Ideational, Interpersonal, and Textual Meanings in a Japanese Storybook, "Kibou no Bokujou"

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Abstract

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This research examines ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings by applying the theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics by Halliday & Matthiessen (2014). The qualitative methodology was used to comprehensively explain the meaning in a Japanese storybook entitled Kibou no Bokujou 'A Livestock of Hope' by Mori & Yoshida (2015). Based on the analysis of the lexico-grammatical aspect used in the text, it can be concluded that these three meanings simultaneously relate. Ideational meaning shows the domination of material processes generally found in children's narratives. Interpersonal meanings show a tendency of IndicativeDeclarative MOOD, which can be interpreted as the author of the storybook being positioned as the information provider to the readers. Textual meaning shows that the information distribution is frequently realized with the unmarked topical theme, which can be interpreted as most of the texts' subjects are farm owners and their cows. Meanwhile, the thematic progression is dominated by a reiteration pattern (constant theme). It can be interpreted that the same theme repeatedly and sequentially appears to help the readers understand the text. A storybook entitled Kibou no Bokujou has successfully provided information about the struggle of a farm owner who chose to stay on his farm after the earthquake and tsunami. The information is delivered in a narrative that can be easily understood without putting aside the entertainment aspect of a storybook.

INTRODUCTION

Storybooks have a fundamental role in children's lives, entertainment, and education because they are believed to be capable of representing the life of a society in a certain place (Belcher, 2018; Horst et al., 2015; Qiu, 2019). Storybooks are important sources for children to learn a new language, concepts, and lessons (Strouse et al., 2018). Children's interaction with storybooks significantly affects the development of their learning process (Henderson et al., 2021). In the past few years, storybooks have been gradually used as subjects for academic study, which were popular in several scientific types of research. These researchers used storybooks from the perspectives of the education (Chou et al., 2021; Maximo, 2019; Norton & Tembe, 2021), culture (Reichert, 2017; Wee et al., 2018), health (Alsaadoon et al., 2022; Syeda et al., 2021), and several other fields. Meanwhile, some research investigating information on the content in the storybook was conducted by and Gallagher & Bataineh (2020); Hermawan & Sukyadi (2017); Moya-Guijarro (2019).

Gallagher & Bataineh (2020) investigated the linguistic landscape in a storybook for young emergent bilingual children in the United Arab Emirates. The research results indicate that unifying the Arabic language and English in the storybook is difficult because linguistic balance, page layout, name selections, environmental print, and cultural content must be considered. Meanwhile, research conducted Moya-Guijarro (2019) focuses on investigating the visual function of metonymies in English storybooks. The research results show the communicative functions of visual metonymies for highlighting some important aspects of character and story plot and the difference in the proportion of metonymies from storybooks intended for two age levels of readers. Meanwhile, research Hermawan & Sukyadi (2017) investigated the ideational meaning and interpersonal meaning of children's storybooks in the Indonesian language using the multimodal perspective. Analysis shows that ideationally, the narrative is mainly centered around the activities done by and to

children, which are presented as an offer to the readers; visually and verbally represented participants in the storybook equal to child readers.

Almost all of the research objects, storybooks in this case, with a linguistic approach, are storybooks written in English, Greek language, Mandarin language, and Indonesian language (Hermawan & Sukyadi, 2017; Koutsikou & Christidou, 2019; Moya-Guijarro & Pinar-Sanz, 2008; Qiu, 2019). Meanwhile, only a few researchers used storybooks in the Japanese language, like what was conducted byDamayanti et al. (2019); and Puspitasari (2021). Despite existing, these researches are only published as an article in the Japanese language, conducted by and Furuichi (2014); Furuichi & Nishigiki (2009); Hayakawa (2015).

Based on the literature review above, this research focuses on the problems of ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings in the Japanese language storybook. The problem discussed in this research is not yet completely studied in previous research. The writers used a research object, namely a Japanese storybook entitled 希望の牧場 *Kibou no Bokujou* 'A Livestock of Hope' Mori & Yoshida (2015). This storybook was chosen because of the minimum quantity of scientific papers written in English about Japanese storybooks with an approach to the Systemic Functional Linguistics Halliday & Matthiessen (2014). Besides, a storybook, Kibou no Bokujou, belongs to Japanese books and was selected for the Internasional Board on Books for Young People Honour list. Japanese storybooks have a long history since the eighth century, often receiving an award or being nominated at the international level (Kawasaki, 2019).

