Theme and rhyme analysis on viral dialogue of the series "Queen Charlotte: a Bridgerton story" (a discourse analysis)

Waluyo[1]
Universitas Alwashliyah, Indonesia
Email: waluyoo2003@gmail.com

Herni Mayang Sari[2]
Universitas Alwashliyah, Indonesia
Email: hernimayangsari352@gmail.com

Anggie Isma Aprianti[3]
Universitas Alwashliyah, Indonesia
Email: anggie.isma04@gmail.com

Linda Astuti Rangkuti[4]
Universitas Alwashliyah, Indonesia
Email: lindaray003@gmail.com

Meida Rabia Sihite[5]
Universitas Alwashliyah, Indonesia
Email: meidarabia55@gmail.com

Abstract. This research aims at analyzing theme and rhyme of the viral dialogue of the series Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story and evaluating the success of the viral dialogue of the series Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story. This study was conducted because the dialogue went viral and many people are impressed by the meaning of the dialogue. This study was conducted by employing qualitative approach. The data of this research were the viral dialogue of the series Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story episode 6. The data were collected by using observation. The data were analyzed by comparing, describing, classifying and displaying by using table and description. The results showed that there were 5 Unmarked Simple Theme (55,5%), 3 Unmarked Multiple Theme (33,3%), no Marked Simple Theme found in the dialogue and 1 Marked Multiple Theme (11,1%). Based on the data, it is textually found the text is dominated with UST (Unmarked Simple Theme). The reason for this theme to be dominant was the function of "markedness" which is to give special status within the clauses. Contextually, the dialogue is about a romantic relationship between Queen Charlotte and a guy named George. The guy expresses his true feelings towards Charlotte and his desire to love her for life. The field of the text is romantic love or a romantic relationship. The dialogue has successfully conveyed the message by the mode of primarily declarative and expressive.

Keywords: *theme and rhyme, A Bridgerton Story, viral dialogue*

INTRODUCTION

Discourse Analysis is one of linguistics' branches that deals with the structure and the meaning of a text. According to (Tannen et al., 2015), Discourse Analysis refers to the study of how language is utilized to convey meaning, organize social interactions, and influence social identities. It investigates the connection between language, power dynamics, and the surrounding social context. Moreover, (Saragih & Saragih, 2021)

stated that Discourse is the meaning realized in the text. The text itself is defined as any unit of language form that is functional in context. From these theories, it can be seen that Discourse Analysis certainly deals with anything in the form of text, and one of those is dialogue or conversation as it carries a functional meaning contextually. Furthermore, (Paltridge, 2021) claimed that analyzing dialogue can provide insights into social interaction, power relations, and the negotiation of meaning. (Mercurio, 2019) described dialogue as characters' communication and interaction through spoken language that drives the scene's conflicts, objectives and reveals their inner side.

Dialogue can be observed in numerous circumstances and resources, including TV series. According to (Miller, 2010), a TV series is a form of storytelling conveyed through audiovisual episodes, intended to be consumed over period of time. It possesses the special capability to build a devoted audience by incorporating compelling characters, intricate plotlines, and high-quality production, resulting in a distinctive and engaging viewing experience for the viewers.

The meaning of dialogue can be evaluated through theme and rhyme in every clause. (Matthiessen, 2019) stated theme functions as the starting point for a stretch of discourse, providing the foundation from which the speaker or writer begins. They stated that theme gives a background information and serves as a reference point for subsequent details in the discourse. Meanwhile rhyme, in their view, refers to the expansion of the theme, presenting new information that arises after the theme. The rhyme contributes to the advancement and elaboration of the message. (Octaberlina & Muslimin, 2020) also stated that theme occurs in the starting clause and rhyme is the continuation. Understanding the interplay between theme and rhyme is crucial for analyzing the organization and flow of information in language.

Some researchers have conducted studies on theme and rhyme analysis previously, such as (Dashela, 2021) with her research title "The Analysis of Theme and Rhyme in Short Story of Sleeping Beauty with A Systematic of Functional Approach". The result showed that there were topical and textual theme that mostly found in the story. Meanwhile in this study, the researcher focuses on the analysis of theme and rhyme in a dialogue from a TV series called "Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story". This series went viral in 2023. Based on the observation conducted by the researcher, many Tiktok users used the sound of dialogue from this series particularly young girls. The viral dialogue is: *"I will stand with you between the heavens and the earth. I will tell you where you are. Do you love me? I love you! From the moment I saw you trying to go over the wall… I have loved you desperately. I cannot breath when you are not near. I love you, Charlotte. My heart calls your name."*

However, the Tiktok users find that dialogue relatable without being able to explain how if the message conveys its real meaning successfully and how the meaning influences themselves that makes the dialogue sound relatable. Moreover, there is a figurative expression found in the dialogue. Thus, this study is conducted to find out the meaning of the message through theme and rhyme analysis, the meaning of figurative expressions used in the dialogue, and how the dialogue impacts the readers' feeling until it goes viral.

