The Sequence of Ideational Grammatical Metaphor Wording Technique in Historical Text: A Systemic Functional Linguistic Approach

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Abstract

The discussion of ideational grammatical metaphor has been attracted the attention of many researchers because of its usefulness and effectiveness in packaging information. With the device, meaning expressed in one pattern of the grammar can be reconstructed in another pattern of the grammar. This study focuses on the sequence type of ideational grammatical metaphor, which is then termed the sequence of ideational grammatical metaphor. In this kind of metaphor, the realization of meaning in clause complex is packed into a single clause through some wording techniques. The main objective of the present study is to analyze the application of techniques and their functions in historical text. By using the main framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) proposed by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), it is concluded that two main techniques, with expansion and with projection, are used to construe two different features of information in historical text. Both expansion and projection wording technique pack the realization of features in clause complex into a single metaphorical clause.

Keywords: Ideational grammatical metaphor, technique, sequence, congruent, historical text

1. Introduction

Feature of information in historical text is constructed in a certain way. Historical text is categorized into genres which manage time, cause, and value in complementary ways, to recount historical episodes and to explain the reason they occurred from one or more angles (Martin & Rose, 2008). Knapp & Watkins (2005) categorize it into historical recount. The text documents the two features of information; logical events of cause-effect relationship and logical events of the argument and statement of historical characters. Biber and Conrad (2009) argue that in construing meaning, the cause-effect relationship are commonly constructed in clause complex with cause-effect construction while the arguments and statements of historical characters are commonly constructed in clause complex with verb+*that*-clause construction.

In some occasions, however, the two features of information are constructed in a simple clause rather than in clause complex for certain purposes. When they are realized in a simple clause, the construction would be basically the result of meaning and structure reconstruction from the clause complex. The reconstruction is useful as a strategy to reduce longer clausal construction and make information more condensed, more tightly packed, and more abstract. The clause, then, becomes more complex lexically because information is condensed in group rank of a clause. The group rank may serve as semantic functions such as participant, process, and circumstance.

Based on the perspective of Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL), ideational grammatical metaphor plays a significant role in reconstructing and condensing information. Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) argue that the sequence type of ideational grammatical metaphor changes clause complex into a clause by some downgrading techniques. Nominalization, as its most important device, condenses information by turning processes in clause into nominal entity. The change of processes, then, leads to the reduction of clause. This makes longer clausal construction becomes the short one.

There has been much research which has followed the theory of grammatical metaphor proposed by Halliday such as the research in the volume of Simon-Vandenbergen *et al.* (2003). Most of their studies focus on the two types of grammatical metaphor in general, interpersonal and ideational one. They represent some of their most recent development. Other studies have also dealt with the distribution of grammatical metaphor in some kinds of scientific