

GENERAL ASPECTS OF THEME – RHEME AND GENERATION OF GIVEN INFORMATION IN THE CONTEXT

Sharipova Sarvinoz Sayfiddin qizi

Teacher of Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

Annotation: The article closely studies the types of information which is studied as a theme or rhyme as a pragmatic unit. The statements given in the article are investigated by using various examples. In addition to this, the author not only gives information in the English language, but also some data is provided as an example is closely connected to the target language.

Key words: Theme, rheme, extra linguistic context, old givenness, a linguistic environment, new givenness.

Given information is information that is assumed by the speaker to be known to, assumed by, or inferable by the addressee at the time of the speaker's utterance, because it may be common knowledge, part of the extralinguistic context or previously established in the conversation. It should be mentioned that Given information is usually placed early in a sentence and often may be reduced, abbreviated.

For example, **-The car has broken down.**

In this example, the car is a given information. On the contrary the has broken down is a new information. Because the addressor is sure and presupposes that the addressee knows which car it is, he has information about it.

As it is mentioned above, given information is not information known to the speaker only or it is not the news the speaker wishes to convey. It should be observed that given information could be based on entities that are known to the speaker and the addressee.

- **Salima was admitted to Webster University**

In this example, here Salima is part of the most important information despite the fact that both the speaker and the addressee know the person. What the addressee does not know is his admittance to the University. Such being the case, the new information, as expressed in this sentence, involves the process of enrolling to a certain University.

Additionally, given information is recoverable and there are two types of the given information:

1. **Old givenness.** This type of the given information is recoverable from the speaker's and the addressee's information stored in their long-term memory.

- **I have bought the "Layli va Majnun"**

Here, in this sentence, "Layli va Majnun" conveys the information stored in the long-term memory of the interlocutors. Both of the speakers have known the book before. They may have known this book for several years. Here, I have bought is new information.

2. **New givenness.** This type of the given information is recoverable from the speaker's and the addressee's information stored in their short-term memory.

- **There is a man under the tree. The man is smoking.**

In this example, the man conveys the information stored in the short-term memory of the interlocutors. Both participants of the conversation may have just seen the man that the speaker is mentioning. They may also have this conversation while seeing the man.

2. The generation of given information

It should be mentioned that given information is generated in certain conditions or in other words, environments. Given information is generated in 3 main environments:

1. A non-linguistic (physical) environment. It can refer to the place where the speaker, the addressee and others perform a conversation such as a classroom, a house, a stadium, a theatre. A distinguished of the environment is that entities in it are visible to both the speaker and the addressee. All these entities present potentially given information: the furniture, the walls, the ceiling, the windows, etc. The entities acquire the status of given information simply by the speaker's pointing to them via deictic expressions.

- Darling, have you seen the t-shirt?

- It is inside of **the cupboard.**

In this example, the cupboard is considered to the given information. Because both of the speakers are aware that there is only one cupboard in house and in which room this cupboard is situated. Here, given information is signaled with definite article. If the Speaker B added further information about the item, for example, its color, it would become new information.

It will be obvious that it is easier to identify entities that are closer to us. But, visibility is not an obligatory condition for the generation of givenness: the obligatory condition is the shared knowledge of the participants. The addressee may not see an entity but this entity may be given information. For example:

- **The TV set is still on. I think nobody is watching it.**

In this example, when the addressor speaks, he may not be the room where the TV set is fixed. However, the addressee can easily know the TV set that the addressor is talking about. Because the addressee, who is himself part of the home environment, will not have any difficulty identifying the entities such the TV the garden, the roof, the car.

2. A linguistic environment. This type of the environment is also called textual environment. In a linguistic environment, the speaker generally introduces an entity into the discourse. An entity introduced turns into given information.

- I have bought a new bag. The bag is yellow and big.

This example shows that entity (bag) is turned into the given information by the speaker. The addressor first mentions about the entity which is known to himself, then he gives new information (yellow and big) which makes the entity into given information.

3. A culturally shared environment. This type of environment which given information is generated is also called epistemic environment. In order to identify the given identity, here the

addressor must be a member of a particular society. If the addressee can identify the entity referred to, he or she is a member of the same cultural community as the speaker.

For instance, in Asian culture, **Navoi** is given information. Everybody knows him in Asia as famous writer. However, this name can refer to the name of the region,

- **Navoi is small, but clean.**

In this example, the addressor is referring the place which is named after the famous writer. If utterance is told to the person who came from Europe, he may not easily comprehend what the speaker is actually referring to. That is why this certain given information would become new information for the addressee.

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