

## 中文摘要

新闻的一个重要功能就是向公众传递信息。作为一种重要的语体,英语新闻广播有其特有的信息结构组织模式。了解信息在英语新闻广播中是如何分布以及组织的,有助于听众掌握新闻的本质,以便更好地获取信息。

基于韩礼德的信息理论和梵·戴克的宏观结构理论,本文从微观和宏观两个角度考察了信息在英语新闻广播中的分布及推进模式。韩礼德的信息理论能揭示小句内部以及小句与小句之间的信息分布模式和句子的结构关系。而梵·戴克的宏观结构能从宏观层面分析新闻语篇的信息结构。这两个理论为本文的研究搭建了基本理论框架。

本文包含六个章节。第一章介绍了本研究的目的、意义及基本框架。第二章展示了新闻广播的定义和特点、以及前人对英语新闻广播语篇和信息结构的研究,通过对文献的回顾揭示本研究的可行性及创新性。第三章详述了韩礼德的信息理论和梵·戴克的宏观结构,以此构建理论框架。第四章描述了研究方法。本文从VOA和BBC随机选取了20篇新闻作为语料,并采取了从微观到宏观的研究顺序。在微观层次,首先研究了信息在句内的分布情况,包括信息焦点在语音层面的体现形式以及新旧信息在句内的组合模式,其次文章运用信息结构理论和主位结构理论研究了信息在句间的推进模式。在宏观层面,本文运用梵·戴克的宏观理论探讨了英语新闻广播语篇的宏观信息结构。第五章是本文主体,具体分析了新闻样本并对分析得到的数据进行了讨论,揭示了研究成果。在语音层面,文章发现在大多数情况下信息焦点与声调突出是一致的,但出于强调,旧信息也可能成为信息焦点。在句内层面,研究发现,英语新闻广播传递信息的主要模式并非是“新+新”,而是“旧+新”,这种传递模式与人们的认知方式一致,说明新闻广播中的信息是可接受的。在句间层面,英语新闻广播语篇类型决定了不同主位推进模式的出现频率,同时不同主位推进模式的出现频率也体现了英语新闻广播语篇中的信息安排模式。在宏观层面,运用宏观规则删除一些不重要、不相关或是细节信息可以揭示英语新闻广播的主题,也就是说,低层次的命题可以抽象概括成为高层次的命题,此过程可不断重复,直到整个新闻语篇的宏观结构得以生成;同时,从上到下的角度来看,此过程揭示了英语新闻广播宏观层面中信息的组织模式——从最重要的信息到最不重要的信息。第六章总结了主要研究成果及局限,并指出了今后的研究方向。

本文希望此研究有助于听众掌握新闻的本质,以便更好地获取信息。另一方面,本文也希望为新闻工作者建立某种新闻写作框架,以便在新闻广播撰写过程中更有效地组织和传达信息。此外,通过对英语新闻广播信息结构的分析,文章希望能够提供一种框架用以分析其它语篇类型中的信息结构。

**关键词:** 信息结构; 英语新闻广播; 微观结构; 宏观结构

## Abstract

One important function of news is to provide audience with the latest information. English news broadcast, as a special genre, has its own unique mode of organizing information. Knowledge of how information is distributed and structured in news broadcast is beneficial to the understanding of the nature of news and it is helpful for listeners to obtain information from news in a better way.

Based on Halliday's information theory and van Dijk's conception of macrostructure, the objective of this thesis is to explore how information structure develops in English news broadcast at both micro level and macro level. At the micro level, Halliday's information theory can be applied to disclose the patterns of information distribution within and between sentences in a coherent text. The conception of macrostructure proposed by van Dijk views the information structure of news discourse from a macro perspective. These two scholars' theories construct a theoretical framework for the study conducted in this thesis.

This thesis consists of six chapters. Chapter One is an introduction, which presents the research background, the purpose and the significance of the research as well as the structure of this thesis.

Chapter Two deals with the literature review, including the definition and the features of news broadcast and an overview of historical studies on English news broadcast as well as on information structure. This chapter aims to find out the feasibility and originality of this study.

Chapter Three expounds Halliday's functional grammar and van Dijk's macrostructure to build a complete theoretical framework for the thesis.

Chapter Four is the description of the research methodology. Twenty pieces of English news broadcast are selected randomly as samples from VOA and BBC. The procedure of data analysis is from the micro level to the macro level. At the micro level, the thesis first examines information distribution within sentences, in which emphasis is placed on how information focus is presented at the phonetic level and how Given and New information are distributed in a information unit. After that, information structure and thematic structure are combined together to observe how information progresses between sentences in news broadcast. At the macro level, van Dijk's macrostructure is employed to probe the global information structure of English news broadcast at a higher level.

Chapter Five is the main body of this thesis, in which the data analysis and the major findings are presented and discussed. At phonetic level, information focus is in line with tonic prominence in most cases. However, Given information which the news wants to stress can become information focus. In a sentence, the primary information structure used in English news broadcast to transmit information is not “New + New”, but “Give +New”. This accords with people’s cognitive principle and makes news broadcast easy to understand for most of common audience. As to the information progression among sentences, the thesis finds that the style of English news broadcast determines the occurrence frequency of different thematic progression patterns; in turn, the latter embodies the modes of information arrangement required by the former. At the macro level, the theme of English news broadcast can be drawn by the deletion of some unimportant, irrelevant or detailed information in the course of using macro-rules, that is, the lower propositions can be generalized into higher propositions and the process can be repeated until the macroproposition appears. If seen from a top-down perspective, this process just reveals how information is organized in English news broadcast at the macro level: from the most important information to the least important information.

Chapter Six draws conclusions, pointing out the major findings as well as the limitation and offering suggestions for future researches.

The thesis hopes that its analysis will be beneficial to the understanding of the nature of news broadcast, so as to help listeners obtain information in a better way. On the other hand, the thesis also hopes that it can construct for journalists a framework of how to organize and convey information efficiently in news broadcast. In addition, through such study of English news broadcast, the thesis hopes to build a framework for the analysis of how information structure functions in other genres.

**Key Words:** information structure; English news broadcast; microstructure; macrostructure

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## Chapter One Introduction

### 1.1 Research Background

It is universally acknowledged that modern society is a science and information society. Information has become a popular and key word. Many phrases involved in information have come into our daily life, such as information science, information security, information technology and information age, etc.

In linguistics, the term information refers to the output information conveyed by language, which is also known as discourse information (Xu Shenghuan, 1996). In order to obtain a smooth, meaningful and coherent communication, every sentence we produce often needs to contain “new information, which is information that the addressor believes is not known to the addressee, and given information which the addressor believes is known to the addressee (either because it is physically present in the context or because it has already been mentioned in the discourse)” (Brown & Yule, 2000: 154). New information and Given information together make up an information unit and the arrangement of these two elements in a information unit produces different information structures.

According to the Prague School, information structure refers to the way for people to comprehend and apply language elements to communicate information. In short, information structure demonstrates a regular distribution of semantic information in sentences. As is known to us, any coherent discourse, spoken or written, always plays the role of conveying information to its listeners and readers. Accordingly, information structure is regarded as an important mechanism which makes a discourse coherent by rendering a text relevant to a current or recoverable situation of occurrence (Beaugrande & Dressler, 1981). Through the observation of the linear arrangement and the mutual conversion of New and Given information, the primary information of a discourse can easily come into view and, in addition, the dynamic development of a discourse can also be presented clearly. Therefore, this thesis treats information structure as its study subject.

As far as the scope of this study is concerned, the thesis is framed within English news broadcast for the following considerations.

First of all, one important function of news is to send out information to the public. The information provided by news is concerned about every aspect of society, including politics, economy, culture, science, etc., and these pieces of information

often produce great impact on people's thoughts and beliefs. van Dijk ever argues that news discourses are the construction of the society (Chu Jun & Zhou Jun, 2006). Fairclough (1995) points out that the immeasurable influence of news is, to a large extent, the use of language. Therefore, linguistic studies on news discourse should be taken into account. Fan Hong (2002) also holds that linguistic studies should be regarded as an essential part in the research of mass media.

Secondly, with English developing into an international language, English radio news has enlarged its audience from English speakers to non-English speakers and its influence has spread all over the world. English news broadcast has become an indispensable part in daily life by providing its audience with the latest information.

Thirdly, as a major variety of English news discourse, English news broadcast bears its own highly stylized patterns and its information structure also takes on some unique features. To some extent, the languages of English news broadcast have become a norm of standard English. Some common usages of pronunciation, grammar and lexicon with obvious features of English news broadcast have come into daily life.

Owing to the great importance of news discourse, a lot of researches in this aspect have been conducted from various angles in linguistic field and great achievements have been achieved. The approaches that scholars previously applied to the English news discourse analysis fall into four major types: the stylistic approach (Crystal & Davy, 1969; Qin Xiubai, 1986; Zhang Delu, 1998; Yang Xueyan, 2001), the structural analysis (van Dijk, 1988; Xin Hong, 2000; Fan Hong, 2002; Zhu Yumei & Zhang Yongling, 2007), the critical discourse analysis (Fowler, 1991; Xin Bin, 1996, 1997, 2000) and the functional approach (Shang Yuanyuan, 2001; Chu Jun, 2004; Ju Yumei, 2004). Among these major approaches, the Hallidayian functional approach, as an efficient and comprehensive analytic tool for discourse analysis, is most popular and widely used.

## **1.2 Purpose and Significance of the Thesis**

However, this thesis finds that there are at least two deficiencies in the studies of English news discourse. On the one hand, most of previous researches put emphasis on the news in written form, that is, the news reports in newspapers, magazines or other publications. Consequently, the study on English news broadcast is relatively inadequate. In addition, many studies on English news broadcast are confined mainly to the stylistic features. On the other hand, though quite a few theories based on the Hallidayian functional grammar have been widely adopted in news discourse analysis,

the studies of how information is organized and distributed in news discourse is rather weak. At present, scholars at home usually focus their attention either on the relations between information structure and thematic structure or on the comparison of information structure in Chinese and English. As a result, there are few studies on information structure in a certain writing style, let alone in English news broadcast. Considering the above deficiencies, the thesis makes a tentative exploration on the features of information structure exhibited in English news broadcast.

The thesis hopes that its analysis will be beneficial to the understanding of the nature of news broadcast, so as to help listeners obtain information in a better way on the one hand. On the other hand, the thesis also hopes that it can construct for journalists a framework of how to organize and convey information efficiently in news broadcast. In addition, the author hopes that the approach exerted in this thesis can provide a new perspective for the analysis of how information structure functions in other genres. Furthermore, English news broadcast is of special meaning to the English majors. Many universities and colleges have adopted English news broadcast as teaching materials and they are offering the specialized courses for students in order to improve students' listening comprehension. The thesis also hopes that it can play a referential role for them.

### **1.3 Structure of the Thesis**

This thesis consists of six chapters.

Chapter One is the introduction, which presents the research background, the purpose and the significance of the research as well as the structure of this thesis.

Chapter Two is devoted to the literature review, focusing on the previous studies of English news broadcast and information structure. The features of news broadcast were presented at first. After that, the thesis gives an overview of some historical studies on English news broadcast and information structure both at abroad and at home in order to find out the feasibility and originality of this study.

Chapter Three aims to construct a theoretical framework for the present study. Two important theories, namely, Halliday's information theory and van Dijk's concept of macrostructure, are expounded in this chapter. The combination of these two theories serves as an efficient analytical tool for the study of information structure.

Chapter Four is the description of research methodology, in which the ways of data collection and the research methods adopted in the thesis are presented.

Chapter Five is the main body of this thesis. Based on the theoretical framework constructed in Chapter Three, the thesis conducts a concrete exploration of the

features of information structure in all news samples both at the micro level and at the macro level. The major findings are presented and discussed in this chapter. Quantitative and qualitative research methods are adopted in the process of the analysis.

Conclusions are drawn in Chapter Six, in which the major findings and the implications are generalized again. Limitation is also pointed out in order to provide some suggestions for future research.



## Chapter Two Literature Review

### 2.1 English News Broadcast

#### 2.1.1 Introduction to News Broadcast

News broadcast is one of important mass media, which transmits information by means of sounds through radio waves. In a broad sense, it can be classified into broadcast messages, broadcast features, broadcast reviews, etc. And in a narrow sense, it only refers to broadcast messages. This thesis conducted its studies just in the narrow sense. All the selected news samples are broadcast messages.

As a variety of news discourse, news broadcast not only shares the universal features of news discourse, but also bears its own particular characteristics. Different from newspapers which report news in written form, news broadcast spreads information by sounds through radio waves. Therefore, sounds are the only medium for the information transmission in news broadcast. And it is this special transmission mode that decides the unique features of news broadcast.

On the one hand, news broadcast is featured with “timeliness”, “novelty”, and “briefness”. News broadcast transmits information timely at a high speed due to the speed of radio waves. And its transmission is seldom restricted by spaces and regions. Hence, news broadcast can report the current events as instantly as possible. In addition, it can switch the contents at any time, in other words, it is a real simultaneous mass medium. From this angle, newspapers seem to be in an inferior place for its report of “yesterday’s news”. On the other hand, the timeliness of news broadcast decides that the contents of news should be fresh and novel. That is to say, the news obtained by audience should usually happen several hours ago or even several minutes ago, so that audience can be kept informed timely. Considering the novelty and timeliness, news broadcast is always changing its report contents in order for people to get the latest information. Briefness, as another feature of news broadcast, requires that the broadcasting time of a message is limited in a short period, usually within one minute, though some long messages may reach four minutes or so. According to Hu Xin (2006), VOA broadcasts thirty pieces of news items within fifteen minutes, which equals to broadcasting one piece of news only in thirty seconds. More surprisingly, BBC does the same thing in a shorter time.

On the other hand, news broadcast also has its own deficiencies due to the restriction of its transmission mode. Specifically, as sound is the only transmission medium, the languages and the structures of news broadcast are subject to the

influence and the restriction of sound. For example, on account of the transience of sound and no communication between broadcasters and audience, it is easy for audience to miss some important information when they are absent-minded. Thus, the languages in news broadcast are required to be concise, explicit and easy to understand and at the same time the information should be conveyed as much as possible in a short time span.

### **2.1.2 Previous Studies on English News Discourse**

Before reviewing the studies on English news broadcast, it is advisable for us to expand our view into the studies of news discourse because doing so can provide some references for the following review. Moreover, previous researches and works devoted to the English news discourse will be inspirational and instructive to the present study.

News discourse, as a special genre, has always been the interest of scholars in new studies, sociology and linguistics. For example, the definition of news has been a controversial topic to both linguists and journalistic scholars for many years. This thesis adopts such a definition as: news is a kind of information which informs people with the latest changes of events (Zhou Shenglin, Yin Degang & Mei Yi, 2004). This definition regards news as a kind of information and puts emphasis on the importance of “informing”. So, it, generally speaking, meets the needs of our linguistic study based on information theory.

With the rapid development of linguistic theories in the last few decades of the 20th century, a lot of researches on English news discourse have been conducted from various angles. In the following parts, some major methods that scholars previously applied to English news discourse will be introduced.

#### **2.1.2.1 Stylistic Studies of News Discourse**

Traditionally, stylists took considerable interest in journalistic English. They hold that journalistic English, as one of special varieties of English, has its own distinguished language and stylistic features. Accordingly, the stylistic analyses are centered upon the vocabulary, sentence grammar and the superficial structure. For example, overseas experts and scholars, including Crystal & Davy (1969), Brook (1979), Donnell and Todd (1991), contribute a lot to the study of stylistic features of news English. At home, many scholars, such as Qin Xiubai (1986), Wang Zuoliang & Ding Wangdao (1987), Hou Weirui (1988), Xu Youzhi (1992), also carry out quantitative studies to figure out the stylistic features by exploring news reports from different respects. In their works, a large number of stylistic features, like

disagreement of the tense, one-sentence paragraphs, long sentences, frequent use of dashes, abbreviations, coined words, complex noun phrases, etc., are revealed, which is undoubtedly helpful in people's understanding of journalistic English as a particular writing style. However, those are by far not the total stylistic research being done. Scholars' enthusiasm in journalistic English never wanes, which result in the publication of many research articles or books in the past years (Zhang Jian, 1994; Ran Yongping, 1996; Zhang Delu, 1998; Yang Xueyan, 2001; Tan Weiguo, 2004).

Nevertheless, the genre analysis in the above works is still a description of the superficial features of news. The researches in this aspect are basically confined to probing lexical, syntactical and rhetorical features of journalistic English. Therefore, these studies are rather static and it is hard to make a breakthrough. Later, with the development of linguistic theories, researches involved in news reports have been conducted from other respects and some dynamic approaches have arisen.

#### **2.1.2.2 Structural Analysis of News Discourse**

The structural analysis of news discourse, also called textual analysis, originally derives from the framework of story analysis, especially Labov's narrative analysis which includes six components: abstract, orientation, action, evaluation, resolution and coda (1972).