The themes frequently discussed in a storybook about Japanese culture are clothes, food, festivals, and traditional activities; Japanese values and beliefs, namely respect and harmony; Japanese historical events or political issues; and crossing of different cultures showing conflicts and identity issues (Wee et al., 2018). Thus, by conducting this research, the writers conveyed the message's meaning by referring to the

Systemic Functional Linguistics Halliday & Matthiessen (2014).

Systemic Functional Linguistics views language, orally and in writing, not only as a group of structures but system network or a group of interconnected choices for constructing a meaningful (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Referring to that idea, Wiratno (2018) assumed that three language functions in Systemic Functional Linguistics could explain the potency of language meaning at the lexico-grammatical level. These functions include ideational, interpersonal, and textual aspects. These three functions are simultaneously described whenever language is realized and considered a tool allowing analysis and understanding of the choices of linguistics mode in certain text. The linguists can use these three functions to deconstruct any message encoded into text about linguistics realization in every metafunction (Asidiky, 2022). The ideational function is related to the clause as a representation of experience. Representation of the linguistics experience is a commodity transacted by the user of language, referred to as transitivity. Transitivity includes process, participants (people and objects), and circumstance. The interpersonal function is related to the interactive clause involving the speaker/author and audiences/readers. Meanwhile, textual function realizes ideational and interpersonal metafunctions into a symbol. In the text, the symbol is called textual expression, having separate meanings and systems, different in every language unit and from other semiotic systems.

These three language functions create a meaning called the meta-functional meaning. Metafunctional meaning is a meaning simultaneously developed from three language functions, namely ideational, interpersonal, and textual (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014; Wiratno, 2018). Ideational meaning is created because of realization from lexico-grammar aspects used for understanding the environment and organizing the experience of the speaker or author concerning the real or fictitious world. Interpersonal meaning is created by realization from lexico-grammar aspects used to act like others. Meanwhile, textual meaning results from realizing lexico-grammar aspects that become a media for realizing a text that is written or oral, coherent, and by the certain situation when using a language.

There are many relevant theories for analyzing textual meaning. In this dimension, the clause is the source of meaning for organizing information and messages (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Information considered more important in general is prioritized by positioning it in front of clause (theme), while the following part aims to complete information that has been delivered before (rheme). In this dimension, the writers used two approaches, namely, a theory about theme type Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) and thematic progression Eggins (2004); Danes in Halim et al. (2021); Yunita (2018). It refers to an idea of "the skeleton of a plot," referring to information flow patterns in text and how information is exchanged between the pairing of the theme and rheme (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Theme type has three main patterns, namely topical theme, interpersonal theme, and textual theme. Meanwhile, thematic progression includes a reiteration pattern (constant theme), a zig-zag pattern (linear theme), and multiple patterns (split rhyme).

Applying several theories above in the book Kibou no Bokujou is expected to make this research capable of elaborating the message's meaning to be delivered by the storybook's author. Thus, readers can understand information about the content in Japanese storybooks, which often get an international award or are used as a reference for storybooks feasible to be translated into several languages worldwide.

METHOD

This research used a qualitative method by following a case study approach. This approach focuses the self intensively, in detail, and in-depth on a certain object that learns it as a case (Creswell, 2018; Miles et al., 2020). The main objective of this research is to categorize, analyze, and interpret data for identifying the meaning in

small scale or case in Japanese storybook. Thus, the use of qualitative descriptive methodology is considered appropriate.

The object of this research was a storybook entitled 希望の牧場 *Kibou no Bokujou* 'A Livestock of Hope' Mori & Yoshida (2015). This storybook is one of the Japanese books selected for the International Board on Books for Young People Honour List 2016. The book *Kibou no Bokujou* tells a story about the condition of livestock near a Nuclear Power Plant. The story is inspired by an earthquake and tsunami that hit eastern Japan in 2011, causing the leakage of radioactive material. Because of that disaster, people left the city to save their lives, while their animals were just left behind, and they started dying one by one. At that time, a farmer and his 330 cows have been exposed to radioactive material. Thus, the farmer chose to stay together with his cows and took care of them until the city was restored like before.

