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# An Analysis of the Textual Development of Motorsport News Articles

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## Abstract

This paper attempts to clarify the textual development pattern in motorsport news articles. The study focuses on twelve news articles of Formula One, and describes what information is packed into the text. The thematic analysis (Halliday 1985) is applied to the data, then the thematic flow structure is examined. The analysis is twofold : the headline and the body. The analysis of headlines indicates the headline consistently conveys the fastest driver's name while the headline constructing pattern depends on choices of transitivity system. The analysis of the body suggests that there are four patterns of thematic flow and that the patterns reflect the textual developing patterns. The body articles usually contain the following information : the fastest driver's name, his time and speed and other drivers' results. Only if an accident occurs, the text topicalizes the driver involved in the accident and foregrounds the details of the accident.

## 1. Introduction

The following paper is a stylistic research. It aims to clarify one of the stylistic features of news articles, in this case, the textual development, which pertains to what kind of information is required in the texts as well as how the information is organized. As for news articles, previous studies have revealed that stylistic differences depend on newspapers (Crystal and Davy 1969) and that the editorial process influences the stylistic variations (Bell 1991). The present study, however, does not deal with a wide range of articles. Rather it focuses on motorsport news as one of the varieties of news articles.

The word "style" is used as a cover-term to include both of two different varieties in language. They are "dialect" and "register" (Halliday 1978). Dialect is a variety according to the user, which in principle is different way of the same thing. Register pertains to a variety according to the use. This is determined by what one is going to do. Kress (1985 : 19) explains the concept of register as follows :

The conventionalised forms of the occasions lead to conventionalised forms of texts, to specific GENRES. Genres have specific forms and meanings, deriving from and encoding the functions, purposes and meanings of the social occasions. Genres therefore provide a precise index and catalogue of the relevant social occasions of a community at a given time. A few examples of genre are : interview, essay, conversation, sale, tutorial, sports commentary, seduction, office memo, novel, political speech, editorial, sermon, joke, instruction.

According to the explanation, it seems rather precise to categorize this analysis of sportnews articles into generic studies.

The purpose of this analysis is to establish a point of departure to unveil whole figure of news articles in terms of their linguistic style including the wide range from lexical items to discourse. The starting point should be simply to clarify what the articles thematize as well as how they organize the themes, then ultimately what and how the articles report. The conclusion drawn from the following analysis seems to fit to only a small portion of news articles, or motorsport news articles. However, by extending and modifying the knowledge, for instance, one can identify reasons which make the different styles among papers. The starting grid leads to fertile field of further investigation.

## 2. Analytical Framework

The approach of this study is a systemic-functional one : a thematic analysis. This way reveals the method of textual development (Halliday 1985) . The procedure is as follows. First, clauses in articles are identified as one of four clauses : independent clause, dependent clause, included clause and embedded clause. Second, if the clauses other than embedded clauses have a nominal group or a prepositional group in the beginning, the group is marked as the theme of the clause. Third, the themes found in the headlines are also examined. Fourth, the themes in body articles are listed for each clause according to the appearance order. Finally the thematic flow enumerated in the list is analyzed and the textual development patterns are examined.

The theme does not simply mean the very first elements of a clause. Rather, it serves as a point of departure for the further discourse development and connect the previous discourse with a coherent linking (Brown and Yule 1983). On one hand a thematic element contains something very important that a speaker/writer is going to talk about. On the other hand the theme is a glue to link clauses. Hence tracing the thematic flow reveals

how the whole text is organized.

### 3. On Data

The data are extracted from articles reporting news about F1, which stands for Formula One. It is one of the most prestigious categories in motorsports. The sport has been recently popular in Japan because several Japanese drivers and many Japanese corporations are involved in this sport. The participants to this specific sport are the drivers of the F1 cars and their teams including team managers, mechanics and car designers. They compete for getting the world championship. They have sixteen races that are held all over the world, trying to get points for the world title by winning the races called "Grand Prix."