Among all the contributions made by western scholars to the structural analysis of English news discourse, one significant representative worth mentioning is van Dijk. van Dijk adopts a socio-cognitive approach to analyze the structure of news stories, the practices of news production and news comprehension. In analyzing the structure of news, van Dijk makes a distinction between "macro" and "micro" structures of news discourse. The former relates to the overall content of a text — its "thematic" structure, and the overall form of a text — its "schematic" structure; while the latter, "micro" structure of news discourse, is analyzed in terms of semantic relations between propositions, syntactic and lexical characteristics of newspaper style, and rhetorical features of news report. In his book *News as Discourse*, van Dijk (1988) points out that a discourse has its own or organizing principles and it needs some kind of overall syntax, which can define the possible forms in which topics or themes can be inserted and ordered in the actual text. This global form of the discourse can be defined in terms of a rule-based schema, where semantic representations are mapped onto syntactic structures of sentences.

Accordingly, van Dijk puts forward a hypothetical structure of a news schema which is of great importance in the understanding of a news story from the

perspective of its macrostructure, production and comprehension.

At home, Xin Hong (2000) and Fan Hong (2002) both explore the macrostructural features of news discourses in English newspapers. Zhu Yumei and Zhang YongLing (2007), based on the theory of macrostructure, probe the thinking process of decoding and producing an English news discourse.

However, van Dijk (1988) points out that it is still unknown about the exact process of how journalists understand news environment and of how their understanding influences the production of news discourses. As well, more researches and further analysis of microstructure about news are needed under the structural analysis.

### **2.1.2.3 Critical Analysis of News Discourse**

Critical discourse analysis is a socially oriented application of linguistic analysis. It adopts the Hallidayan system-functional grammar as its theoretical basis. And, it first emerged as a pragmatic development in European discourse studies spearheaded by Norman Fairclough, Ruth Wodak, van Dijk, and others. These scholars strived to unravel the hidden ideology and power in language. Accordingly, some concepts like domination, control and ideology were introduced into linguistics.

Generally, critical discourse analysis seeks to display the patterns of beliefs and values which are encoded in the language by studying the minute details of the linguistic structure in the light of its social and historical situation of a discourse (Fowler, 1991). As a powerful means of decoding a discourse, critical discourse analysis explores the interrelation among language, power and ideology in order to work out how ideology influences the production of news discourses, how news discourses counteract ideology, how ideology and news discourses originate from current social structures and power relations, and how they together serve the consolidation of social-political organizations.

At home, a lot of scholars have conducted various researches by applying critical discourse analysis to news discourse analysis. Among them, Xin Bin is a prominent character. Xin Bin (1996, 1997) makes use of mood and transitivity within the framework of critical linguistics to trace the ideological implications involved in news reports. In 2000, he reiterates that the critical approach should be adopted in analyzing news reports, combined with the Halliday's functional grammar as well as with other theories in the field of philosophy, literature, and linguistics.

Another scholar Yan Weihua (2001) conducts a critical analysis of a sample news report about the bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Yugoslav to examine how

context, transitivity, thematic structure, and cohesion devices are embodied in a news discourse. According to one of the conclusions, marked themes and cohesion devices are deliberately chosen in the sample news, which reflects the reporter's attempt to understate the responsibility that the US should shoulder in the very event. By this way, the author reveals the relationship between language and the implicit ideology through application of functional approach in the analysis.

In short, the application of critical discourse analysis to news discourse sheds light on how certain groups and institutes with the power of language control distribute through news discourse particular ideology in agreement with their own interests either directly or indirectly. More and more people have realized the close relations between language and society. However, questioning voices also exist. On the one hand, Stubbs (1983) once doubted the objectivity and the reliability of critical discourse analysis; and on the other hand, most of the researches with regard to critical discourse analysis ignore or seldom pay attention to the reaction of readers or listeners. Just as Widdowson points out, "the producers and consumers of texts are never consulted" and "the analysts use the linguistic features of the text selectively to confirm their own prejudice" (1998: 143).

#### **2.1.2.4 Functional Analysis of News Discourse**

At present, the most popular and widely used approach in news discourse analysis is the Hallidayan functional analysis. Halliday points out in his book *An Introduction to Functional Grammar* that his purpose of constructing Systemic-Functional Grammar (SFG) is "... to construct a grammar for purposes of text analysis: one that would make it possible to say sensible and useful things about any text, spoken or written, in modern English" (1994: XV).

SFG can incorporate other linguistic theories in discourse analysis. Therefore, many linguists believe that SFG is a suitable theory for discourse analysis (Huang Guowen, 2001). From this angle, SFG can be said to provide an efficient and comprehensive theoretical framework for news discourse analysis. With the development of SFG, the theories of transitivity, mood and modality, theme and rheme as well as cohesion and coherence within the framework of SFG are widely used in the study of news discourse and they have proved to be particularly useful.

Many scholars have applied the functional grammar to explore a certain sub-type of news discourse. For example, Ju Yumei (2004) carries out a research of sports news by analyzing six pieces of sample news reports on football match from *The New York Times*. Her quantitative research sheds much light on the characteristics

of sports news reports in English newspaper. Similarly to Ju's research, Yang Xueyan (2004) also applies SFG in her study on the features of international political news reports in newspapers. Many others, Shang Yuanyuan (2001), Chu Jun (2004), to name a few, also conduct quantitative researches in examining the characteristics of other sub-types of news English from the perspective of functional grammar.

Other scholars like Qiu Yanping place emphasis not on the features of any particular sub-type of news discourse but on the overall features of news discourses themselves. Qiu Yanping (2003) investigates the textual functions and the linguistic features of the first sentences in VOA news items. In the light of SFG, Qiu finds that the first sentence of a news item constitutes the core of its whole content, providing the elementary and generalized information like who, when, where, what, why, and how, which confirms the reasonable requirements of news reports. Qiu's study throws light on the application of Hallidayan theories in the research of a news discourse itself rather than in the exploration of the characteristics of a particular sub-type of news discourse.

So far, various approaches in analyzing English news discourse have been briefly reviewed. This overview presents a whole picture of the previous studies of news discourse and it provides a referential function for the following review of the studies on English news broadcast.

### **2.1.3 Previous Studies on English News Broadcast**

Compared with the abundant achievements in the studies of English news discourse, the studies on English news broadcast seem rather rare. This is mainly for the reason that most of the previous researches put emphasis on the news in written form, that is, the news reports in newspapers, magazines or other publications. Consequently, the study on news broadcast is relatively inadequate. In addition, many studies in this aspect are confined mainly to stylistic features and language features, such as Zhang Jian (1992), Li Xiaohua (1996) and Jiang Xiaoyan (1997).

However, the thesis also sees a new trend happening in the research of English news broadcast. With its powerful analytic function, Halliday's functional grammar has been widely used in many linguistic researches in recent years. Accordingly, the researches of English news broadcast have switched from stylistic studies to functional studies. For example, Chu Jun (2004), based on Halliday's functional grammar, discusses the stylistic features of English radio news reports from the angle of cultural context, situational context and the use of language. Zhou Donghua (2006), based on Halliday's cohesion theory, makes a detailed study of how cohesive devices

are used in radio news reports. Peng Huan (2007) investigates 50 sample scripts of news broadcast in English which are randomly chosen from VOA and BBC websites so as to find out some particular features of thematic progression in this genre.

In addition, Tan Shanyan (2005) and Zhang Yin (2006) conduct respectively the exploration of information structure in English news broadcast. Tan Shanyan draws a conclusion that a theme structure is not necessarily consistent with old information and a rheme structure does not necessarily correspond to new information. Based on Martin's and Halliday's theories on information structure, Zhang Yin explores the information structure of a news report from both macro and micro perspectives.

Both Tan Shanyan's and Zhang Yin's researches provide some references for the following analysis conducted in this thesis. But their studies are too simple and brief.

## **2.2 Development and Application of Information Theory**

The terminology "Information Structure" was first put forward by Halliday but its study goes back earlier to the beginning of modern linguistics, to the work of the Czech linguist Mathesius in the 1920s.

Prior to World War I, the Prague School began the research of information structure. Vilem Mathesius, one of the founders of diachronic linguistics, used for the first time the notion of theme and rheme in his outline *On the Potentiality of the Phenomena of Language*. In his point of view, a sentence has its own continuity and it can be divided into two parts, theme, which refers to what the addressee has already known, and rheme, which is the fact to explain theme (Qian Jun, 1994). Mathesius's theory of theme and rheme later was developed to Functional Sentence Perspective (FSP) in which a clause is divided into two functioning parts: theme and rheme. According to FSP, rheme shows its significance as the conveyor of New information, while theme, being informatively insignificant, is employed as a relevant means of the construction. Thus theme links each sentence with previous one, while rheme gradually moves to the meaning which the discourse is to convey. Later, J. Firbas puts up with the notion of Communicative Dynamism (CD). "CD is meant to measure the amount of information an element carries in a sentence" (Hu Zhuanglin & Jiang Wangqi, 2002: 679). Generally, the elements which carry the lowest degree of CD are put in the front position within a linear arrangement and the elements which carry the highest degree of CD are often placed in the last position. This is similar to the principle of end-focus.

Later, Halliday fully acknowledges his debts to Prague school. In 1967, Halliday published his famous article *on Transitivity and Theme in English*. In the article,

Halliday adopts the notion of Theme and Rheme and the binary division of information: “New information — the information the addressor believes the addressee does not know, and Given information — the information the addressor believes the addressee already knows (either because it is physically present in the context or because it has already been mentioned in the discourse)” (Brown & Yule, 2000: 154).

In his research, Halliday places special emphasis on the connection between the information structure and the phonetic means in spoken English. He holds the view that intonation is a means to express information structure and a coherent speech is an unbroken succession with distinctive tone group, which represents the speaker’s organization of information unit. The information unit is not necessarily the same length as a clause, though it is often so. The information unit consists of an obligatory “new element” and an optional “given element”; the main stress (tonic nucleus) marks the end of the “new element” and anything that is “given” precedes the new. The given is treated as non-recoverable information which “the listener is not being expected to derive for him from the text or the situation.” (Halliday, 1970:160)

The investigation into information structure together with its application has become an important topic in the linguistic research and it is attracting more and more attention of linguists, translators, language teachers and other experts.

In China, many scholars have contributed a lot to the research of information structure. Their contributions focus on three aspects: the comparison of information structure between Chinese and English, the relation of information structure and thematic structure, and the application of information structure to teaching.

For example, Zhang Jin and Zhang Keding (1998) have made a detailed analysis of the characteristics of information structure in Chinese, the means of marking information focus, and the features of the sentential topic, etc. Li Tianxin (2005) proposes several strategies to translate special sentence patterns with extraposed elements on the basis of the contrast of English and Chinese information structure. Yu Hongliang and Jia Aiwu (1994) conduct a full discussion of the application of the information theory to the transfer of Chinese sentence focus into English. After the analysis of the features of English and Chinese sentence focus, they propose that a translator should avoid imposing the information structure in Chinese upon the target language when conducting translation from Chinese into English.

Many other scholars, Peng Xuanwei (2000), Fu Xitao and Chen Lijiang (2002), Xu Liejiong and Pan Haihua (2005) also have done much work on the comparison of



information structure in Chinese and English. Their studies have greatly enhanced the insight into the nature of both Chinese and English, which will provide a solid foundation for the translation strategies between Chinese and English.

Meanwhile, other scholars focus their researches on the relations between information structure and thematic structure from the functional angle. Liu Yunhong (2005) carries out studies on discourse information and its classification. Chen Hu (2003) makes a review of multi-perspective studies of information structure. Chen Bao (2005) expounds the close relation of these two different but correlated systems and the implications that the psychological information conveys.

As to the application of information structure to teaching, much work has been done, too. Liu Chendan (1999) explores textual informativity and its influence on readers' cognitive process. Similarly, Jia Xueqin and Chen Zhonghua (2005) discuss the relationship between textual informativity and communicational expectancy. Liu Yuanfu and Zhang Jun (2004) probe language teaching directly from the perspective of information theory. All the studies above are beneficial to English teaching and learning.

### **2.3 Summary**

In the above two sections, the thesis first made a brief review of the studies of English news discourse and English news broadcast, and then gave a review of the development and the application of information theory. Through the review, the thesis finds at least two deficiencies in the studies of news discourse. On the one hand, most of the previous researches on English news discourse put emphasis on the news in written form, that is, the news reports in newspapers, magazines or other publications. Consequently, the study on news broadcast is relatively inadequate. In addition, many studies in English news broadcast are confined mainly to the stylistic features. On the other hand, though quite a few theories based on the Hallidayian functional grammar have been widely applied in news discourse analysis, the studies of how information is organized and distributed in English news discourse is rather weak. At present, scholars at home usually focus their attention either on the relations between information structure and thematic structure or on the comparison of information structure in Chinese and English. As a result, there are few studies on information structure in a certain writing style, let alone in English news broadcast. Considering the above deficiencies, the thesis makes a combination of Halliday's information theory and van Dijk's conception of macrostructure to conduct a tentative exploration on the features of information structure exhibited in English news broadcast.

## Chapter Three Theoretical Background

### 3.1 Halliday's Information Theory

#### 3.1.1 Information Structure

##### 3.1.1.1 Definition of Information Structure

As mentioned earlier in Chapter One, in order to convey a message effectively, New information is usually combined with a certain amount of Given information during a speech. These two elements together make up an information unit and the different arrangements of New information and Given information in the information unit results in different information structures.

Simply speaking, information structure is a form of discourse organization and it is the interplay of New information and Given information in the linguistic sense (Halliday, 2000). Information structure does not correspond exactly to any unit in the traditional grammar. On the contrary, it is related with the internal organization of an information unit, that is, how Given information and New information are distributed within an information unit. According to Halliday's theory, a speaker has to package his message in a series of information units but the speaker can decide how he wished to package the information at his own will (2000). That is to say, the speaker is "free to decide where each information unit begins and ends, and how it is organized internally" (Brown & Yule, 2000: 155).

At home, Professor Zhang Jin and Zhang Keding (1998) put forward their own understanding of information structure, which is a beneficial supplement to Halliday's information theory. They hold that there are two kinds of information structure: one is seen from the linguistic viewpoint, that is, the so-called information structure discussed in this thesis; the other is viewed from the angle of contrastive linguistics. Their understanding of the former information structure is similar to Halliday's. Given and New information can be combined with each other to form certain organizations to convey information. And information structure is just the organization model of Given and New information in the course of information transmission.

Generally speaking, the speaker will order Given information before New information in the unmarked sequencing of information structure and New information before Given information in the marked sequencing of information structure.

### 3.1.1.2 Given Information and New Information

Since Given and New information play a key role in the formation of information structure, a question immediately appears in our view, that is, how to define them.

The definitions of Given information and New information are various according to different scholars, such as Chafe (1976). Halliday (1994) holds that New information is assumed to be non-recoverable to the listener/reader, which is the most important part of the information unit as it is what the speaker/writer intends the listener/reader to receive; Given Information, on the other hand, is assumed to be recoverable to the listener/reader because it is explicitly provided in the preceding linguistic context or implicitly provided in view of the situational context or the shared cultural background. One function of Given information is to provide a link between clauses or sentences and the context so that the sentences are chained to form a coherent discourse. Thus, as a rule, in a coherent speech or writing, the clauses or sentences tend to progress from what is taken to be given to what is taken to be new.

Zhang Jin and Zhang Keding (1998) provide a more accurate definition. Given information (or Old) is the information which a sender believes or assumes has already existed in an addressee's mind when the addressor says to the addressee including the correlative information associated with that information; while New information is the information that the addressor wants to send to the addressee's mind when the addressor speaks.

Through the comparison of Halliday's and Zhang's definitions, the thesis notices that in Zhang's definition, "the correlative information" is added to Given information, and by doing so, their definition becomes more accurate. Zhang Jin and Zhang Keding (1998) give their own explanation that the scope of Given information will be narrow if it doesn't include the correlative information and the value of correlative information lies in the fact that people tend to associate a notion with its related information. Zhang Jin and Zhang Keding also quote Xu Shenghuan's notes about what the correlative information means. There are six kinds of correlative information.

(A) "whole-part,  $\leftarrow$ " ( $\leftarrow$  stands for the relation)

house  $\leftarrow$  sitting room, bed room

New York  $\leftarrow$  Manhattan

(B) "set - element,  $\in$ " and "element - element,  $-$ "

YEAR = {January, February, March ... December}

January  $\in$  YEAR

January – February / March – August

(C) “general – specific,  $\leq$ ”

animal  $\leq$  tiger / furniture  $\leq$  sofa – bed

(D) “implication,  $\supset$ ”

negotiation  $\supset$  negotiator (a negotiation implies the presence of negotiators)

It was raining hard. The wet street kept them from making a dash for it.

raining  $\supset$  wet street

(E) “opposition,  $\times$ ”

Exported goods will be cheaper, and imported cars more expensive.

exported (goods)  $\times$  imported cars

cheap(er)  $\times$  (more) expensive

(F) “temporal co-existence,  $\leftrightarrow$ ” (temporal co-existence usually exists in a certain context and without this context, this relation will disappear.)

