Freddi (2005:53) explains that if the Theme is a structural element which is put obligatorily in the first position such as a conjunction, then what comes next has a topically thematic function:

Example: Stella enjoys literature, **but** *grammar* she can't stand.

The conjunction '**but**' is obligatorily thematic which is relating the clause to a preceding clause in the same clause complex. It is followed by '*grammar*' functioning as complement. This word, '*grammar*' is thus the marked topical Theme.

Halliday (in Forey, 2005:66) presents a list of conjunctive adjuncts into three groups that can be inferred that the three groups realize elaboration, extension, and enhancement. The elaboration deals with one clause, which is used to specify or describe another clause. The extension deals one clause adds

information to another clause to extend its meaning. The enhancement one clause qualifies the meaning of another clause by time, place, manner, cause or condition. They are as follows:

Conjunctive Adjuncts

Types	Meaning	Example
I Elaboration appositive corrective dismissive summative verifactive	'i.e., e.g.' 'rather' 'in any case' 'in short' 'actually'	that is, in other words, for instance or rather, at least, to be precise in any case, anyway, leaving that aside briefly, to sum up, in conclusion actually, in fact, as a matter of fact
II Extension additive adversative variative	'and' 'but' 'instead'	also, moreover, in addition, besides on the other hand, however, conversely instead, alternatively
III Enhancement temporal comparative causal conditional concessive respective	'then' 'likewise' 'so' '(if ...) then' 'yet' 'as to that'	meanwhile, before that, later on, next, soon, finally likewise, in the same way therefore, for this reason, as a result, in that case, under the circumstances, otherwise nevertheless, despite that in this respect, as far as that's concerned

Adapted from Halliday, in Forey (2005:66)

The examples of conjunctive adjunct in the three groups of elaboration, extension and enhancement as textual Theme are presented as bellow:

- i. He always knew what a great songwriter and performer he was but *for instance*, he was nervous of audiences.
- ii. They are most widely known as company secretaries. *In addition*, they occupy senior positions in pensions, financial services and multinational companies.
- iii. The releases mark the first improvement in the human rights situation in Malawi for several years. *However*, other prominent prisoners of conscience remain behind bars.

The Conjunctive Adjuncts are regarded to give the texts its textual value, therefore, they are considered as textual Themes. When these Adjuncts probably part of the Theme, they do not exhaust the potential of Theme. Alternatively, they

are considered to be a part of a 'multiple Theme' comprising textual, interpersonal and topical Themes along with the Subject.

2.9 Thematic Drift

Butt, et al. (1995:98) argue that after dividing the text into clauses and set out the analysis of Theme of a full grammatical analysis of any text, the text user or text analyst is allowed to comment on the meanings that has accumulated. In addition, Butt et al.(in Lipson, 2005:124) state that the thematic structure of a text provides signpost to help readers and addressee follow the development of the text. As known before that Theme represents what the addresser selects to convey about and informs the addressee the information background of the text.

Butt, et al. (1995:98) defines thematic drift as the accumulated meanings emerging as overall patterns in a text. Moreover, Lipson (2005:124) posits that the examination of sequential and cumulative patterns of Theme can discover the degree to which the messages mesh with an overarching purpose or concern.

The following is the example of thematic drift of a recount text proposed by Butt, et al. The textual Themes are in italics and the topical Themes are underlined.

Dear M & D,

Tomorrow's an early rise because we failed our last inspection (so tomorrow morning we have to up at 5am to prepare the unit for 6am inspection.

Yesterday was the Combined School Sports – fun to be in. I ran about 2.13, which wasn't too bad as it was my second race for the season. Today we walk up Mt Stirling. Then tomorrow we have 10- hours of orienteering. What fun! I'd better get some sleep.

Love you both,

The text above shows various choices of Themes with the most dominant is the topical Theme. Then, after exploring to all the Themes in this text, the Themes of this school letter can be recapped like as follows:

Textual Theme	because; so; as; then.
Topical Theme	tomorrow; we; tomorrow morning; yesterday; I; which it; today; tomorrow;

After exploring the thematic choices, it can be concluded that the addresser is concerned with time and with himself as the actor of the process. His textual Themes concern with providing the reasons for his actions, which is shown by the conjunctive adjuncts namely 'because' roles as the causal enhancement, 'so' roles as the causal enhancement, 'as' respective enhancement, 'then' temporal enhancement.



III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter introduces research design, data resource, type of data, data collection method, and data analysis method which concern with the course of the investigation in the present study.

3.1 Research Design

This present research was intended to describe the results of the application of the textual metafunction theory to reveal the message of the letters in "Your Letters" in *The Jakarta Post* newspaper, so that it can explain the contribution of this theory in interpreting the message of the addresser. Therefore, the appropriate design was quantitative qualitative. Subroto (1992:31) states that the term 'method' in linguistic research covers a unity of some process, namely, determining background knowledge, formulating the problem, determining population and sample of data collection technique, and data analysis. In line with the topic of discussion, qualitative data in this research were obtained from "Your Letters" in *The Jakarta Post* newspaper. The general procedures of the research design were as follows:

1. Determining the problems and the objectives of the study.
2. Reviewing theories related to the topic understudy.
3. Determining the research data resources.
4. Determining the appropriate method of data analysis.
5. Deconstructing the messages in the letters "Your Letters" by exploring the Thematic Drift of the textual metafuncion theory.
6. Discussing the result of the analysis.
7. Reviewing to the research problem.
8. Drawing conclusion from the discussion.

3.2 Data Resource

The data of this study were the letters taken from 'Your Letters' of *The Jakarta Post* published in January to March 2005. 'Your Letters' is an opinion

column that serves the public in sharing the ideas towards the factual issues. The letters from the readers of *The Jakarta Post* newspaper are published every day, except on Sundays and holidays. During six days in a week, there are two up to five letters appear per edition.

Under some considerations, "Your Letters" was taken as the data resource in this research. Firstly, it provides sufficient data required in this research. Secondly, it is not only quite easy to collect the data, since the newspaper is available in the central library of University of Jember, it also can be gathered by prescribing to a newspaper agency. Thirdly, according to Guba and Lincoln (in Moleong, 2002:161), the document, such as letters, are useful and suitable with qualitative study because of its characteristics that are natural, suitable with the context, born and exist in the context. The last, dealing with the educational world, the letters published on *The Jakarta Post* newspaper are authentic materials for the foreign language teaching at school which give advantages for the students of the English Department.

3.3 Type of Data

The data that were be analyzed in this study were sentences in the selected letters and the percentage of themes applied in the letters. The letters were composed in the form of sentences or a text, while the percentage is composed in numbers. Therefore, the data of the study are quantitative qualitative data. According to Dey (1993: 10) the data that deal with meaning are included qualitative data while the data that deal with numbers are included quantitative data.

In line with that idea, the type of data in this study was quantitative qualitative data in the form of written discourse that was some letters published in *The Jakarta Post*. So, they deal with the term of verbal data, which make sense only in relation to this actively context and to other social events and texts with which we normally connect their inter-text (Tobin and Fraser, 2005:2).

3.4 Data Collection Method

The interesting topic in a certain letter that is published has some replies from other readers of *The Jakarta Post*. Therefore, that kind of letter was taken as the sample of the research under one consideration that the letters contained ideas that referred to the previous letters published on the 'Your Letters'. In addition, Tobin and Fraser (2005) state that the selection of discourse samples is not governed by random sampling. Discourse events do not represent a homogenous population, which can be sampled in statistical sense. The researcher aggregates discourse events for particular purposes and by stated criteria. In this research, the sample taken purposefully was not proposed to know the whole description or making generalization, but it was aimed to see its unique characteristics of each letter in "Your Letters" by doing in-depth analysis. The last, the data were selected under a criteria that they were in reference to the letter that was published in "Your Letters" previously.

The data used in this research are collected by applying documentation method. The data were obtained from *The Jakarta Post* newspaper, which were published in 1st January 2005 up to 31st March 2005. From the publication, it was found 265 letters, 88 letters in January, 83 in February, and 94 in March. The research used purposive sampling technique. In taking the samples, the purposive sampling needed a certain criterion for the basis of selecting. The criterion of the samples taken in this research was the letters which were in reference to the previous letters that were published in 'Your Letters'. There were two reasons, firstly it was aimed to gain rich information that was by studied in-depth, and secondly because the research had have a huge population. After collecting the data, the research took 17 letters as the samples, 7 letters in January, 5 letters in February, and 5 letters in March, which were based on their suitability with the criterion.

3.5 Data Analysis Method

In this research, the collected data were analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively. The study found the percentage of the themes applied and then

employed thematic drift of Theme and Rheme as has been introduced in the previous section (2.10, page 16-17). Then, it came to reasons for analyzing Theme in the present study are that it allows the text analyst and others who are users of the texts to understand the way in which a text is constructed and the role played by the topical, interpersonal, and textual in organizing the message by noticing the accumulated meaning in the whole text.

The following is an example of analyzing the letter based on the exploration of textual metafunction to reveal the addresser's message by using the thematic drift technique.

Theme				Rheme
Textual	Marked	Interpersonal	Topical	
		Take	Your complaints	Elsewhere
			I	refer to the letter from Aqua Dwipayana published in The Jakarta post on Jan. 5, titled Garuda's service.
		Why does	the post	published such inane and petty complaints in its newspaper?
		Is it that	You	simply like to take every opportunity to bash any well known corporate name?
Or		is it that	You	have nothing better with which to fill your pages?
			You	regularly publish similar drivel from people complaining about various services.
	Often		individuals who	write in have not even made an effort to discuss the matter with the management of the offending company.
	As a regular reader of your publication	I would like you to know that	I	have no interest whatsoever in reading about such complaints from whining members of the publics.
1	2	5	8	

Summary Analysis

The letter above shows the selected Themes chosen by Allan Cassel with the most dominant is the topical Theme. Then, after exploring to all the Themes in this letter, the Themes can be recapped in percentage like follows:

Themes	N	Percentage
Topical	8	50 %
Interpersonal	5	31,25 %
Textual	1	6,25 %
Marked	2	12,25 %

The first text in table-1.1 under the title “Take your complaint elsewhere” was sent by Allan Cassel. It refers to Aqua Dwipayana’s complaint letter. The analysis of this letter shows some accumulated Themes for example ‘**I; You; individuals; the Post; I**’ as the topical Theme. The interpersonal Theme such as ‘*Take; Why; Is it; and I would like you to know that*’, which performs as the a projected clause that establishes his subjective point of view and transmits it to the addressee. Then, ‘Or’ which performs as respective enhancement in the conjunctive adjunct in textual Theme.

After exploring the thematic choices, it can be concluded that the addresser concerns with he himself as the actor of the process and as a representative of his institution. He places himself as the regular reader of The Jakarta Post. The addressee ‘**you**’ of this text is “Your Letter” that had published a complaint letter.

The interpersonal Themes indicate that he gives a command by stating an imperative clause ‘*take*’ as the Theme that followed by Rheme ‘your complaint elsewhere’ in the title of the letter. In addition, he shows his need of an answer for a certain reason by placing Wh-question ‘*Why*’ followed by ‘does the post published such inane and petty complaints in its newspaper?’. The projected idea indicates the subjective relationship with the addressee. Then, his textual Theme is shown by the answer of alternative reasons for publishing the complaint letter by stating ‘Or’.

The message of data-1 is that the addresser is complaining and needs responds from “Your Letters” because it published such kind of complaint letter. The addresser commands any body not to send complaint letter to *The Post*.



IV. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the explanation of the introduction, the related literature review, and the research method used in this research, this chapter focuses specifically on the results of data analysis and discussion. The following sections present data analysis and discussion.

4.1 Data Analysis

The aim of the recent research is to reveal the message of some letters in “Your Letters” in *The Jakarta Post* newspaper by exploring the textual metafunction. Bearing this idea in mind, the research method that is adopted in the present study is the text analysis by using the thematic drift technique.