Each Grand Prix consists of three stages ; first time-trial on Friday, second time-trial on Saturday, and the race on Sunday. During two-day qualifying session the drivers and their teams try to record faster time than the others' to get a better starting grid for the race. The driver who marks the fastest time can get the pole position at the start. At the race, the top six drivers can get points depending on their results. The points are accumulated to decide the world champion.

The articles about F1 do not only provide information of the race results, but other topics pertaining the racing teams and drivers. The F1 news can be classified into five types depending on the content as follows :

- (1) *Results*, which reports results of qualifying sessions and the final one
- (2) *Technologies*, which informs about new engines or other new machine control systems
- (3) *Drivers*, which features news about drivers and designers of the teams
- (4) *Teams*, which contains news about team management and sponsors of the teams
- (5) *Others*, which includes time table or schedules of the next season.

The following table shows the number of the articles and the ratio of the articles which were collected from September 1 in 1990 to August 1 in 1992. It indicates the results of races are prominent, while news concerning drivers and the racing teams are sometimes topicalized.

Table 1 The varieties of F1 news articles and their frequencies

	The Number of Articles	The Ratio
Results	43	42.2%
New Technologies	5	4.9%
Drivers	25	24.5%
Teams	16	15.7%
Others	13	12.7%
Total	102	100%

According to this table it is plausible to consider news concerning the results of qualifying sessions and the races as the primary group because they report what the readers want to know, or who is the winner. Consequently the data analyzed in this study are from the *Results*. They are twelve articles of the results of Friday qualifying sessions. The data are collected from *The Japan Times*, *The Times*, and *Daily Yomiuri*, which were published from September 1 in 1990 to August 1 in 1992. The insights obtained from the analysis of Friday session news will contribute to propose key points to compare the second time-trial news on Saturday and the results of races.

The reasons why the motorsport is selected among many sports news articles are two folds. First, there is an increasing number of students who show great interests on motorsport. Therefore, knowledge of the analysis can be immediately applied to increase the students' motivation and to improve reading skill. Teaching the way of textual development of motorsport articles as a tactic to struggle with a news written in English seems to be quite effective for the students at an engineering department or other scientific departments where they do not major English language. Second, it is worth of being investigated as a brunch of many sports news articles. It is plausible to infer this particular type of sport news reflects some common aspects shared by other sport news. In other words the analysis of F1 news articles is a pilot study to pave the path to quest for the particular genre in newspaper, named sportnews.

## 4. Analysis and Discussion

### 4.1 Headlines

A headline plays an important role in news articles because it summarizes the content of the body. The headline functions as the theme of the body, that is, it says, "this is what the following article will tell you about." In the headline analysis the first elements are identified as the theme. Next the analysis proceeds into judging what kinds of elements

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are thematized in terms of their ideational metafunctions in texts, such as circumstantial elements or participants. Then a pattern of the headline construction, in other words, the article theme construction is examined.

The headlines of the qualify on Friday mostly describes who was the fastest in the first time-trial. The headlines usually thematize the provisional pole-sitter, which means the driver who marked the fastest time and got the provisional pole position namely the tentative best position at the starting grid.

Ex. 1 Mansell grabs provisional pole<sup>1</sup>

Ex. 1 is a typical expression as the headline and it tells *Mansell* is the driver who grabbed the provisional pole position. Ex. 2, Ex. 3 and Ex. 4 also show the same pattern.

Ex. 2 Senna takes provisional pole<sup>2</sup>

Ex. 3 Mansell claims provisional pole<sup>3</sup>

Ex. 4 Mansell captures provisional pole<sup>4</sup>

These three examples have the same pattern. The pattern consists of the theme identifying the name of the driver, verbs conveying an action of getting and noun group peculiar to this time-trial session. The theme is followed by a verb which is precisely classified into a material verb in terms of transitivity system (Halliday 1985), and followed by the position name. The material verb is realized by one of the four words *take*, *claim*, *grab* and *capture*. This pattern can be illustrated as follows. The caret sign between the items means the preceding item is followed by the next one.