The time dragged on. The clock seemed to refuse to strike twelve.

time  $\leftrightarrow$  clock (time is embodied by clock; if there is no time, the relation of time and clock here will disappear.)

(G) “intersection,  $n$ ”

This relation is borrowed from set theory.

If  $A = \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ ;  $B = \{2, 4, 6, 8\}$

Then  $A \cap B = \{2\}$

man = {HUMAN, ADULT, MALE}

woman = {HUMAN, ADULT, FEMALE}

man  $\cap$  woman = {HUMAN, ADULT}

The above six kinds of correlative information can function as a device to distinguish Given and New information. Actually, besides those correlative relations, some cohesive devices including reference, substitution and lexical repetition put forward by Halliday and Hasan in the book *Cohesion in English* (1976), can also be used to separate Given and New information.

### 3.1.1.3 Patterns of Information Structure

Zhang Jin and Zhang Keding (1998) hold that there are six patterns of information structure if the study is limited to the sentence level. The underlined elements in the following examples stand for new information.

(A) Given + New

He is the new schoolmaster.

(B) New + Given

When will he arrive here?

(C) Given + New + Given

Tom performed little work.

(D) New + Given + New

Who hit whom?

(E) New + New

Thirty five vehicles were involved in a multiple collision on the M. 1  
motorway this morning.

(F) Given + Given

Henry is my friend, you know.

### 3.1.2 Information Focus

#### 3.1.2.1 Definition of Information Focus

In New information, some elements, conveying the information which is considered to be more important than others, are referred to as information focus. Information focus is the emphasis a sentence wants to stress. Halliday describes information focus as the constituent containing New information rather than the assumed information. He gives the following explanation. "Information focus is one kind of emphasis, that whereby the speaker marks out a part (which may be the whole) of a message block as that which he wishes to be interpreted as informative. What is focal is New information; not in the sense that it cannot have been previously mentioned, although it is often the case that it has not been, but in the sense that the speaker presents it as not being recoverable from the preceding discourse" (1967: 204).

As New information is more important than Given information in communicative values, speakers will usually make Given information precede New information. The nearer to the end of a sentence information is, the newer it becomes (Zhang Bojiang & Fang Mei, 1996). This kind of arrangement of information is called End Weight, which accords with the common process of psychological cognition. Accordingly, in this unmarked sequencing of information structure, the most important New information or information focus is placed in the rear part of the utterance and it is called end-focus. For example,

(1) I'll fly to Beijing next week.

The underlined phrase *next week* is the information focus. It is also the end-focus because it is at the end of the sentence.

On the other hand, New information may appear before Given information in the marked sequencing of information structure. In this case, information focus is called marked focus. For example:

(2) -- How will you go to Beijing next week?

-- I'll fly to Beijing.

In the example, *fly to* becomes the information focus because it appears before the Given information *next week* which has been mentioned in the first sentence. So, *fly to* is what the speaker wants to stress and it is a marked focus.

In addition, there is a kind of contrastive focus which is stressed by speakers for the purpose of making a contrast of some important information (Zhang Bojiang & Fang Mei, 1996). The examples are shown as follows:

(3) The south is fertile and the north is barren.

(4) You jump; I jump.

(5) If he doesn't come here, Ill not get here.

(6) Man proposes; God disposes.

The underlined components in each sentence constitute a pair of contrastive focuses.

### 3.1.2.2 Different Ways of Marking Information Focus

There are numerous ways for a speaker to manipulate the language to highlight information focus in order to make the addressee easily identify it. According to Dutch linguist Dik (1989), the devices of marking information focus are classified into four types, namely, prosodic prominence, special constituent order, special focus markers and special focus constructions.

Prosodic prominence refers to emphatic accent; special constituent order means special position for focus constituents in the linear order of the clause; special focus markers actually are particles which mark off the focus constituent from the rest of the clause; and special focus constructions refer to the constructions which intrinsically define a specific constituent as having the focus function. In short, those four types in fact can be abbreviated as accent device, position device, lexical device and syntactic or grammar device.

In verbal communication, the transmission of information is realized mainly at the phonetic level. Putting nucleus stress on the focused element is the most common way in almost all languages. Since news broadcast is a kind of one-way verbal

information and “nucleus placement is the principle means of focusing in English” (Cruttenden, 1980: 81), the following section will mainly discuss the accent device. The other three types, position device, lexical device and syntactic device, are preferred in written discourse compared with the accent device.

In verbal communication, phonological components, such as intonation, pause and nucleus, all can play the role of conveying information.

Intonation refers to the rise and fall of the pitch of the voice during a speech. For example, a falling tune is basically used to express definiteness and completeness, which is often used in declarative sentences, special questions, imperative sentences and exclamatory sentences. A rising tune generally means asking some questions.

The different placements of pause in a sentence also lead to the change of sentence meaning. For example,

(7) She fed her dog biscuits.

If a pause is placed between her dog and biscuits, the sentence means that she fed biscuits to her dog. And if the pause is placed between her and dog biscuits, then the sentence becomes *she fed dog biscuits to her*. The two sentences are greatly different in meaning.

Different with intonation and pause, the role of nucleus is to mark the most important information in an information unit, that is, to mark information focus (Zhang Jin & Zhang Keding, 1998). Although, intonation, pause and nucleus can all play the role of conveying information, the device for marking information focus is only concerned with the placement of nucleus. Therefore, the following section will probe the relationship of nucleus and information focus.

### **3.1.2.3 The relation of Information Focus and Nucleus**

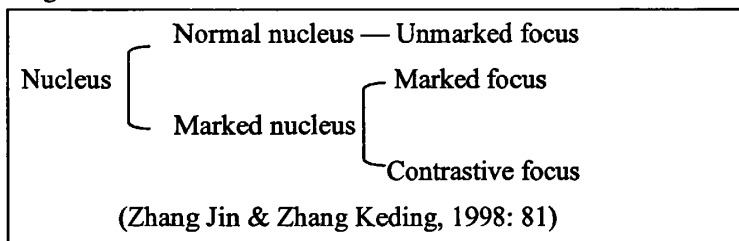
During verbal communication, information focus is demonstrated mainly by means of nucleus. Nucleus is one part of a full tone group which consists of prehead, head, body, nucleus and tail. Tone is the basic form of information unit and one sentence can be divided into one or more tone groups. Within a tone group, the foot (in particular its first syllables) carries the main pitch movement. This feature is known as Tonic Prominence. The element with this prominence is said to be carrying information focus. Nucleus plays a key role in a tone just because it is the stressed syllable which the speaker wishes to give the greatest prominence by means of a pitch movement. In other words, nucleus is essential in a tone for it marks information focus. Traditionally, the information focus in Halliday’s system is what we call nucleus in intonation system. Prominence and nucleus refer to the same item in a

clause (Tian Zhaoxia, 2005).

Under usual conditions, the nucleus of a tone falls on the last lexical element of the sequence for the reason that people process a message usually in a linear order from low information value to high information value. The nucleus in this phenomenon is referred to as normal nucleus. If the nucleus falls on the other elements except the end elements, it is known as marked nucleus.

As illustrated above, information focus includes unmarked focus, marked focus and contrastive focus. These three types of information focus, as a matter of fact, are decided by the placement of nucleus. In other words, unmarked nucleus indicates unmarked information focus and marked nucleus denotes marked information focus. If speakers use marked nucleus to make a comparison, then this marked nucleus presents contrastive information focus. The relation of nucleus and information focus is expressed as follows:

Figure 1 Relations between Information Focus and Nucleus



Actually, nucleus can be placed on any word. Not only the beginning but also any other position of a tone group can carry tonic prominence. The following group of sentences describes the possible positions of nucleus and focus.

- (8) a. John is painting his living room blue.  
 b. John is painting his living room blue.  
 c. John is painting his living room blue.  
 d. John is painting his living room blue.  
 e. John is painting his living room blue.

Each sentence above is regarded as a tone group. The underlined components are the tonic prominence of each tone group, based on the corresponding presupposition in sentences a' to e':

- a' Someone is painting his living room blue.  
 b' John is doing something to make his living room blue.  
 c' John is painting somebody's living room blue.  
 d' John is painting his something blue.  
 e' John is painting his living room some color.



Thus, it is believed that nucleus possesses the function of comparison or correcting misunderstanding.

On the other hand, due to contextual factors, nucleus can be placed on a word, a phrase or even a clause. Hence, information focus is diversified correspondingly. For example:

(9) a. (What is the boy playing?)

The boy is playing basketball with a stranger.

b. (What is the boy doing?)

The boy is playing basketball with a stranger.

c. (Who is playing basketball?)

The boy is playing basketball with a stranger.

d. (With whom is the boy playing basketball?)

The boy is playing basketball with a stranger.

e. (What's on now?)

The boy is playing basketball with a stranger.

### 3.1.3 Thematic Structure

#### 3.1.3.1 Theme and Rheme

As mentioned before, the transmission of information, in nature, is the mutual conversion of Given and New information. To obtain a good understanding of micro information structure – how Given and New information relate to and convert into each other and how they progress in the discourse, two terms have to be mentioned again, namely, theme and rheme.

Theme and rheme are initiated by Prague school to suggest the function of introducing topic or theme in a sentence. In his book *Introduction to Functional Grammar*, Halliday develops them into thematic structure which fulfills the textual function of the three meta-functions, namely ideational, interpersonal and textual functions. According to Halliday (1994: 37), “the theme is the element which serves as the point of departure of the message”, while the rheme, the counterpart in thematic structure, “is the remainder of the message, the part in which the theme is developed”.

Later, Halliday further distinguishes themes into simple theme and multiple themes. Simple theme is composed of one single element, a nominal group or a prepositional phrase, which in turn must be an element of transitivity system, say, an element of actor, process or circumstance. Multiple themes differ from simple theme because they can be further divided into textual theme, interpersonal theme and experiential theme. Accordingly, experiential theme is not the only element in

multiple themes any more, but it is still the necessary one which can coexist with textual and interpersonal themes. Halliday's exploration in multiple themes makes possible the analysis of many sentences with complex elements.

### 3.1.3.2 Patterns of Thematic Progression

Linguists Danes names the connection and the conversion of themes and rhemes throughout the whole text as thematic progression. He argues that thematic progression can indicate "where themes come from, and how they relate to other themes and rhemes in the text" and "it might be viewed as the skeleton of the plot" (1974: 114).

Linguists have made great effort to explore some regular patterns of thematic progression in various and complicated ways. Chinese scholars have done a great deal of work in this aspect and their findings are rich.

For instance, Xu Shenghuan (1982, 1985) proposes four types of thematic progression. Huang Yan (1985) classifies thematic progression into seven types. And based on Xu Shenghuan's work, Huang Guowen (1988) works out six progression patterns. Synthesizing so many findings at home, the thesis tends to import Professor Zhang Jin's classification of thematic structure (1998). In his point of view, there are six major types: contrastive pattern, parallel pattern, chain pattern, radial pattern, endocentric pattern, and zigzag pattern.

#### (A) Contrastive pattern

$A \rightarrow B$

$C \rightarrow D$

$A \rightarrow E$

$C \rightarrow F$

A, B, C, D, E and F stand for different information. Before the mark arrow is theme and after arrow is rheme. In this pattern, new information is introduced by the contrast of A and C.

#### (B) Parallel pattern

This pattern has two forms.

Form 1

$A \rightarrow B$

$A \rightarrow C$

$A \rightarrow \dots$

Form 2

$A \rightarrow B$

$A_1 \rightarrow C$

$A_2 \rightarrow \dots$

Every sentence in Form 1 has a common theme.

In Form 2, A and A<sub>1</sub>, A<sub>2</sub>, A<sub>3</sub> are related with each other. Though part of new

information is introduced from A to A1, to A2, and to A3, these pieces of new information still belong to the category of the same Given information A.

(C) Chain pattern

$A \rightarrow B$

$B \text{ (or } B1) \rightarrow C$

$C \text{ (or } C1) \rightarrow \dots$

The feature of this pattern is: the rheme in the first sentence is the theme of the second sentence; the rheme of the second sentence becomes the theme of the third sentence, and so on.

(D) Radial pattern

$B1 \rightarrow C$

$\nearrow$   
 $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow B2 \rightarrow D$   
 $\searrow$

$\dots \rightarrow E$

(E) Endocentric pattern

$A \searrow$

$B \rightarrow Z$

$\dots \nearrow$

(F) Zigzag pattern

$A \rightarrow B$

$C \rightarrow A$

$D \rightarrow C$

The above patterns provide a clear illustration for the organization of information structure within a paragraph and these modes of information structure are called microstructure of a discourse by Zhang Jin and Zhang Keding (1998).

### 3.1.4 Relations of Information Structure and Thematic Structure

According to Halliday (2000), information structure and thematic structure are the two structural features, which combine to make up the textual component in the grammar of English. To some extent, the two structures are quite similar. In most cases, there is a parallel equivalence between theme and Given information on the one hand, and between rheme and New information on the other hand at the clausal level (Halliday, 2000; Bloor & Bloor, 2001; Zhu Yongsheng et al., 2004).

However, the two structures are independent variables and they are not always parallel to each other. Given information and new information are listener-oriented, while theme and rheme are speaker-oriented (Halliday & Hasan, 1985). In

information structure, Given information is what a listener already knows from the context and New information is what the listener does not know from the addressor's point of view. While in thematic structure, theme refers to what the speaker wants to start with and rheme is what the speaker is going to talk about. In addition, in a clause, theme always occurs at the beginning, but the distribution of Given and New information is arbitrary. Information focus may fall on any element for the purpose of emphasis, which is determined by the tonic syllable or the tonic segment. In the unmarked cases, it falls on the final lexical item in the information unit, and in the marked cases, it falls on the stressed element.

Anyway, both of the two structures are concerned about the way that information is organized at the clausal level. By means of information structure solely, the study of information will be rather static for the reason that information structure is limited within a sentence, but thematic structure can provide a dynamic study of how information develops between sentences. Therefore, the combination of information structure and thematic structure can give the best illustration of how information is organized and conveyed in a discourse.

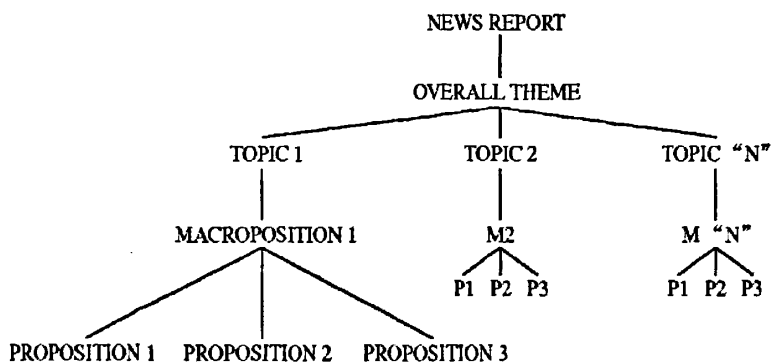
### **3.2 van Dijk's Macrostructure**

Macrostructure is a semantic structure at higher level of a discourse (van Dijk, 1980). It derives from the different propositions carried by clauses and it can generalize the propositions at the lower level through some macro-rules into higher propositions. van Dijk (1977) has ever said that the notion of macrostructure is introduced in order to provide an abstract semantic description of the global content and of the global coherence of a discourse. Xiong Xueliang (1991) points out that microstructure expresses the fundamental propositions about basic events or states and a certain number of these propositions can be generalized into a higher proposition, which is the conversion from microstructure to macrostructure. Accordingly, the conduct of the semantic information by macrostructure is a bottom-up course of mutual reasoning about propositions.

In his studies, van Dijk (1980) puts forward a macrostructure for new discourses. He holds that this macrostructure can demonstrate the reduction and generalization of language information by a tree diagram shown in Figure 2.

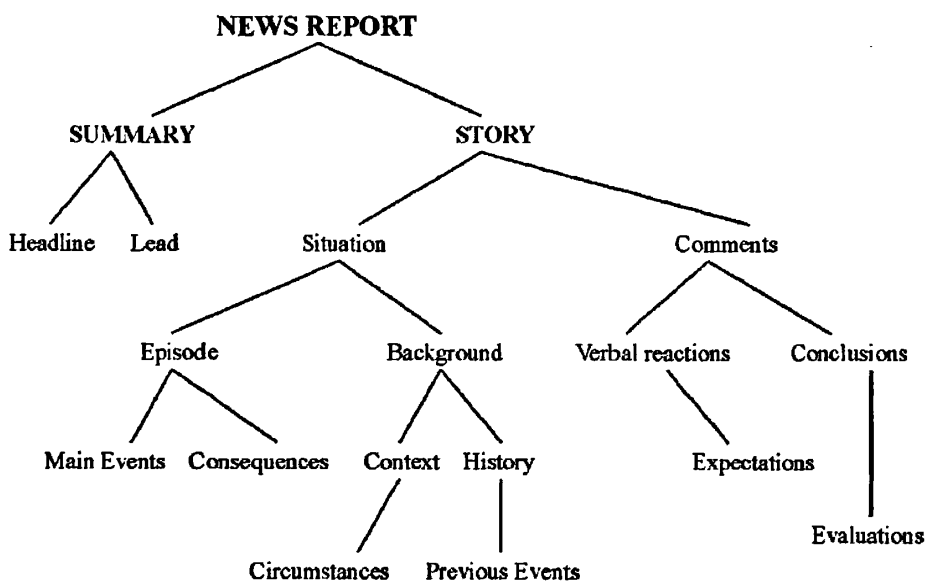
This semantic diagram clearly illustrates the hierarchical relation among topics, macropositions, and propositions, that is to say, it demonstrates the relation of the generalized and detailed description of news stories.