The texts below are the samples taken from the chosen letters published in *The Jakarta Post* newspaper during 1st January up to 31st March 2005. However, it is important to inform that one of the samples of this research has been eliminated, since the letter was published twice with exactly the same content. The collected texts were analyzed based on the thematic drift in order to notice the accumulated meaning of the text to deconstruct the message being conveyed.

Data 1

- Date : Saturday/ January 8th, 2005
- Title : Take your complaints elsewhere
- Addresser : Allan Cassels
- Address : Jakarta

Table-1.1

Theme				Rheme
Textual	Marked	Interpersonal	Topical	
		Take	Your complaints	Elsewhere
			I	refer to the letter from Aqua Dwipayana published in <i>The Jakarta post</i> on Jan. 5, titled Garuda’s service.
		Why does	the post	published such inane and petty complaints in its newspaper?
		Is it that	You	simply like to take every opportunity to bash any well known corporate name?
Or		is it that	You	have nothing better with which to

				fill your pages?
			You	regularly publish similar drivels from people complaining about various services.
	Often		individuals who	write in have not even made an effort to discuss the matter with the management of the offending company.
	As a regular reader of your publication	I would like you to know that	I	have no interest whatsoever in reading about such complaints from whining members of the publics.
1	2	5	8	

Summary Analysis

The letter above shows the selected Themes chosen by Allan Cassel with the most dominant is the topical Theme. Then, after exploring to all the Themes in this letter, the Themes can be recapped in percentage like follows:

Table-1.2

Themes	N	Percentage
Topical	8	50 %
Interpersonal	5	31,25 %
Textual	1	6,25 %
Marked	2	12,25 %

The first text in table-1.1 under the title "Take your complaint elsewhere" was sent by Allan Cassel. It refers to Aqua Dwipayana's complaint letter. The analysis of this letter shows some accumulated Themes for example 'I; You; individuals; the Post; I' as the topical Theme. The interpersonal Theme such as 'Take; Why; Is it; and I would like you to know that', which performs as the a projected clause that establishes his subjective point of view and transmits it to the addressee. Then, 'Or' which performs as respective enhancement in the conjunctive adjunct in textual Theme.

After exploring the thematic choices, it can be concluded that the addresser concerns with he himself as the actor of the process and as a representative of his institution. He places himself as the regular reader of The Jakarta Post. The addressee 'you' of this text is "Your Letter" that had published a complaint letter.

The interpersonal Themes indicate that he gives a command by stating an imperative clause 'take' as the Theme that followed by Rheme 'your complaint elsewhere' in the title of the letter. In addition, he shows his need of an answer for a certain reason by placing Wh-question 'Why' followed by 'does the post published such inane and petty complaints in its newspaper?'. The projected idea indicates the subjective relationship with the addressee. Then, his textual Theme concerns with the answer of alternative reasons for publishing the complaint letter by stating 'Or'.

The message of data-1 is that the addresser is complaining and needs responds from "Your Letters" because it published such kind of complaint letter. The addresser commands any body not to send complaint letter to *The Post*.

Data 2

Date : Friday/ January 14th, 2005
 Title : Use of Malaysia airports
 Addresser : Hamidah Ashari
 Address : Counselor Malaysian Embassy, Jakarta

Table-2.1

Theme		Rheme
Interpersonal	Topical	
	Use of Malaysia's airports	
	I	wish to refer to the letter from Martin, Medan, North Sumatra, which appeared in The Jakarta Post on Jan. 12.
I would like to inform Martin and also the other readers of the Post that	Malaysia	has agreed to allow donor countries to use its airspace and airports as transits bases to send humanitarian aid for victims of the tsunami catastrophe in Aceh.
	The permission to use the airspace and airports	was a gesture of Malaysia's cooperation with foreign countries, in extending humanitarian aid to Aceh, the hardest hit in the natural calamity.
	President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono himself	has acknowledge Malaysia's assistance in allowing the use of the Subang airport as one of the centers of operation (the post, Jan. 9).
It is our hope that	the readers	and commitment in alleviating the sufferings of its nearest neighbor.
2	6	

Summary analysis

As illustrated in the letter above, the percentage of the themes of the letter entitled take "*Use of Malaysia's airports*" can be concluded as follows:

Table-2.2

Themes	n	Percentage
Interpersonal	2	25 %
Topical	6	75 %

The present section presents the second text entitled "*Use of Malaysia's airports*". The analysis of this letter shows that it has two Themes, topical Themes and interpersonal Theme that has been accumulated as follows: 'I; Malaysia; The permission to use the airspace and airports; President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono himself; the readers'. The interpersonal Theme accomplishes the message by using projecting ideas, which is presented in subjective manner by stating '*I would like to inform Martin and also the other readers of the Post that*' and in objective manner as in '*It is our hope that*'. The result of exploring the thematic drift of this text can be reviewed that the addresser concerns with two countries diplomatic relationship between Indonesia and Malaysia by stating '*President Yudhoyono*' and '*Malaysia*'. In this letter she declares to the readers of *the Post* that her country offers the airspace and airports for transferring the aids to the victims of Tsunami in Aceh by stating '*The permission to use the airspace and airports*'.

The message of data-2 based on the data collected in the previous explanation is that Ashari declares that Malaysia is ready for assisting donor countries in helping Indonesia by allowing the use of the Subang airport for humanitarian action.

Data 3

Date : Saturday/ January 15th, 2005
 Title : Judging Indonesians
 Addresser : Uli Pandjaitan
 Address : Jakarta

Table-3.1

Theme				Rheme
Textual	Marked	Interpersonal	Topical	
			Judging Indonesians	
			I	am writing this with regard to a letter by Mark Potts, ignoring American aid, that appeared on Jan. 13 in The Jakarta Post.
		I would like to tell Potts that he is wrong in judging us Indonesian by taking the stereotypical view that	We	can only take things from his country for granted.
	On Jan. 13,		three leading local Indonesian newspapers (Kompas, Media Indonesia, Koran Tempo)	featured photographs and articles about U.S. and Australian troops helping the tsunami victims in Aceh and North Sumatra.
			This fact	was obviously over-looked by you and proves your statement wrong.
Further- more,		I would like to say that Personally	you	do not understand our country's behavior,
then			You	cannot judge it as being "wrong".
			You	can only judge when you have full understanding of a matter.
	if sincere,	Please also note that	extending help,	is not about self-glorification or expecting acknowledgement,
As			You	implied in your letter when you stated "would you have been very happy to send all aid Srilangka and Thailand".
		Do we		help a dying victim of a traffic accident only after first checking, analyzing and judging his life history?
3	2	4	10	

Summary Analysis

The letter entitled “Judging Indonesians” by Uli Pandjaitan has various Themes in delivering the point of departure of the message. Next, the percentage to all the Themes in this letter are as follows:

Table-3.2

Themes	n	Percentage
Textual	3	15,8%
Marked	2	10,5%
Interpersonal	4	21,1%
Topical	10	52,6%

In the letter entitled “Judging Indonesians” by Pandjaitan shows that it has various Themes. The accumulated Theme are such as ‘**Judging Indonesians; I; On Jan. 13, three leading local Indonesian newspapers, This fact; you; extending help**’ are the examples of topical Theme. ‘*I would like to tell Potts that he is wrong in judging us Indonesian by taking the stereotypical view that, I would like to say that, Please also note, Do we*’ are the examples of interpersonal Theme, ‘On Jan. 13’ is the example of marked theme indicates the circumstance. And the topical Theme are ‘Furthermore’ and ‘then.’.

The exploration of the interpersonal Theme of this text can be assumed that the addresser concerns with construing interpersonal meaning by choosing projecting clause to show his subjective point of view. The textual Theme relates the clause to the preceding clauses in order to realize a linking role and signaling the coherence of the text. In this letter she declares to the readers of The Jakarta Post that her country offers the airspace and airports for transferring the aids to the victims of Tsunami in Aceh.

The message of the letter is that the addresser wants everybody not to judge any one else without knowing the culture and the behavior. However, knowing one’s background is not a basis for helping others.

Data 4

Date : Wednesday/ January 19, 2005
 Title : Prevention is better than construction.
 Addresser : M. Rusdi
 Address : Jakarta

Table-4.1

Theme		Rheme
Marked	Topical	
	Prevention	is better than construction
Following the devastating earthquake triggered tsunamis that occurred on Dec. 26 and claimed well over 100,000 lives and uncounted for material losses in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam and part of North Sumatra province,	People	will probably ask what the government can do in the future to minimize the destruction of similar disasters.
	Indonesia, home to more than 90 active volcanoes throughout the archipelago, according to the United States' national Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA),	is almost 80 percent covered by epicenters and is surrounded by many tectonic cracks and sits on an area where there volcanic strains meet
	(Taha Nababan	says from Boston in his Letter to <i>The Jakarta Post</i> , Jan. 10).
In view of the country's condition and the many earthquake and tsunami disasters that have jolted the nation over the last couple of decades – including the famous Krakatoa volcanic-triggered tsunami that claimed over 35,000 lives in 1883 –	the Ministry of Publics Works and the Indonesian Cabinet Secretariat	have actually done something by setting up cooperation with the Japanese government under the Developing Nations Technical Cooperation Program.
Every year,	aforementioned government agencies, together with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA),	hold an International Advanced Course on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering in the ministry's center for Human Settlement in Bandung, by inviting participants from developing countries in Asia and Africa.

No doubt	a lot of technologies	have since been acquired by Indonesian Experts transferred by Japanese geologist and earthquake and probably tsunami mitigation experts.
4	7	

Summary Analysis

The Marked Theme and the Topical Theme are the only Themes selected by M. Rusdi. The percentage of the Themes of the letter can be shown as follows:

Table-4.2

Themes	n	Percentage
Marked	4	34,6%
Topical	7	63,6%

The main argument of the fourth text is that it has only marked and Topical Themes. It can be discussed that the Themes illustrate the prevention of the tsunami disaster that can be performed by the government of Indonesia and related international agencies. The prevention is by activating applied technology in decrease the victims of the disasters. It can be seen in the following marked Theme such as, 'Following the devastating earthquake triggered tsunamis that occurred on Dec. 26 and claimed well over 100,000 lives and uncounted for material losses in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam and part of North Sumatra province'

Relating to the message, the letter in data-4 tells that prevention by applying advanced technology toward natural disaster is a need for the country like Indonesia in order to minimize the victims.

Data 5

Date : Wednesday/ January 19, 2005
 Title : Advanced technology not yet lifesaving
 Addresser : Frank Richardson
 Address : Norwich, UK

Table-5.1

Theme			Rheme
Marked	Interpersonal	Topical	
		Advanced technology	not yet lifesaving
		Roger McDaniel, in his letter On eraly warning system (The Jakarta Post , Jan. 11)	has a very good point with regard to why warnings or natural signs of a tsunami might be ignored .
Taking it a step further,		One	could envisage, in the Wild, Wild West Indonesia, hoax warnings being made to facilitate looting or even military searches.
	It is clear that	Advanced technology	can do little to save lives within a primitive legal and administrative infrastructure.
Once		the survivors of the tsunami	have been helped,
		foreign aid	would be best utilized correcting this.
2	1	6	

Summary analysis

As illustrated in Table-5.1, the Table presents the analysis of Theme that has indicated some Themes and Rhemes used in the letter. Then, the results of exploring the types of Theme in this letter are shown in percentage below.

Table-5.2

Themes	N	Percentage
Marked	2	22,2 %
Interpersonal	1	11,1 %
Topical	6	66,7 %

In arguing for a dynamic view of Theme, the letter entitled "Advanced technology not yet lifesaving" by Frank Richardson illustrates that the Themes in this letter are such 'Advanced technology, survivors of the tsunami; foreign aid' are the typical of topical Theme. The interpersonal Theme is illustrated by anticipatory 'It' in 'It is clear that', which shows interpersonal objective projection of the addresser's view points. The clause 'Taking it a step further' roles as Marked Theme that has been chosen to precede the Topical Theme.

The message of data-5 is that advanced technology is not a guaranty for saving people from a big disaster, if we have lack attention on the legal and minimal administrative infrastructure. Therefore, the donor from many countries would be useful if we use it for constructing a better infrastructure after saving the victims.

