Information Flow on the English Premier League Supporters' Mocking-Chant from the Theme and Rheme Analysis

(Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics)

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Abstract: One of the interesting phenomenon in the social interaction is the correlation between participants in spoken language. There are some domains that create a close interaction between participants. One of them is sport domain. This phenomenon is still rarely uncovered in language's study. This study is aimed to know the meaning of participants' expression. In addition, this study explores the information flow from the participants. This study focuses on the textual meaning of the mocking-chants to football players sung by supporters of the English Premier League (EPL), especially its 6 biggest clubs (the big six). It describes textual meaning through the analysis of the Topical Theme; consists of Unmarked Topical Theme and Marked Topical Theme, Textual Theme and Interpersonal Theme within the Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistic approach. It is a qualitative descriptive study using content analysis. The data are clauses taken from the lyrics of mocking-chants to the football player from the supporters of the big six clubs. There are six chants that are analyzed by theme and rheme analisys. The result shows that Topical Theme analysis, that is the most dominant theme, brings the main point of the information and underline for whom the song is. The Interpersonal Theme, which is the second dominant theme, shows that the interaction and transaction are socially close. Textual Theme indicates the logical of connecting clause from the previous. These all themes create the information flow well to deliver the meaning of these chant's lyrics from the speaker to the listener.

Keywords : Theme-Rheme ; Chant ; Mocking ; Football Player ; Textual Meaning ; Discourse meaning ; Supporters; Song

1. INTRODUCTION

Speakers must bring information to tell a message using language in their communication. The message could be a suggestion, an expectation, mocking, support, order, or humor. This is explained by Halliday & Hasan, the language, verbal or written is a medium to declare our thinking (Halliday & Hasan, 1989). In our society, the kind of verbal expression could be a speech, discussion, song and also a chant as a contemporary genre of the song. This study focuses on exploring the contemporary genre of the song that is chant. The song has each level of society such as children, teenagers, adult even the elderly. Besides, song or a chant could send the message differently rather than another kind. In this point, a song is a media to share feeling such as happy feeling or disappointed feeling, messaging, giving a motivation or even derision. The research of (Arifah, Djatmika, & Santosa, 2019) stated that language expression must have character or perspective. Song and the chant, as well, has their own character or perspective expressed by the speaker. The speakers' perspective determine the way they tell the information or messages through language towards to the listener.

Some studies investigating a song did not investigate the relation of the information flow and the participans from message, the interaction and the function of a textual meaning of a discourse. Sometimes, it only presents the social problem and current issues or event. For example, the research about *Textual Meaning in Song Lyrics* analysed song lyrics by textual meaning in Systemic Functional Linguistics (Firdaus, 2013). That research aimed to know the intention of the song. He found three types of textual meaning; Topical Theme, Textual Theme and Interpersonal Theme. Each theme had not explained in detail, only mention the frequency. Whereas textual meaning explains clauses as semiotic resources to express message, or it is what the clause is going to be about (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Another research shows that a song could convey the feeling and invoked the intended emotions. They analysed using Van Dijk's critical discourse. The study analysed text analysis, social cognition and social context (Putri & Triyono, 2018). Then, the other previous research explores the main character of the song. By using transitivity's analysis, researcher found the construction of character in a "tribment song" (Zahoor & Janjua, 2016). Moreover, analysing discourse of soccer is interensting and

still rare. However, generally they have not many yet enter the linguistics side like the researches of Ladan, et. Al. and Olowoni (Ladan, Umar, Abubakar, Kabido, & Zamzani, 2019; Olowononi, 2018). The object of the songs are also the general genre of the song which is very common to deal with.