Figure 2 Macrostructure of News Discourses



van Dijk (1988: 55) points out that besides the above macrostructure, new discourse has a more vivid and concrete news schemata as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3 Hypothetical Structure of a News Schema



van Dijk holds that topics are usually organized by an abstract schema, consisting of conventional categories that specify what the overall function is of the topics of the text. Such a schema is called a superstructure. Just like stories or argumentations, news discourses also have their own hierarchical schema, consisting of such conventional categories as Headline, Lead, Main Events, Context, History, Verbal Reactions, and Comments. In each of these categories, the most important

information is expressed first and a top-down strategy is adopted in news discourses. This just conforms to the relevance principle: the most generalized information appears in advance and the following are the concrete information and the details.

Through the hierarchical order, the schema clearly shows the arrangement of the content, the overall structure of theme topics and the macrostructure of news discourse. The schema has two main parts: summary which includes headline and lead, and story which consists of situation and comments. Headline and lead reflect the focus topic of the whole discourse; situation is the description of news details which supports the focus topic; and comments carry journalists' points of view and evaluations. Fairclough (1995) holds that the above schema stands for the normal textual structure for most news discourses.

van Dijk (1980) introduces three macro-rules to explain how micropropositions convert into macropropositions, and till into a superstructure. These rules are deletion rule, generalization rule and construction rule, which will be expounded in Chapter Five.

### **3.3 Summary**

Halliday's information theory is an effective and widely applied approach for the analysis of how a news discourse organizes and distributes information. However, his theory is confined only to the micro level, that is, to the level of clause. How information is constructed at a higher level is overlooked.

On the contrary, the macrostructure proposed by van Dijk provides a macro view for news discourses. Accordingly, the information in a news discourse can be presented by the hierarchical relations at a macro level.

Therefore, Halliday's functional approach and van Dijk's macrostructure theory supplement each other in a mutual way. The combination of these two theories makes up a complete analytic tool for the study conducted in this thesis concerning the information structure in English news broadcast.

## Chapter Four Methodology

### 4.1 Data Collection

Generally, when analyzing a news discourse, researchers usually take no more than two complete texts as samples because a news discourse is long in length and it involves much workload in statistical analysis (Wang Zuoliang & Ding Wangdao, 1987). However, it is known that English news broadcast is relatively short compared with the written news reports. Out of this reason, twenty pieces of English news broadcast are investigated in the present research so as to promote the reliability of the analysis. Ten are selected from Voice of America and the other ten are from British Broadcasting Corporation. The reason for the selection of these two broadcasting stations lies in their large number of audience and their enormous influence on the world.

As mentioned in Chapter Two, news broadcast in a broad sense can be classified into broadcast messages, broadcast features, broadcast reviews, etc., and in a narrow sense, it only refers to broadcast messages. The news samples are selected just in the narrow sense. In other words, all the materials are messages, which are selected from <http://www.voanews.com/english/portal.cfm> and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>, the official websites of these two broadcasting stations. The corresponding scripts are also downloaded from these websites. To secure the credibility of the study, all the samples are collected randomly and the contents cover politics, economy, social life and entertainment. These news samples were broadcast within the four months from February 2008 to May 2008. Within such a short time span, the dynamic changes of the linguistic features in these news messages may not be taken into consideration.

### 4.2 Research Method

As far as the theoretic basis is concerned, the thesis makes a combination of Halliday's functional approach and van Dijk's theory of macrostructure.

Functional grammar initiated by Halliday is an effective and widely applied approach for discourse analysis. Information structure and thematic progression within textual functions can be exerted to disclose the information distribution and the structural relations within and between sentences in a coherent text. Information structure embodies how Given and New information are distributed within a sentence. And information focus is usually realized via tonic prominence or nucleus rather than the sequential arrangement of language units. Different from information structure, thematic structure, which aims to look into how themes and rhemes convert into and

relate to each other in a coherent text, is a key tool to discover how information develops along with the progression of themes in a whole text. In other words, Halliday's functional approach expands the scope of information study from the phonetic level into the sentence level. Although English news broadcast as a special genre shows the features of both spoken and written discourses, Halliday's theory of information structure can still provide an excellent analytic tool for the thesis because information structure and thematic structure can disclose how information is organized both from the phonetic aspect and from the sentence level.

On the other hand, the macrostructure proposed by van Dijk provides a macro view of news discourses. According to him, the information of a news discourse can be presented by the hierarchical relations at a macro level. Therefore, van Dijk's macrostructure and Halliday's functional approach together make up a complete tool for the analysis of information structure in English news broadcast.

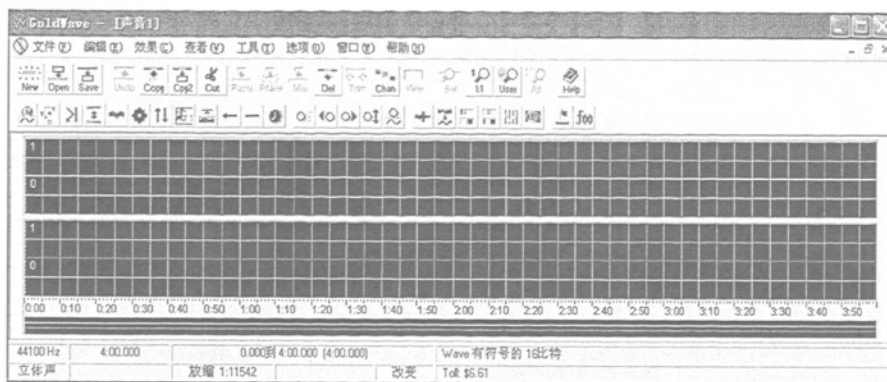
When it comes to the study methods, both quantitative and qualitative methods are adopted. Wen Qiufang (2001) presents three common choices for the analysis of qualitative data. The thesis adopts the third method "qualitative followed by quantitative".

Only 20 pieces are selected for the thesis from so much English news produced by different news broadcasting agencies. Thus, the research can be viewed as a qualitative study, which deals with a small amount of language materials in a certain field as a whole to observe and explore the nature of a text structure in a relatively comprehensive way. In the thesis, quantitative analysis follows the detailed qualitative treatment. Due to the length of the thesis, the whole analytical processes for the other materials are omitted, with only the analytical results being stated after the sample analysis.

In terms of the analysis procedure, the thesis will make studies from micro information structure to macro information structure. At the micro level, the thesis will first examine the relation of information focus and nucleus at the phonetic level. The software GoldWave is used in this step. GoldWave is an audio tool for sound editing, playing, recording, and converting. It can measure accurately the time that a certain word covers in reading. According to the volume of one word, it can be decided whether this word is information focus or not. Figure 4 is the screenshot of the operating window of GoldWave software. The amplitude in the vertical axis represents the prominence of a word in reading; and the horizontal abscissa stands for the time axis in which the time every word covers can be shown.

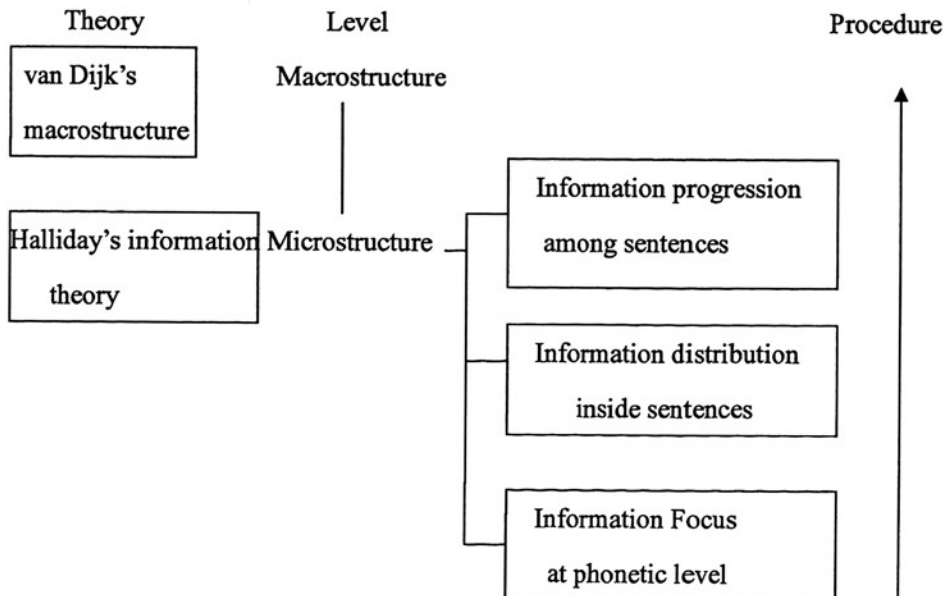


Figure 4 Screenshot of the Operating Window of GoldWave



Then the thesis will observe how information is distributed within a sentence, in which emphasis is placed on the distribution of Given and New information in an information unit. After that, information structure will be combined with thematic structure to explore how information progresses between sentences in a whole text. At the macro level, van Dijk's macrostructure will be exerted to probe the global information structure in English news broadcast at a higher level. The whole study is based upon the model illustrated in the following figure.

Figure 5 Research Methodology of the Thesis



## Chapter Five Data Analysis and Discussion

### 5.1 Micro Information Structure

This section mainly discusses information structure at the micro level, including the features of information focus at phonetic level, the patterns of information structure inside sentences and information progression among sentences.

#### 5.1.1 Information Focus

News broadcast is a special style which carries the mixed characteristics of both spoken style and written style. Compared with the news reports printed in publications, the prominent feature of news broadcast lies in the fact that it is a kind of one-way verbal information. Therefore, the features of information structure shown at phonetic level will be placed in the first place for consideration. In other words, the thesis will first examine whether news broadcast has special features in the arrangement of information in terms of the relation between information focus and nucleus.

Modern technologies bring convenience for the researches in linguistics. A large number of softwares have been developed for sound analysis. Liu Changjun (2007) once made use of COOLEDIT and wave surfer software to probe the relationship between speech rates and the recoverability of phonetic pause. This thesis will use GoldWave software to assist its study.

The thesis lists BBC News 9 for example to give a concrete description of how to make use of GoldWave in analyzing information focus. Due to the length of the thesis, only the first sentence is picked out for sample show. During the analysis, two procedures were adopted: one is to find the distribution of New and Given information in each sentence from the perspective of theme and rheme. The other is to use the GoldWave software to detect information focus. In all the following figures, the horizontal axis stands for time and the vertical axis represents amplitude; the higher the amplitude is, the higher the volume is. The highest volume represents the prominence. The figures were captured from Goldwave through pressing the printscreen button.

Sentence 1: A powerful earthquake in China is feared to have killed thousands of people in the southwestern province of Sichuan.

Analysis of information distribution based on theme and rheme:

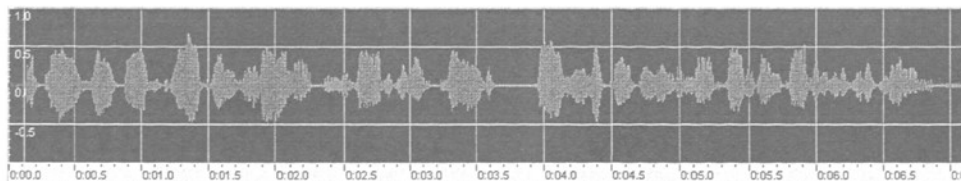
A powerful earthquake in China // is feared to have killed thousands of people in the southwestern province of Sichuan.

New	New
-----	-----

This sentence is the lead and it shows all new information.

Analysis of sound wave through Goldwave:

Figure 6



In order for a clear analysis, the picture was cut into three parts according to the semantic segmentation of Sentence1 and the words which correspond with the sound waves were also marked:

A powerful earthquake in China / is feared to have killed / thousands of people in the southwestern province of Sichuan.

Figure 7

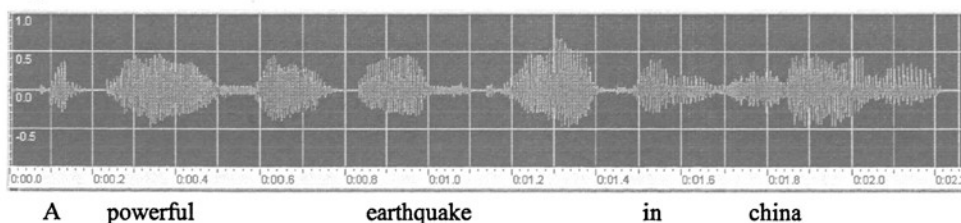


Figure 8

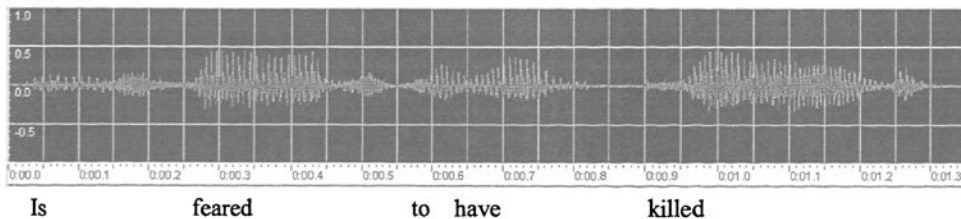
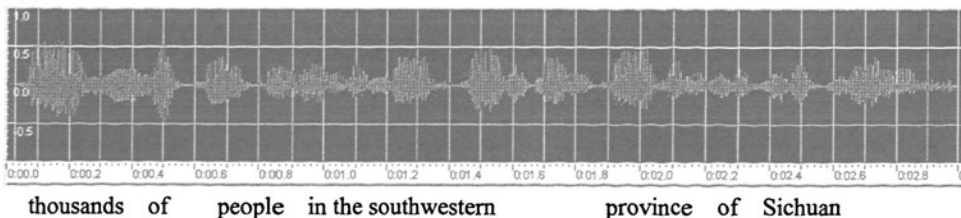


Figure 9



According to the above figures, two elements *earthquake* and *thousands of* show the highest volume and they cover the longest time span. *Earthquake* covers 598 milliseconds (from 0:00.829 to 0:01.428) and *thousands of* 552 milliseconds (from 0:00.023 to 0:00.575). Consequently, they are the prominences or the information focuses. There are two information focuses for the reason that both the theme and the rheme are loaded with new information.

Based on the above research method and procedures, the thesis made a further study of the rest sentences in BBC News 9.

According to the analysis, the thesis comes to the following conclusions.

Firstly, information focus usually carries the highest volume in most cases. That is, information focus is in line with tonic prominence. It is not surprising to draw such a conclusion and this conclusion accords with Halliday's research.

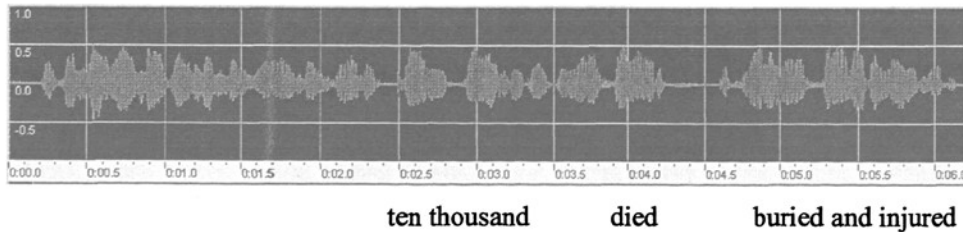
Secondly, however, it is not safely said that tonic prominence must mark information focus. In the research, it is found that sometimes a tonic prominence represents Given information as in the second sentence of BBC News 9.

Sentence 2: The official news agency Xihua // says nearly ten thousand people may have died, with many more buried and injured.

New	Given
-----	-------

Analysis of Sentence 2 through Goldwave:

Figure 10



In the above segmentation, the rheme carries the Given information which has been mentioned in Sentence 1, but through the sound analysis, some elements in the rheme, namely *ten thousand*, *died* and *buried and injured*, also occupy the highest volume. This result can be explained by the fact that the news actually puts emphasis on the degree of damage caused by the earthquake. Accordingly, the elements concerning the consequence of damage are stressed. This phenomenon occurs not only in Sentence 2 but also in other sentences of BBC News 9. Therefore, the tonic prominence not only marks the information focus which is the most important new information, but also it may mark some Given information in certain conditions because the Given information is also what the news wants to stress.

Thirdly, the thesis found that news broadcast mainly adopts falling tone as its elementary intonation. This is because the main task of news broadcast is not to put up with questions but to convey information. Thus, news is required to be broadcast in an indicative mood and falling tone is the fittest intonation to transmit news. At the same time, since news broadcasters are required to report news objectively and without personal comments and emotions, rising-falling tone is also rare.