Data 6

Date : Monday.January 24th, 2005
 Title : God may punish wrong doers
 Addresser : Fazal-E-Mujeeb
 Address : Jakarta

Table-6.1

Marked	Theme			Rheme
	Textual	Inter-personal	Topical	
			God	may punish wrong doers.
In reference to the letter published in <i>The Jakarta Post</i> dated Jan. 17 titled "It's purely a natural disaster",			I	would like to share my views in this regard.
		There is no doubt that	God	is loving and secure.
	And	this is also true that	He	punishes-sometimes here in this world and most often in the world here after.
	But		It	does not mean "God is cruel and vindictive".
As far as			my understand-ing of God	is concerned: God has absolute power.
			He	is the master
	and		We	are the servants.
			He	provides us with all our needs.
			He	created man for a purposeful life: Which is to obey Him.
	But		when most of	neglect this purpose and do not care about God,

			He	may show His wrath, which would be a test for His loved ones and punishment for the wrong doers.
			This	may not necessarily be punishment for all the victims,
		as	innocent	will always rewarded if not here then in the world here after,
	But		[It]	is a great warning for the rest.
			The letter writer	called this tsunami merely a natural disaster but not punishment.
		To me	It	is just change of name.
			Natural disaster in the same way	are under God control as are the blessings.
		Had	He	not allowed,
			tsunami	would not have occurred.
2	5	5	20	

Summary Analysis

The present letter shows the selected Themes chosen by Fazal-E-Mujeeb with the most dominant "He" as the topical Theme, and the percentage of the themes in this letter entitled "God may punish wrong doers" can be recapped as follows:

Table-6.2

Themes	n	Percentage
Marked	2	6,3 %
Textual	5	15,6 %
Interpersonal	5	15,6 %
Topical	20	62,5 %

From this letter, it is illustrated that the addresser concerns with the relationship between human and God dealing with the natural disaster. The addresser describes it well by placing 'God' or 'He' in many Themes. Then, adds with the 'when most of' and 'innocent' as the reflection the human as the servant of God. The existential there in 'There is no doubt that' and 'this is also true that' should be analyzed as interpersonal projection. The existential clauses establish the addresser's viewpoint under the objective manner. The addresser is sure that

his opinion will be the same with the addressee by saying ‘no doubt’ and ‘also true’. In the marked Theme, the clause ‘In reference to’ indicates that the letter is in correlation with the previous text, so it has a link to the preceding letter. The conjunction ‘but’ and ‘and’ is obligatorily thematic which is relating the clause to a preceding clause. They are included as the Extension that deals with one clause adds information to another clause to extend its meaning.

The message based on addresser’s viewpoint that God rules the whole world and whatever happened is under His control. The disaster of tsunami is not only a natural disaster but also it is punishment for the wrong doers.

Data 7

Date : Monday/ January 31st, 2005
 Title : American lack introspection
 Addresser : K.B. Kale
 Address : Jakarta

Table-7.1

Theme				Rheme
Textual	Marked	Interpersonal	Topical	
			American	lack introspection
			I	refer to the letter of Mark Potts dated Jan. 13 and Uli Pandjaitan dated Jan. 15.
			I	know many americans.
			As personal friends, colleagues and business associates, all of them	have been wonderful people: Friendly, genial and straightforward.
And,		by and large	They	mean what they say
			I	have also enjoyed my visits to the United States immensely for these very reasons.
		Sometimes	oversensitive Asian (me included)	may misunderstand their forthrightness,
but			I	have never seen any deliberate attempt at belittling others, just because they are not Americans.
Though			One	may have differences opinion with American policy,
		There is no	America	has always been a very

		doubt that		generous nation to the whole world.
	In the 1060s, but for the American aid,	I have doubt that	a sizable portion of the Indian population	would have gone hungry with many perishing simply due to starvation.
And			this American aid	kept flowing without an (apparent) strings attached,
Though,	at that time,		India	was to close to the Soviet Union
and			Indian Political leaders	often berated American.
So		Why is	a country that gives so much aid to so many countries	not as popular as it should be?
			I	think serious introspection is called for, on the part of the American government and American foreign missions and diplomats.
7	2	5	12	

Summary Analysis

The letter entitled "American lack introspection" by K.B. Kale has various Themes in building the point of departure of the message. The percentage of the types of Themes in this letter can be seen in the following table:

Table-7.2

Themes	n	Percentage
Textual	7	23,3%
Marked	2	6,7%
Interpersonal	5	16,7 %
Topical	16	53,3 %

An analysis of the seventh text by considering to its various Themes can be discussed that the Themes illustrates the message dealing with the American characteristics and its relation to the Asian people characteristics. It can be seen from the topical Theme in this text that 'American' and 'oversensitive Asian'. The Wh-question 'Why' shows the interpersonal relationships between participants that addresser demand an information that deals with the reason from

addressee about the attitude of the world to the American. Moreover, the existential *'There is no doubt that'* establishes the interpersonal objective comment. In the textual Theme, the clause is related to the preceding clause by the Extension conjunction such as *'And, 'though' and 'but'*. They adds information of the clause and to extend it's meaning, while the Enhancement of one clause that qualifies the meaning of another clause dealing with the Causal is shown by *'So'*.

The message tells about the addresser who pleads to the U.S. government to have introspection on them selves since the people in most Asia, which received many donations from American people can not received the U.S. government's policy in many ways.

Data 8

Date : Saturday/ February 5th, 2005
 Title : We help our neighbors
 Addresser : Geoff Tole
 Address : Melbourne, Australia

Table-8.1

		Theme		Rheme
Textual	Marked	Interpersonal	Topical	
			We	help our neighbors
			Uli Pandjaitan's reply to mark Potts' Ignoring American aid (The Jakarta Post, Jan. 13)	Was well said
			I	gave a donation to the appeal
because			They	are fellow human beings in trouble,
			They	are also our neighbors.
			The vast majority of Australians	have given money
because			They	can't sit back and do nothing, like me,
			They	don't care about the religion of the people,
			They	Don't care if they get a thank you,
			they	care for the people who have lost loved ones, homes and their means

				of livelihood,
			most of all they	care about the children
because			They	are parents too.
	Like most parents out there in the world		I	care about the children we don't exist.
			Australians	don't want to take over Indonesia or its religion,
		there would be mass protests in the streets	if our government	even suggested that.
			They	are our neighbors
and			We	help our neighbors.
4	1	1	17	

Summary Analysis

The letter entitled "We help our neighbors" by Geoff Tole has various Themes. The percentage of the Themes in this letter can be seen in the Table-8.2.

Tabel-8.2

Themes	n	Percentage
Textual	4	17,4 %
Marked	1	4,3 %
Interpersonal	1	4,3 %
Topical	17	74,0 %

The discussion in this paragraph points out that the letter sent by Geoff Tole illustrates the relationship between the Indonesian as the receiver of the aid and the Australian as the donor. Tole explains much about the position of the Australian by stating 'They' in most of the Themes that refers to the Australian. In the textual Theme, the clause is correlated with the previous text by the conjunction 'because' and 'and'. They act as the Extension that deals with one clause adds information to another clause to extend its meaning.

The message of data-8 is about the addresser who is conveying a message that the aids from Australian are purely a humanitarian aid that has no relation with the religion indifference between two countries.

Data 9

Date : Wednesday/ February 16th, 2005
 Title : Unprompted plug for Dan Brown
 Addresser : K.B. Kale
 Address : Jakarta

Table-9.1

Theme		Rheme
Textual	Topical	
	Unprompted plug for Dan Brown	
	I	read with interest the letter of David Wallis in <i>The Jakarta Post</i> dated Feb. 14.
	It	reminded me of a book I read recently, "Angels and Demons" by Dan Brown, which touches on the very subject of God and science.
	What one believes or does not believe	is a highly personal choice,
but	This book	turns this complex subject into an interesting read,
and	I	would recommend very strongly the book as a "good read" to the readers of the <i>Post</i> .
2	6	

Summary Analysis

Table-9.1 presents the analysis of Themes used in the letter. Then, the percentage of Themes in this letter are shown in the next table (Table-9.2).

Table-9.2

Themes	n	Percentage
Topical	6	75 %
Textual	2	25 %

In assigning the Themes in the ninth text, certain nuances of the text may be overlooked. For instance, it can be discussed briefly that the Themes illustrates the message dealing with the addresser responds to Dan Brown. It can be seen from the Theme 'I' and 'Unprompted plug for Dan Brown'. The respond is intended for Brown to read a certain book since it will be enrich Brown's knowledge about the relationships between 'God' and 'Science'. In the textual Theme, 'and' and 'but' relate to the preceding clause. They make the text coherence by adding information of the clause.

The message of the letter is that the addresser wants to tells generally *the Post* readers and in particular David Willis that the book 'Angels and Demons' is

a good book for understanding the relationships between science and religion that deals with natural disaster occurred on earth.

Data10

Date : Thursday/ February 17th, 2005
 Title : A different perspective
 Addresser : Damien Kingsbury
 Address : Melbourne, Australia

Table-10.1

Theme				Rheme
Textual	Marked	Interpersonal	Topical	
			A different perspective	
			Soegih Arto	asks why should the Indonesian government conduct peace talks with the Free Aceh Movement (GAM),
and then		Lists	his personal objections	(The Jakarta Post, Feb. 15).
			Soegih Arto	is to be congratulated for the consistency of his perspective, if not his commitment to peace.
			There	are always two sides to every conflict,
And		GAM-and many others in Aceh-believe that	they	have legitimate grievances against Indonesia generally and the Indonesian Military (TNI) in particular.
			Reports of TNI	atrocities in Aceh continue, even in the post-tsunami period.
		Is it any wonder that	many Acehnese	feel alienated from Indonesia?
however,			The Helsinki peace talks,	are intended to try to overcome this lack of trust, hopefully by arriving at a negotiated political outcome.
			That outcome	might be within the existing "autonomy" framework.
But	if negotiations are to have any meaning,		the resolution	might also consider something other than the status quo.
			Soegih Arto	thinks such talks should be

				held within Indonesia.
			The problem here	is the lack of guarantee of safety.
			Five GAM negotiators who tried this	were arrested,
			one of whom recently	died in prison.
	That is also why		the GAM leadership	continues to live abroad.
	If Soegih Arto sees the GAM leadership living abroad as an insult to Indonesia,		One	can only wonder at what he thinks about GAM fighters taking up weapons against Indonesia!
	Claiming that		the issues of Aceh is Indonesia's "affairs"	is one perspective.
But			GAM	claims Aceh's independence was stolen by the Dutch and illegally transferred to Indonesia.
Because			there	is disagreement on this is why talks must be mediated by an outside organization.
Similarly	downgrading the delegation to the talks would indicate that		the Indonesian government	does not take the talks seriously.
		Fortunately	it	seems these talks are indeed being taken seriously
			This, along with willingness to compromise,	could potentially produce a negotiated settlement.
		I agree with Soegih Arto that	such a settlement	remains a long shots.
But	unlike him,		I	believe it is worth at least trying.
8	6	5	25	

Summary Analysis

Table-10.1 above presents the analysis of Themes used in the letter. Then, Table-10.2 demonstrates the percentage of Themes in the letter.

Table-10.2

Themes	n	Percentage
Textual	8	18,2 %
Marked	6	13,6 %
Interpersonal	5	11,6 %
Topical	25	56,4 %

Following the data taken from table-10.1 and table-10.2 that illustrate the topical Theme, the clause '**The Helsinki peace talks**' becomes the topic under discussion. The interpersonal Themes in this letter indicate the actor stating what he thinks by saying '*I agree with Soegih Arto that such a settlement*'. 'I' as the participant in this text agree with Soegih Arto in particular subject matter, but the addresser much takes different position with Soegih Arto by placing adversative conjunction 'but' as the textual Theme. The matter being discussed in this text is the negotiation between the 'Indonesia government and the 'GAM negotiator'. The interpersonal Theme is illustrated by conjunctive adjunct '*Fortunately*' that gives an overall comment to the preceding and the following clauses. Also, the yes/no question '*Is it ...*' shows a demand of information from the addresser. The textual Theme is illustrated by 'and then, and, but, however' that show extension of the clause. 'If' indicates an enhancement of the clause that qualifies the meaning of another clause by conditional status.