By those review, there is research gap in revealing the song as the object of research. A song certainly has a background story and culture (Gordon & Djonler, 2019) that in Systemic Functional Linguistics is called context of discourse. It is one of the focus element in this study. This study take songs in football matches that commonly called a supporter chant, especially English Premier League. It is since the genre of song is not only a pop, rock or jazz. It dug the contemporary one; the chant. In a Cambridge Dictionary, chant is a song which contains words or phrases repeatedly. Mirriam Webster defines as a plain song or a monotony song. In addition, Wikipedia's version explains that chant has a simple melody and rhythm. This study seeks to examine the suporter chant in English Premier League. In expressing the feeling, a chant usually expresses something good or even bad, for example giving a stimulus like supporting and motivating or even mocking. This study focuses on the supporters' mocking-chant to the football players in the EPL. The language of mocking-chant is analyse through the clause from the lyrics taken from the chants directory we; fanchant.com.

The mocking chant lyrics are part of spoken discourse. According to Halliday, a discourse is called functional (Halliday, 1994). In a functional concept, there are three metafunctions; ideational, interpersonal and textual. An analysed of ideational meaning investigates the representation of event and the main character. Meanwhile, investigation of interpersonal meaning found a position of the object, how the speaker placed the object at different occasions (Fatoni, Santosa, & Djatmika, 2020). Then, the last metafunction is about textual meaning. The textual meaning becomes the analysis categories in this study. According to Djatmika the function of textual meaning is creating a message (Djatmika, 2012). Halliday explained that clauses are classified in Theme and Rheme element (Halliday, 1994). The result of those elements is the information flow from a speaker or writer's viewpoint (Santosa, 2003). Further, previous study found the general of textual meaning's appearance, such as the frequency and mentioning three types of textual meaning (Dewi, 2017). Moreover, in researches entitled 'Theme and Thematic Progression of Undergraduate Thesis: Investigating Meaning Making in Academic Writing and Theme' and 'Thematic Progression in Student's Recount Text' found the interpretation of textual meaning. They explained the relationship between clauses and showing the information flow created by speaker to listener (Gunawan & Aziza, 2017; Yunita, 2018).

Therefore, the more focused research gap is the influence of the speaker perspective that using language to bring message to the listeners. It also can be said how the message is presented through the lexicogramatica of a clause. A textual analysis is proper tools to investigate this research gap. In textual meaning, Theme and Rheme are the building's element of information flow. Theme is a main point of message in a clause and it becomes a main attention in clauses. Whereas, Rheme is the next element to develop the Theme as a new information (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). There are three kinds of textual meaning such as Topical theme, Interpersonal theme and Textual theme. Topical theme (Eggins, 2004; Santosa, 2003) is the Theme that develop the topic of discourse. Topical theme consists of Unmarked Topical Theme and Marked Topical Theme. Unmarked Topical Theme is the typical Theme in English clauses that are usually started with subject. Meanwhile, Marked Topical Theme is non-typical Theme that is characterized by other than subject, such as complement, adjunct or predicator. Interpersonal theme is used to interact and transact socially. Interpersonal consists of interactional and transactional. Interactional is realized in vocative, while transactional is realized in finite, W-H questions and polarity (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The last Theme is Textual Theme. It is used to connect the previous clause or the correlation between clauses in context (Eggins, 2004). In short, this study is aimed at analysing textual meaning on mocking-chant lyrics for football players in English Premier League that related to the speaker or writer viewpoint. In addition, it is also aimed to explore the information flow from speaker to listener.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

It is a descriptive qualitative study. This method is used to reveal everything of the qualitative information. It describes every data accurately and describes the characteristics of individual, group, situation or phenomenon (Sutopo, 2006). The data for this study are words and clauses from the chant's lyrics for football players in English Premier League. The big six in EPL consists of Man City, Liverpool, Chelsea, Tottenham, Manchester United and Arsenal. There is one lyric text in each club downloaded from fanchant.com. These data are analysed in terms of Theme and Rheme in Textual Meaning which was developed by Halliday (1994), Halliday & Mattisen, (2014) and Eggins (2004). Further, analysis's technique uses (Spradley, 1980), it consists of domain analysis, taxonomy analysis and componential analysis. The last is cultural theme analysis to find the conclusion of all the process and answer the research's questions. In this study, the process of analysis using Textual meaning and also Spradley technique could be a novel and good combination.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the research's focus, the data of mocking chant divided into six clubs. Each club is domain which is analysed by Textual meaning; Topical Theme, Textual Theme and Interpersonal Theme. This table below show the analysis of domain which is the category of club. The next is analysis of taxonomy which is the category of textual meaning analysis. Analysis componential is the correlation of domain analysis and taxonomy analysis. The last is cultural theme. It contains the interpretation of those categories in situation and cultural context.