To sum up, although tonic prominence marks Given information in certain contexts, it is still a useful means to distinguish the focus information. Since the features of information distribution at the phonological level have been discussed in detail in this section, the following sections will put emphasis on the scripts to explore the features of information structure from other perspectives.

### 5.1.2 Information Distribution inside Sentences

This section will explore how Given and New information are distributed within a sentence. Before the concrete analysis, the thesis first has to distinguish which elements are Given information and which elements are New information within a sentence. In Chapter Three, six kinds of correlative information are mentioned for their function as a device to distinguish Given and New information. They are whole-part, set-element, general-specific, implication, temporal co-existence, opposition, and intersection. Besides, some cohesive devices including reference, substitution and lexical repetition have also been spoken of to separate Given and New information. Based on the above relations, the thesis first made a distinction between the given information and the new information in every sentence of all news samples. For example,

In BBC News 8, *local police* (in Sentence 3) is regarded as given information because it is part of *the authorities* (in Sentence 1). The relation between them is whole-part: the authorities ← local police.

More examples are shown in the following exploration of patterns of information structure within a sentence.

In Chapter Three, the thesis mentioned six patterns of information structure. Zhang Jin and Zhang Keding (1998) hold that “New + New” and “Given + Given” patterns are relatively rare under usual circumstances. However, through the analysis of the news samples, this thesis finds that these two patterns appear many times in such a special register as news discourse; on the contrary, other two patterns listed by Zhang Jin and Zhang Keding seldom appear, namely, “Given + New + Given” and “New + Given + New”. In other words, the four patterns, “Given + New”, “New +

Given”, “New + New” and “Given + Given”, are the most widely used patterns in English news broadcast. In the following part, the thesis shows the sample sentences corresponding to the four patterns. The examples cited in these four models are all extracted from the news samples collected by the thesis. The underlined elements are New information.

(A) Given + New

(1) The finance minister also announced significant increases in spending on such social sectors as education and health. He said the government should keep an eye on inflation, due to higher global prices of crude oil, food and other commodities. ... The finance minister said the economy is slowing marginally: ... (from VOA News 3)

In the above three sentences, the patterns of information structure all fall into the “Given + New”, as Figure 11 shows:

Figure 11 Information Distribution in Example 1

	Given information	New information
Sentence 1	The finance minister	also ... and health.
Sentence 2	He	said ... other commodities
Sentence 3	The finance minister	said ... marginally

In Sentence 1, *the finance minister* is regarded as Given information for *the* embodies the relation of reference, which implies that this finance minister has been mentioned before. In fact, the context also proves this. Sentence 2 is just the same as Sentence 1. *He* is Given information as the result of its reference to *the finance minister*. In Sentence3, *the finance minister* is just the lexical repetition of the theme of Sentence 1 and therefore, it is also viewed as Given information. The rest elements in the three sentences are all New information, providing further information for their common theme *the finance minister*.

(B) New + Given

(2) Nine other senior executives were also charged. (from BBC News 5)

Prior to this sentence is the sentence: *Special prosecutors in South Korea have indicted Lee Kun-Hee, the head of the country's biggest industrial group Samsung on charges of tax evasion and breach of trust,* in which the information *charge* has been mentioned. Therefore, *nine other senior executives* becomes the new information the sentence wants to stress.

(C) New + New

This pattern means that all the information in the whole sentence is New information, although even there is some information the speaker or writer is likely to identify or assume as “shared” elements. Generally speaking, lead, the first sentence in news, presents all new information for it is the generalization of the whole content and carries the primary information the news wants to convey.

(3) Leaders from the 27 EU member states are gathering later today in Brussels for a summit expected to focus on climate change, energy security and concerns about the global economy. (from BBC News 3)

This sentence is the lead of the news broadcast. All the elements should be regarded as New information for “who”, “what”, “when”, “where”, “why” and “how” of a news event are all new to its audience and readers.

(D) Given + Given

In this pattern, the information in the whole sentence is Given information.

(4) Smith repeated the government's argument that having national ID cards and an accompanying data base will protect citizens against identity theft, control illegal immigration, increase public security and guard against terrorism.

All the information in this sentence is old for it is the reiteration about a previous sentence: *“As a government we have a duty to ensure that the national identity scheme supports our national security and that it provides a robust defense against those who seek to use false identity to mask criminal or terrorist activity,” explained Smith.*

Accordingly, four patterns, namely “Given + New”, “New + Given”, “New + New” and “Given + Given” will be taken into account in this thesis to observe the organization of information in news broadcast at the level of clause. The thesis took two steps.

To begin with, based on the cohesive and the semantically correlative relations of Given and New information mentioned earlier in Chapter Three, the thesis first made a division of Given information and New information in each sentence of all the news samples. Meanwhile, how Given and New information were distributed in themes and rhemes was also observed. During the process of analysis, the thesis treated a sentence as a basic unit and the segmentation of a sentence was based on theme and rheme. The statistical results are presented in Figure 12. VOA News is abbreviated as V and BBC News is shortened as B.

Figure 12 Information Distribution of all News Samples inside Sentences

	N	Theme		Rheme	
		Given	New	Given	New
V1	14	11	3	3	11
V2	15	10	5	1	14
V3	17	15	1	2	15
V4	12	6	6	1	11
V5	17	15	2	2	15
V6	13	5	8		13
V7	16	11	5	3	13
V8	17	16	1		17
V9	10	6	4	2	8
V10	16	9	7	3	13
B1	7	6	1	2	5
B2	9	4	5	3	6
B3	8	6	2	1	7
B4	7	4	3	1	6
B5	7	5	2	2	5
B6	8	4	3	1	7
B7	5	4	1	1	4
B8	7	4	3	1	6
B9	10	5	5	5	5
B10	8	3	4	1	7
	223	149 (67%)	71 (32%)	35 (16%)	188 (84%)

(V stands for VOA news; B for BBC news; N for the number of sentences)

From the above figure, it is seen clearly that in English news broadcast, the theme usually carries Given information (about 67%) and the rheme usually carries New information (about 84%). Hence, the thesis presented a hypothesis that the “Given + New” pattern would be the most common pattern adopted in news broadcast, but whether the hypothesis is correct or not needs further study. Another thing is worth mentioning. V3, B6 and B10 include one “there be” sentence pattern



respectively. So, the themes in these three sentences carry zero information.

In the second step, the writer studied the distribution of the four information patters in news broadcast. Through a complicated analysis and careful calculations, the frequency of occurrences of information structures in all news samples are presented as follows:

Figure 13 Proportion of Information Structure in News Samples

	Given + New	New + Given	New + New	Given +Given
VOA News 1	9 (64%)	1 (7%)	2 (14%)	2 (14%)
VOA News 2	10 (67%)	1 (7%)	4 (27%)	
VOA News 3	13 (76%)		2 (12%)	2 (12%)
VOA News 4	6 (50%)	1 (8%)	5 (42%)	
VOA News 5	14 (82%)	1 (6%)	1 (6%)	1 (6%)
VOA News 6	5 (38%)		8 (62%)	
VOA News 7	8 (50%)		5 (31%)	3 (19%)
VOA News 8	16 (94%)		1 (6%)	
VOA News 9	6 (60%)	2 (20%)	2 (20%)	
VOA News 10	6 (38%)		7 (44%)	3 (19%)
BBC News 1	4 (57%)		1 (14%)	2 (29%)
BBC News 2	2 (22%)	1 (11%)	4 (45%)	2 (22%)
BBC News 3	5 (63%)		2(25%)	1 (13%)
BBC News 4	4 (57%)	1 (14%)	2 (29%)	
BBC News 5	4 (57%)	1 (14%)	1 (14%)	1 (14%)
BBC News 6	4 (50%)	1 (13%)	3 (38%)	
BBC News 7	3 (60%)		1 (20%)	1 (20%)
BBC News 8	4 (57%)	1 (14%)	2 (29%)	
BBC News 9	4 (40%)	4 (40%)	1 (20%)	1 (20%)
BBC News 10	2 (25%)		5 (63%)	1 (12%)
Total	129 (58%)	15 (7%)	59 (26%)	20 (9%)

Based on the above statistics, some conclusions can be drawn easily.

First of all, the hypothesis put forward earlier proves to be right. The pattern

“Given + New” is the primary information structure used in English news broadcast to transmit information, despite the common belief that all information in news is new. According to the statistics, the pattern “Given + New” accounts for 58% in all the materials and the “New + Given” pattern 15%. Most of new information is placed in the rear of the sentences, and from left to right, the information a sentence is loaded with becomes more and more important, which just proves a cognitive principle that people usually recognize the world from the known to the unknown. Thus, it is said that the information that English news broadcast sends out is accessible and easy to understand for most of common audience.

Secondly, the pattern “New + New” ranks in the second place, about 26%. This is because most of the sentences belonging to this “New + New” pattern are the lead of the news. And they mostly appear in the first sentence. As pointed out before, the lead is the generalization and abstract of a news discourse, and one main task for news is to transmit the primary information at the very beginning. As a result, the lead has to carry all the new information and becomes a “New + New” pattern. The information following the lead is the supplement and further explanation for the lead. To listeners, it is enough for them to put emphasis on the lead if they have no spare time, and consequently, they can save much time to do other things. On the other hand, if listeners miss the information in the lead or they don’t understand the lead immediately, they can obtain more details from the following information to assist their understanding.

Last but not least, there are some sentences falling into the “Given + Given” pattern, which takes up 9%. This kind of information structure not only releases listeners’ tension caused by the dense new information but also is a kind of emphasis on its semantically related elements. (Liao Yanjun, 2006) This pattern is usually the repetition of the previous information. For example, in VOA news 7 there is such a sentence as follows:

*"We have recognized that we cannot limit our actions only on the supply side," said Guy Sebban. "We have to take into account also the demand side."*

*We have to take into account also the demand side*, actually, is a reverse description of *We have recognized that we cannot limit our actions only on the supply side*. A listener usually forms his own psychological recognition at once that the demand side should also be taken into consideration when he receives the first sentence. Therefore, when he listens to the latter sentence, he will comprehend it readily even though he may overlook some information.

### 5.1.3 Information Progression among Sentences

This section will explore how information develops and progresses among sentences in the light of thematic structure. As we have discussed earlier, thematic structure can provide a dynamic study of how information develops among sentences and it is a beneficial tool for the information analysis conducted in this thesis. Therefore it is safe to say that the analysis of thematic progression can help to understand how the information in English news broadcast progresses along with the development of themes and rhemes.

However, there is one thing worth noticing before the study is carried out. Although Halliday has laid the theoretical foundation and many scholars have provided various patterns of thematic progression, it is still difficult to find out how themes progress in actual discourses. The reason lies in the complex logical connections among themes and rhemes. Usually, in actual language use, simple direct repetition of words in thematic structure is not as common as is illustrated in theoretical books. In most cases, the relevance among themes and rhemes is indirect, partial, or obscure in a true text. Therefore, sometimes it is not easy to determine whether equal mark can be used among them. More standards are needed for the determination of the necessary connections in information progression.

Similar to the separation of Given and New information by means of some cohesive devices, the determination of connections among themes and rhemes can also be based on these cohesive devices such as exact lexical repetition, synonyms, pronouns, substitutions, and ellipsis, which can be expanded to include paraphrase and semantic inference, as well as some relations involving antonym, and hyponymy. Wang Huifang (1992) proposes so far the most comprehensive standards for connection determination. She believes that the standard is influenced by three factors, say, the way of expression, the affinity among theme and rheme in terms of the world knowledge they concern, and the sentence span. The detailed presentation of the three factors and their different connection strength in different situations proposed by Wang Huifang are elaborated in Figure 14.

Figure 14 Factors Influencing Connections among Theme and Rheme

Factor	Description	Connection strength
Way of expression	1. direct repetition 2. pronoun 3. whole-and-part relation 4. synonym or paraphrase	From 1 to 4, the strength is getting ↓ lower

Affinity	5. common knowledge 6. specific knowledge in a specific discipline 7. knowledge from previous context	The stronger the affinity is, the stronger the connecting strength will be.
Sentence span	Numbers of sentences between two semantically related themes or rhemes	The smaller the sentence span is, the stronger the connecting strength will be.

It is owing to Halliday's and those scholars' contributions, the author can obtain the favorable analytic tools for the following analysis.

To avoid complicated research on dynamic news stories, theme-rheme relations discussed in this thesis are only roughly considered at sentence level rather than clause level, waving aside themes in dependent, minor and elliptical clauses.

Then the thesis took two steps.

Firstly, the thesis segmented all sentences of the whole samples in line with Halliday's thematic theory and observed the distribution of Given and New information in themes and rhemes. The statistical result was shown in Figure 12. Because of the length of the thesis, the figure will not be exhibited here again. However, the result once more reveals the fact that there is no one-to-one correspondence between Given and New information and themes and rhemes, that is to say, themes can also carry new information and rhemes sometimes carry given information. According to the statistics, the new information in themes takes up about 32% and the given information in rhemes 16%.

Secondly, the thesis probed the features of thematic progression in news broadcast. Take VOA New 1 (See Appendix I for the complete text of this news) for example.

There are fourteen sentences in this news broadcast. According to Halliday's principle of theme-rheme segmentation, the theme of each sentence was identified as follows:

- S1 T1 American and Iraqi officials
- S2 T2 David McCormick ... Affairs
- S3 T3 I
- S4 T4 U.S. officials
- S5 T5 Although security
- S6 T6 The U.S. Ambassador ... Ryan Crocker

S7 T7 We  
 S8 T8 Tens of thousands ... troops  
 S9 T9 Iraq  
 S10 T10 The Deputy Prime Minister ... Barhim Salih  
 S11 T11 He  
 S12 T12 He  
 S13 T13 Political infighting ... sharing  
 S14 T14 Iraq

(S stands for sentence and T stands for theme)

The rest of elements are of course the rhemes. Seen from the above themes, it is clear that the news is about a political event between the United States and Iraq because theme often represents the topic.

Then, the major thematic progression patterns were determined as shown in Figure15. Equal marks are used here to mean that there is a connection among themes and rhemes. The reason why these semantic connections can be constructed is manifested in Figure16.

Figure 15 Thematic Progression in VOA New 1

T1 → R1	T8 → R8 (=R6)
T2 (=T1) → R2	T9 → R9
T3 (=T2) → R3	T10 (=T9) → R10
T4 (=T3) → R4	T11 (=T10) → R11
T5 (=R4) → R5	T12 (=T11) → R12
T6 (=T4) → R6 (=R5)	T13 → R13 (=R12)
T7 (=T6) → R7 (=R6)	T14 (=T9) → R14

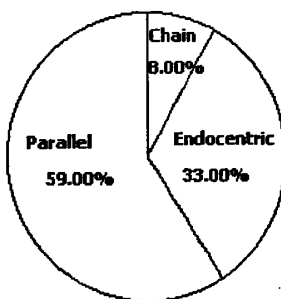
Figure16 Connections in Thematic Structure

	Relation		Relation
T2=T1	whole-part	R8=R6	paraphrase
T3=T2	pronoun as repetition	T10=T9	implication
T4=T3	whole-part	T11=T10	pronoun as repetition
T5=R4	direct repetition	T12=T11	repetition
T6=T4	whole-part	R13=R12	elaboration
R6=R5	extension	T14=T9	repetition
T7=T6	pronoun as repetition		

Finally, the total number and the proportion of the six major thematic progression patterns involved in the research, namely contrastive pattern, parallel pattern, chain pattern, radial pattern, endocentric pattern, and zigzag pattern, were carefully measured and calculated. The result is displayed in Figure 17.

Figure 17 Numbers and Proportions of Thematic Progression Patterns  
in VOA News 1

Pattern	Numbers	Proportion
Contrastive pattern		
Parallel pattern	7	59%
Chain pattern	1	8%
Radial pattern		
Endocentric pattern	4	33%
Zigzag pattern		



It is obvious that in the fourteen sentences, parallel pattern (7 times / 59%) takes the dominant position, while endocentric pattern (4 times / 33%) and chain pattern (1 time / 8%) rank the second and the third respectively. In this news broadcast, there are no contrastive patterns, radial patterns and zigzag patterns. However, it is not known whether this sample analysis may represent the whole situation of thematic progression in broadcasting news.

As a matter of fact, the logic connections among themes and rhemes are rather complex. And since English news broadcast itself is a genre with dense information, the differentiation of thematic progression is also complicated. Therefore, through the above analysis, it can not be hastily concluded that the main thematic progression in English news broadcast is merely parallel pattern, and the other three patterns, namely contrastive pattern, radial pattern and zigzag pattern will not appear. In other words,

definite conclusion to be drawn requires more evidence for confirmation.