The message of data-10 is about the importance of peace talks between Indonesian government and GAM negotiators taken place in a neutral country that can serves a security guaranty for both sides.

Data 11

Date : Wednesday/ February 28th, 2005
 Title : On stay permits
 Addresser : Melinda Tan
 Address : Jakarta

Table-11.1

Theme		Rheme
Textual	Topical	
	On stay permits	
	I	am referring to the letter regarding foreign investment in Indonesia by Frank Zieschank (<i>The Jakarta Post</i>).
	What the gentleman says here	is only the tip of the iceberg.
	A friend of mine who is married to an Australian and arranging for stay permits for her kids	is going through hell going from regional immigration office to the directorate general of immigration.
	She	faced moral and sexual harassment by one of the staff in the directorate general
(and	she	is not the only one).
	Zieschank	is asking for respect for foreigners who want to live and work in Indonesia,
but	these government entities	do not even respect their own citizens.
2	8	

Sumamry Analysis

The letter above shows the selected Themes chosen by Melinda Tan with the most dominant is the topical Theme. Then, the percentage of Themes of the letter entitled "On stay permits" can be recapped as follows:

Table-11.2

Themes	n	Percentage
Textual	2	20 %
Topical	8	80 %

The range of data taken from table-11.2 illustrates that the topical Themes in this letter tells the analyst and the text user about the frequency of the two themes. It is shown in the clause 'on stay permits' as the circumstance that appeared as the titled of text. 'A friend of mine who is married to an Australian and arranging for stay permits for her kids' becomes the actor of the process in the clause. The textual Theme is illustrated by 'and' that shows an additive type, while 'but' shows adversative type in the clause.

The message of data-11 is that the addresser seems conveying a message that the immigration staff must have a good attitude and respect in serving to the local and foreigner and to the male or female citizens in completing the stay permit.

Data 12

Date : Monday/ February 28th, 2005
 Title : Smoking restriction
 Addresser : Tony Grace
 Address : Jakarta

Table-12.1

Theme				Rheme
Textual	Marked	Inter-personal	Topical	
			Smoking restriction	
			Herawati (the Jakarta Post, Feb. 16)	misses the point about smoking restrictions.
		True,	the smoker	makes the decision whether or not to smoke,
But			his fellow passengers	have no such choice.
	Like Herawati at home,		they	have to endure an unhealthy smoky environment whether they like it or not.
	The existence of more serious environmental problems doesn't mean that		the smoking problem	should be put on hold.
			That	's a recipe for never doing anything.
			Banning smoking in public places and specially on public transportation	will only bring Indonesia up to the level of other countries.
	Along with an advertising ban		it	will reduce the level of acceptability of smoking.
			Young smokers	will smoke less.
			It	is difficult to see any disadvantages to the proposal.
		let	us	ban smoking in public and help make a better environment for everyone!
2	3	2	12	

Summary Analysis

The percentage of Themes in this letter entitled "*Smoking restriction*" can be shown as follows:

Table-12.2

Themes	n	Percentage
Textual	2	10,5%
Marked	3	15,8%
Interpersonal	2	10,5%
Topical	12	63,2 %

As noted in the twelfth text, the drawing of Theme in this text has various types. It can be discussed that the Themes illustrates the message dealing with smoking restriction. It can be seen from the topical Themes in this text such as, '**the smoker, young smoker, smoking problem**'. The actor of the clause '**his fellow passengers**' and the circumstance '**on public transportation**' indicate the process is situated in the public transportation. Next, '*True*' is in the initial position of a certain clause functioned as the interpersonal Theme. It shows the addresser position toward a certain case. And '*Let's*' shows that the addresser gives command to all addressees to follow his action. '*The existence of more serious environmental problems doesn't mean that*' brings existential idea with the existent '**the smoking problem**', which presents objective comment. Furthermore, 'But' is functioned as adversative in the textual Theme of the clause that relating the clause to the preceding clause.

The message in this letter is that the addresser supports the new regulation of banning smoking in public area, since it gives many advantages to the citizens. Then, she invites any body to follow her in supporting this regulation.

Data 13

Date : Wednesday. March 2nd, 2005.
 Title : Sudan defends aid transfer.
 Addresser : Kamal Ali Osman Taha.
 Address : Information and Cultural Counselor Sudanese Embassy,
 Jakarta.

Table-13.1

Theme				Rheme
Textual	Marked	Interpersonal	Topical	
			Sudan	Defends Aids Transfer
	Referring to the unfortunate comment which appeared in The Jakarta Post on Feb. 24 by Mathew Ninan W. regarding donation by the Sudan to the tsunami victims in Aceh,	allow	me	to make the following comments on a number of erroneous assertions that marred the said comment by the above writer.
			To separate the world response to the humanitarian call to Aceh	is very much understood.
But	to blame		some of those have responded	is not understood at all.
		Specially if we know that	some of the latter	were moved by their brotherhood and friendship for the people of Indonesia.
Any-how,			what has been mentioned in this article	will not jeopardize the ever-growing relation between Sudan and Indonesia especially in the humanitarian aspects.
	To up date information		we	refer him to the Post of Jan. 20 which published the visit of the Special Envoy of the President of Sudan to Indonesia to convey his condolences, sympathy and support to the people of Indonesia.
			The humanitarian assistance by the Sudan to tsunami victims	was not in any way a "show off".

			It	was an expression of solidarity, brotherhood and solid relationship between Sudan and Indonesia,
and thus			it	is only natural that the Sudan stands by Indonesian in its hour of greatest tragedy.
			Sympathy and expression of brotherhood and the culture of giving to a fellow human being at an hour need	is not a privilege of the rich alone,
and	if that is what Mathew advocates,		he	would be better advised to rethink his concept relations.
Lastly,		we would like to draw the attention of the writer that	the bilateral relations between countries	are not channeled and will never be affected by individual impressions.
	As far as		the problem Darfur	is concerned
			a comprehensive peaceful settlement	is about to be concluded very soon.
	In all cases,		it	is not a problem that hinder Sudanese Foreign Humanitarian Relations especially with a sisterly and friendly country like Indonesia.
5	6	3	16	

Summary Analysis

Table-13.1 presents the analysis of Themes used in the letter. The table demonstrates various Themes in the whole text. The percentage of the Themes in this letter are shown in Table-13.2.

Table-13.2

Themes	n	Percentage
Textual	5	16,7%
Marked	6	20 %
Interpersonal	3	10%
Topical	16	53,3 %

Regarding the letter entitled “Sudan Defends Aids Transfer”, it is argued that the text illustrates the Themes that are functioned as the topical, interpersonal, and textual Themes. The accumulated Themes such as ‘**The humanitarian assistance by the Sudan to tsunami victims**’ and ‘**Sudan**’ that role as the actor are the typical of topical Theme. The word ‘*Specially*’ as the intensity modal adjunct is functioned as the interpersonal Theme. The interpersonal projection where the addresser represents his idea through verbal clause make the addressee is able to indicate that it is the starting point for what will follow is explicitly subjective comment from the addresser. It is represented by the clauses such as ‘*we know that*’ and ‘*we would like to draw the attention of the writer that*’. The textual Theme is illustrated by ‘Referring to’ and ‘To up date information’ connect to the marked Theme. Also, ‘and thus’ that functioned as causal in enhancement type of conjunction.

The message of the letter is that the addresser is disagree with one who says that the aids from the Sudan may be useful for its people in Darfur. In addition, he explains that the country from the third world may donate some aids based on the humanitarian and solidarity between two sisterly countries.

Data 14

Date : Monday/ March 7th, 2005
 Title : Sony responds to complaints
 Addresser : Raymond Gani
 Address : CRM Department Head Sony Customer Information Center, PT. Sony Indonesia

Table14.1

Theme				Rheme
Textual	Marked	Interpersonal	Topical	
	Responding to Pieter Johannes's letter Sony's sorry after-sales service (The Jakarta Post, Feb 25),	we would like to inform Johannes that	relevant parties in Sony Singapore	have been in contact with him
	After verification by Sony Singapore with the dealer concerned,		the Johannes purchase	was covered by Singapore local warranty,
although			there	was an option for overseas warranty coverage.
			Such warranty	is known as VAIO Overseas warranty (VOS), which has to be purchase and covers certain designated countries, excluding Indonesia.
			Detailed explanation of VOS	can be found at the following URL: http://vaio-online.sony.com/sg/vaio/Accessories/VOS-3701SG_detail0.html
1	2	1	5	

The percentage of Themes in this letter entitled "Sony responds to complaints" can be shown as follows:

Table14-2

Themes	n	Percentage
Textual	1	11,1 %
Marked	2	22,2 %
Interpersonal	1	11,1 %
Topical	5	55,6 %

Research on the data taken from table-14.1 and table-14.2 identify that the topical Themes in this letter tells the analyst about the Sony Company that responds to one of the customer's complaints. It is shown in the topical Theme of

the clause 'After verification by Sony Singapore with the dealer concerned' as the circumstance and followed by 'the Johannes purchase' as the participant in the process. 'We would like to inform Johannes that' is the interpersonal Theme which illustrate the addresser constructs viewpoint on this matter that will be further explained in the following clause. The conjunction 'although' relates the clause to a preceding clause and acts as the textual Theme.

The message of the letter is that the addresser wants to explain especially to Johannes and generally the readers of *the Post* that the purchase is local warranty so that the Sony Indonesia cannot help in figuring out the problem, since Indonesia is excluded in VAIO Overseas warranty.

Data 15

Date : Monday/ March 7th, 2005
 Title : On RI laws
 Addresser : A. Van Der Linden
 Address : The Netherlands.

Table-15.1

Theme				Rheme
Textual	Marked	Inter-personal	Topical	
			On RI laws	
			I	agree with Mario Mascalchi from Cagliari, Italy, who loves Indonesia the same as I do (The Jakarta Post, Feb. 23: Investment and RI laws).
			The Indonesian immigration policy	is very discriminatory to foreign husbands, which in my opinion should be reported to International Human Rights organizations.
			All countries	should make it much more difficult for Indonesian citizens to come to our countries,
	until		the Indonesian government	changes its discriminatory behavior.
	For your information Mascalchi		There	is a recent law in Indonesia, which allows foreigners over 55 years of age to get a stay permit for five years that can be extended periodically.
	As far as		I	know the conditions are as follows: Your monthly pension should be about 1,300 euros minimum,
			you	must have your own health insurance,

				and insurance with death and disability coverage.
			I	think you should contact the nearest Indonesian Embassy for the correct information.
and	Best of luck all	of let	us	hope the immigration law will be changed to one that is respectful of human rights soon.
1	4	1	10	

The percentage of Themes used in this letter can be identified as follows:

Table-15.2

Themes	n	Percentage
Textual	1	6,25 %
Marked	4	25 %
Interpersonal	1	6,25 %
Topical	10	62,5 %

Carrying out an analysis of the data taken from table-15.2, the research applied to decide that the topical Themes in this letter indicate that ‘The Indonesian immigration policy’ and ‘the Indonesian government’ perform as the participants in the process. The interpersonal Theme is illustrated by finite ‘Let us’ that gives invitation to react on the behavior of the Indonesia government policy. The textual Theme is illustrated by additive type ‘and’ that show extension of the clause.

Relating to the message, the letter in data-15 tells that the addresser wishes a hope that the immigration law will be changed to one that is respectful of human rights soon, since the immigration policy is still discriminatory to foreigners.