Data collection in this research used a tapping and listening technique, as Sudaryanto (2015) stated, reading and listening to 106 clauses in a Kibou no Bokujou storybook. Data analysis was conducted to answer problems related to how the author sets and delivers meaning from the message as intended through verbal text and other mark systems in a storybook. There were several steps for answering the problems, namely categorizing, describing, and analyzing (1) the use of lexico-grammatical aspects, including process, participant, and circumstance; (2) MOOD and general structure in the clause; and (3) theme type, including topical theme, interpersonal theme, and textual theme; thematic progression included reiteration pattern (constant theme), zig-zag pattern (linear theme), and multiple patterns (split rheme). To analyze the first and second problems, the writers used the theory stated byHalliday & Matthiessen (2014); Teruya (2004, 2007), while the theories of theme type by Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) and thematic progression by Eggins (2004) and Danes in (Halim et al., 2021; Yunita, 2018) were combined to analyze the third problem. Analysis data was presented in descriptive form with words without formulation or symbol (Sudaryanto, 2015).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data analysis results are presented in three stages: ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings. These three stages are presented in sequential order. In every explanation, the writers provide examples of the lexicogrammar used in a book entitled *Kibou no Bokujou* and its interpretation.

Ideational meaning

Ideational meaning is the meaning as a result of the realization of the lexico-grammatical aspect used for comprehending the surrounding nature for organizing the experience of the speaker/author about a real or imaginary world (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014; Wiratno, 2018). In this stage, the clause is viewed as a source of meaning to represent the experience. Representation of the linguistics experience is a commodity transacted by the user of language, referred to as the transitivity (Teruya, 2004). Transitivity includes the process, the participant (people and objects), and the circumstance (Sujatna, 2013). In linguistics, processes are expressed in a verb, a participant is expressed in a noun (including pronoun), and circumstances are expressed in an adverb. Transitivity analysis in the book *Kibou no Bokujou* is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Amount of process
in *Kibou no Bokujou*

Process	Absolute value	Value in percentages
Material	55	51.8
Mental	15	14.2
Relational	10	9.5
Verbal	5	4.8
Behavioural	1	0.9
Existential	20	18.8
Total	106	100

In transitivity analysis, the dominating process was a material process (51.8%) using the verb 逃げた *nigeta* 'to go/to run', 食う *kuu* 'to eat', 殺すことにした *korosu koto ni shita* 'to be killed', する *suru* 'to do', 無くした *nakushita* 'to disappear', やる *yaru* 'to feed', 手伝ってくれる

tetsudatte kureru 'to come for giving help', 見学に来る *kengaku ni kuru* 'to come for studying', 咲く *saku* 'to blossom', 歌う *utau* 'to sing', 燃える *moeru* '(leaves) to turn red', 働く *hataraku* 'to work' and so on. These words were used to show action by participants, namely 牛飼い *ushikai* 'farmer', みんな *minna* 'people', and 動物たち *doubutsu tachi* 'animals'. In a clause （私は）売れない牛に、毎日、エサをやる *(watashi) wa urenai ushi ni, mainichi, esa wo yaru* 'Every day (I) fed my cows which cannot be sold anymore', it had two participants, namely 私 *watashi* 'I' as the actor and 売れない牛 *urenai ushi* 'cows which cannot be sold' as the target.

Existential process (18.8%) occupied the second position, using verb ある *aru* 'existence of object', いる *iru* 'existence of living creatures', あった *atta* 'existence in past tense', いた *ita* 'existence of living creatures in the past tense, and so on. In a clause うちの牧場は、原子力発電所の近くにあったからだ *uchi no bokujou wa, genshiryoku hatsudensho no chikaku ni atta kara da* 'because my livestock was near the Nuclear Power Plant', the existential process was started with a phrase うちの牧場 *uchi no bokujou* 'my livestock' and process showing the existence of livestock with the word あった *atta* 'existence of an object in past tense'. The use of the word いた *ita* 'existence for the living creatures in past tense' as the marker of the existential process was also found in clause そのころ、うちの牧場には330頭の肉牛がいた *sono koro, uchi no bokujou ni wa 330 tou no nikuushi ga ita* 'At that time, my livestock had 330 cows'.