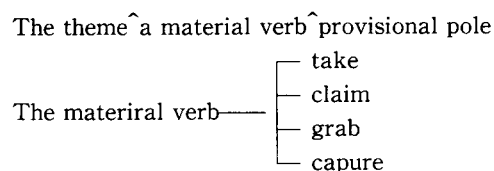


Figure 1 : The first pattern of the headline

There is another pattern of the headline expression. The pattern consists of the theme that also expresses the name of the fastest driver and the superlative of adjective or adverb. This is the simplest style of the headline. Ex. 5 is the typical example.

Ex. 5 Berger fastest<sup>5</sup>

This second pattern, however, has two options. One is an adjunct which, following the superlative of adjective, indicates the name of the place where the race is held. Ex. 6 is the example. The other is a verb expressing action. Ex. 7 is the example.

Ex. 6 Senna quickest in Canada<sup>6</sup>

Ex. 7 Mansell runs fastest<sup>7</sup>

The second pattern also can be expressed in a chain of the elements as follows: The theme<sup>^</sup>(a verb)<sup>^</sup>superlative<sup>^</sup>(adjunct). This type of pattern, however, proposes a question to discuss, that is, to judge the kind of optional verb used in this pattern: material or relational. The pattern “The theme<sup>^</sup>superlative” can be interpreted either as the abbreviation of the structure such as “The theme<sup>^</sup>be-verb<sup>^</sup>superlative” or as one of the construction “The theme<sup>^</sup>material verb<sup>^</sup>superlative.” Since there is only one example that has the optional verb among the data in this study, it is difficult to specify the category of the verb.

However, here I would like to take a stand to interpret that the second pattern is derived from the former construction among the choices, namely “The theme<sup>^</sup>be-verb<sup>^</sup>superlative” structure. If the verb contained action as an important information, the material verb should be foregrounded as the first pattern. Even in the case of Ex. 7 the verb *runs* does not seem to have an indispensable information, rather it functions to connect the theme and the superlative.

The data also include the third pattern of the headline. The pattern has the theme followed by material verb and an adjunct that refers either to the practice or to the name of Grand Prix. Ex. 8 is the typical example.

Ex. 8 Berger leads trials in Portuguese GP<sup>8</sup>

The word *trials* is not obligatory constituent, rather one of the optional parts. Next example contains another optional element or a modal adjunct realized by the word *easily* instead of the word *trials*.

Ex. 9 Mansell easily leads in practice<sup>9</sup>

On the basis of the two headlines the diagram of the pattern can be drawn as follows :  
The theme<sup>^</sup>(modal adjunct)<sup>^</sup>material verb<sup>^</sup>adjunct.

The three patterns of the headline construction have been identified hitherto. However, the labels used to refer the constituents of the pattern are not consistent in terms of the grammatical functions. For instance, “the theme” is the label used as long as textual metafunctions are taken into considerations, while “material” is concerned with transitivity that is topicalized as far as ideational metafunctions are concerned. Therefore the three constructions have to be re-defined. The table below is the list of the three expressed by the labels in terms of ideational metafunctions.

Table 2 The three patterns of the headline

First	Actor <sup>^</sup> Material process <sup>^</sup> Goal
Second	Carrier <sup>^</sup> (Relational process) <sup>^</sup> Attribute <sup>^</sup> (Spatial)
Third	Actor <sup>^</sup> (Modal adjunct) <sup>^</sup> Material process <sup>^</sup> (Goal) <sup>^</sup> Spatial

The table indicates that the headline is expressed in one of the three choices, and that the second pattern consists of the relational process with the participants such as “Carrier” and “Attribute”. The other two, on the contrary, are realized through the material process with the participants “Actor” , “Goal” and “Spatial” which is one of the circumstantial elements. The analysis so far, the headline of the Friday time-trial article thematizes the name of the fastest driver as an Actor or a Carrier, and it is expressed by material process or relational process.

However, the headline does not always thematize the fastest driver. Still there is another way to make the headline, though it is not so frequent as the other three. The fourth pattern appears when an accident occurs, and it thematizes the driver involved in the accident. The following example focuses on *Senna* who was injured in the qualifying session, and the headline is expressed in material process because the action “injure” has an important information here.