Data 16

Date : Tuesday/ March 8th, 2005
 Title : Pillars of RI economy
 Addresser : Ron Mullers
 Address : PT Eatertainment International Tbk. Jakarta

Table-16.1

Theme				Rheme
Textual	Marked	Interpersonal	Topical	
			Pillars of RI	

			economy	
			I	would like to add to Margarete Haskell's comments Foreign investment in Indonesia published in The Jakarta Post dated Feb. 28.
	In my 30 years of doing business in Indonesia,		I	have heard my share of complaints, criticism and both of horror and success stories from foreigners doing business in Indonesia.
	While there are always two sides to every story and no business goes without its share of problems,		one thing	is for sure,
			foreign investors	deserve to be given a fair and level playing field, which is certainly not the present case.
		my observation and experience is that foreign investors	foreign investors being very candid,	are not viewed as a national assets
but	more often than not "portrayed as		competitors	who take jobs from the locals, or even as only interested in making a quick buck who then exit stage right".
As a consequence thereof,			laws and services	lean more toward protectionism and less toward supporting foreign investment.
Quite the contrary,	along with the risk of losing their money,		most businesses	are complex and require a long-term commitment.

	If one is to enjoy any return on the investment,		One	must be smart, work diligently and adapt to local conditions.
			Benefits to Indonesia	are much more than simply cash;
			They	are continues and wealthy spread of knowledge, expertise, jobs, training,
and			quality control	that provide competitive services and products for national and exported consumption.
			A showcase	are those of Chinese, Arab, and Indian descent, who in the past came as foreign investors and with time have become Indonesian citizens and are now "pillars of the economy."
	At a time when rebuilding		Indonesia's economy	is so vital,
		It is a shame that	we	are losing so many potential foreign investors to competitive Asian neighbors who are much more service-oriented and whose laws support their cause.
			Much hope and trust	have been put on the Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Yusuf Kalla administration to make constructive changes that will improve Indonesia's economy and ultimately, improve the standard of living.
			The burden	is so heavy
and			many steps	are required to achieve positive results and move Indonesia onto a path to prosperity.
			Making Indonesia more conducive to both small and large-scale	is just one of the many essential adjustments that is urgently required.

			foreign investment	
		Given that	the media	plays a crucial role as an independent and objective voice,
		may	I	suggest the Post do a feature article that provides a comprehensive report on the issues, obstacles, expectations of foreign investors doing business in Indonesia.
			I	am sure many foreign investors, even some similar to myself who have spent a significant number of years in Indonesia, will welcome the opportunity to be interviewed and contribute to this topic.
5	6	4	23	

Table-16.1 presents the analysis of Theme-Rheme structure used in the letter. Table-16.2 shows the percentage of the Themes applied in this letter as a whole.

Table-16.2

Themes	n	Percentage
Textual	5	13,2 %
Marked	6	15,8 %
Interpersonal	4	10,5 %
Topical	23	60,5 %

As established in the table 16.1 and 16.2 of the sixteenth text, it can be discussed that the Themes illustrate the message dealing with foreign investment that is not in a great position in Indonesia. It can be seen from the topical Themes in this text that **'along with the risk of losing their money, most businesses'** is added by **'In my 30 years of doing business in Indonesia'** and **'at a time when rebuilding Indonesia's economy'** as the circumstances illustrate the idea of the text perform as marked Themes. In interpersonal Theme., the initial *'may'* as the modal that make the command more polite. **'But'** and **'quite on the contrary'** are

functioned as extension clause in adversative type of the textual Theme that relating the clause to the preceding clause.

It can be shown that the message of data-16 is about the importance of making similarity among foreign investors in Indonesia, no matter they come from west or east. So that the conducive situation lead to the situation where the local and foreign investors can be the pillars of Indonesian economy.

4.2 Discussion

Based on the results of the data analysis related to the types of themes used in the letters, it was found that the Themes used in the letters that were published in The Jakarta Post newspaper covered the Marked Themes, Textual Themes, Interpersonal Themes and Topical Themes. In discussing these findings the arguments presented will draw upon the collected thematic drift of the sixteen letters.

As explained before that Lipson (2005:124) posits that the examination of sequential and cumulative patterns of theme can discover the degree to which the messages mesh with an overarching purpose or concern. Therefore, Thematic Drift as the basis for discussion is assumed that it can be a useful tool to reveal the message of the letter. The following is the discussion accumulated from the data analysis above.

The extension of the boundary of Themes that include Textual, Interpersonal and Topical Themes of the main clause reveal interesting patterns in the choice of Themes. By adopting a model of Themes, which include the Textual, Interpersonal and Topical Themes of the main clause, it could be concluded that Topical Theme appeared to be dominant or the most applied Themes in the letters.

This part presents the findings and the discussion related to the realizations of Textual metafunction in Topical Theme, Marked Theme, Interpersonal Theme and Textual Theme in the letters published by The Jakarta Post.

The realization of Theme by a subject as simple Theme is classified as Topical Theme. The Themes found in the letters which represented the ideational

meaning were recognized as unmarked themes. Furthermore, the different types of subject or Topical Theme were identified with exemplification are:

- a. Nominal group, for example *the president, the permission to use the airspace and air ports, and the Ministry of Public Works and the Indonesian Cabinet Secretariat.*
- b. Personal pronoun, for instance *I, You, We* and *He.*
- c. Referential items, such as *It, This* and *That.*

The findings shared that the Topical Theme was the most common function of Theme to start the sentences. The frequency of occurrences of topical Themes in the whole letters were (195) or (59, 8 %). The participants of interaction, which was the subject of sentences, as the elements of ideational construction built the realization of Topical Themes.

Interpersonal Theme in written text such as the letters were largely realized by the mood of the clause, for instance the finite of the verbal group and the elements fronted in interrogatives such as *Wh-Items, do, be* and *have.* As shown in all tables, the present research found (13, 2%) Interpersonal Themes of all Themes. It means, Interpersonal Themes used in the letters were limited in written discourse. The absence of the Interpersonal Themes suggest that the analyst should look on the explicit expression of interpersonal view point in exchanging message by giving or asking information.

The results of analysis on Textual Themes in the letters were realized by conjunctive adjuncts and conjunctions. Either conjunctive adjunct or conjunction is particularly important means for expressing logical links to the ideational content and enabling the readers to understand the texts. Textual Themes were found (14, 1 %) of the total number of Themes in all letters. The two Textual Themes '*and*' and '*but*', that is included as extension group, occurred far more frequently than any other Textual Themes. To recap, the Textual Themes operated in the crucial role in enhancing or adding information among clauses which may link a message to another one.

The category of Marked Themes refers to the ideational meaning that comes before the subject and has different discourse function from the ordinary

subject/Theme. A Marked Theme is realized as complement and circumstantial adjunct occurring in initial position. In the present research, (42) occurrences (12,9%) of all Themes were marked Themes, which means that these were a significant role played by the marked themes in all texts. Summing up, in relation to the Marked Themes in the letters where the addressers selected the circumstantial adjunct as Marked Themes and thereby circumstantial adjunct will be related to the real world events. It established the background for what is to come. It performed informational function providing contextual information related to matter, time or situation within which the next information should be written on.

Thematic drift in the selected texts was seen to construct a world where the messages were structured. The accumulated themes could be assumed that they could discover the degree to which the messages were expressed in the letters written in "Your Letters". The accumulated Themes were used to reflect the descriptions for sending the messages of the letters.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter presents the conclusions of the research results and suggestions given to the English students, the future researchers and the pedagogical implementation.

5.1 Conclusions

Based on the result of the data analysis of deconstructing the letters to find messages in “Your Letter” in the Jakarta Post newspaper through the exploration of the textual metafunction.

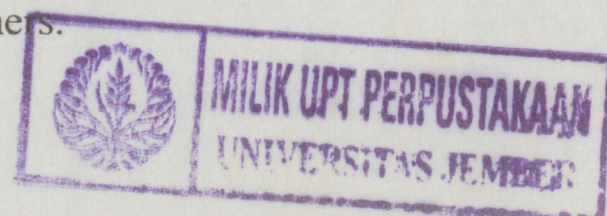
The conclusions under the research problem ‘*Which theme is the most applied in the letters?*’ was as follows. The most applied Themes in the data-1 up to data-16 were surprisingly the Topical Themes that occurred (195) or (59, 8%) of all the Themes used in the letters. It can be said that the Topical Theme is the most chosen Themes by the addresser in stating the main information of a certain sentence.

The conclusions of the messages conveyed by the addressers in the selected letters under the research problem ‘*What are the messages of some letters in “Your Letters” in The Jakarta Post based on the exploration of Textual Metafunction?*’ can be shown as follows:

The message of data-1 is that the addresser is complaining and needs responds from “Your Letters” because it published such kind of complaint letter. The addresser commands any body not to send complaint letter to *The Post*.

The message of data-2 based on the data collected in the previous explanation is that Ashari declares that Malaysia is ready for assisting donor countries in helping Indonesia by allowing the use of the Subang airport for humanitarian action.

The message of the data-3 is that the addresser wants everybody not to judge any one else without knowing the culture and the behavior. However, knowing one’s background is not a basis for helping others.



Relating to the message, the letter in data-4 tells that prevention by applying advanced technology toward natural disaster is a need for the country like Indonesia in order to minimize the victims.

The message of data-5 is that advanced technology is not a guaranty for saving people from a big disaster, if we have lack attention on the legal and minimal administrative infrastructure. Therefore, the donor from many countries would be useful if we use it for constructing a better infrastructure after saving the victims.

The message of data-6 based on the analysis of the addresser's viewpoint is that God rules the whole world and whatever happened is under His control. The disaster of tsunami is not only a natural disaster but also it is punishment for the wrong doers.

The message of data-7 tells about the addresser who pleads to the U.S. government to have introspection on them selves since the people in most Asia, which received many donations from American people can not received the U.S. government's policy in many ways.

The message of data-8 is about the addresser who is conveying a message that the aids from Australian are purely a humanitarian aid that has no relation with the religion indifference between two countries.

The message of the letter-9 is that the addresser wants to tells generally *the Post* readers and in particular David Willis that the book '*Angels and Demons*' is a good book for understanding the relationships between science and religion that deals with natural disaster occurred on earth.

The message of data-10 is about the importance of peace talks between Indonesian government and GAM negotiators taken place in a neutral country that can serves a security guaranty for both sides.

The message of data-11 is that the addresser seems conveying a message that the immigration staff must have a good attitude and respect in serving to the local and foreigner and to the male or female citizens in completing the stay permit.

The message in this letter-12 is that the addresser supports the new regulation of banning smoking in public area, since it gives many advantages to the citizens. Then, she invites any body to follow her in supporting this regulation.

The message of the letter-13 is that the addresser is disagree with one who says that the aids from the Sudan may be useful for its people in Darfur. In addition, he explains that the country from the third world may donate some aids based on the humanitarian and solidarity between two sisterly countries.

The message of the letter-14 is that the addresser wants to explain especially to Johannes and generally the readers of *the Post* that the purchase is local warranty so that the Sony Indonesia cannot help in figuring out the problem, since Indonesia is excluded in VAIO Overseas warranty.

Relating to the message, the letter in data-15 tells that the addresser wishes a hope that the immigration law will be changed to one that is respectful of human rights soon, since the immigration policy is still discriminatory to foreigners.

It can be shown that the message of data-16 is about the importance of making similarity among foreign investors in Indonesia, no matter they come from west or east. So that the conducive situation lead to the situation where the local and foreign investors can be the pillars of Indonesian economy.