Table 1 Textual Meaning of Mocking Chant

Club	Textual Meaning				Minor clause	Σ
	Topical Theme					
	UTT	MT	Textual	Inter		
M. City	2	0	1	3	0	6
Liverpool	3	0	0	6	0	9
Chelsea	3	0	0	0	1	4
Tottenham	1	2	0	2	2	7
Man. United	6	0	0	0	6	12
Arsenal	12	0	0	2	3	17
Total	27	2	1	13	12	55
Percentage	49%	4%	1%	24%	22%	100%

Note: UTT: unmarked topical theme ; MT: marked topical theme ; Inter: Interpersonal

In the table above, the researchers found 55 clauses in six clubs of Premier League. There are major clauses and minor clauses. Major clauses consist of 43 clauses that is categorized as Unmarked Topical Theme, Marked Topical Theme, Textual Theme and Interpersonal Theme. For Unmarked Topical Theme, there are 27 clauses, meanwhile 2 clauses as Marked Topical Theme. In Textual Theme, there is only 1 clause. The last Theme is Interpersonal Theme that consists of 13 clauses. Besides, there are minor clauses. The percentage is 22% or 12 clauses of minor clause. Minor clauses were found in Chelsea, Tottenham, Man. United and Arsenal. The examples of minor clauses are:

- That fuck up* Ronaldo   : minor clause
- Heeeeeey hey Campbell   : minor clause
- Torres   : minor clause
- Robin   : minor clause

Minor clause in each lyric fills the name of football player. It has meaning to mock the football player. The type of minor clauses is Calls. It means that the supporters give the interaction to football player. This interaction is actually one of the strategies to express the supporters' dislike to the players. Martin explained that minor clauses are also used to react or coding a speaker's attitude. In addition, Martin adds that minor clause is the way to express the attitude in English

(Martin, 1992). The data shows that the suporter shows bad attitude to the mocked-players.

Furthermore, major clauses are the point analysis in this research. Researchers analysed using Textual meaning through theme and rheme analysis. In the table above, the total clauses of Man. City club are 6 clauses. It consists of 2 clauses in Unmarked Topical Theme, only one clause in Textual Theme and 3 clauses of Interpersonal Theme. The clauses in Interpersonal Theme are the dominant. Here the examples:

1. Who's that shagging* round Cardiff

Who	's	[that] shagging* round Cardiff
Wh / S	F	C
Int. Theme	Rheme	

2. Who's that running down the wing

Who	's	[that] running down the wing
Wh / S	F	C
Int. Theme	Rheme	

By those examples, researchers found that the information flow is arranged from the wh-questions. The questions is an expression to mock the player in the form of sattire. In this club, the player is Giggs. The supporter mocks the player by expressing the incidents belong to Giggs. The supporters of the Blues make the incident as a strategy to insult the football player in those lyrics. Then, the topic is developed one by one. The clause is categorized as Interpersonal Theme because the beginning of clause is W-H question as a giving the information (Halliday, 1994). The message is concerned with what the supporter's know about the players' disgrace. Besides Interpersonal Theme, there are Unmarked Topical Theme and Textual Theme to create a whole message in this lyrics. Here the example:

1. Well, it's Giggs and Imogen

Well	it	's	Giggs and Imogen
continuative	S	F	C
Textual Theme	Rheme		

2. That's been making him grin

That	's been	making	him	grin
S	F	P	C	C
UTT	Rheme			

Textual theme is commonly deal with conjunction; about the session to continue the clause from the previous clause. However in the example the textual theme is realised with continuative. Continuative helps the speaker move to another topic (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). However, the existence of Textual theme in lyrics has the function to make an emphasis on what is talking about. Meanwhile, Unmarked

Topical Theme helps the listener to focus the subject or the participant in the chant. It connect the main point of who they mock.