Ex. 10 Senna injured in qualifying race for Mexican GP<sup>10</sup>

Here is a diagram below, which shows these four options selected to make the headline. This choice network is a hypothetical model of the headline system.



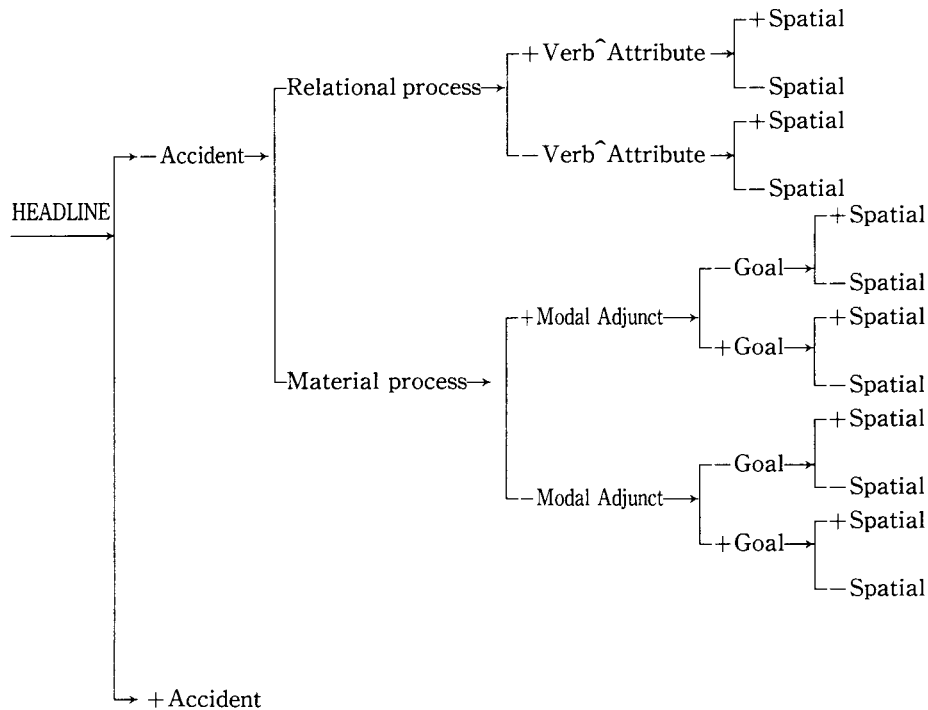


Figure 2 : A hypothetical model of the headline construction system

#### 4.2 Bodies

The second part focuses on bodies of the articles. In this analysis the themes of the body articles are identified and enumerated for each clause. Here the thematic flows are categorized into several types based on the elements which are thematized, and the textual developing patterns are also examined.

The themes in bodies of the articles are mostly the name of the driver who marked the fastest time, his time and other drivers' names. This is an example of the body article with the headline. The themes are identified with an italic-bold type face by the analyst.<sup>11</sup>

#### Ex. 11 **Mansell captures provisional pole**<sup>12</sup>

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) || ***Nigel Mansell***, <seeking a record-tying fourth consecutive Formula One victory, > captured the provisional pole for the Spanish Grand Prix Friday with a run more than a second faster than his closest rival. || ***The Williams driver***, [who has won the pole in each of the first three races this season,] completed his best lap on the 4.75-km (2.95-mile) Catalunya circuit in 1 minute, 20.190 seconds. || ***Mansell*** has won all three Grand Prix races so far this year, || and is seeking to extend his mastery to a fourth continent. || ***He*** has

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already won this season in South Africa, Mexico and Brazill. || If **he** wins Sunday, || **the Briton** would tie the record of four consecutive victories at the start of a season [set last year by McLaren driver Ayrton Senna.] ||

The example packed in a paragraph consists of five independent clauses, two dependent clauses, one included clause and two downranked clauses. The elements identified as themes are the first word groups in independent clauses, dependent clauses (if they have ideational elements at the beginning) and in included clauses. Hence this article has six themes. The first elements in downranked clauses are usually not taken into thematic analysis because the clauses are downranked to a nominal group (Halliday 1985).