LITERATURE REVIEW
According to (Jaworski & Coupland, 2014), discourse analysis investigates the role of language in social interactions, exploring how it is employed to shape and negotiate meaning, identities, and relationships. It focuses on how language practices mirror and

perpetuate social hierarchies and power dynamics. Additionally, (Gee, 2014) observed that discourse analysis is an academic discipline that examines how language, in both written and spoken forms, is utilized within social settings to create and communicate significance. It explores the interplay between language, social interaction, and the underlying social and cultural frameworks in which they exist. Thus, it can be concluded that discourse analysis is a field of study that focuses on understanding the underlying structures, processes, and ideologies that shape language use. It explores the ways in which language choices, patterns, and strategies are influenced by various social, cultural, and historical factors.

(Saragih & Saragih, 2021) stated that theme refers to the beginning or introductory part of a message, whereas the rhyme comprises the remaining part of the message that follows the theme. On the other hand, the theme is the initial functional position within the text.. It is obvious that Participant, Process and Circumstance may function as a theme, and the rest of the clause is classified as rheme. Moreover, (Rahardjo et al., 2021) implied that theme serves as the starting point that provides information to the reader about what will be followed next. On the other hand, rheme is the subsequent part of the clause that forms the entirety of the sentence following the theme. Therefore, theme and rheme are two choices that represent the main system of text meta-function.

Additionally, (Potter, 2016) has discussed by observing how specific words are given themes, and the order of themes and rhemes also highlights how certain ideas are spread or absorbed throughout the text. Theme and rheme are two interrelated concepts that depict how information is distributed within sentences. In short, rheme (R) is used to convey information related to the topic in the theme (T).

According to (Saragih & Saragih, 2021), below are the classifications of theme and rheme based on its markedness and complexity Based on its markedness, there are 2 types of themes, namely Unmarked and Marked Theme. Unmarked Theme caries the usual way of conveying a message, whereas Marked Theme conveys a message in unusual way. For example:

Your parents repeatedly yelled at you (Unmarked)

Repeatedly, your parents yelled at you (Marked)

Whereas based on the complexity, there are 2 types of themes; Simple Theme and Multiple Theme. A Simple Theme occupies only one functional position in a clause, meanwhile Multiple Theme carries more than one element in a clause. The elements of Multiple Theme are Textual, Interpersonal and Topical Theme. It can be indicated by the presence of conjunctions, conjunctive, relative pronouns and continuatives. For example:

I returned home (Simple)

I went there **and she** returned home (Multiple)

When features of Markedness and Complexity of Theme are combined, there may be an Unmarked Simple Theme (UST), Unmarked Multiple Theme (UMT), Marked Simple Theme (MST) and Marked Multiple Theme (MMT) as shown in the table below:

Table 1. Theme Generated by its Markedness and Complexity

COMPLEXITY	MARKEDNESS	
	Unmarked	Marked
Simple	Unmarked Simple	Marked Simple
Multiple	Unmarked Multiple	Marked Multiple

(VanderMeer, 2013) wrote that dialogue refers to the verbal expressions of characters that capture their distinct voices and viewpoints, unveiling their connections and inner thoughts to the reader. Additionally, (Kennedy, 2014) describes dialogue as the conversation and engagement between characters that unveils their individualities, motivations, conflicts, and aspirations, all while advancing the plot and captivating readers. In summary, dialogue encompasses the verbal exchanges and dynamics between characters that serve various storytelling purposes. Furthermore, (Kofman, 2018) stated the characteristics of dialogue are as follows:

a. Transcendence of Ego: dialogue involves transcending individual ego and personal agendas, shifting the focus towards collective wisdom and shared goals.
b. Active Inquiry: dialogue encourages active inquiry, curiosity, and a genuine interest in understanding others' perspectives, fostering a culture of learning and growth.
c. Nonviolent Communication: dialogue promotes nonviolent communication, emphasizing empathy, understanding, and compassionate dialogue to resolve conflicts and build relationships.

Brian (2019) stated that TV series are narrative-based programs that are typically broadcast on television. They feature ongoing storylines, character development, and thematic exploration, providing viewers with a prolonged engagement with the fictional world and its inhabitants.