The next club is the chant from supporters of the Reds or Liverpool. The lyric have 9 clauses. The dominant clause is categorized in Interpersonal Theme, which is 6 clauses. Then, researchers found 3 clauses as Unmarked Topical Theme. The first clause is categorized as Interpersonal Theme. Here the example:

1. Have you ever seen Lampard win the Euro

Have	you	ever	seen	Lampard [win the Euro]
F	S	Adj.	P	C
Int. Theme	Rheme			

2. Have you fuck*

Have	you	Fuck*...
F	S	P
Int. Theme	Rheme	

Interpersonal Theme creates the meaning by showing a question. Those questions bring the conception of the bad record of player. It is again bringing sattire to insult player they mock. In the first clause, the liverpudlian, fans of Liverpool, bring the retorical question that Lampard indeed never win the Euro title. In this point, the listeners are influenced and considered that Lampard is not a great player. After the speaker delivers the opinion, they develop the idea using Unmarked Topical Theme.

3. Lampard win the Euro

Lampard	win	the Euro
S	F / P	C
UTT	Rheme	

This is clause is actually related to the clause before. The clause is a mocking in the form of irony. By showing subject "Lampard" in the front, the speaker located the participiant as the important thing or the main topic. It is justified with Eggins, the constituent of topical theme creates the attraction from the speaker to the reader (Eggins, 2004).

Chelsea's club is the third club in English Premier League. The table above identify that the mocking chant of Chelsea's supporters has 3 clauses. The dominant theme is Unmarked Topical Theme; 3 clauses. Unmarked Topical Theme contains the focused information (Alyousef, 2016).

He	falls	on the left
S	F / P	Adj.
UTT	Rheme	

The listeners are invited to mock Ronaldo as a football player who like to do diving to get advantage.

In this finding, chant of Man.United has the same finding too.

He	's	half a girl
S	F	C
UTT	Rheme	

On the clause above, the Red Devils' supporter want to bully the player, Fernando Tores, that is like a transvestite.

The existence of Unmarked Topical Theme in this lyric help the listener focuses on who is talked about. Chen in his research argues that text development and coherence is realized by Topical Themes linking to the preceding text to form topic continuity (Chen, 2019). Unmarked Topical Theme also show that supporter wants to humiliate the player, therefore in each clause the main point is subject (the player).

Furthermore, the researchers found Unmarked Topical Theme, Marked Topical Theme and Interpersonal Theme in Spurs or Tottenham's chant. There are 1 clause as Unmarked Topical Theme, 2 clauses as Marked Topical Theme and 2 clauses as Interpersonal Theme. In addition, Marked Topical Theme and Interpersonal Theme are in the same position. The existence of Unmarked Topical Theme emphasizes the expression of feeling of the supporters itself. Here the example.

1. I wanna knoooooooooow

I	wanna knoooooooooow
S	F / P
UTT	Rheme

The message in the lyric delivered well. The clauses will be easy and good as a message when the participant become the important point (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Besides, Thomas Bloor and Meriel Bloor explained that the existence topical theme in any clauses makes the structure of the clause meaningful (Bloor & Bloor, 2004). In this clause, the suporter try to know something. The thing here is realized by using Interpersonal Theme. The clause below is realization of Interpersonal Theme.

2. Why you're such a cunt...

Why	You	're	such a cunt...
Wh / Adj	S	F	C
Int / Top. Marked Theme	Rheme		

Interpersonal meaning is realized by question word "why". This clause is the development of previous clause. In the first clause, supporter uses "I" as an expression of knowing the situation, then by using "why", the supporter examines of the player, why you are such a cunt. It emphasizes the

weakness of the player by insult him to be such a negative person.

Besides, there are 2 clause as Marked Topical Theme. Marked Topical Theme is non-typical theme that is characterized by other than subject, such as complement, adjunct or predicator. The function of Marked Topical Theme is develop the topic of discourse. This Theme create the meaning continuously and the listener can the point of the chant.