The themes in the example can be listed as a flow in the table below. The table shows how what the themes are as well as how they are organized.

Table 3 Summary of the themes in Ex. 11

Paragraph No.	Clauses	Theme No	Themes
1	inde. c	T1	Nigel Mansell
	inde. c	T1	The Willilams driver (=Mansell)
	inde. c	T1	Mansell
	inde. c	T1	He (=Mansell)
	c. complex		If he wins Sunday
	depe. c	T1	he (=Mansell)
	inde. c	T1	the Briton (=Mansell)

The sign in the “Theme No. ” column *T1* stands for “Theme 1 ”. In this case “Theme 1“ is *Nigel Mansell* who was the fastest at the time-trial on Friday. The themes in the following clauses also refer to the identical person in the different word. Thus *T1* is consistently assigned to the following themes. The table shows the provisional pole-sitter tends to be thematized in the body, and here it is the only thematized element. This type of thematizing pattern can be labeled as “T1 only type” as far as thematization is concerned.

Next one should think of the organization of themes, or how the themes are mapped into the text. However this “T1 only type” only indicates that the text focuses on the fastest driver, then it needs to look at the remainder of the message, or the rhemes. The combination of the themes and the rhemes is as follows :

- (1) Nigel Mansell . . . captured the provisional pole.
- (2) The Williams driver . . . completed his best lap . . . in 1 minute 20.190 seconds.
- (3) Mansell has won all three Grand Prix races so far this year.

- (4) He has already won his season in South Africa, Mexico and Brazil.
- (5) (If) he wins,
- (6) the Briton would tie the record of four consecutive victories.

The flow of the combination clarifies how the text develops. First the text mentions the most important point, say, who got the the provisional pole. Then it proceeds to mention the time of the pole-sitter, followed by additional information concerning his victories in the past races. Finally the text mentions the prospects of the fastest driver. This pattern of the textual development can be summarized : Who is the pole-sitter^His time^His past record^Prospects for the fastest driver.

There is another pattern of textual development. The second pattern thematizes the fastest driver as well as other drivers. Here is the example article followed by the thematic flow table.

Ex. 12 **Berger fastest**<sup>13</sup>

- 1) SUZUKA, Mie. Pref. (AP) || *Austria's Gerhard Berger* won the provisional pole Friday by positing the fastest lap time at the end of the first official qualifying race prior to the Japan Formula-1 Grand Prix on Sunday. ||
- 2) || *Berger* burned up Suzuka's 5.85-km(3.64-mile) raceway in one minute, 38.374 seconds, || matching a record lap [made in Suzuka last year by his Brazilian teammate Ayrton Senna.] ||
- 3) || *Berger* clinched the provisional pole in his McLaren-Honda with an average speed of 214.410 km (133.228 miles) per hour. ||
- 4) || *Frenchman Alain Prost* came in second in his red Ferrari at 1.38.684, slightly ahead of Senna. ||
- 5) || *Senna* was the third fastest with a 1.38.828 lap time. ||

Table 4 Summary of the themes in Ex. 12

Paragraph No.	Clauses	Theme No	Themes
1	inde. c	T1	Austria's Gerhard Berger
2	inde. c	T1	Berger
3	inde. c	T1	Berger
4	inde. c	T2	Frenchman Alain Prost
5	inde. c	T3	Senna

The example consists of five paragraphs. The first three clauses thematize *Gerhard Berger* while the other two thematize his rivals, *Alain Prost* (T2) and *Senna* (T3) . This type of thematizing pattern can be labelled as "T1 and other drivers type. "

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The thematic flow in the table shows consecutive use of T1 for the first part. Do the messages of the clauses contain the same content as what the “T1 only type” shows? Here is the simplified combination flow of the themes and the rhemes.

- (1) Austria’s Gerhard Berger won the provisional pole.
- (2) Berger burned up . . . in one minute, 38.374 seconds.
- (3) Berger clinched the provisional pole with an average speed of 214.410 km per hour.