METHOD
This study was a form of research that used a descriptive design employing a qualitative approach. According to (Aspers & Corte, 2019), qualitative research is a cyclical procedure that aims to enhance comprehension within the scientific community by creating meaningful differentiations through closer examination of the studied phenomenon. In addition, (Kaharuddin, 2020) have also observed that qualitative is a descriptive research and tends to use in-depth analysis. Subject perspective is more highlighted in qualitative research. The theoretical basis is used as a guide so that the research focus is in accordance with the facts in reality

In this research, the data were the result of secondary data, where the data source were obtained from a portion of the scripts in the series. These secondary data generally come from a series that has been transformed into a line of text with the title "Queen Charlotte: Bridgerton Story". The data were the viral dialogue of the series Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story episode 6. Here is the dialogue: *"I will stand with you between the heavens and the earth. I will tell you where you are. Do you love me? I love you! From the moment I saw you trying to go over the wall… I have loved you desperately. I cannot breath when you are not near. I love you, Charlotte. My heart calls your name."*

Then, the data were analyzed by comparing, describing, classifying and displaying by using table and description. In analyzing the text, the researcher employs the structure of themes and rhemes. The researcher analyzes common varieties of themes and rhemes as well as the meanings contained in the analyzed series. The theme and rheme in each clause and their relationship with the following clause. As (Wiratno, 2018) says the selection or placement of the theme and rheme in each clause within a text reflects the overall meaning of the text as a whole. Furthermore, Wiratno also said that to understand the implied and explicit meanings in the series, the use of words that are

organized with grammar and sentences (clauses) that do not originate from other sentences (clauses) is necessary.

The role of data collection techniques plays a crucial role in various types of research, as it ensures the validity of research findings. In the effort to gather the data, there are six steps undertaken by the researcher, according to the theory of Halliday in (Saragih & Saragih, 2021), namely:

1. Searching for data by collecting partial transcript dialogues from the series Queen Charlotte: Bridgerton Story.
2. Selecting partial texts from the series Queen Charlotte: Bridgerton Story.
3. Separating the text dialogic into clauses
4. Analyzing on the basis of the theme and rheme
5. Classifying theme
6. Write the pattern textual function in the text,
7. and the last evaluating success of the text.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1.

1) I will stand with you between the heavens and the Earth.
2) I will tell you where you are
3) Do you love me?
4) I love you!
5) From the moment I saw you trying to go over the wall…
6) I have loved you desperately.
7) I cannot breath when you are not near
8) I love you, Charlotte.
9) My heart calls your name.

2. Analyzing the clauses on the basis of Theme and Rheme

Table 2. Analysis of Theme and Rheme

No.	THEME	RHEME	REMARKS
1	I	will stand with you between the heavens and the earth	UST
2	I	will tell you where you are	UST
3	Do you	love me?	UMT
4	I	love you!	UST
5	From the moment	I saw you trying to go over the wall	MMT
6	I have	loved you desperately.	UMT
7	I cannot	breath when you are not near	UMT
8	I	love you, Charlotte	UST
9	My heart	calls your name	UST

3. Classifying Themes

Table 3. Themes and the Proportion in the Text

No.	Types of Theme	Number	Percentage
1	Unmarked Simple Theme (UST)	5	55,5%
2	Unmarked Multiple Theme (UMT)	3	33,3%
3	Marked Simple Theme (MST)	-	-
4	Marked Multiple Theme (MMT)	1	11,1%
	Total		**100%**

4. Pattern Textual Function in the Text
Based on the data, it was found textually the text was dominate UST. Out of three functional position theme in the text more one half (55.5%) were USTs. From the three funtional position, they were participant, circumstance or process, so that the dominant was participant. It is marked with *I*.

5. Evaluating succes of the text
Contextually the dialogue was talking about a romantic relationship between the speaker and someone named Charlotte. The speaker expressed their commitment to being with Charlotte and their desire. The field of the text appeared to be romantic love or a romantic relationship. The text revolved around expressions of love, commitment, and emotional longing between the speaker and the person referred to as Charlotte. It focused on the emotions, desires, and experiences associated with romantic affection and the connection between the two individuals. The mode of the given text was primarily declarative and expressive. The sentences in the text presented statements, assertions, and declarations rather than asking direct questions or giving commands. The speaker expressed their thoughts, emotions, and desires in a straightforward manner, sharing their feelings of love, commitment. This dialogue was naturally supported and justified by the dominant UST. This was to justify that the theme such as *I..., My heart...* were typical of dialogue. Love and expressions of affection were common human experiences that transcend cultural boundaries. The text dialogue has successfully conveyed the message by the mode of primarily declarative and expressive. The phrase ""I will stand with you between the heavens and the earth" utilized figurative language to express a deep sense of dedication. This metaphorical phrase highlights the speaker's resolved loyalty and unwavering commitment. By envisioning themselves as standing between the heavens and the earth, they conveyed a strong desire to provide steadfast protection and aid. It demonstrated the extent of their devotion and a pledge to stand by the side of the individual in question.