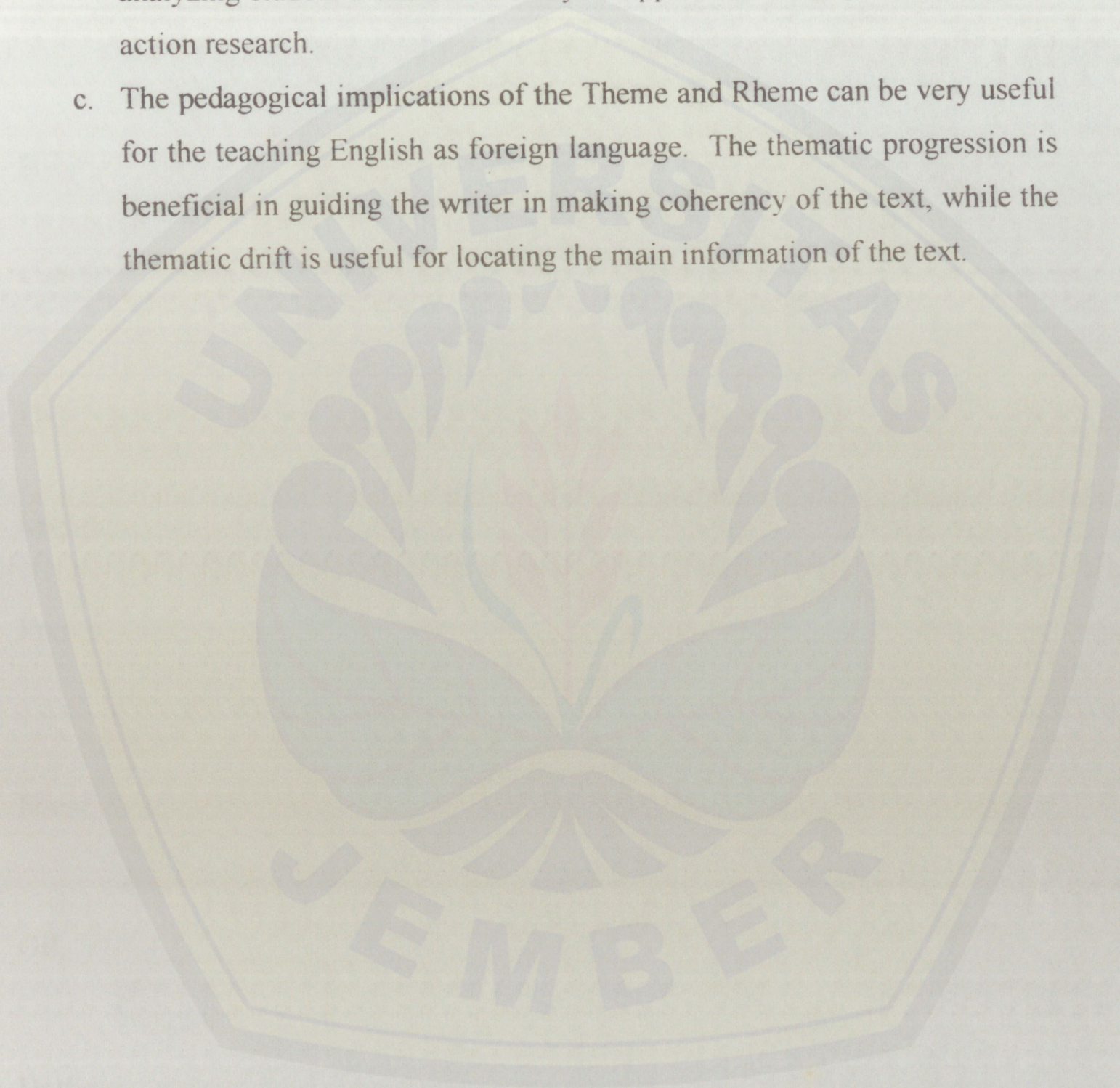
5.2 Suggestions

Based on the result of the research having discussed above, some suggestions are given to the English students and the future researchers.

- a. The English students. It is important for the University students to learn about language metafunction especially textual metafunction so that they can use English with a full understanding. The textual metafunction allows us to develop processing knowledge of English by analyzing the authentic materials such as letters in newspapers. Moreover, the analysis of textual metafunction gives opportunity to develop processing the knowledge of the theory in complete situation by taking account to the

problem and selecting a certain technique by considering to the textual metafunctions.

- b. The future researchers. It is important for the future researchers to conduct further research on similar aspect with different focus. For example, analyzing student's classroom essay or applied this theory into classroom action research.
- c. The pedagogical implications of the Theme and Rheme can be very useful for the teaching English as foreign language. The thematic progression is beneficial in guiding the writer in making coherency of the text, while the thematic drift is useful for locating the main information of the text.



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Research Matrix

TITLE	PROBLEM	VARIABLE	INDICATORS	SUB-INDICATORS	DATA RESOURCE	RESEARCH METHODS
Deconstructing the Letters to Find the Messages in "Your Letters" in the Jakarta Post Newspaper Through the Exploration of the Textual Metafunction	1. Which theme is the most applied in the letters? 2. What are the messages of some letters in "Your Letters" in The Jakarta Post based on the exploration of Textual Metafunction?	a. Messages. b. Textual Metafunction	a. Messages. b. Theme Rheme	a. Topical b. Interpersonal c. Textual	"Your Letters" in The Jakarta Post in the quarter of 2005 (January 1 st to March 31 st 2005)	a. Research Design: Quantitative Qualitative Research Method. b. Data Collection Method: Documentation Method Purposive Sampling c. Type of Data: Quantitative and Qualitative Data Written Form d. Data Analysis: Theory of Textual Metafunctions. Theory of Thematic Drift

Your Letters

Letters intended for publication, including those sent by e-mail, should be brief and accompanied by a faxed identity card with a note "Your Letters" on it. All letters should contain the writer's name, address and phone number. Unsolicited features and opinion items are welcome but we cannot be responsible for the return of unpublished articles. Please send

letters and opinion items to opinion@thejakartapost.com or jktpost2@cbn.net.id, and other articles to sundaypost@thejakartapost.com or features@thejakartapost.com. A brief biodata of the writer is also needed. — Editor

Swedish Embassy clarifies

We noticed in the Jan. 6 and Jan. 7 editions of *The Jakarta Post* on pages 11 and 12 respectively the list of tsunami aid, on which Sweden is mentioned to have made a contribution of US\$80 million from the government and nil private contributions.

The Embassy of Sweden wishes to make a correction to the above mentioned data. I refer to our press release on Jan. 3, the initial Swedish private contribution amounts to approximately \$50 million.

Please be advised that the press release is also published on our website, www.swedenabroad.com/jakarta.

AMRETA SIDIK
Information Officer
Embassy of Sweden
Jakarta

Note: Thank you for your clarification.

— Editor

Police's services

In one of your articles recently there were complaints to the effect that the police are reluctant to follow up reports on criminal acts if we do not pay them some fees. Of course, they (the police public relations officers) would deny such allegations.

It is my hope that under the administration of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono all irregularities prevailing in the police services to the public can be addressed satisfactorily.

Without any intention of underestimating police competence in handling various crimes, I would like to raise my own problems that have been put aside for quite some time.

In Pandeglang, Banten, I was cheated by a notorious swindler. In fact this criminal has succeeded in cheating hundreds of people, but he managed to get away from police custody every time he was caught.

He has not been detained, because according to the police, he had moved to Bandung and conducts his business there. Strangely, the police in Pandeglang did not ask the assistance of the Bandung Police to arrest the man. Eight months have elapsed since I reported the case in April 2004.

The second case is that a businesswoman from Jakarta, the owner of Karya Prima Furniture in Jelambar, West Jakarta. She stole my company's property, which she knew very well belonged to me. Although I reported the case about six months ago, the police have not yet been able to arrest her.

I doubt the professionalism of the police.

DIDIER MUSTAPHA
Jakarta

Take your complaints elsewhere

I refer to the letter from Aqua Dwipayana published in *The Jakarta Post* on Jan. 5, titled *Garuda's service*.

Why does the *Post* publish such inane and petty complaints in its newspaper? Is it that you simply like to take every opportunity to bash any well known corporate name? Or is it that you have nothing better with which to fill your pages?

You regularly publish similar drivel from people complaining about various services. Often the individuals who write in have not even made an effort to discuss the

matter with the management of the offending company.

As a regular reader of your publication I would like you to know that I have no interest whatsoever in reading about such complaints from whining members of the public.

ALAN CASSELS
Jakarta

Note: Thank you for your comment. But the *Your Letters* column is intended to provide an opportunity for the public to express their opinions — on any subject — in a fair and proper manner, without any intention of undermining the image of the other party.

— Editor

Role of censors questioned

From *Republika*

As an Indonesian citizen I feel very much concerned and disappointed by the degraded values in our society as a result of the behavior of a greedy few.

Recently a producer launched its newest film entitled *Virgin*, which depicts loose morality among youths amid a world of glamor, fantasy, desire and family disharmony. The 120-minute picture portrays the life of high school teenagers.

If these kind of depraved images are widely presented by films and television, our teens may imitate the message conveyed in them. The question is: What is the role of the Film Censor Institute (LSF)? Isn't every film produced required to be examined by LSF before they are screened? We are afraid that money changing hands makes such pictures pass censorship.

IMRON ZAYADI
Jakarta

Date : Saturday/ January 8th, 2005
Title : Take your complaints elsewhere
Addresser : Allan Cassels
Address : Jakarta

Your Letters

Letters intended for publication, with a note "Your Letters" on it features and opinion items are welcome. Letters and opinion items to be published should be sent to post@thejakartapost.com or faxed to 021-5200000.

My sympathy for Aceh

I wish to publish my poem, *Tsunami*. Unfortunately I have no other means whereby I can help my sisters and brothers, dead or alive, who suffered in the recent tsunami disaster in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam province. Therefore my deepest sympathy can be best expressed through this poem from the heart.

'Tsunami'
The sun was shining,
birds were singing,
people were smiling,
and children playing.
All of a sudden,
the earth was shaking,
folks were all trembling,
the moment of the quake
was haunting,
and the dwellers were
dispersing.
After all, it wasn't the ending,
when the heavy water was
flowing,
leaving a scene of thou-
sands dying,
only God knows what's
the meaning.

AULIA RACHMAT
Jakarta

Use of Malaysia's airports

I wish to refer to the letter from Martin, Medan, North Sumatra, which appeared in *The Jakarta Post* on Jan. 12.

I would like to inform Martin and also the other readers of the *Post* that Malaysia has agreed to allow donor coun-

tries to use its airspace and airports as transit bases to send humanitarian aid for victims of the tsunami catastrophe in Aceh.

The permission to use the airspace and airports was a gesture of Malaysia's cooperation with foreign countries, in extending humanitarian aid to Aceh, the hardest hit in the natural calamity.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono himself has acknowledged Malaysia's assistance in allowing the use of the Subang airport as one of the centers of operation (the *Post*, Jan. 9).

It is our hope that the readers are convinced of Malaysia's sympathy and commitment in alleviating the sufferings of its nearest neighbor.

HAMIDAH ASHARI
Counselor
Malaysian Embassy
Jakarta

Remove anti-graft bottlenecks

From *Koran Tempo*

Corruption in Indonesia has developed like a malignant tumor, hence its elimination requires strong determination on the part of all law enforcement agencies in order to deal with not only minor cases but also major graft practices.

The government has issued a presidential instruction authorizing the Corruption Eradication Commission to take anti-graft measures, but many constraints have impeded the effort.

For the removal of such bot-

Date : Friday/ January 14th, 2005
Title : Use of Malaysia airports
Addresser : Hamidah Ashari
Address : Counselor Malaysian Embassy, Jakarta

Your Letters

Letters intended for public
Unsolicited features and c
articles to sundaypost@t

Judging Indonesians

I am writing this with regard to a letter by Mark Potts, *Ignoring American aid*, that appeared on Jan. 13 in *The Jakarta Post*.

I would like to tell Potts that he is wrong in judging us Indonesians by taking the stereotypical view that we can only take things from his country for granted.

On Jan. 13, three leading local Indonesian newspapers (*Kompas*, *Media Indonesia*, *Koran Tempo*) featured photographs and articles about U.S. and Australian troops helping the tsunami victims in Aceh and North Sumatra. This fact was obviously overlooked by you and proves your statement wrong.

Furthermore, I would like to say that if you personally do not understand our country's behavior, then you cannot judge it as being "wrong". You can only judge when you have full understanding of a matter.

Please also note that

extending help, if sincere, is not about self-glorification or expecting acknowledgement, as you implied in your letter when you stated "would you have been very happy to send all aid to Sri Lanka and Thailand".

Do we help a dying victim of a traffic accident only after first checking, analyzing and judging his life history?

ULI PANDJAITAN
Jakarta

We are poisoning ourselves

In western countries people commit suicide by directing the emission from the exhaust pipe of their car into the car, where they are sitting and breathing in the poison gas of the running engine.