Mental process (14.2%) occupied the third position, using verb 知る *shitte iru* 'to know', わかる *wakaru* 'to understand', 考える *kangaeru* 'to think', 見る *miru* 'to see', こわい *kowai* 'to be afraid' and so on. The mental process was also shown in a clause その気持ちも、オレはわかる *sono kimochi mo, ore wa wakaru* 'I also understood

their feeling' which explained the mental process (cognition) from Senser オレ *ore* 'I' using verb わかる *wakaru* 'to understand'. Mental process (affection) was explained using the word こわい *kowai* 'to be afraid' in clause そりゃ放射能はこわいけど、しょうがない *Sorya houshanou wa kowai kedo, shouganai* '(I) was afraid of being exposed to the radioactive, but I had no choice left'. Meanwhile, the relational process (9.5%) was in clause 放射能に汚染された土地 *houshano ni osensareta tochi* 'region contaminated by the radioactive' and 入っちゃいけない土地 *haiccha ikenai tochi* 'region that was not allowed to be visited'. These two clauses had the relation of meaning extension, 土地 *tochi* 'region' by providing identity to the region to be more specific.

The verbal process (4.8%) and behavioral process (0.9%) occupied the lowest position in a book entitled *Kibou no Bokujou*. The verbal process was in a clause その人たちから、オレ、いわれたよ「オレらは泣く泣く、牛を殺した。なんでお前だけ生かしている」 *sono hitotachi kara, ore, iwareta yo "orera wa naku naku, ushi wo koroshita. Nande omae dake ikashite iru"* 'They told me we had to approve their extermination while mourning. Why did you insist on refusing it?'. Sayer in this clause was その人たち *sono hitotachi* 'they' who informed about …なんでお前だけ生かしている *…nande omae dake ikashite iru* 'why did you insist on refusing it?'. Meanwhile, the behavioral process was in a clause でも、それ見るときがいちばん、ほっとする *demo, sore miru toki ga ichiban, hottosuru* 'but I heaved a sigh of relief when seeing them live like that'. An expression 見るとき *miru toki* 'when seeing' was behavior to intensely see something, thus categorized as a behavioral process.

Based on the transitivity analysis above, a tendency in the use of material processes in the text can be identified. It can be interpreted that the book entitled *Kibou no Bokujou* reveals more about the occurrence after the earthquake and

tsunami hit the city and cattle farm. The author describes more about the farm owner's physical activities and livestock.

Interpersonal meaning

Interpersonal meaning is the meaning as a result of the realization of the lexico-grammatical aspect used to comprehend the social reality related to the interaction between the author/speaker and reader/audience (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014; Wiratno, 2018). Wiratno (2018) stated that in word and clause levels, interpersonal meaning is conveyed by choosing a clause system (simple and complex) and MOOD (imperative or indicative-declarative). Based on the analysis of the clause system, a storybook *Kibou no Bokujou* had simple clauses (80%) and complex clauses (20%). For MOOD analysis in the clause, indicative-declarative MOOD (95%) dominated the storybook. Meanwhile, indicative-interrogative-polar MOOD (1%), indicative-interrogative MOOD (2%), and imperative MOOD (2%) were very few.

Besides the discussion about the function of speech through MOOD analysis above, a discussion about modus and residue is also required. Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) stated that interpersonal meaning has two main aspects: modus and residue. Modus has subject and finite; residue has predicator, complement, and adjunct. Meanwhile, Teruya (2004, 2007) stated that the discussion about modus and residue in English and Japanese languages shows a significant difference. The structure in modus and residue in the Japanese language clause is stated using predicator and negotiator, while the residue is stated with subject, complement, and adverb. Therefore, the analysis in this stage applied a theory as stated by Teruya because the object of this research used the data in the Japanese language.

General structures of mood and residue from the clauses in a storybook *Kibou no Bokujou*, were (1) subject^ finite/polar/predicator; (2) subject^ finite/polar/complement; (3) subject^ finite/polar/adjunct; and (4) subject^ adjunct/complement^ finite/polar/predicator. In Japanese clauses, finite/polar diffuses with predicator, complement, or adjunct. As is known, finite is a grammatical function used for determining polarity, interrogative form, and tense, like finite polarity (negative) ない *nai* 'not' that diffuses with predicator that is verb 分からない *wakaranai* 'not to know'. Meanwhile, in some Japanese language clauses, there is a tendency for that subject to disappear when the topic or theme from the clause has been stated in the previous sentence. Thus, there was an emergence of modus and residue structure, namely (1) finite/ polar/ predicator and (2) adjunct/ complement^finite/ polar/ predicator, as shown in a clause たくさん食って、うまい肉になる *takusan kutte, umai niku ni naru* 'that is why (cows) must eat much'.