This dialogue portrayed a romance between two people. Through intense emotional responses, one character showed another character his real love. He assured her that he would always stand by her side to watch over and support her. This conversation also made it clear that the first character has loved the second character since he first laid eyes on her. These facial expressions revealed the second character's intense need and yearning for the first character's company and affection. According to legend, the first character's intense love was symbolized by the name "Charlotte".

The setting in which this discussion was presented has a significant impact on the viewers. However, generally speaking, this style of conversation aroused feelings of love, desire, and longing. The characters engaged may feel more connected and romantically intense as a result. Viewers who respect sincere and emotional encountered might relate to language that expresses affection and vulnerability. Depending on each

person's unique circumstances, preferences, and perception of the dialogue, the effect may be different for them.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of the given dialogue through the text reveals the following findings. The text predominantly utilizes Unmarked Simple Theme (UST) in its textual function, with over half (55.5%) of the functional positions employing USTs. The context of the dialogue centers around a romantic relationship involving the speaker and someone named Charlotte. Within the realm of romantic love, the text effectively communicates the speaker's deep commitment, desire, and emotional longing for Charlotte. The mode of the text primarily consists of declarative and expressive statements, which allow the speaker to convey their thoughts, emotions, and desires. The dominant use of UST contributes to the natural flow of dialogue commonly found in discussions about love and affection. By exploring expressions of love and affection, the text touches upon universal human experiences that transcend cultural boundaries. Through its declarative and expressive mode, the dialogue successfully conveys messages of love and commitment, establishing an emotional connection with the viewers. Overall, the text effectively communicates the speaker's emotions, desires, and unwavering commitment within the context of a romantic relationship. The predominant use of UST, combined with the declarative and expressive mode, ensures a seamless flow of dialogue and effectively conveys the message of love and affection.

REFERENCES

Aspers, P., & Corte, U. (2019). What is Qualitative in Qualitative Research. *Qualitative Sociology*, *42*(2), 139–160. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11133-019-9413-7

Dashela, T. (2021). THE ANALYSIS OF THEME AND RHEME IN SHORT STORY OF SLEEPING BEAUTY WITH A SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL APPROACH. *SALEE: Study of Applied Linguistics and English Education*, *2*(1), 11–28. https://doi.org/10.35961/salee.v2i01.201

Gee, J. P. (2014). *An Introduction to Discourse Analysis: Theory and Method*. Routledge.

Jaworski, A., & Coupland, N. (2014). *The Discourse Reader*. Routledge.

Kaharuddin, K. (2020). Kualitatif: Ciri dan Karakter Sebagai Metodologi. *Equilibrium: Jurnal Pendidikan*, *9*(1), 1–8. https://doi.org/10.26618/equilibrium.v9i1.4489

Kennedy, M. (2014). *Dialogue (Busy Writer's Guides)*. Tongue Untied Communications.

Kofman, F. (2018). *The Meaning Revolution: The Power of Transcendent Leadership*. Currency.

Matthiessen, C. M. I. M. (2019). *Systemic Functional Linguistics: Part 1*. Equinox Publishing.

Mercurio, J. (2019). *The Craft of Scene Writing*. Quill Driver Books.

Miller, T. (2010). *Television Studies: The Basics*. Routledge.

Octaberlina, L. R., & Muslimin, A. I. (2020). Theme-Rheme Analysis and Thematic Progression in Joko Widodo's Speech. *OKARA: Jurnal Bahasa Dan Sastra*, *14*(2), 255. https://doi.org/10.19105/ojbs.v14i2.3900

Paltridge, B. (2021). *Discourse Analysis: An Introduction* (3rd ed.). Bloomsbury Academic.

Potter, L. (2016). Ideological representations and Theme-Rheme analysis in English and Arabic news reports: a systemic functional approach. *Functional Linguistics*, *3*(1), 5. https://doi.org/10.1186/s40554-016-0028-y

Rahardjo, R., Hidayat, D. N., & Alek, A. (2021). THEME AND RHEME ANALYSIS AND POLITENESS STRATEGY IN DIPLOMATIC WORKPLACE WRITING: A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS. *Getsempena English Education Journal*, *8*(1), 123–133. https://doi.org/10.46244/geej.v8i1.1292

Saragih, A., & Saragih, M. (2021). *Discourse Analysis (A Study On Discourse Based On Systemic Functional Linguistic Theory)*. UMSU PRESS.

Tannen, D., Hamilton, H. E., & Schiffrin, D. (2015). *The Handbook of Discourse Analysis* (2nd ed., Vol. 1). Wiley Blackwell.

VanderMeer, J. (2013). *Wonderbook: The Illustrated Guide to Creating Imaginative Fiction*. Abrams Image.

Wiratno, T. (2018). *Pengantar Ringkas Linguistik Sistemik Fungsional*. Pelajar Pustaka.