Then, to secure the reliability of analysis, the thesis exerted the above analytic method into the whole news samples to give an overview of them. Figure 18 displays the statistical results. In the figure, the contrastive pattern is omitted due to its zero occurrences. The thesis introduces another pattern – skipping pattern because it appears many times. This pattern means that two semantically related themes or rhemes are distant from each other in sentences and they are separated at least by more than two sentences. Such kind of progression skips among sentences and consequently, it is called skipping pattern. The basic form of this pattern can be written as:

T1 – R1

T2 – R2

T3 – R3

T4 (=T1) – R4 or T4 – R4 (=R2)

Figure 18 Numbers of Thematic Progression Patterns in all News Samples

	Skipping	Parallel	Chain	Radial	Endocentric	Zigzag
V1	1	7	1		4	
V2	5	3	1		1	1
V3	5	4	2		5	
V4		6			1	
V5	1	9	2		4	
V6	1		2		4	
V7	2	7	2		5	
V8	3	5		1	2	
V9	2				3	
V10	2			1	3	
B1		3			3	
B2					4	
B3	1	2	1		2	
B4	1	2				
B5	3	1	1		1	
B6	1		3			
B7	1	2				
B8		3				
B9	2	1			3	

B10					3	
	31	54	15	2	48	1

According to Figure 18, parallel pattern and endocentric pattern are the main forms English news broadcast adopts to progress its information. This can be easily understood for two reasons. One is that the parallel pattern ensures the consistency of themes so that listeners can easily grasp the topic English news broadcast wants to discuss. With the progression of the same theme, new information which provides further illustration for the theme is transmitted by rhemes. This mode of information transmission is advantageous to listeners' cognition. Just opposite to the parallel pattern, the endocentric pattern places the new information in themes and the same Given information in rhemes. Actually, this pattern is a kind of emphasis on the new information which shares the same theme. It enables the audience to receive the important new information as soon as the announcer broadcasts. So, it is also a common pattern employed by English news broadcast. In short, parallel pattern and endocentric pattern can construct the closest structural connections. The themes and the rhemes in these two patterns are linked tighter than in any other patterns in a nearest space. They basically determine the primary features of English news broadcast. By means of these two patterns, English news broadcast, despite its dense information, may still concentrate on one main topic and keep the topic consistent.

Skipping pattern, ranking the third place, also can keep the themes or the topics of English news broadcast consistent and coherent by the repetition of the previous information again. However, the skipping pattern is a rather loose pattern, in which the linkages among themes and rhemes are built in a long distance, and therefore, it is not as convenient as the highly concentrated patterns for listeners to create instant connections in their mind. The zigzag pattern is the least used because, as a style with highly condensed information, the primary aim of English news broadcast is to provide audience with different new information in a short time; hence, the zigzag pattern doesn't fit English news broadcast. The radial pattern is also less used for the reason that the rheme in a sentence is less likely to develop into the themes of the following sentences since the rhemes in English news broadcast are relatively long and contain a large amount of new information. As to the chain pattern, it is not used widely because the themes in this pattern are always changing and it is hard to focus on one main topic.

In conclusion, the genre of English news broadcast determines the occurrence frequency of different thematic progression patterns. In turn, the latter embodies the



modes of information arrangement required by the former. These thematic progression patterns can construct some unique features of a certain genre to a certain extent. Therefore, the analysis of the thematic progression patterns is another great help in exploring the basic features of information structure in English news broadcast.

## 5.2 Macro Information Structure

Since the features of information structure in English news broadcast have been explored at the micro level, the study will go into a higher level, namely, the macro information structure. The analysis in this section will owe a great deal to van Dijk's notion of macrostructure. Compared with Halliday's information theory, this macrostructure is helpful in providing a macro view of how information in a news discourse is organized and arranged through the hierarchical relations at a macro level.

To begin with, the thesis expounds how the three macro-rules mentioned in Chapter Three operate among topics, macropropositions and propositions to generate the macrostructure. The sentences quoted in the following examples are all extracted from the collected news samples.

“Deletion: Given a sequence of propositions, delete each proposition that is not an interpretation condition for another proposition in the sequence” (van Dijk, 1980: 190). This rule aims at deleting some modifying and insignificant propositions and then retains those relatively important propositions. Its formula is expressed as:  $fx \ \& \ gx \rightarrow fx$  (Zhang Delu & Liu Rushan, 2003). The deleted information is generally the most basic and common condition or presupposition for the retention of the rest information. For example,

(1) In 2009, migrants from other European countries and British nationals in certain security risk jobs, such as airline staff and baggage handlers will also be required to sign up for the new ID cards. (extracted for VOA News 10)

(1') Migrants will also be required to sign up for the new ID cards.

The example 1 can be rewritten as 1' through the deletion rule. The deleted elements *In 2009* and *from other European countries and British nationals in certain security risk jobs, such as airline staff and baggage handlers* are the supplementary information to the subject and the event. Consequently, they are the subordinate information and can be deleted.

“Generalization: Given a sequence of propositions, substitute the sequence by a proposition that is entailed by each of the propositions of the sequence” (van Dijk,

1980: 190). Through generalization rule, several propositions at the lower level are substituted by a new proposition at a higher level. The formula for this rule is

$$\langle fx \ \& \ gx \rangle \rightarrow hx$$

Condition  $(fx \rightarrow hx) \ \& \ (gx \rightarrow hx)$  (Zhang Delu & Liu Rushan, 2003)

For example,

(2) Non-European foreigners will have to provide fingerprints and personal data for the ID cards by November. In 2009, migrants from other European countries and British nationals in certain security risk jobs, such as airline staff and baggage handlers will also be required to sign up for the new ID cards. Students and young people will be encouraged to voluntarily sign up the following year. (extracted for VOA News 10)

(2') Different people will sign up for the new ID cards in different time.

The generalization rule is also a relation of semantic inclusiveness, such as the substitution of hyponyms by a superordinate. Take *he likes eating apples, oranges and bananas* for example. This sentence can be generalized into *he likes eating fruits*. In this way, the superordinate *fruits* is used to replace the hyponyms *apples, oranges and bananas*.

“Construction: Given a sequence of propositions, replace it by a proposition that is entailed by the joint set of propositions of the sequence” (van Dijk, 1980: 190). Construction rule is based on mental framework. Its formula is  $\langle fx \ \& \ gx \rangle \rightarrow hx$ , and its condition is  $hx \rightarrow \langle fx \ \& \ gx \rangle$ . To be specific, if a series of concrete activities and actions can be represented by a set feature, then this set feature is the reduction of these activities and actions (Zhang Delu & Liu Rushan, 2003). For example:

(3) I went to the airport, checked in, and went on board.

(3') I took a plane.

As the operating principles of the three macro-rules have been clearly illustrated, the following section conducts a concrete analysis of how macrostructure functions to affect the organization of information in English news broadcast. The analysis in this aspect is rather complicated and long. To save more space, the thesis only selected VOA News 10 for a sample illustration. The whole news is as follows and out of convenience each sentence is numbered.

### **Britain Set to Introduce Controversial Compulsory ID Cards**

(1) The British government is set to begin issuing compulsory national identification cards later this year. (2) During a speech in London, Home Secretary Jacqui Smith explained why.

(3) “As a government we have a duty to ensure that the national identity scheme supports our national security and that it provides a robust defense against those who seek to use false identity to mask criminal or terrorist activity,” explained Smith.

(4) Non-European foreigners will have to provide fingerprints and personal data for the ID cards by November.

(5) In 2009, migrants from other European countries and British nationals in certain security risk jobs, such as airline staff and baggage handlers will also be required to sign up for the new ID cards. (6) Students and young people will be encouraged to voluntarily sign up the following year.

(7) By 2017 the government hopes to have most Britons enrolled in the plan, but new legislation will be required to make the ID cards compulsory.

(8) Smith repeated the government’s argument that having national ID cards and an accompanying data base will protect citizens against identity theft, control illegal immigration, increase public security and guard against terrorism.

(9) “Many of the terrorists convicted in recent years have routinely used multiple passports, bank accounts and other forms of identity,” added Smith.

(10) The government argues that because each person's identification card will be linked to specific fingerprints, it will make it harder for terrorists or criminals to steal that identity.

(11) The ID card plan is estimated to cost more than \$10 billion during the next decade.

(12) Opponents of the plan say it is too costly, will not enhance security and will only erode civil liberties. (13) They also question the government’s ability to handle the personal data securely, citing recent high profile losses of sensitive personal information, including people’s banking details.

(14) Other European countries have national identification-card systems. (15) In some countries such as Germany, national ID cards are compulsory, while in others such as France they are widely used, but not mandatory.

(16) The United States has no national ID cards, but drivers’ licenses are so widely used as everyday identification that they are almost an unofficial national photo ID.

This news script has 16 sentences and 355 words. On average, there are about 22 words in each sentence, which proves that English news broadcast is relatively short and brief for the reason that news in broadcast is transmitted by sounds and audience cannot focus their attention on news information for a long time while listening, and on the other hand, if sentences in news broadcast are too complex, plus no written form for audience to refer to, it is hard for them to comprehend immediately.

According to van Dijk’s macrostructure, Sentence 1 is the lead, which is the abstraction of the whole news, lying in a higher position in the hierarchy. Sentences 2 to 10 are the concrete description of situation, in which sentences 2 and 3 describe the main reasons for introducing new ID cards and sentences 4 to 7 list the detailed measures about how to realize the new ID card system, and these two parts constitute the main event, or episode. Sentences 8 to 10 are actually the description of the context and the history concerned with the current event although they seem to provide on surface a further explanation for the reasons why the government sets to

introduce controversial compulsory ID cards. The rest sentences of this news are the comment on the event.

Then, the thesis exerted the macrorules to abstract the higher propositions from the lower propositions in the 16 sentences until the macrostructure of this news appeared.

Sentence 1 is the lead, and to some extent, it is a certain kind of macroproposition. Accordingly, Sentence 1 will not be revised and the thesis will only deal with the main body. Through the generalization rule, the thesis reduced sentences 2 and 3 to a simple reason: the government has a duty to ensure the national identity security. As far as the concrete measures depicted in sentences 4 to 7 are concerned, the construction rule can sort them out into one activity: different people will sign up for the new ID cards at different times. With the same way, sentences 8 to 10 are generalized as *the new ID cards will protect citizens against crimes*. Sentences 11 to 13 are generalized as *opponents disagree with the plan*, with the reasons omitted simply for these reasons are merely details. Sentence 14 says that other European countries have national ID card system and Sentence 15 tells that the United States uses drivers' licenses as an unofficial national photo ID. Through the above analysis of these sixteen propositions which lie at the bottom of the hierarchy, the thesis obtained some macropropositions which constitute the first layer of macrostructure and this layer was regarded by the thesis as Macrostructure 1.

However, the analysis didn't end at this stage. One of important features of macrostructure is its relativity and accordingly, the whole macrostructure has different layers (Xin Hong, 2000). That is to say, the macropropositions in the same layer can be reconstructed once more into a higher macrostructure and a coherent discourse has its own top macrostructure which in fact is the overall theme. News discourse is the same as the other discourses, whose themes is also arranged in a hierarchy, not in a line. So the above macrostructure1 can be further generalized into higher layers until the theme is obtained.

For the convenience of further analysis, the sentences in macrostructure 1 were reordered as follows:

(a) The government has a duty to ensure the national identity security. (b) Different people will sign up for the new ID cards at different times. (c) The new ID cards will protect citizens against crimes. (d) Opponents disagree with the plan. (e) Other European countries have national ID card system. (f) The United States uses drivers' licenses as an unofficial national photo ID.

Through the first generalization, the thesis got five simple sentences and the primary information becomes more definite. Then, the macro-rules were used for the second time in order to obtain some higher macropropositions. As a matter of fact, sentences (a) and (c) give a show of the importance and the necessity of introducing new ID cards, in which two important words “introduce” and “compulsory” are indirectly highlighted. Sentence (b) is related to how to introduce new ID cards but it puts emphasis on the detailed description about the measures taken. Accordingly, this sentence can be omitted. Sentence (d) provides a protest against the plan and it is because of the disagreement that there appear controversial ID cards, which echoes the title. Similarly, sentences (e) and (f) also demonstrate the controversial state about the plan through the statement of the current situation of ID cards in the United States and other European countries. Additionally, these two sentences also imply the compulsory state of introducing new ID card system by listing the example actions done by European countries. Therefore, sentences (d), (e) and (f) can be reduced into one higher macroproposition.

Thus, some key words can be drawn from these sentences:

Sentences (a) and (c) → “introduce ID cards”, “compulsory”

Sentence (b) is omitted

Sentences (d) (e) (f) → “controversial”, “compulsory”

These key words are the basic elements to make up another higher macrostructure – Macrostructure 2. They just accord with the title and the lead “Britain is set to introduce controversial compulsory ID cards”. Here the title and the lead are the same as each other. Through the analysis from propositions at the bottom layer to Macrostructure 1 till to Macrostructure 2, the thesis obtained the overall theme of this news broadcast: Britain will introduce controversial and compulsory ID cards.

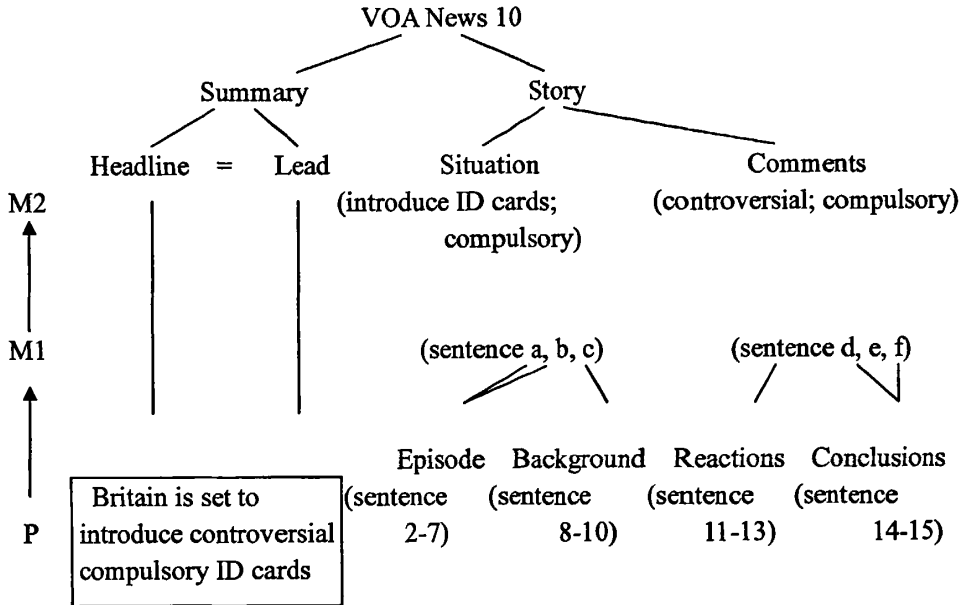
The different layers of the macrostructure in this news broadcast can be expressed by a tree diagram shown in Figure 19.

Some conclusions can be easily drawn.

First of all, the title of English news broadcast has the obvious function of generalization, which usually shows the theme of the news. Secondly, a lead is also the abstraction of the content and it is the extension of the title at the same time. A lead is the direction for the development of English news broadcast. Thirdly, the theme of English news broadcast can be drawn by the deletion of some unimportant, irrelevant or detailed information in the course of using macro-rules. Fourthly, some conditions for a macro event or the detailed elements of a macro event can be

generalized into a macroproposition by the use of common sense and universal recognition. Fifthly, some information may be not included in the theme because they are just the supplement for the background. Such kind of information belongs to sub-themes and can be deleted through construction rule.

Figure 19 Macrostructure of VOA News 10



P: propositions      M1: Macrostructure 1      M2: Macrostructure 2

Sentences 2, 3 → Sentence a

Sentences 4-7 → Sentence b

Sentences 8-10 → Sentence c

Sentences 11-13 → Sentence d

Sentence 14 → Sentence e

Sentence 15 → Sentence f

The above analysis is actually a bottom-up process. If seen from a top-down perspective, this process just reveals how information is organized in English news broadcast at the macro level: from the most important information to the least important information. To be specific, the most important information which often embodies the overall theme of news is always placed at the beginning of English news broadcast, in other words, in the lead. The less important information which is usually the description of the details or the background is placed after the lead and these elements constitute the main body of English news broadcast. Such arrangement of

information equips English news broadcast with a unique feature: English news broadcast may be as brief as one sentence because the lead is complete enough to express the primary information, and on the other hand, English news broadcast may be as long as it can be because the relevant information can be added in the main body as long as it is needed.

To sum up, van Dijk put forward macrostructure originally to analyze the written news reports. However, the thesis finds it also helpful in analyzing English news broadcast for the reason that news broadcast contains both written features and spoken features. The macro-rules can eliminate the distraction of information not very closely related or important to the gist of a discourse so as to expose main points and major topics to listeners. And the theory of macrostructure provides a significant means to interpret the processes of information generation and distribution in English news broadcast.

## Chapter Six Conclusion

### 6.1 Major Findings and Implications

VOA and BBC are two of the most influential broadcasting stations in the world. They have a large number of listeners and the news broadcast by them generates enormous influence on the whole world. Clear understanding of how they organize the language and the information in their news can benefit our comprehension. So, the study of English news broadcast should also enter into the linguistic field.