The first two parts provide the same contents as Ex. 11 shows : first who got provisional pole, then his time. However the third clause no longer pertains to Berger’s record in the past races. Rather it modifies the first clause with a supplementary information of his lap speed. As for the last two clauses, they tell other drivers’ positions and their lap times. This example, therefore, seems to indicate that there is another textual developing pattern of the message: Who is the pole-sitter^His time^His speed^Other drivers’ position and time.

The third pattern is a variety of the second because it thematizes the provisional pole-sitter, other drivers. The point distinguishing the third pattern from the second one is that it specifically thematizes the pole-sitter’s time and speed as T1’s supplementary information. The examples and the table of the themes are available below.

### Ex. 13 Mansell runs fastest<sup>14</sup>

- 1) MAGNY COURS, France (AP) || **Nigel Mansell** took the provisional pole position Friday after the first practice session of the French Grand Prix, with fast laps [that even he found hard to believe.] ||
- 2) || **Mansell and Williams-Renault teammate Riccardo Patrese** were more than a second ahead of the field after the first timed qualifying for Sunday’s race. || **Another qualification** is scheduled for Saturday. ||
- 3) || **Mansell’s fastest lap** was 1 minute, 15.047 seconds. || **That** averaged 203.872 kph (126.68mph) on the 4.25-km (2.64-mile) circuit [which has been modified slightly from last year’s first race on the new track.] ||
- 4) || **Patrese of Italy** was second with a time of 1 : 15.551. ||

Table 5 Summary of the themes in Ex. 13

Paragraph No	Clauses	Theme No	Themes
1	inde. c	T1	Nigel Mansell
2	inde. c	T1 & T2	Mansell and Williams-Renault team-mate Riccardo Patrese
	inde. c	T3	Another qualification
3	inde. c	T4	Mansell’s fastest lap
	inde. c	T4	That (=Mansell’s time)
4	inde. c	T2	Patrese of Italy

The first part of the article thematizes *Nigel Mansell*, the fastest driver's name as other patterns do. The clauses contain other information commonly found in other patterns: the fastest lap and the speed. Usually the preceding two patterns put the two topics as rhemes following the fastest driver's name. However, this third pattern thematizes the time and the speed as independent themes in two clauses as T3 and T4. Usually such an information is contained in the prepositional group in the rhemes. The contents themselves are not drastically different from each other, but as far as the text organization is concerned the third pattern seems to be brisker and less continuous in thematic flow. This pattern can be labelled as "T1 with thematized time and speed, and other driver type."

The three types listed above always thematize the fastest driver's name first, then they continue to describe other information such as his time and speed (or speed and time), his record in the past races, prospects for him and other drivers' results. In other words, this type of text usually develops as follows: The fastest driver's name ^His time ^His speed ^ (His record in the past races) ^ (Prospects for the fastest driver) ^ (Other drivers' results.) The element in a parenthesis means optional ones while the name of provisional pole-sitter and his time and speed are obligatory ones.

However, there is a case that this textual development is broken; elements other than the provisional pole-sitter can be thematized in the beginning portion of the articles. The example reports an accident which occurred in the qualifying session and it thematizes the driver's name *Ayrton Senna*, who was involved in the accident. The thematic flow table is also below.

Ex. 14 **Senna injured in qualifying race for Mexican GP**<sup>15</sup>

- 1) MEXICO CITY (Reuter-Kyodo) || **World champion Ayrton Senna** was carried from his car after crashing during opening qualifying on Friday For Sunday's Mexican Grand Prix. ||
- 2) || **Senna**, [whose McLaren ran across the circuit and into the perimeter wall || as he came out of a corner on his flying lap,] was trapped for eight minutes || but suffered only severe bruising to his left leg, whiplash and concussion. ||
- 3) || **The front left wing of the car** took most of the impact || and **the nose and bodywork** was ripped off instantly. ||
- 4) || **A McLaren team spokesman** said || **the Brazilian** was being kept under observation at the circuit's medical center || but was likely to be taken back to his hotel for the evening. ||
- 5) || **A decision on his participation in the race** was not expected until Saturday, || said the spokesman. ||

