THEMATIC ROLES IN THE TALE OF “MACBETH” BY E.F. DODD

Doni Efrizah

Faculty of Sosial Sains, University of Pembangunan Panca Budi
Jl. Jend. Gatot Subroto Km. 4,5 Sei Sikambing 20122, Medan
Defriz19@gmail.com

Abstract
The research deals with predicates and arguments in the theoretical framework of Transformational Generative Grammar in terms of Thematic Roles or Theta Roles proposed by Chomsky (1981), Haegeman (1994) and his followers Radford (1981) and Ouhalla (1999). Thematic Roles may be defined as the participants of the arguments of a clause. It means that Thematic roles refer to the relationship between verbs and their arguments. Thematic Roles is focused to eight types of theta role. They are agent, patient, theme, experiencer, beneficiary/benefactive, goal, source and location. The analysis of Thematic Roles is taken form the tale of Macbeth” by E.F, Dodd in six tales of Shakespeare. The result shows that agent is the biggest thematic roles found in the tale of Macbeth and source is the lowest one. Then for those who want to do the same analysis should learn in detail to understand the usage of thematic roles, consequently everybody can understand and distinguish the usage of Thematic Roles in sentence.

Keywords: Thematic Roles, Verbs, Arguments

INTRODUCTION
Language is a tool of communication. People can do the communication by using language. It means that language will not exist unless the society agrees to certain language because it is a part of life. There are many aspects of language especially in English, which are also necessary to study namely Thematic Roles.

Thematic Roles are often found in the form of writing. In this case, the communication occurs between the writer and the reader. The writer transfers his or her thought, opinion and comment in the writing form. Writing skill is also expected to be able to express person’s thought in writing systematically.

Thematic Roles may be defined as participants of the arguments of a clause which have different roles. The roles of the participants are considered thematic. In literature, the relationship between verbs and their arguments are referred to in terms of thematic roles or theta roles (Haegeman, 1994).

The types of thematic roles are analyzed in a tale from Shakespeare entitled “Macbeth”. Commonly, the identification of thematic roles is not always easy. However, intuitively the idea should be drawn on this rather intuitive approach to theta theory in this study.

LITERATURE REVIEW
The component of the grammar that regulates the assignment of thematic roles is called theta theory. In this case, predicates in general have a thematic structure. Although many linguists agree on the importance of thematic structure for certain syntactic processes, the theory of thematic roles is still very sketchy. For example, at the present stage of the theory there is no agreement about how many such specific thematic roles there are and what their labels are. Some types are quite generally
distinguished such as agent, patient, theme, experiencer, benefactive/ beneficiary, goal, source, and location. (Haegemen, 1994)

In a clause there may consist of more than one argument according to its function whether the clause consists of a predicate followed a subject, an object, a complement, an adverb, or not. Each of them is called argument except predicate. (Haegeman, 1994)

a. Agent / Actor
Agent / Actor is the one who intentionally initiates the action expressed by the predicate.
Example: John killed Harry
Agent

b. Patient
Patient is the person or thing moved by the action expressed by the predicate.
Example: John killed Harry
Patient

c. Theme
Theme is the person or thing undergoing the action expressed by the predicate.
Example: Thelma liked the text
Theme

d. Experiencer
Experiencer is the entity that experiences some (psychological) state expressed by the predicate.
Example: Thelma liked the text
Experiencer

e. Benefactive / Beneficiary
Benefactive / Beneficiary is the entity that benefits from the action expressed by the predicate.
Example: John bought some flowers for Mary
Benefactive / Beneficiary

f. Goal
Goal is the entity towards which the activity expressed by the predicate is directed.
Example: John passed the book to Mary
Goal

g. Source
Source is the entity from which something is moved as a result of the activity expressed by the predicate.
Example: Poirot bought the book from Maigret
Source

h. Location
Location is the place in which the action or state expressed by the predicate is situated.
Example: Maigret is in London
Location

METHODOLOGY
This study is based on the data drawn from the written texts. They are derived from the description and the analysis conducted by various linguists entitled i.e. “Introduction to Government and Binding Theory”, “English Grammar: A Generative Perspective”, “Introducing Transformational Grammar”, “Transformational Grammar” etc.

The main data that is analyzed is taken from Shakespeare’s tale which is narrated by E.F.Dodd with the title “Six Tales from Shakespeare”. Thus, this is called as Descriptive Qualitative Research.
After the data is obtained and completed, it is analyzed through the following formula given by Sudjana (2001) as:

\[
P = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%
\]

- **P** = wanted percentage
- **F** = Number of item
- **N** = Total item

**FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Based on the analysis of data collected, they describe the use of thematic roles which is found in the tale as the following:

1. In the battle, the **thane of cawdor** was taken prisoner
   - **Patient**
2. and the **Norwegian king** was forced to surrender
   - **Patient**
3. and the victorious **Macbeth** returned to the king’s palace with his friend and fellow soldier, **Banquo**.
   - **Agent**
   - **Location**
4. **The day** was dark and stormy
   - **Theme**
5. **The three strange old woman** stood in silence
   - **Agent**
6. **These woman** were not human beings but witches
   - **Theme**
7. **The first witch** now addressed **Macbeth** as thane of Glamis
   - **Agent**
   - **Patient**
8. While **Macbeth** and **Banquo** stood speechless with surprise
   - **Agent**
9. **The witches turned to Banquo**
   - **Agent**
   - **Goal**
10. **The three old woman** disappeared
    - **Agent**
11. **Banquo** turned to **Macbeth** in amazement
    - **Agent**
    - **Goal**
12. **Macbeth** said slowly and **Banquo** added: and **you** will be king
    - **Agent**
    - **Agent**
    - **Theme**
13. **He** shook **his head** doubtfully
    - **Agent**
    - **Theme**
14. **The Thane of Cawdor** is still a live
    - **Theme**
15. **Duncan** has **two sons**
    - **Agent**
    - **Theme**
16. The old witches must be wrong
    - **Theme**
17. **They** brought the **surprising news**
    - **Agent**
    - **Theme**
18. Two **nobleman** came riding across the **heath** towards **them**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agent</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19. And thus the first words of the old witches had already come true</td>
<td>Theme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Macbeth said softly to Banquo</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td>Goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Banquo was greatly troubled</td>
<td>Theme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. The witches had sworn that it would happen</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. The king arrived that evening</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. The king arrived in that evening</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. The king has done me great honour and I cannot deceive him but Lady Macbeth has made her plans</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td>Beneficiary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Lady Macbeth crept quietly to Duncan’s room with a dagger in hire hand</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. She could not kill him</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td>Patient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. She returned to Macbeth</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td>Goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. I have done the deed</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td>Theme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. Lady Macbeth tried to calm him but he went on</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td>Patient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. I thought, I heard a voice cry “sleep no more!”</td>
<td>Experiencer</td>
<td>Experiencer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Someone cried “sleep no more!”</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. She went back to Duncan’s room to put the daggers on the floor beside the sleeping servants</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. The news of Duncan’s death was quickly carried to his two sons</td>
<td>Theme</td>
<td>Goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. Macbeth took advantage</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td>Theme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36. Macbeth was now Duncan’s nearest relative in Scotland</td>
<td>Theme</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. And thus the witches second promise had come true but Macbeth was not yet satisfied</td>
<td>Theme</td>
<td>Experiencer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. So he and Lady Macbeth arranged to have a feast, they invited Banquo and his son to stay at the castle as their guests</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td>Theme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39. Macbeth then hired two wicked men to murder them</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td>Theme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. The murderers, however, only succeeded in killing Banquo</td>
<td>Agent</td>
<td>Patient</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
41. **His son escaped to England**  
   **Agent** Location

42. **Macbeth felt more secure**  
   **Experiencer**

43. **Someone was sitting in his chair**  
   **Agent** Location

44. **No one else could see the ghost**  
   **Agent** Theme

45. **Fill my glass!! He said to a servant**  
   **Theme Agent** Goal

46. **The ghost of Banquo had appeared again**  
   **Agent**

47. **This time Macbeth could not control himself**  
   **Agent** Theme

48. **He had gone so far in crime to satisfy his burn wicked ambition**  
   **Agent** Theme

49. **He had already murdered four people – Duncan and his two servants and Banquo and he felt**  
   **Agent** Patient  
   **Experiencer**
   **Theme**
   **that he would not turn back now**

50. **Macduff, too, should be killed if necessary**  
   **Patient**

51. **This time the old woman gave him warnings as well as promises**  
   **Agent** Beneficiary

52. **No man burn of woman can harm Macbeth**  
   **Agent** Patient

53. **Meanwhile, in England, Macduff and Malcolm were making plans to fight Macbeth**  
   **Location Agent** Theme  
   **Patient**

54. **He and Malcolm marched at once to Scotland with a strong army to attack Macbeth**  
   **Agent Location**
   **Patient**

55. **Macbeth moved to Dunsinane Castle**  
   **Agent Location**

56. **They joined Malcolm army as soon as it crosses the border from England**  
   **Agent Theme Agent Theme**
   **Source**

57. **She had urged her husband to start on his path of crime**  
   **Agent** Patient
   **Theme**

58. **She had driven him unmercifully**  
   **Agent** Patient

59. **Now the strain was proving too great**  
   **Theme**

60. **The doctor could find no cure for her**  
   **Agent Theme Beneficiary**

61. **She killed herself in sorrow and despair**  
   **Agent Theme**

62. **I have lived long enough**  
   **Agent**

63. **I’ll fight them all**!
Based on the analysis of the data, the following table is to show the frequencies and percentage of thematic roles as found in the tale of Macbeth.

### TABLE 1:
FREQUENCIES AND PERCENTAGE OF THEMATIC ROLES IN THE TALE OF MACBETH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kinds of Thematic Roles</th>
<th>Frequencies</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agent</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>40,63 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>13,75 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theme</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>25 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiencer</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3,75 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefactive/ Beneficiary</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2,5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,87 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7,5 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONCLUSION**

From the analysis, it can be concluded that all kinds of thematic roles which are proposed by Liliane Haegemen (1994) can be found in the tale. There are 160 items found in the tale. Agent is found in 65 times or 40,63 %, patient in 22 times or 13,75 %, theme in 40 times or 25 %, experiencer
in 6 times or 3.75%, beneficiary in 4 times or 2.5%, goal in 8 times or 5%, source in 3 times or 1.87%, and location in 12 times or 7.5%. The largest number of thematic roles found in “Macbeth” is agent, and the smallest number is source.

REFERENCES


Author’s Biodata
Doni Efrizah, was born in Perupuk, 27 Februari 1985. She received her Master Degree in Islamic University of Nort Sumatera, Faculty of Literature, in Medan, Indonesia. She finished the study in 2014. She has been a lecturer in University of Pembangunan Panca Budi, North sumatra, Medan, Indonesia.