With the support of information theory under the framework of Halliday's functional grammar and van Dijk's conception of macrostructure, the thesis explores the way of how information is structured in VOA news and BBC news at both micro and macro levels. In this sense, the information structure discussed in the thesis is not the traditional one which is studied only at the micro level according to Halliday, but a new one with its sense expanding into a macro level. With the assistance of sample analysis, data processing and statistical analysis, the thesis finally reaches some conclusions as below.

In the micro aspect, the pattern "Given + New" is the primary information structure used within a sentence. It is in line with the cognitive principle that people usually recognize the world from the known to the unknown. Thus, it ensures that the information sent out by English news broadcast is accessible and easy to understand for most common people. At the phonetic level, the thesis probes the relation of information focus and nucleus. It is found that nucleus not only marks information focus but sometimes it also stresses Given information. When it comes to the information progression among sentences, parallel pattern and endocentric pattern are the main patterns of thematic progression that English news broadcast adopts. The high occurrence of these two patterns guarantees the consistency of themes and topics so that the information is conveyed smoothly. In other words, the patterns of information progression govern the genre of English news broadcast and the genre of English news broadcast in turn prescribes the patterns of information structure.

In the macro aspect, the thesis finds that van Dijk's macrostructure theory which is put forward originally for the analysis of written news report can also be exerted in the study of English news broadcast. This is for the reason that English news broadcast has its own written form with fixed textual structures, namely headline, lead and body. Through the macrorules, the propositions at the lowest level can be



generalized into the corresponding macropropositions at a higher level; the process continues until the overall macrostructure appears. Thus, the theory of macrostructure becomes a significant means to interpret the processes of information generation and construction in English news broadcast.

This thesis has established a framework for the analysis of information structure in English news broadcast from macro and micro angles. To journalists, it may set up a standard pattern of news writing so as to make information transmitted in the best way. To listeners, the knowledge of information structure can help them grasp the theme of news with ease. And for linguistic studies, the thesis is just a tentative study but the analytic framework may be used in the other types of discourse analysis. Also, this frame may play a referential role in news writing and English news broadcast teaching.

## **6.2 Limitation and Suggestions for future Research**

On account of the complexity of Halliday's and van Dijk's theories and the author's limited knowledge, the deficiencies are unavoidable in this thesis. Some suggestions are presented for future studies.

For one thing, the number of news samples analyzed in this thesis may not be enough. Only 20 pieces of English news broadcast are selected from two radio stations. The size of the material corpus is relatively small. Consequently, the data analysis in this thesis may limit the reliability and universality of the research findings to some extent. Therefore, a larger collection of language materials from various kinds of English news media are required for future study so as to find out more reliable linguistic characteristics in different news discourses.

For another thing, the news samples selected by this thesis are confined to English news broadcast only. Consequently, the scope of study in the thesis seems relatively narrow. Future researches can make a comparative study of English news broadcast and Chinese news broadcast to explore more characteristics of these two genres.

To sum up, this thesis is just a tentative study and there still remains much more to be discovered.

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## Appendix I

### Samples of English News Broadcast

#### VOA News 1

##### US and Iraq Pledge Economic Cooperation

American and Iraqi officials wound up two days of talks Thursday aimed at finding ways to improve Iraq's fledgling economy.

David McCormick, the U.S. Treasury Undersecretary for International Affairs, says Baghdad has made progress on its budget, the reform of state-owned banks, and cracking down on corruption. "I think I speak for all my colleagues at this table when I say that you will find in this team a group that is absolutely committed to working with you, working with your leadership in the coming months, and bringing all the commitment and focus and resources we can bring to bear to ensure the success of what you're doing," he said.

U.S. officials have said Iraq should take advantage of recent security gains to improve the economy.

Although security is still a problem, the number of terrorist attacks is down by sixty percent from the levels of June with a surge in U.S. troops and cooperation with militia groups.

The U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Ryan Crocker, says improvements in security have come at an extremely high price in the lives of Iraqi and coalition soldiers and police. "We owe it to them, Iraqi and coalition men and women, who gave their lives to make Iraq a better place that we move ahead with the economic development and reform that will cement the security gains permanently," he said.

Tens of thousands of Iraqis and nearly 4,000 U.S. troops have been killed since the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Iraq has struggled to develop its economy after years of fighting, economic sanctions, and a largely centrally controlled economy.

The Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Barhim Salih, says terrorism, criminals, and corruption are slowing improvements.

He warns security gains will be lost if they do not make needed improvements to unite all Iraqis against fundamentalists and terrorists. He says security will deteriorate if they fail to improve services for Iraqis and their daily lives.

Political infighting over budgets and oil revenue sharing has held up spending on civil services and investment, and increased sectarian distrust.

Iraq this week approved a budget law after months of delay, but politicians have yet to agree on oil revenue sharing.

#### VOA News 2

##### UN Welcomes Nepalese Government Deal with Protesting Madheshis

After 16 days of tense political negotiations, leaders from the government and ethnic Madheshi groups have announced a breakthrough deal.

The Madheshi leaders say they represent people living on the belt of flat land along Nepal's southern border with India.

They have long complained of discrimination and were pushing for more rights and autonomy rights in the lead up to a national election in April.

The Madheshi leaders backed their political push with strikes across the southern plains, disrupting life in Kathmandu as imports of gasoline, diesel and cooking gas ran out. Some protests turned violent and six demonstrators were killed in separate incidents.

The demand for an autonomous Madheshi state was the main sticking point, with fears in Kathmandu that such an agreement could lead to the breakup of the country.

But a compromise was reached, with an in-principle agreement to autonomy that would be decided on later by the Constituent Assembly, a body that will be created by an election April 10.

The U.N. mission in Nepal is assisting with the election, and spokesman Kieran Dwyer is optimistic about the deal.

"But this really does now open the way for a conducive environment across the southern plains to conduct the Constituent Assembly election and that that election can actually be inclusive of a very large part of Nepali society," said Dwyer.

The agreement was also welcomed by India and the U.S., and victory rallies were held by Madheshis in many parts of Nepal's south.

The eight-point agreement includes a decision to recruit more Madheshis into the Nepal Army, as well as compensation for the families of protesters who were killed and injured.

Kieran Dwyer says the U.N. is confident that elections can happen by April 10, but sees hurdles in the near future.

"Very significant logistical challenges in Nepal," said Dwyer. "The topography here from the plains through up to the high Himalayan mountains makes communications, logistics a major challenge – ballot papers across all villages in the country. But again, we are confident that this can be done, but they're not small challenges."

Several Madheshi political parties will be allowed more time to nominate their candidates for the April elections, putting further pressure on an already tight election schedule.

### **VOA News 3**

#### **India to Spend Billions of Dollars to Help Farmers**

Finance Minister P. Chidambaram told parliament Friday that the government will write off the debts of 30 million small farmers, and he promised financial aid to another 10 million farmers.

Presenting the country's annual budget, Chidambaram said amid applause from lawmakers that the loan waivers will cost the government \$15 billion.

"For marginal farmers and small farmers there will be a complete waiver of all loans, that were overdue on December 31, 2007, and which remained unpaid until February 29, 2008. In respect of other farmers there will be one-time settlement scheme," the minister explained.

India's farm sector has been facing a near crisis situation, and agricultural growth is expected to slow down to a 2.6 percent increase over the previous year. Hundreds of farmers, faced with mounting debts, are reported to have committed suicide in recent years.



The sweeping debt amnesty is being seen as a bid by the Congress Party-led government to win support of rural voters ahead of next year's general elections.

When the government came to power in 2004, it had promised to make economic growth more inclusive and spread the benefits of India's growing economy to the impoverished countryside. But tens of millions of people continue to live in poverty.

The finance minister also announced significant increases in spending on such social sectors as education and health.

He said the government should keep an eye on inflation, due to higher global prices of crude oil, food and other commodities.

"All these trends are inflationary. There is pressure on domestic prices, especially the prices of food articles," Chidambaram said. "Consequently, the management of the supply side of food articles will be the most crucial task in the ensuing year."

The finance minister said the economy is slowing marginally: it is expected to grow at eight-point-seven percent this financial year, compared to nine-point-six percent last year.

The slower growth is attributed to a rise in interest rates that the government implemented in the last year in order to check inflation.

Despite the slower growth, India's economy continues to be the second-fastest-growing in the world.

#### **VOA News 4**

##### **US Airstrike in Somalia Targets al-Qaida Suspect**

Eyewitness Abdi Mohamed Ali tells VOA that the residents of Dobley, about six kilometers from the Kenyan border, were shaken from their beds early Monday by a huge explosion that flattened a house in the middle of town.

Ali says he does not know who was in the house or who carried out the attack, but he says residents believe it was a bomb dropped by a plane, seen flying over the town in recent days. He says many people are leaving Dobley for fear of another air strike.

In Washington, U.S. officials have confirmed that two missiles were launched at targets in Dobley. They say the targets were known Islamic terrorists, but have declined to give further details.

In an interview with Agence France-Presse news agency, local Somali elders and a senior leader of the al-Qaida-linked Somali al-Shabaab group, Muktar Robow, claimed a U.S. Air Force AC-130 plane, hunting for Islamic militant hideouts, bombed three targets, including two houses.

VOA was not able to verify a local elder's statement that four civilians were killed in the attack.

The radical Shabaab group, which had largely self-dissolved following Ethiopia's December, 2006 military campaign to remove Somali Islamists from power, is believed to have reconstituted its fighting force during the past year. It has fully adopted Iraq-style guerrilla tactics to lead a bloody, year-long insurgency in Mogadishu and in other parts of the country against Ethiopian forces, the transitional government, and African Union peacekeepers.

The Shabaab functioned as the militant wing of the ousted Islamic Courts Union, whose top leaders are in exile in Eritrea. But in early February, the Shabaab broke off ties with the courts, complaining that its leadership was not committed to establishing Islamic rule throughout the world through jihad. Late last month, a skirmish between supporters of the Islamic Courts Union

and Shabaab fighters reportedly killed several people in Doble before the town was seized by forces loyal to Hassan Turki, a Shabaab leader in the Lower Juba area.

## **VOA News 5**

### **Los Angeles Marathoner Celebrates 90th Birthday with 90-mile Run**

Julian Myers had a long career as a Hollywood publicist, working with stars including Marilyn Monroe, Gregory Peck and Dennis Weaver. Now retired, he devotes a big part of each day to running, and decided with his wife Patsy to celebrate his 90th birthday by running 90 miles, or 145 kilometers, from San Diego to Los Angeles.

"Part of that is dangerous highway," explained Myers. "So Patsy wisely said, run your 90 miles, but run it anywhere you want in San Diego, or Orange County or Los Angeles. So we saw many of the beauty spots."

He started February 22 at the Hotel Del Coronado, a resort near San Diego that he first visited as a youngster 85 years ago. Along the way, Myers and his friends ran on scenic beaches. He finished by joining a five-kilometer leg of the Los Angeles Marathon Sunday. Myers intended to invite 90 of his closest friends to celebrate afterwards, but ended up inviting 390.

He told them the secret of staying healthy is having a goal.

"The main thing is to find something that will take you to at least 100 to achieve, preferably of some social or civic value," Myers said.

Myers says his friends have always been important, and his goal is promoting a holiday he created called Amigo Day. It comes from the Spanish word for "friend", and he says the idea is to greet anyone in a friendly way. He suggests you do it the first Sunday of each month, but says the idea is really to make new friends any time.

"And then you supplement that by every morning, for one hour going outdoors and do something physical," he said.

Myers spends at least one hour each day running. He says that staying active and surrounding yourself with friends keeps you from noticing the aches and pains of aging.

## **VOA News 6**

### **Britain's Biggest Bank Takes \$17 Billion Hit on US Credit Woes**

The record HSBC write off is larger than the next four British banks combined.

HSBC Chairman Stephen Green admits the global financial system had come under what he calls "extreme strain" in 2007.

As to 2008, he says the outlook is uncertain, but he warns the economic slowdown and the credit difficulties in the United States may get worse before getting better.

Despite the massive write down due to the U.S. credit problems, gains elsewhere around the world kept HSBC in profit.

Market analyst David Buik from the London brokerage firm BGC Partners says wise choices outside of the U.S. more than covered the debt damage.

"Strong in Asia; China, India and also other emerging nations and a terrific presence in the United Kingdom as well and this is why unlike the other banks, particularly Royal Bank of Scotland and to a lesser degree Barclays, they produced such a stellar set of number for the second half of the year where profits were up by 17 percent," he said. "Whereas everybody else

has been scuttling around trying to work out these provisions for bad debt, HSBC has done that but despite it, managed to do very well.”

For the year in total, HSBC profits rose 10 percent to \$24.2 billion.

Given the problems in the U.S. market, HSBC is restructuring its operations there. It has reduced the amount of credit it extends and it is closing about 400 of its U.S. branches.

In other banking news, Britain's Barclays Bank announced Monday that it has agreed to buy Russia's Expobank for \$745 million. Expobank has 32 branches mostly in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Subject to regulatory approval, the deal is expected to be completed by midyear.

## **VOA News 7**

### **Company Executives Unite to Fight Piracy**

In 2004, the International Chamber of Commerce launched BASCAP, Business Action to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy, to stem the surge in intellectual property theft. BASCAP's leadership group of top corporate executives issued a set of recommendations for a global anti-counterfeiting treaty being negotiated by major trading nations. They also called on the G-8 industrialized nations to lead the way in enforcing laws already on the books.

The corporate executives announced plans for an international campaign to educate consumers to the high cost of piracy. Guy Sebban, the head of the International Chamber of Commerce, says the education campaign represents an evolution in the group's thinking.

“We have recognized that we cannot limit our actions only on the supply side,” said Guy Sebban. “We have to take into account also the demand side. We are launching different actions to convince the consumers of the importance of this problem, especially at the forefront the question linked with health and safety.”

The group says health and safety issues are an important part of the anti-counterfeiting message. In northern Africa, for example, the executives say 90 percent of spare parts for automobiles are fake, leading to a large number of car accidents.

Alan Drewsen, head of the International Trademark Association, says counterfeit drugs often send their own message.

“When you are dealing with people who are buying counterfeit baby food and counterfeit food products and counterfeit drugs, I am not expert on who to get the message out, but I can tell you that that message is fairly persuasive,” said Alan Drewsen. “The statistics on the number of people in Africa who are dying from counterfeit anti-malarial drugs is very, very shocking. So I think that is the message that has to be gotten across.”

BASCAP says public awareness campaigns to call attention to the risks of piracy must be created on a country-by-country basis taking into account cultural differences. One of the best ways to get the message across, according to the group, is to work with creative people in local communities who are victims of piracy themselves.

## **VOA News 8**

### **Bush Says Colombia Trade Agreement Vital to Security**

President Bush says time is running out for a free-trade agreement with Colombia. If the deal is not approved, Mr. Bush told the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce that it would send a signal to Latin America that the United States can not be trusted to stand by its allies.

"The Colombia agreement is pivotal to America's national security and economic interests right now," he said. "And it is too important to be held up by politics."

If approved, the deal would eliminate tariffs on more than 80 percent of U.S. exports of industrial and consumer goods and make permanent Colombia's preferential access to the U.S. market.

President Bush says Colombia is one of America's closest allies in the hemisphere and President Uribe has proven to be a strong and capable partner in fighting drugs, crime and terror.

Mr. Bush says the Colombian leader has spoken-out against anti-Americanism, making hard choices that the president says deserve the admiration and gratitude of the United States.

President Bush is backing President Uribe in his stand-off with Ecuador and Venezuela after Colombian troops attacked rebels based across the border in Ecuador earlier this month. Bogota apologized for the raid, but said it is a necessary part of its struggle against the FARC rebels.

Colombian officials say documents found during the fighting show that Venezuelan President Chavez paid \$300 million to support those rebels. Venezuelan officials reject that claim.

President Bush says Colombia is waging an aggressive campaign against terrorists who do not respect national sovereignty or borders. He says President Chavez's praise for the FARC and his decision to send Venezuelan troops to the Colombian border is the latest step in what Mr. Bush calls a disturbing pattern of provocative behavior.

"As it tries to expand its influence in Latin America, the regime claims to promote social justice," said Mr. Bush. "In truth, its agenda amounts to little more than empty promises and a thirst for power. It has squandered its oil wealth in an effort to promote its hostile, anti-American vision."

President Bush says one of the most important ways the United States can demonstrate its support for Colombia is approving the free-trade agreement to support security in the Western Hemisphere and ensure a level playing field for U.S. products.

## **VOA News 9**

### **UN Chief Urges Programs to Empower Women**

The secretary-general said there is indisputable evidence that investing in women and girls enhances productivity and sustained economic growth.

"Investing in women is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do," he said. "I am deeply convinced that in women, the world has at its disposal the most significant and yet largely untapped potential for development and peace."

Speaking at a conference in observance of International Women's Day, which is on Saturday, Mr. Ban urged the public and private sectors, as well as multilateral organizations and civil society to increase their role in investing in programs that empower women.