Most Indonesian people seem to be committing suicide, because after they wake up in the morning first they start the engines of their cars and motorbikes and let them

Date : Saturday/ January 15th, 2005
Title : Judging Indonesians
Addresser : Uli Pandjaitan
Address : Jakarta

Your Letters

Letters intended for publication, including those sent by e-mail, should be brief and accompanied by a faxed Unsolicited features and opinion items are welcome but we cannot be responsible for the return of unpublished articles to sundaypost@thejakartapost.com or features@thejakartapost.com. A brief biodata of the writer should be included.

Prevention is better than construction

Following the devastating earthquake-triggered tsunamis that occurred on Dec. 26 and claimed well over 100,000 lives and unaccounted for material losses in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam and part of North Sumatra province, people will probably ask what the government can do in the future to minimize the destruction of similar disasters.

Indonesia, home to more than 90 active volcanoes throughout the archipelago, according to the United States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), is almost 80 percent covered by epicenters and is surrounded by many tectonic cracks and sits on an area

where three volcanic strains meet (Jaha Nababan says from Boston in his Letter to *The Jakarta Post*, Jan. 10).

In view of the country's condition and the many earthquake and tsunami disasters that have jolted the nation over the last couple of decades — including the famous Krakatoa volcanic-triggered tsunami that claimed over 35,000 lives in 1883 — the Ministry of Public Works and the Indonesian Cabinet Secretariat have actually done something by setting up cooperation with the Japanese government under the Developing Nations Technical Cooperation Program.

Every year, the aforementioned government agencies, together with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), hold an

International Advanced Course on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering in the ministry's Center for Human Settlement in Bandung, by inviting participants from developing countries in Asia and Africa.

No doubt a lot of technologies have since been acquired by Indonesian experts transferred by Japanese geologists and earthquake and probably tsunami mitigation experts.

Indonesian people seem to be more familiar with fire brigades who sometimes hold fire prevention exercises in high rise buildings, and the show-case volcanic eruption early warning system, but none of the geologists or earthquake experts have conducted similar exercises for earthquake or tsunami prevention. This is some-

thing that the government should pay attention to.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s readiness to lead efforts to set up a global early warning system needs to be responded to by the government.

Thailand, on the other hand, was quick to respond by vowing to set up their own if other neighboring countries were unwilling to do so.

Setting up an early warning system would mean the prevention of greater losses. Surely, prevention is better than construction because it is cheaper to strengthen a house than to construct one after devastation.

M. RUSDI
Jakarta

Date : Wednesday/ January 19, 2005
Title : Prevention is better than construction.
Addresser : M. Rusdi
Address : Jakarta

d identity card with a note "Your Letters" on it. All letters should contain the writer's name, address and phone number. Published articles. Please send letters and opinion items to opinion@thejakartapost.com or jktpost2@cbn.net.id, and other information is also needed.

— Editor

No more suspicions

From *Koran Tempo*

The recent earthquake and tsunami that devastated Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam and claimed hundreds of thousands of human lives have aroused great national concern and deep international sympathy, shown by many countries that have provided aid to relieve the victims' suffering.

However, in the case of foreign assistance, many circles at home are suspicious that the presence of thousands of soldiers indicates a likely political agenda.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, when inspecting the Air Force relief command for Aceh and North Sumatra at Halim Perdanakusuma Airport, Jakarta, said the nation should not suspect

the soldiers of friendly countries undertaking humanitarian missions in Aceh to assist in rehabilitation.

Some media have even reported that nations in Europe and other parts of the globe recently observed several minutes' silence in honor of the dead in Aceh, North Sumatra and other affected countries. This certainly reflects the world community's sense of solidarity.

Therefore, we should also develop an attitude of mutual trust while reducing and dispelling prejudice and suspicion.

As Indonesians, we should not be left behind in our move to provide every possible aid.

JENIFER W.
Jakarta

Advanced technology not yet lifesaving

Roger McDaniel, in his letter *On early warning system* (*The Jakarta Post*, Jan. 11) has a very good point with regard to why warnings or natural signs of a tsunami might be ignored.

Taking it a step further, one could envisage, in the Wild, Wild West of Indonesia, hoax warnings being made to facilitate looting or even military searches.

It is clear that advanced technology can do little to save lives within a primitive legal and administrative infrastructure. Once the survivors of the tsunami have been helped, foreign aid would be best utilized correcting this.

FRANK RICHARDSON
Norwich, UK

Date : Wednesday/ January 19, 2005
Title : Advanced technology not yet lifesaving
Addresser : Frank Richardson
Address : Norwich, UK

Your Letters

Letters intended for public
licited features and opinic
to [sundaypost@thejakarta](mailto:sundaypost@thejakarta.com)

God may punish wrong doers

In reference to the letter published in *The Jakarta Post* dated Jan. 17 titled *It's purely a natural disaster*, I would like to share my views in this regard.

There is no doubt that God is loving and secure. And this is also true that he punishes — sometimes here in this world and most often in the world here after. But it does not mean "God is cruel and vindictive".

As far as my understanding of God is concerned: God has absolute power. He is the master and we are the servants. He provides us with all our needs. He created man for a purposeful life: Which is to obey Him.

But when most of neglect this purpose and do not care about God, He may show His wrath, which would be a test for His loved ones and pun-

ishment for the wrong doers.

This may not necessarily be punishment for all the victims, as innocent will always be rewarded if not here then in the world here after, but is a great warning for the rest.

The letter writer called this tsunami merely a natural disaster but not a punishment. To me it is just change of name. Natural disaster in the same way are under God control as are the blessings. Had He not allowed, tsunami would not have occurred.

FAZAL-E-MUJEEB
Jakarta

When the wolf is at the door

Certainly, Red Riding Hood would agree: When the wolf is at the door be especially careful if he comes bearing largesse.

Your Letters

Letters intended for publication, including those sent by e-mail, are welcome. Unsolicited features and opinion items are welcome but we cannot accept articles to sundaypost@thejakartapost.com or features@thejakartapost.com.

The mail box nightmare

For about the past two years Telkom has offered customers a free voice mail system. The way it works is as follows: When someone phones if you are not at home or if you are having a conversation (and therefore your phone line is busy) straightaway the caller hears a message that says: "*Tidak ada respon dari nomor yang anda hubungi. Anda terhubung dengan mail box nomor...*" (There is no reply from the number you want. You are connected with mail box number ...) and then you are invited to leave a message.

Although Telkom's plan was probably to give a modern facility to its phone users, I find that this service is most confusing and unpractical.

First of all, most phone users are not even aware that this service exists; second, virtually no one ever leaves a message. People, instead, just hang up thinking that no one is at home or that they have dialed the wrong

number.

I have been told that if I do not like the service all I have to do is call 126 and ask Telkom to remove it. I have done this four times now. At first it works, but then in a few months the voice mailbox is back again on my phone, causing all kinds of confusion, delays and misunderstandings in my business as well as in my personal communications.

Wouldn't be more easier if such a service was just offered and not imposed? I would find it easier if Telkom would just offer the service and those who are interested could register.

The mailbox "aid" has become a nightmare. Please Telkom, free me from your voice mail ghost!

LAURA ROMANO
Surakarta, Central Java

Americans lack introspection

I refer to the letters of Mark Potts dated Jan. 13 and Uli Pandjaitan dated Jan. 15.

I know many Americans. As personal friends, col-

leagues and business associates, all of them have been wonderful people: Friendly, genial and straightforward. And, by and large, they mean what they say. I have also enjoyed my visits to the United States immensely for these very reasons.

Sometimes oversensitive Asians (me included) may misunderstand their forthrightness, but I have never seen any deliberate attempt at belittling others, just because they are not Americans.

Though one may have differences of opinion with American policy, there is no doubt that America has always been a very generous nation to the whole world. In the 1960s, but for the American aid, I have no doubt that a sizable portion of the Indian population would have gone hungry with many perishing simply due to starvation.

And this American aid kept flowing without any (apparent) strings attached, though, at that time, India was too close to the Soviet Union and Indian political leaders often berated America.

So why is a country that

should be brief and accompanied by a faxed identity card with a note "Your Letters" or be responsible for the return of unpublished articles. Please send letters and opinions to skartapost.com. A brief biodata of the writer is also needed.

We help our neighbors

Uli Pandjaitan's reply to Mark Potts' *Ignoring American aid* (*The Jakarta Post*, Jan. 13) was well said. I gave a donation to the appeal because they are fellow human beings in trouble, they are also our neighbors.

The vast majority of Australians have given money because they can't sit back and do nothing, like me, they don't care about the religion of the people, they don't care if they get a thank you, they care for the people who have lost loved ones, homes and their means of livelihood, most of all they care about the children because they are parents too.

Like most parents out there in the world I care about the children because without them we don't exist. Australians don't want to take over Indonesia or its religion, there would be mass protests in the streets if our government even suggested that.

They are our neighbors and we help our neighbors.

GEOFF TOLE
Melbourne, Australia

Libraries less popular than malls

From: *Suara Karya*

Recently the Ministry of National Education launched a campaign on television about the important role of libraries.

It is sad to note that in our country, libraries are less popular than shopping malls. The majority of our people believe that libraries are only for those involved, in one way or another, in education.

It is also a fact, unfortunately, that in our country education is still associated with going to school, attending university or college lectures or taking courses. As a matter of fact, you can improve your knowledge and broaden your horizons if you visit a library regularly.

It must always be borne in

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FTA negotiations with Japan. Finally, as the recent report *The Future of the WTO* (provided to the WTO Director General by a board of experts chaired by Peter Sutherland) indicates, a successful Doha Round that deeply cuts tariffs on a most favored nation basis would alleviate the discriminatory impact of bilateral trade agreements on non-members, including Indonesia.

I myself prefer the WTO route. Bilateral trade agreements are at best an interim fall back position should the WTO round stall.

TED JAMES
Jakarta

Unprompted plug for Dan Brown

I read with interest the letter of David Wallis in *The Jakarta Post* dated Feb. 14. It reminded me of a book I

read recently, *Angels and Demons* by Dan Brown, which touches on the very subject of God and science. What one believes or does not believe is a highly personal choice, but this book turns this complex subject into an interesting read, and I would recommend very strongly the book as a "good read" to the readers of the *Post*.

K. B. KALE
Jakarta

Smoking and pollution

From *Koran Tempo*

I would like to respond to a news story published on Feb. 1, on page B5 of this newspaper (*Koran Tempo*) under the title of "Rp 50 million fine for smoking in public places."

Indeed, in terms of health maintenance, this fine is right to impose as the same thing is also done overseas. However,

Date : Wednesday/ February 16th, 2005

Title : Unprompted plug for Dan Brown

Addresser : K.B. Kale

Address : Jakarta

Your Letters

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A different perspective

Soegih Arto asks why should the Indonesian government conduct peace talks with the Free Aceh Movement (GAM), and then lists his personal objections (*The Jakarta Post*, Feb. 15).

Soegih Arto is to be congratulated for the consistency of his perspective, if not his commitment to peace.

There are always two sides to every conflict, and GAM — and many others in Aceh — believe they have legitimate grievances against Indonesia generally and the Indonesian Military (TNI) in particular. Reports of TNI atrocities in

Aceh continue, even in the post-tsunami period. Is it any wonder that so many Acehnese feel alienated from Indonesia?

The Helsinki peace talks, however, are intended to try to overcome this lack of trust, hopefully by arriving at a negotiated political outcome. That outcome might be within the existing "special autonomy" framework. But if negotiations are to have any meaning, the resolution might also consider something other than the status quo.

Soegih Arto thinks such talks should be held within Indonesia. The problem here is the lack of guarantee of safety. Five GAM negotiators who tried this were arrested, one of whom recently died in

prison. That is also why the GAM leadership continues to live abroad.

If Soegih Arto sees the GAM leadership living abroad as an insult to Indonesia, one can only wonder at what he thinks about GAM fighters taking up weapons against Indonesia!

Claiming that the issue of Aceh is Indonesia's "domestic affair" is one perspective. But GAM claims Aceh's independence was stolen by the Dutch and illegally transferred to Indonesia. Because there is disagreement on this is why talks must be mediated by an outside organization. Similar to the downgrading of

Indonesian government does not take the talks seriously.

