

## ***Abstract***

This volume contains presentations given at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Officina Textologica Conference held at the University of Debrecen on 15th October, 2003, with the participation of staff members and invited contributors of the linguistics departments of the University of Debrecen. (The proceedings of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> OT Conference were published in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> volumes of Officina Textologica, respectively.)

While the first conference was devoted to general issues in text linguistics and textology, the main concern of the second conference was the examination of the possible linear arrangements of the components of text sentences (i.e. the possible theme-rheme structures). This issue was further elaborated at the third conference, focussing attention on various aspects of thematic progression.

This volume of Officina Textologica contains the written versions of the eight presentations given at the third OT Conference.

In her presentation *'New' types of progression and two-sided rheme structure*, ANDREA CSÜRY analyses the characteristics of thematic progression in newspaper articles written in French. Although their interpretation may potentially involve some difficulties, the so-called 'two-sided rheme structure' constructions prove to be extremely economical, as illustrated by the five examples discussed in the presentation.

In his presentation *Thematic progression and its absence in English psychotic narrations*, PÉTER PELYVÁS examines the structure of psychotic narratives in a cognitive framework. The narratives selected were created by psychotic patients in an attempt to give an account of the events seen in a short movie of five scenes. The patients' versions clearly reflect their difficulties in creating the corresponding cognitive models (thematic progression) related to the story.

In her presentation *What a fine piece of argumentation!—The caricature of thematic progression in Molière*, FRANCISKA SKUTTA discusses the 'strange twists' of thematic progression in the 'sequential argumentation' of two dialogues taken from *Don Juan* and *Le Médecin malgré lui* by Molière.

In their presentation *Examination of thematic progression in selected texts using co-reference analysis*, KÁROLY I. BODA and JUDIT PORKOLÁB present a complex analytical apparatus which has been elaborated in order to analyse, using a formal and algorithmic approach, the co-reference structure and thematic progression of texts. The authors demonstrate their conception by giving a sample analysis of a passage from a poem by Radnóti.

In his presentation *Progressive dialogue? (on the basis of texts by Molière)* SÁNDOR KISS, suggesting a wider interpretation for the traditional term, demonstrates the lack of thematic progression in dialogue fragments selected from the works of Molière.

In his presentation *Connectors and thematic progression*, ISTVÁN CSÚRY discusses the question whether it is possible to draw *general* conclusions, on the basis of the presence of certain connectors, regarding the thematic structure of their co-texts. The author, who analyses eight extracts from various texts, demonstrates that a correlation can indeed be found between connectors and the structure of their co-texts.

In his presentation *Thematic progression in the context of the history of style*, ZOLTÁN SZABÓ, analysing some carefully chosen examples, draws two conclusions: one is that simple and complex trends of style can be readily distinguished on the basis of the different types of thematic progression observed in them; the other is that stylistic analysis is capable of distinguishing characteristic types of thematic progression that are rooted in the historical changes of style and can be characterized in terms of stylistics.

In his presentation *Forms of text organisation and the three facets of meaning*, JÁNOS S. PETŐFI analyses the conceptual, co-referential, and communicative components of meaning, establishing their relationship with different forms of text organisation. He also demonstrates that the analysis of theme-rheme structure and thematic progression can be easily accommodated with such a framework.

The relevance of the contributions, in addition to their individual merits and the fact that they employ a variety of theoretical approaches in their analyses of different types of texts, is further enhanced by the fact that all the authors have participated in all three OT conferences organised so far and have in this way contributed to the creation and maintenance of a forum for continuous professional discussion.