

# FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR– CHAPTER SIX ORGANISING THE MESSAGE

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LECTURER: **PHẠM HỒNG ANH**

# CHAPTER SIX OUTLINE

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- Theme: the point of departure of the message
- The distribution and focus of information
- The interplay of Theme-Rheme and Given-New

# THEME: THE POINT OF DEPARTURE OF THE MESSAGE

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- Theme and rheme

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Rheme</b>
<b>1</b> We	'll reach Lancaster, but not Carlisle, by noon.
<b>2</b> By noon	we'll reach Lancaster, but not Carlisle.
<b>3</b> Lancaster, but not Carlisle	we'll reach by noon.

- Unmarked theme and marked theme
- Topic and subject as theme

# THEME: THE POINT OF DEPARTURE OF THE MESSAGE (CONT'D)

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- Circumstantial adjuncts as themes

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Rheme</b>
1 We	did a lot of sightseeing <i>in London last year</i> .
2 <i>In London last year,</i>	we did a lot of sightseeing.

- Objects and Complements as themes

*Moussaka* you ordered, and *moussaka* you've got.

Janet asked me to bring her some tea from London. *This* I did.

- Clauses as themes

**1** *As you weren't at home,* I left a message on your answer-phone.

**2** *As she stepped off the kerb,* a cyclist crashed into her.

# THE DISTRIBUTION AND FOCUS OF INFORMATION

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- Information units, tone units
- Given and new information

A. What's NEW then?

B. Well, Jim's bought a new CAR, //, Norma's getting a DIVORCE // and Jamie's got CHICKEN-POX //, but apart from that . . .

- Unmarked focus and marked focus

Pete's just COMPLAINED about it.

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

SHE didn't make the phone call, ROBERT did.

The kids didn't SIT on the sofa, they JUMPED on it.

# THE INTERPLAY OF THEME-RHEME AND GIVEN-NEW

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- Thematic progression:

Simple linear: T1 – R1

T2 – R2

Continuous: T1 – R1

T1 – R2

T1 – R3

Derived: Hypertheme: T1 – R1, T2 – R2, T3 – R3,

- Theme-Rheme = Given-New

# THE INTERPLAY OF THEME-RHEME AND GIVEN-NEW (CONT'D)

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Thematisation/thematic fronting

- Clefting: It-clefts and Wh-clefts

It's MONEY (that) they need (*it*-cleft)

What they need is MONEY (*wh*-cleft)

- Active - Passive alternative
- Extraposition of clauses

## **Clause as Subject**

*That the banks are closed on Saturday* is a nuisance.

*What they are proposing to do* is horrifying.

*To interfere* would be unwise.

## **Extraposed clause**

*It's a nuisance that the banks are closed on Saturday.*

*It's horrifying what they are proposing to do.*

*It would be unwise to interfere.*