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

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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 from 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:

$\times 100\%$

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,
Agent Location
Banquo.
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 surprisng news
Agent Theme
18. Two nobleman came riding across the heath towards them

Agent	Theme	Goal
19. And thus <u>the first words of the old witches</u> had already come true		
	Theme	
20. <u>Macbeth</u> said softly to <u>Banquo</u>		
Agent	Goal	
21. <u>Banquo</u> was greatly troubled		
	Theme	
22. <u>The witches</u> had sworn that it would happen		
Agent		
23. <u>The king</u> arrived that evening		
Agent		
24. <u>The king</u> arrived in that evening		
Agent		
25. <u>The king</u> has done <u>me great honour</u> and <u>I</u> cannot deceive <u>him</u> but <u>Lady Macbeth</u> has made <u>her plans</u>	Beneficiary Theme	Agent Patient Agent Theme
Agent		
26. <u>Lady Macbeth</u> crept quietly to <u>Duncan's room</u> with a dagger in hire hand	Location	
Agent		
27. <u>She</u> could not kill <u>him</u>	Patient	
Agent		
28. <u>She</u> returned to <u>Macbeth</u>	Goal	
Agent		
29. <u>I</u> have done <u>the deed</u>	Theme	
Agent		
30. <u>Lady Macbeth</u> tried to calm <u>him</u> but <u>he</u> went on	Patient Agent	
Agent		
31. <u>I</u> thought, <u>I</u> heard a voice cry "sleep no more!"	Experiencer Experiencer	
Experiencer		
32. <u>Someone</u> cried "sleep no more!"		
Agent		
33. <u>She</u> went back to <u>Duncan's room</u> to put <u>the daggers on the floor</u> beside the sleeping servants	Location Theme Location	
Agent		
34. <u>The news of Duncan's death</u> was quickly carried to <u>his two sons</u>	Theme Goal	
Theme		
35. <u>Macbeth</u> took <u>advantage</u>	Theme	
Agent		
36. <u>Macbeth</u> was now Duncan's nearest relative <u>in Scotland</u> .	Location	
Theme		
37. And thus <u>the witches second promise</u> had come true but <u>Macbeth</u> was not yet satisfied	Theme Experiencer	
Theme		
38. So <u>he and Lady Macbeth</u> arranged to have <u>a feast</u> , <u>they</u> invited <u>Banquo and his son</u> to stay <u>at the castle</u> as their guests	Agent Theme Agent Patient Location	
Agent		
39. <u>Macbeth</u> then hired <u>two wicked men</u> to murder <u>them</u>	Theme Patient	
Agent		
40. <u>The murder</u> , however, only succeeded in killing <u>Banquo</u>	Patient	
Agent		

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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
that he would not turn back now
Theme
 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!

- Agent Patient
64. I will not be afraid of death
Experiencer Theme
65. He prepared to meet the enemy
Agent Patient
66. He said, I looked towards Birnam
Agent Agent Goal
67. Malcolm had told his soldiers to cut down some of the trees in Birnam Wood
Agent Theme Patient Location
68. I have already killed too many of your family
Agent Patient
69. Macduff, however, continued to attack him, and they fought fiercely
Agent Patient Agent
70. You can despair of that magic
Agent Theme
71. I was not born in ordinary way
Theme
72. I was taken from my mother by an operation before
Theme Source
73. He cursed them bitterly
Agent Patient
74. We will make a show of you to everyone
Agent Theme source Beneficiary
75. I will not surrender to kiss the ground
Agent Theme
76. Malcolm was crowned King of Scotland
Theme

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

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

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.

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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.