Fortunately, it seems these talks are indeed being taken seriously. This, along with a willingness to compromise, could potentially produce a negotiated settlement. I agree with Soegih Arto that such a settlement remains a long shot. But unlike him, I believe it is worth at least trying.

DAMIEN KINGSBURY
Melbourne

Crying over spilled food

From *Koran Tempo*

A hypnotism program on SCTV presenting hypnotist

Date : Thursday/ February 17th, 2005
Title : A different perspective
Addresser : Damien Kingsbury
Address : Melbourne, Australia

lication, including those sent by e-mail, should be brief and accompanied by a faxed i
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tapost.com or features@thejakartapost.com. A brief biodata of the writer is also nee

tralia, Europe and North
America. It is even worse
than the taxi service other
domestic airports offer.

ATMAKUSUMAH
ASTRAATMADJA
Jakarta

staff in the directorate gen-
eral (and she is not the only
one). Zieschank is asking for
respect for foreigners who
want to live and work in
Indonesia, but these govern-
ment entities do not even
respect their own citizens.

On stay permits

I am referring to the letter
regarding foreign investment
in Indonesia by Frank
Zieschank (*The Jakarta Post*,
Feb. 11).

What the gentleman says
here is only the tip of the
iceberg. A friend of mine
who is married to an Aus-
tralian and arranging for
stay permits for her kids is
going through hell going
from regional immigration
office to the directorate gen-
eral of immigration.

She faced moral and sexu-
al harassment by one of the

MELINDA TAN
Jakarta

Don't care philosophy

The new government
seems to have adopted a
"don't care" philosophy.
Recently a headline in *The
Jakarta Post* read *I don't
care about my reputation*,
which was supposed to be
the answer of the President
to a certain complaint.

On Feb. 18, according to
your newspaper, a minister
responded "I dont care" to a
survey by an international

Date : Wednesday/ February 28th, 2005
Title : On stay permits
Addresser : Melinda Tan
Address : Jakarta

should be brief and accompanied by a faxed identity card with a note "Your Letters" or be responsible for the return of unpublished articles. Please send letters and opinions to skartapost.com. A brief biodata of the writer is also needed.

economy and created much needed employment.

MARGARETTE HASKELL
Bali

Smoking restriction

Herawati (*The Jakarta Post*, Feb. 16) misses the point about smoking restrictions. True, the smoker makes the decision whether or not to smoke, but his fellow passengers have no such choice. Like Herawati at home, they have to endure an unhealthy smoky environment whether they like it or not.

The existence of more serious environmental problems doesn't mean that the smoking problem should be put on hold. That's a recipe for never doing anything. Banning smoking in public places and especially on public transportation will only bring Indonesia up to

the level of other countries. Along with an advertising ban it will reduce the level of acceptability of smoking. Young people will be less likely to start smoking, and smokers will smoke less.

It is difficult to see any disadvantages to the proposal. Let's ban smoking in public and help make a better environment for everyone!

TONY GRACE
Jakarta

Get rid of old buses

I'm happy to hear that the Jakarta governor, Bapak Sutiyoso, dreams about a green Jakarta. I'm only wondering why he doesn't take any action on the local bus system — rotten old vehicles that pollute the air significantly and endanger citizens by the way they are being operated.

If Sutiyoso is really serious

lication, including those sent by e-mail, should be brief and accompanied by a faxed identity card with a note "Your Letters" opinion items are welcome but we cannot be responsible for the return of unpublished articles. Please send letters and opir thejakartapost.com or features@thejakartapost.com. A brief biodata of the writer is also needed.

Sudan defends aid transfer

Referring to the unfortunate comment which appeared in *The Jakarta Post* on Feb. 24 by Mathew Ninan W. regarding donation by the Sudan to the tsunami victims in Aceh, allow me to make the following comments on a number of erroneous assertions that marred the said comment by the above writer.

To appreciate the world response to the humanitarian call to Aceh is very much understood. But to blame some of those who have responded is not understood at all. Specially if we know that some of the latter were moved by their brotherhood and friendship for the people of Indonesia.

Anyhow what has been mentioned in this article will not jeopardize the ever-growing relation between Sudan

and Indonesia, especially in the humanitarian aspects.

To update the information we refer him to the *Post* of Jan. 20 which published the visit of the Special Envoy of the President of Sudan to Indonesia to convey his condolences, sympathy and support to the people of Indonesia.

The humanitarian assistance by the Sudan to tsunami victims was not in any way a "show off". It was an expression of solidarity, brotherhood and the solid relationship between Sudan and Indonesia, and thus it is only natural that the Sudan stands by Indonesia in its hour of greatest tragedy.

Sympathy and expression of brotherhood and the culture of giving to a fellow human being at an hour of need is not a privilege of the rich alone, and if that is what Mathew advocates, he would be better advised to rethink his concept of human relations.

Lastly we would like to draw the attention of the writer that the bilateral relations between countries are not channeled and will never be affected by individual impressions. As far as the problem of Darfur is concerned, a comprehensive peaceful settlement is about to be concluded very soon.

In all cases, it is not a problem that hinder Sudanese Foreign Humanitarian Relations especially with a sisterly and friendly country like Indonesia.

KAMAL ALI OSMAN TAHA
Information and Cultural
Counselor
Sudanese Embassy
Jakarta

People's welfare and price hikes

From *Warta Kota*

Some government officials say the increased prices of

Date : Wednesday, March 2nd, 2005.
Title : Sudan defends aid transfer.
Addresser : Kamal Ali Osman Taha.
Address : Information and Cultural Counselor Sudanese Embassy, Jakarta.

Your Letters

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Sony responds to complaints

Responding to Pieter Johannes' letter *Sony's sorry after-sales service* (*The Jakarta Post*, Feb. 25), we would like to inform Johannes that relevant parties in Sony Singapore have been alerted about the issue and have already been in contact with him.

After verification by Sony Singapore with the dealer concerned, the Johannes purchase was covered by Singapore local warranty, although there was an option for overseas warranty coverage. Such warranty is known as VAIO Overseas warranty (VOS), which has to be purchased and covers certain designated countries, excluding Indonesia.

Detailed explanations of

VOS can be found at the following URL: http://vaio-online.sony.com/sg/vaio/Accessories/VOS-3701-SG_detail0.html

RAYMOND GANI
CRM Department Head
Sony Customer Information Center
PT. Sony Indonesia

On RI laws

I agree with Mario Mascacchi from Cagliari, Italy, who loves Indonesia the same as I do (*The Jakarta Post*, Feb. 23: *Investment and RI laws*).

The Indonesian immigration policy is very discriminatory to foreign husbands, which in my opinion should be reported to International Human Rights organizations.

All countries should make

it much more difficult for Indonesian citizens to come to our countries, until the Indonesian government changes its discriminatory behavior.

For your information Mascacchi: There is a recent law in Indonesia, which allows foreigners over 55 years of age to get a stay permit for five years that can be extended periodically.

As far as I know the conditions are as follows: Your monthly pension should be about 1,300 euros minimum, you must have your own health insurance, and insurance with death and disability coverage.

I think you should contact the nearest Indonesian Embassy for the correct information. Best of luck and let us all hope the immigration law will be changed to one that is respectful of

: Monday/ March 7th, 2005
: Sony responds to complaints
: Raymond Gani

CRM Department Head Sony Customer Information Center, PT. Sony Indonesia

Date : Monday/ March 7th, 2005
Title : On RI laws
Addresser : A. Van Der Linden
Address : The Netherlands.

Your Letters

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Pillars of RI economy

I would like to add to Margarette Haskell's comments *Foreign investment in Indonesia* published in *The Jakarta Post* dated Feb. 28. In my 30 years of doing business in Indonesia, I have heard my share of complaints, criticisms and both horror and success stories from foreigners doing business in Indonesia.

While there are always two sides to every story and no business goes without its share of problems, one thing is for sure, foreign investors deserve to be given a fair and level playing field, which is certainly not the present case.

Being very candid, my observation and experience is that foreign investors are not viewed as a national asset but more often than not "portrayed as competitors who take jobs from the locals," or even as "opportunists only interested in making a quick buck who then exit stage right". As a consequence thereof,

laws and services lean more toward protectionism and less toward supporting foreign investment.

Quite the contrary, along with the risk of losing their money, most businesses are complex and require a long-term commitment. If one is to enjoy any return on the investment, one must be smart, work diligently and adapt to local conditions.

Benefits to Indonesia are much more than simply cash; they are a continuous and wealthy spread of knowledge, expertise, jobs, training, and quality control that provide competitive services and products for national and exported consumption.

A showcase are those of Chinese, Arab, and Indian descent, who in the past came as foreign investors and with time have become Indonesian citizens and are now "pillars of the economy."

At a time when rebuilding Indonesia's economy is so vital, it is a shame that we

are losing so many potential foreign investors to competitive Asian neighbors who are much more service-oriented and whose laws support their cause.

Much hope and trust have been put on the Susilo Bambang Yudhoyong and Jusuf Kalla administration to make constructive changes that will improve Indonesia's economy and ultimately improve the standard of living. The burden is heavy and many steps are required to achieve positive results and move Indonesia onto a path to prosperity.

Making Indonesia more conducive to both small and large-scale foreign investments is just one of the many essential adjustments that is urgently required.

Given that the media plays a crucial role as an independent and objective voice, may I suggest the *Post* do a feature article that provides a comprehensive report on the issues, obstacles, and expectations of foreign investors doing business in Indonesia.

I am sure many foreign investors, even some similar to myself who have spent a significant number of years in Indonesia, will welcome the opportunity to be interviewed and contribute to this topic.

RON MULLERS
PT Eatertainment
International Tbk.
Jakarta

Transport crimes must be fought

Criminal acts against public transport passengers in Jakarta are getting even more brutal. Besides committing robbery, thugs will, without hesitation, inflict injuries on and even kill their victims.

On Feb. 27, a student of the University of Indonesia, died in a Jakarta-Bogor commuter train robbery, while a gang of bandits beat up city bus passengers recently.

A large-scale anti-bandit operation to fight criminals threatening the safety of

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 Jurusan/Prog. Studi : PBS/ B. INGGRIS
 Judul Skripsi :
 Pembimbing I : Dra. Wiwiek Istianah, M.Kes. M.Ed.
 Pembimbing II : Dra. Siti Sundari MA

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No	Hari/Tanggal	Materi Konsultasi	T.T Pembimbing
1	Rabu/29/12/05	Proposal bab 1,2,3	[Signature]
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3	Kamis/29/12/05	Proposal bab 1,2,3	[Signature]
4	Senin/6/2/06	Ambil	[Signature]
5	Jumat/17/2/06	Proposal 1,2,3 (Acc Seminar)	[Signature]
6	Jumat/24/3/06	Seminar	[Signature]
7	Kamis/15/06/06	Bab 1,2,3,4,5	
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 Jurusan/Prog. Studi : PBS / B. INGGRIS
 Judul Skripsi : An Analysis of "Your letters" in "The Jakarta Post" Based on Language Functions and Hymes' Theory of Context of Situation.
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 Pembimbing II : Dra. Siti sundari MA.

KEGIATAN KONSULTASI

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1	19/2 '05	Matrix	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	29/3 '05	Chapter I + revisi Chapter I	<i>[Signature]</i>
3	28/3 '05	Pergantian Indikator from Hymes to Halliday	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	1/8 '05	Chapter I, II, III (Menyerahkan)	<i>[Signature]</i>
5	22/8 '05	Revisi Chapter I, II, III (Menganbil)	<i>[Signature]</i>
6	5/9 '05	Revisi Chapter I, II, III (Menyerahkan)	<i>[Signature]</i>
7	19/9 '05	Mengambil kursi (per 13/9/2005)	<i>[Signature]</i>
8	14/1 '06	Chapter 1 2 3	<i>[Signature]</i>
9	24/3 '06	Seminar	<i>[Signature]</i>
10	11/4 '06	Chapter 1 2 3 4 5	<i>[Signature]</i>
11	3/07/06	Revisi All chapters	<i>[Signature]</i>
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