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- 6) || *Senna's misfortune*, at the same circuit [where he crashed heavily and rolled his car in qualifying last year,] overshadowed the session [which was delayed for 30 minutes || before Briton Nigel Mansell, [driving a Williams,] took command.] ||
- 7) || *Mansell* clocked one minute 16.346 seconds to take provisional pole position. ||
- 8) || *Mansell*, [who won the opening race of the season in South Africa on March 1,] spoke of his great rival || as soon as *he* climbed out of the car at the end of qualifying. ||
- 9) || "*It is always very upsetting* when someone is hurt || and *I* hope || that *it is not too serious* to prevent him from taking further part this weekend," || *he* said. ||

Table 6 Summary of the themes in Ex. 14

Paragraph No	Clauses	Theme No	Themes
1	inde. c	T1	World champion Ayrton Senna
2	inde. c	T1	Senna
3	inde. c	T2	The front left wing of the car
	dep. c	T3	(and) the nose and bodywork
4	inde. c	T4	A McLaren team spokesman
	dep. c	T1	the Brazilian (=Senna)
5	inde. c	T5	A decision on his (=Senna's) participation in the race
6	inde. c	T6	Senna's misfortune
7	inde. c	T7	Mansell
8	inde. c	T7	Mansell
	dep. c	T7	(as soon) as he (=Mansell)
9	c. complex		It is always very upsetting when someone is hurt.....
		T8	It is always very upsetting
	dep. c	T7	(and) I (=Mansell)
	dep. c	T9	(that) it is not too serious
	inde. c	T7	he (=Mansell)

The table above shows that the text focuses on *Senna* (T1), his broken car (T2 and T3), his participation (T5), and the accident (T6). The provisional pole-sitter *Mansell* is thematized in the latter half of the article. This example thematizes the driver who was involved in an accident as well as the details of the damaged car, namely, how much his car was damaged and the accident itself. With these themes the text describes the details of the accident, which includes how the accident occurs as well as how the injured driver's physical condition is. This article has the name of the fastest driver *Mansell* as the theme in the seventh paragraph and describes his time to take the provisional pole. The driver's name was thematized in five other clauses, though the text no longer informs prospects for him in the next qualifying or race, his record in the past races. Rather, it quotes the fastest driver's comment about the accident. Other drivers' results

are also not included in the article.

When such an accident happens, a thematic flow pattern is not the same as one of those three types mentioned above. The flow indicates that the text stresses the constituents of the accident maintaining the conventional important information or the fastest driver's name. This extra-thematic flow can be labelled as an "Accident type." The textual development can be illustrated in the following pattern: The driver in an accident^The details of the accident^Who is the provisional pole-sitter^His time^Comments about the accident.

The four thematic flow patterns have been identified so far. The types and the textual developing patterns realized by each of the types are summarized below.

- (1) **T1 type** : Who is the pole-sitter^His time^His past record^Prospects for the fastest driver.
- (2) **T1 and other drivers type** : Who is the pole-sitter^His time^His speed^Other drivers' position and time.
- (3) **T1 with thematized time and speed, and other driver type** : Who is the pole-sitter^His time^His speed^Other drivers' position and time.
- (4) **Accident type** : The driver in the accident^The accident details^Who is the provisional pole-sitter^His time^Comments about the accident.

On the bases of the list we can have some insights about thematic flow in the F1 news articles. First, the thematized elements are mostly the fastest driver's name, his time and speed, and other drivers' names. Second, when an extra information such as an accident comes to foreground, the name of the driver who is involved in the accident and the damaged parts of the car are thematized. Third, as for organization of the themes, the theme might not have the direct connection with the preceding rheme. This means the themes are independent ones and they are not the word used in the rheme of the preceding clause. In other words, the first theme (T1) takes the first rheme (R1) in the first clause, then the next theme is as the same as the first one (T1), which has the second rheme (R2). The third clause takes the new theme (T2) which has no direct link with the rheme in the second clause. The organizing pattern of these themes can be illustrated as follows.