Based on the analysis of interpersonal meaning, a tendency to use Indicative-Declarative MOOD in the text can be identified. It can be interpreted that the author is positioned as the information provider to the readers. For the author, the readers are identified as the audiences listening to a story about the survival of a farm owner and his cows after an earthquake and tsunami hit Fukushima, Japan.

Textual meaning

There are many relevant theories for analyzing textual meaning. The writers combined the theories of theme type Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) and thematic progression by Eggins (2004) and Danes in (Halim et al., 2021; Yunita, 2018). A summary of these two theories is presented in the table below. This table is adapted from Field Halim et al. (2021) research.

Table 2. Theme Types and Thematic Progression

Theme and Rheme	Analytical tools	Explanation
Theme type (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014)	Topical theme: Marked topical theme	A marked topical theme can be determined by identifying information in front of subject, with other information that is the circumstance, namely adverb of place, time, and manner.
	Topical theme: Unmarked Topical theme	An unmarked topical theme can be identified in clause diffusing with subject.
	Interpersonal theme	Interpersonal theme is oriented to the author and can be realized using pronoun, mood, finite, and interrogative.
	Textual theme	Textual theme is realized through conjunction and continuatives.
Thematic progression Eggins (2004) and Danes (1974)	Reiteration pattern (Constant theme)	The same element occurs regularly as theme
	Zig-zag pattern (Linear theme)	The element that is introduced as a rheme in the first clause become theme of the following clause
	Multiple pattern (Split rheme)	The theme of one clause introduces a number of different pieces of information in the rheme, each of which is taken up and made theme in the following clauses.

According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), a clause is viewed as the source of meaning used for organizing information in the textual dimension. Information considered more general is positioned before the clause (theme), while the following part aims to complete information (rheme). Furthermore, the writers explained the analysis of theme types, including topical, interpersonal, and textual themes, in the book *Kibou no Bokujou*.

Information distribution in the storybook was textually conveyed with the unmarked topical theme (81%) and the marked topical theme (19%). Realization of the unmarked topical theme can be interpreted that the main issue conveyed in the storybook was mostly through subject 牛飼い *ushikai* 'farmer', うちの牧場 *uchi no bokujou* 'my livestock', and 牧場の牛たち *Bokujou no ushi tachi* 'cows'. Marked topical theme was stated in terms of circumstance, adverb of time 東日本大地震の約一時間後 *higashi nihon oojishin no yaku ichi jikan ato* 'approximately one hour after a large earthquake hit eastern Japan' and adverb of place 牧場で *Bokujou de* 'in livestock'. Interpersonal theme (7.5%) was not frequently found in a storybook, one of which was interrogative in a clause なんでおまえだけ生かしてる？ *nande omae dake*

ikashite iru? 'Why did you insist on refusing it (letting cows stay alive and not kill them)?' Meanwhile, the textual theme had 32 clauses (30%) realized through the use of external conjunction (20%), internal conjunction (4.7%), and continuative discourse marker (5.3%). One of the uses of conjunction was in a clause けど、弱った牛が死ぬたびに、ここには絶望しかないような気もする *kedo, yowakatta ushi ga shinu tabi ni, koko ni wa zetsubou shikanai youna ki mo suru* 'but, whenever weak cows died, what I felt here was only despair'. Conjunction けど *kedo* 'but' was used to link the farmer's experience to the condition of his cows. Besides, a marker of continuative discourse, namely なあ *naa* or な *na* 'greeting from author to reader' and ま *ma* 'sigh', was used to invite the reader to feel the condition of the farmer and his cows.

The paragraph's theme and information distribution development show that the reiteration pattern (constant theme) was 80%, and the zig-zag pattern (linear theme) was 20%. Meanwhile, multiple patterns (spit rheme) were not found in the book *Kibou no Bokujou*. The following is data representation in the book *Kibou no Bokujou* concerning the reiteration pattern (constant theme).

