Introducing SFL

Part 2: TEXTUAL MEANING
Clause as Message

• To explore clause as the semiotic system to express message

• Principles:
  Language/clause is linear
  Message is structured linearly
  Linear means: starting to end

• These imply that message is structured with beginning and end.
Two Points of View

- Readers’ and Listeners’ Points of View
- Speakers’ and Writers’ Points of View
Message from Readers’ and Listeners’ Points of View

- Message is structured from old and new information.
- Message in clause is started from old information and moves to new information.

Example: ...
My uncle visited me last week.

He stayed in my house for two days.
Message from Speakers’ and Writers’ Points of View

- Message is structured from theme and rheme.
- Message in clause is started from theme and then developed to rheme.

Example:

My uncle visited me last week.
(Theme) (Rheme)

For two days, he stayed in my house.
(Theme) (Rheme)
Types of Theme

Topical

Textual

Interpersonal
• **Unmarked**: subject
  My uncle visited me last week.
  (Theme: (Rheme)
  Top. Un.)

• **Marked**: other than subject; object, adjunct, predicator, complement
  Last week, my uncle visited me.
  (Theme: (Rheme)
  Top. Marked)
To connect, logically, the first and the second clause

Mostly in the form of conjunction: and, then, after, although, etc

Example:

Although he was sick, he went to school.

(Theme: he) (Rheme: was sick, he went to school)
Interpersonal Theme

- To convey the interpersonal engagement between participants
- The engagement can be giving and demanding information, goods, or services, in the form of WH and finite in WH/polar interrogative
- It can also be to maintain the degree of intimacy between participants, in the form of vocative (grammatical function used to summon)

Example: …
Continued to other sources ....

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