He pointed to the success of programs that offer micro-loans to women, saying they have jumped from 10 million in 1999 to nearly 70 million in 2005.

"When women have access to finances, credit, technologies and markets, they are likely to expand their businesses and contribute effectively to sustained economic growth and development," he added.

The United Nations has pushed for new policies for gender equality and financing for development, but there is still a long way to go. The World Bank estimates that 64 percent of the world's illiterate adults are women, while girls account for the majority of the world's 113 million children aged six to 11 who do not attend school.

Celebrated on March 8, International Women's Day is the global day recognizing all women around the world and intended to inspire them to achieve their full potential. In many countries it is an official holiday.

## **VOA News 10**

### **Britain Set to Introduce Controversial Compulsory ID Cards**

The British government is set to begin issuing compulsory national identification cards later this year. During a speech in London, Home Secretary Jacqui Smith explained why.

"As a government we have a duty to ensure that the national identity scheme supports our national security and that it provides a robust defense against those who seek to use false identity to mask criminal or terrorist activity," explained Smith.

Non-European foreigners will have to provide fingerprints and personal data for the ID cards by November.

In 2009, migrants from other European countries and British nationals in certain security risk jobs, such as airline staff and baggage handlers will also be required to sign up for the new ID cards. Students and young people will be encouraged to voluntarily sign up the following year.

By 2017 the government hopes to have most Britons enrolled in the plan, but new legislation will be required to make the ID cards compulsory.

Smith repeated the government's argument that having national ID cards and an accompanying data base will protect citizens against identity theft, control illegal immigration, increase public security and guard against terrorism.

"Many of the terrorists convicted in recent years have routinely used multiple passports, bank accounts and other forms of identity," added Smith.

The government argues that because each person's identification card will be linked to specific fingerprints, it will make it harder for terrorists or criminals to steal that identity.

The ID card plan is estimated to cost more than \$10 billion during the next decade. Opponents of the plan say it is too costly, will not enhance security and will only erode civil liberties. They also question the government's ability to handle the personal data securely, citing recent high profile losses of sensitive personal information, including people's banking details.

Other European countries have national identification-card systems. In some countries such as Germany, national ID cards are compulsory, while in others such as France they are widely used, but not mandatory.

The United States has no national ID cards, but drivers' licenses are so widely used as everyday identification that they are almost an unofficial national photo ID.

## **BBC News 1**

A senior United Nations' official who's just finishes her visit to Iraq has condemned militias and insurgent group for making increasing use of children, some as young as ten, in

political violence. The official, Radhika Coomaraswamy said some of the child recruits were paid to plant bombs. Many of them were exploited by armed groups because of their poverty.

The United Nations' official said that since 2004 an increasing number of children have been recruited into various militias and insurgent groups including as suicide bombers. She didn't reveal the source of her information but it echoes concerns already expressed by the US military. Last month, the Americans released video footages of what they said was "Al-Qaeda propaganda" showing children being trained in the use of guns and kidnapping. The US said that the time that Al-Qaeda was teaching boys to build car-bombs and sending them on suicide missions.

#### **BBC News 2**

The flame of the Olympic Torch for the Summer Games in Beijing has been lit in a ceremony in Greece at Olympia where the forerunner of the modern Games originated almost three thousand years ago. Two human rights protesters briefly disrupted the ceremony. Television pictures show police moving quickly to stop them.

The ceremony opened with the Olympic Anthem. To Greece, it's a sacred tradition. The authorities are determined it will go smoothly. Over a thousand police officers are present to deal with the threat of anti-Chinese protests. As the president of the Beijing Olympic Committee spoke, a man broke through security, and had to be wrestled away. Addressing the ceremony, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Jacques Rogge said the torch relay and the Olympic Games must take place in a peaceful environment.

#### **BBC News 3**

Leaders from the 27 EU member states are gathering later today in Brussels for a summit expected to focus on climate change, energy security and concerns about the global economy. The EU is seeking to lead global efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions. The summit will try to work out how to implement a 20% reduction by 2020.

Many leaders argue that time is the essence if the EU is to take a lead in international negotiations. The Britain PM Gordon Brown is expected to be one of those calling for cuts in purchase taxes on energy-saving goods. One thing that causes to stir in the run-up to the summit has been the report that the leaders will have before them co-offered by the EU's foreign policy chief Javier Solana. It warns of the possibility of mass migration into Europe as a result of the effects of climate change. The leaders will also be looking at the issue-security of energy supply and they will discuss the slowdown in the global economy and the upheavals in the world financial markets.

#### **BBC News 4**

Senior officials of the International Monetary Fund have agreed reforms to give a bigger role in decision-making to developing countries. If approved, their combined voting share would be increased to the expensive richer states.

Decisions in the IMF are taking on the basis of a voting system that gives more votes to larger economies. The United States alone accounts for around 17 percent of the vote in the 185-member country IMF. The main impact to the reforms agreed in Washington will be to increase the voting shares of major developing countries, such as India, China and Brazil. The

feel the current arrangement does not reflect their growing influence in the global economy. The main losers will be rich countries, including Britain, France and Canada.

#### **BBC News 5**

Special prosecutors in South Korea have indicted Lee Kun-Hee, the head of the country's biggest industrial group Samsung on charges of tax evasion and breach of trust. 9 other senior executives were also charged. Along with Mr. Li they remain free until their trials.

The company is accused of hiding of more than 4 billion dollars in assets and working to secretly transfer control of the company to the chairman son through illicit accounting practices. But the prosecutors in a statement read live on television said they had found no evidence that Samsung engaged in a systematic attempt to bribe politicians. That claim made by a company insider was what prompted the investigation in the first place. Samsung has always denied all the allegations.

#### **BBC News 6**

Film lovers are looking to London for the next two weeks, to discover the best in UK cinema at the 51st British Film Institute London Film Festival.

The festival will include exclusive showings of 184 feature films and 133 shorts as well as a host of screen talks, master classes and live events. 128 films will have their UK premieres at the festival.

Renowned UK filmmakers including Richard Attenborough will showcase their latest work, and there is also space for some UK newcomers to feature film.

However, the London Film Festival is definitely not just about celebrating UK cinema. Visitors will enjoy offerings from 43 different countries around the world.

Golden Lion winner Ang Lee's new film *Lust Caution* will feature as well as Jia Zhangke's "Wu Yong". There is a special event celebrating the rise of Romanian cinema, and a strand of 14 films dedicated to France, called "The French Revolutions".

#### **BBC News 7**

Christian groups in Britain begin a legal challenge today to the granting of licenses allowing scientists to develop embryos containing both human and animal tissue. They also insist that scientific advances have made use of these embryos unnecessary.

"Controversial proposals to allow scientists to grow human stem cells inside animal eggs are contained in legislation currently going through the Parliament, but the Christian Legal Center insists that the existing legislation dating from 1990 doesn't permit the process. The group which includes Christian lawyers and doctors claims that the human fertilization and embryology authority's granting of licenses to Newcastle University and King's College in London was therefore illegal. It will today ask the high court to overturn the licenses."

The police investigation in Vietnam has found that 30 new-born babies and young children were sold by a criminal gang in the six month up to February this year. Police said the infants were bought from poor families and rural parts of Vietnam and sold on to childless couples in China. The Vietnamese authorities have arrested 11 people so far and are searching for another four.

#### **BBC News 8**

The authorities in Texas have now removed almost two hundred people, most of them young girls from a ranch of a Mormon sect led by the jailed polygamist Warren Jeffs. On Thursday night, police officers raided the ranch of the fundamentalist church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, after reports that a 16-year-old girl has been physically and sexually abused.

Local police enter the retreat to look for evidence of a marriage between the 16-year-old and a man aged 50. The warrant to search the property, said the girl had a baby eight months ago when she was 15. Under Texas law, girls younger than 16 can not marry even with parental approval. Warren Jeffs, the head of the church, is serving ten years in prison for being an accomplice to rape. He was convicted after he forced a 14-year-old girl to marry her (his) cousin.

The computer software giant, Microsoft has given Yahoo a three-week deadline to respond to its offer to buy out the Internet company. Microsoft said it will take its case directly to Yahoo's shareholders, if its board of directors fails to respond in time. Microsoft made an offer of more than 40 billion dollars in January, but Yahoo rejected the bid.

#### **BBC News 9**

A powerful earthquake in China is feared to have killed thousands of people in the southwestern province of Sichuan. The official news agency Xinhua says nearly ten thousand people may have died, with many more buried and injured. In one county, most of the buildings are reported to have collapsed.

This is the biggest earthquake to hit China in more than 30 years. Thousands are already confirmed dead. Chinese state media are reporting that 900 middle school children were buried when their school collapsed. At least 50 are known to have died. 80% of the buildings in one county alone have collapsed, and up to 5000 people there are feared dead. The earthquake struck just before 2:30 this afternoon. The epicenter was in the mountainous Wenchuan county in Sichuan province.

#### **BBC News 10**

State radio in Burma has reported that more than 22,000 people were killed in Saturday cyclone and over 40,000 others are missing.

The Burmese authorities said many were killed in the massive wave triggered by the storm. Ten thousand people are thought to have died in one town alone. Elsewhere eye-witnesses described rice fields strewn with bodies, and desperate survivors without food or shelter. Aid agencies are now beginning a major relief operation to help the hundreds and thousands of people left homeless. But Burma, isolated and impoverished, has long been wary of the international community. Doubts remain about how much access the regime will give to aid workers. And there are also concerns about the logistics of reaching remote areas that have been cut off from the outside world.



## Appendix II

### Information Progression with Thematic Structure in News Samples

#### VOA News 1

T1 → R1	T8 → R8 (=R6)
T2 (=T1) → R2	T9 → R9
T3 (=T2) → R3	T10 (=T9) → R10
T4 (=T3) → R4	T11 (=T10) → R11
T5 (=R4) → R5	T12 (=T11) → R12
T6 (=T4) → R6 (=R5)	T13 → R13 (=R12)
T7 (=T6) → R7 (=R6)	T14 (=T9) → R14

#### VOA News 2

T1 → R1	T9 (=T7) → R9
T2 → R2	T10 (=R7) → R10
T3 (=T2) → R3	T11 (=T10) → R11
T4 (=T3) → R4	T12 → R12 (=R8)
T5 → R5	T13 (=R12) → R13 (=R10)
T6 (R3) → R6	T14 (=T12) → R14 (=R12)
T7 → R7 (=R1)	T15 (=T4) → R15
T8 → R8 (=R7)	

#### VOA News 3

T1 → R1	T10 (=T8) → R10 (=R8)
T2 → R2 (=R1)	T11 (=T10) → R11
T3 → R3 (=R2)	T12 (=R11) → R12
T4 (=T3) → R4 (=R3)	T13 → R13 (=R12)
T5 (=T3) → R5	T14 → R14 (=R11)
T6 (=T3) → R6 (=R5)	T15 (=T11) → R15
T7 (=R1) → R7	T16 (=R15) → R16
T8 (=T1) → R8	T17 (=T16) → R17
T9 (=T6) → R9 (=R6)	

#### VOA News 4

T1 → R1	T3 (=T1) → R3
T2 (=T1) → R2	T4 → R4 (=R2)

T5 (=T4) → R5  
T6 → R6 (=R4)  
T7 → R7 (=R6)  
T8 → R8

T9 (=T8) → R9  
T10 (=T9) → R10  
T11 → R11  
T12 (=T11) → R12

#### VOA News 5

T1 → R1  
T2 (=T1) → R2  
T3 → R3  
T4 → R4 (=R3)  
T5 (=T4) → R5  
T6 (=T4) → R6 (=R3)  
T7 → R7 (=R6)  
T8 (=T7) → R8  
T9 (=T7) → R9

T10 (=T7) → R10  
T11 (=R10) → R11  
T12 (=T10) → R12  
T13 (=R12) → R13  
T14 (=T12) → R14 (=R13)  
T15 (=T14) → R15  
T16 (=T15) → R16  
T17 (=T15) → R17

#### VOA News 6

T1 → R1  
T2 → R2  
T3 → R3  
T4 (=R3) → R4  
T5 → R5  
T6 → R6 (=R5)  
T7 → R7 (=R6)

T8 → R8 (=R7)  
T9 (=R5) → R9  
T10 → R10 (=R9)  
T11 → R11  
T12 (=R11) → R12  
T13 → R13 (=R11)

#### VOA News 7

T1 → R1  
T2 → R2 (=R1)  
T3 (=T2) → R3  
T4 (=T2) → R4  
T5 (=T2) → R5  
T6 (=T2) → R6  
T7 (=T2) → R7 (=R6)  
T8 (=T2) → R8

T9 → R9 (=R8)  
T10 → R10 (=R9)  
T11 → R11 (=R10)  
T12 → R12  
T13 (=R12) → R13  
T14 (=T11) → R14  
T15 (=T9) → R15  
T16 (=R15) → R16

#### VOA News 8

T1 → R1  
T2 (=R1) → R2  
T3 (=T1) → R3  
T4 (=R1) → R4  
T5 → R5 (=R3)  
T6 (=T1) → R6  
T7 (=T6) → R7  
T8 (=T7) → R8

T9 → R9 (=R8)  
T10 → R10  
T11 → R11 (=R10)  
T12 (=T8) → R12 (=R9)  
T13 (=T12) → R13  
T14 → R14  
T15 (=T14) → R15  
T16 (=T14) → R16

T17 → R17 (=R3)

VOA News 9

T1 → R1

T2 → R2 (=R1)

T3 (=T1) → R3

T4 → R4

T5 (=T3) → R5

T6 → R6 (=R1)

T7 → R7 (=R4)

T8 → R8 (=R7)

T9 → R9

T10 → R10 (=R9)

VOA News 10

T1 → R1

T2 → R2 (=R1)

T3 → R3 (=R2)

T4 → R4

T5 (=R4) → R5

T6 → R6 (=T5)

T7 (=R6) → R7

T8 → R8

T9 → R9

T10 (=T1) → R10

T11 (=R1) → R11

T12 → R12

T13 (=T12) → R13

T14 → R14

T15 (=T14) → R15

T16 (=T15) → R16

BBC News 1

T1 → R1

T2 (=T1) → R2

T3 → R3

T4 (=T2) → R4

T5 (=T4) → R5

T6 → R6 (=R5)

T7 (=T6) → R7 (=R6)

BBC News 2

T1 → R1

T2 → R2 (=R1)

T3 → R3

T4 → R4

T5 → R5 (=T4)

T6 → R6

T7 → R7 (=R6)

T8 (=T6) → R8 (=R7)

T9 → R9 (=R8)

BBC News 3

T1 → R1

T2 (=T1) → R2

T3 → R3 (=R2)

T4 (=T2) → R4 (=R2)

T5 (=T4) → R5

T6 → R6

T7 (=R6) → R7

T8 (=T5) → R8

BBC News 4

T1 → R1

T2 (=T1) → R2

T3 (=T2) → R3

T4 → R4

T5 → R5 (=R1)

T6 (=T4) → R6

T7 → R7

**BBC News 5**

$T1 \rightarrow R1$

$T2 \rightarrow R2 (=R1)$

$T3 (=T2) \rightarrow R3$

$T4 \rightarrow R4 (=R1)$

$T5 (=T1) \rightarrow R5$

$T6 (=R5) \rightarrow R6$

$T7 (=T4) \rightarrow R7$

**BBC News 6**

$T1 \rightarrow R1$

$T2 (=R1) \rightarrow R2$

$T3 (=R2) \rightarrow R3$

$T4 (=R3) \rightarrow R4$

$T5 (=T2) \rightarrow R5$

$T6 \rightarrow R6$

$T7 \rightarrow R7$

$T8 \rightarrow R8$

**BBC News 7**

$T1 \rightarrow R1$

$T2 (=T1) \rightarrow R2$

$T3 (=R1) \rightarrow R3$

$T4 (=T2) \rightarrow R4$

$T5 (=T4) \rightarrow R5$

**BBC News 8**

$T1 \rightarrow R1$

$T2 \rightarrow R2$

$T3 (=T2) \rightarrow R3$

$T4 (=T3) \rightarrow R4$

$T5 \rightarrow R5$

$T6 \rightarrow R6$

$T7 (=T6) \rightarrow R7$

**BBC News 9**

$T1 \rightarrow R1$

$T2 \rightarrow R2 (=R1)$

$T3 \rightarrow R3 (=R2)$

$T4 (=T1) \rightarrow R4$

$T5 (=R2) \rightarrow R5$

$T6 (=T2) \rightarrow R6$

$T7 \rightarrow R7 (=R6)$

$T8 \rightarrow R8 (=R7)$

$T9 (=T4) \rightarrow R9$

$T10 (=T9) \rightarrow R10$

**BBC News 10**

$T1 \rightarrow R1$

$T2 \rightarrow R2 (=R1)$

$T3 \rightarrow R3 (=R2)$

$T4 \rightarrow R4 (=R3)$

$T5 \rightarrow R5$

$T6 \rightarrow R6$

$T7 \rightarrow R7 (=R5)$

$T8 \rightarrow R8$