	Theme	Rheme
Clause 1	なあ、「牛飼い」って *naa, ushikai tte* 'cow breeder?	知っている？ *shitte iru?* 'do (you) know that?'
Clause 2	（牛飼いは） （*ushikai wa*） 'cow breeder'	牧場で、牛の世話して、暮らしている *Bokujou de, ushi no sewashite, kurashite iru* 'person living in livestock and taking care of cows
Clause 24	まったく、牛たちは *mattaku, ushi tachi wa* 'those cows'	よく食うんだ *yoku kuunda* 'eat so much'
Clause 25	（牛たちは） （*ushi tachi wa*） 'they'	オレの10倍もでかい体で、いつもエサをさがしてる *ore no juubai mo dekai karada de, itsumo esa wo sagashite ru* 'its body is ten times larger than mine and always asks for food, again and again'

Figure 1. Reiteration pattern (constant theme) in *Kibou no Bokujou*

Figure 1 shows that at the beginning of the storybook, the author asks readers whether they know about the cow breeder (clause 1). Clause 2 explains a person living in livestock while taking care of a cow. The tendency in the Japanese language clause is when the next clause has the same theme, it disappears. Similarly, it applies to the theme in clauses 24 and 25 about the cows in livestock. The pattern for theme repetition is used in text to imply information to be conveyed by the author, in line with a statement Eggins (2004) that theme repetition pattern is used to emphasize focus from the topic. It can be concluded that the book *Kibou no Bokujou* reaches cohesion through the same theme repetition in the next clause to facilitate readers (children) in understanding the flow of the information presented.

	Theme	Rheme
Clause 16	放射能をあびた牛たちは *houshanou wo abita uchitachi wa* 'cow that has been radioactively exposed'	もう食えない *mou kuenai* 'cannot be consumed anymore'
Clause 17	食えない牛は *kuenai ushi wa* 'cow that cannot be consumed anymore'	売れない *urenai* 'cannot be sold'
Clause 39	オレは *ore wa* 'I'	（そのきもち）わかる （*sono kimochi*）*wakaru* 'to understand (their feeling)'
Clause 40	ほんとは（そのきもち） *honto wa* （*sono kimochi*） 'certainly (about their feeling)'	だれだって、殺したくなかった *dare datte, koroshita kunakatta* 'which farmers are willing to kill their cattle''

Figure 2. Zig-zag pattern (linear theme) in *Kibou no Bokujou*

Figure 2 shows a zig-zag pattern (linear theme) in clauses 16 and 17 about cows that cannot be consumed anymore because of being exposed to dangerous radiation, so they cannot be sold anymore. This pattern is also shown in clauses 39 and 40 about cow breeders' feelings in the city. Using an information development pattern with a zig-zag pattern (linear theme) results in cohesive text. It also provides readers with a cumulative field development (Eggins, 2004).

Information distribution in the text is textually conveyed through thematization. The unmarked topical theme tends to be more frequently used in text. It can be interpreted that the main problem in the theme is mostly the subject who is the owner of a farm or cow. Meanwhile, to easily understand the text, the author used a reiteration pattern (constant theme) more frequently in the narrative for children.

CONCLUSION

This research focuses on examining the ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings in a Japanese storybook entitled *Kibou no Bokujou*. Based on the analysis and discussion presented, it can be concluded that ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings simultaneously relate. In the dimension of ideational meaning, the author indirectly invites the readers to feel the difficulty experienced by the cow breeder. The interpersonal meaning is mostly stated in Indicative–declarative MOOD. It can be interpreted that the author is positioned as the provider of information, while the readers are information receivers. In textual meaning, the text is organized using the unmarked topical theme in general. Meanwhile, the author uses the marked topical theme when explaining in detail about adverb of time and place when the earthquake and tsunami hit eastern Japan. The storybook *Kibou no Bokujou* reaches cohesion through the repetition of the reiteration pattern (constant theme) to facilitate readers in understanding the flow of information presented.

The story discussed in the storybook is based on a real story about an accident that hit a Nuclear Power Plant and caused nuclear radiation leakage that was highly dangerous. However, the story is presented using simple vocabulary, a simple plot, reconstructing real occurrences, and information distribution that does not cause multiple interpretations. A suggestion for the next research is that similar research can be conducted in the storybook by emphasizing specific themes, such as animal characters, folklore, and so on, in several languages or the Japanese language using the approach of Systemic Functional Linguistics.

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