3. Why is it so?

Why	is	it	so?
Wh / Adj	F	S	C
Int/ Top. Marked Theme	Rheme		

4. Why you're such a cunt...

Why	you	're	such a cunt...
Wh / Adj	S	F	C
Int / Top. Marked Theme	Rheme		

Those clauses is identified as double theme. Interpersonal Theme and Marked Topical Theme come together. According to (Halliday, 1994) a Theme can be a combination's role. It means that a clause could be realizasing in two meaning. Interpersonal theme is using to interact or transact socially, whereas Marked Topical Theme could be used to complete the clause. In those clause the supporter ask about the situation and ask about the weakness of personal player in a metafora meaning. It is not functiioned as a real question since it is a retorical question. It it to mock the player. Those questions could be answer by using adjunct as the first clause. Therefore, Interpersonal Theme that is aimed to giving or demanding information by using W-H question could be answer by using adjunct that realized Marked Topical Theme.

The last club in Premier League is Arsenal Club. Arsenal's chant has 12 clauses as Unmarked Topical Theme and 2 clauses as Interpersonal Theme. The use of Unmarked Topical Theme means that participant or actor has an important role in this chant lyric. The supporters show that the dishonor of football player, Robin van Persie. This is the example of Unmarked Topical Theme.

1. You're a cunt Robin

You	're	a cunt	Robin
S	F	C	Vocative
UTT	Rheme		

2. She said No

She	Said	No
S	F / P	C
UTT	Rheme	

By this lyric, the supporters of the Gunners influence the listener to know a gossip and then mock Robin Van Persie. Gunawan and Aziza explained that when a text uses topical theme, the reader easily understand the thread (Gunawan & Aziza, 2017). The quality of speaking is good if attention is given to the thematic progression of information in text.

Meanwhile, Interpersonal Theme in this lyric means the interaction between participants. The suporters call Robin to pretend that they are so close. The examples of Interpersonal Theme are:

3. Oh Robin, she said no

Oh Robin	she	said	no
Vocative	S	F / P	C
Int. Theme	Rheme		

4. Oh Robin, you're a cunt

Oh Robin	You	're	a Cunt
Vocative	S	F	C
Int. Theme	Rheme		

The existences of Interpersonal Theme show the interaction of participants. The supporter using vocative to look close to the player. The listener becomes understand of what the speaker think and know the idea of the speaker (Bloor & Bloor, 2004).

4.CONCLUSION

There are two conclusions that have been reached in this research. First, in the six club of Premier League, the total clauses are 55 clauses from Arsenal, Man. City, Man. United, Tottenham, Liverpool and Chelsea supporters' chant. Each chant is analysed by textual meaning through theme and rheme analysis. The result shows that the Topical Theme; Unmarked Topical Theme is the dominant of each chant. There are 27 clauses or 49% of Unmarked Topical Theme. Then, it is followed by Interpersonal Theme which appears 24% or existed in 13 clauses. Marked Topical Theme and Interpersonal Theme show the frequency that is 2% and 1%.

Second, there are the different patterns of information when the Unmarked Topical Theme is dominant rather than Interpersonal Theme or vice versa. Chelsea, Manchester United and Arsenal are arranged on the dominant of Unmarked Topical Theme. It indicates that participant in the beginning of clauses, the player they mock, is the important point to talk about in each lyric. The speakers lead to focus on the weekness of the football player to develop the rheme. The domination of the Unmarked topical theme tells that the information flow come dominantly from the participant in the chant. Meanwhile, Man. City, Liverpool and Tottenham's chant have the dominant frequency of Interpersonal Theme. It indicate that the speaker try to tell

the listener about the close relationship to the participant. In addition, it indicate the interaction and transaction between participants. Besides, the textual Theme indicates the logical of connecting clause from the previous. The speakers use those kinds of strategy of putting the theme to help the information flow to be easily and succesfully understood by any listeners.

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