

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Thematic structures plays a major role in organizing the message and in enabling it to be communicated and understood clearly. People nowadays are interested not only in studying languages but also in knowing how they are applied for different purposes. On the goal of communication, people use a variety of statement types. Consider how a writer uses language to persuade readers, a journalist to inform his audience, a motivational speaker to inspire others, and a salesperson to sell her goods. To describe how language is used, Halliday developed the systemic functional linguistics (SFL) approach (Halliday, 1994, p. 39). In functional grammar, the term *meta function* refers to how a user uses the language. Language use can have a variety of meanings.

This research aims to find out the theme and rheme of the *Necklace* short story, with Halliday and Matthiessen's (2004) systemic functional grammar as the theoretical foundation. The research found that the dominant theme is commonly used in a text. Furthermore, the writer tries to assume that the meaning of theme and rheme is very useful to understanding and producing text in a story. Therefore, it can help a reader to understand the meaning of the story, especially the short story that wants to be analyzed in this research, namely *The Necklace* story by Guy de Maupassant.

In this research, the writer intends to take the famous short story *The Necklace* as the source of this research. This is a famous and moral story, widely read in classrooms all over the world. This is a short story written by Guy de Maupassant (1884). He is a famous French writer who is good at short stories and

portrays fascinating pictures of French life in the 19th century. There are two reasons for choosing the thematic structures, the theme and rheme of *The Necklace* short story. The first is that the thematic structure is often used in the text, with the result that there are many sentence patterns found in this short story. The theme's goal is to produce well-structured content. The connection between individual sentences that are related to each other represents well-structured content. Thematic structures can also be used to examine how the author or speaker conveys information, theme, and rheme in the process. The second reason is the writer wants to attest that the meaning of theme and rheme is very useful to understanding and producing text in a story. Therefore, it can help a reader to understand the meaning of the story. The next reason is that the writer believes that this short story is appropriate to analyze by thematic structures.

The thematic structures research has been carried out in the previous studies in which they contribute to the present study. Some of them have been included in the review of studies. Nonetheless, there is a limited number of studies of the theme and rheme analysis on text or some story. Therefore, this research seeks to analyze the theme and rheme on *The Necklace* short story by applying the Systemic Functional linguistics proposed by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004). A sub system of textual metafunction of Systemic Functional Linguistic uses thematic structures analysis to identify the theme and rheme of the clauses.

1.2 Theoretical Framework

In this research, the writer applies a theory that helps in analyzing *The Necklace* short story as the representation in this research. The theory is Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). The theory becomes the foundation for identifying