T1 → R1

T1 → R2

T2 → R1

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T2 → R2

T3 → R1

Figure 3 : A typical pattern of theme-rheme progression of motorsport news articles

As far as the textual development is concerned, we are now at the stage to draw a conclusion. First, the obligatory informational constituents in the motorsport news articles are the fastest driver's name and his time, while others such as the fastest driver's speed, his record in the past races are optional. Second, there are four patterns of the textual developing patterns depending on manipulating the optional informational constituents. Third, usually the fastest driver and his time are reported first, though in case of an accident the text puts the accident information as primary position. A model of the textual development of motorsport news articles is like this : (The driver in an accident)^(The details of the accident)^(Who is the pole-sitter)^(His time)^(His speed)^(His record in the past races)^(Prospects for the fastest driver)^(Other drivers' results.) The model can be illustrated as follows. The required information is boldfaced.

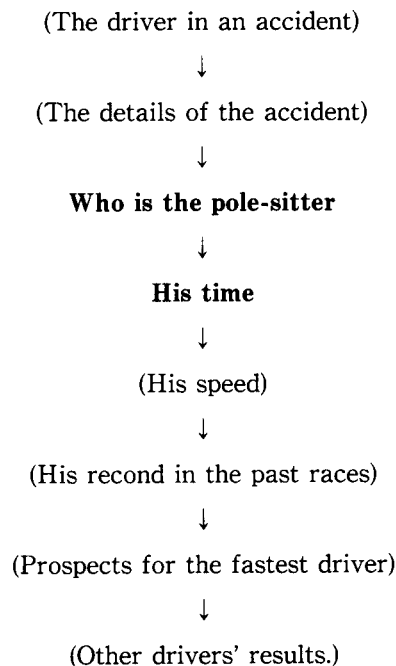


Figure 4 : A textual development model of motorsport news articles

The model obtained by this study is basically similar to a part of the outline model



structure of news proposed by Bell (1991). The part is “ [Attribution^Actors^Setting^ [Time^Place] ^Action^Follow-up [Consequences^Reaction] ^Commentary [Context^ Evaluation^Expectations]^Background^[Previous episodes^History]. ” The information of “Who is the pole-sitter” seems to be equivalent to what “Action” transmits, and the information concerning time and speed might be categorized into “Follow-up” in Bell’s definition. However, minute points in the model constructed here needs to be modified further and examined much precisely in relation to other kinds of factors such as a transitivity system and the context of situation.

## 5. Concluding Remarks

This analysis, so far has described several patterns that are found in the headlines and the bodies of the articles which report the results of the first qualifying. However, the models shown in the analysis are mere hypothetical ones. Thus it obviously requires to be a target in the further investigation in relation with questions, some of which are as follows.

- (1) Does the model have other optional choices such as additional information concerning drivers other than the fastest one?
- (2) Is this type of the textual development maintained in other articles which report the results of the race?
- (3) Is there any relationship between the textual development and transitivity system?
- (4) Can the same type of textual pattern be found in various kinds of newspaper?
- (5) What are key points which characterize the motorsport news articles?

Finally the analysis of the new articles will contribute to language education. The textual development patterns will assist students in reading news articles. If the students are instructed in advance to know what are encapsulated and how the information is organized in articles, they can easily pay their attention to what to grasp, in the case of motorsport news articles, the driver’s name and numerical numbers standing for his time. Furthermore, knowledge about thematic structure will be effective tool in writing. On the bases textual development model the students will know what to thematize, and how organize the themes in order to construct clear information structure.

### Notes

1. *The Japan Times*, May 30, 1992

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2. *The Japan Times*, June 14, 1992
3. *The Japan Times*, March 1, 1992
4. *The Japan Times*, May 3, 1992
5. *The Japan Times*, October 20, 1990
6. *The Japan Times*, June 10, 1990
7. *The Japan Times*, July 5, 1992
8. *The Japan Times*, September 22, 1991
9. *The Japan Times*, July 26, 1992
10. *The Japan Times*, March 22, 1992
11. The examples of the articles bodies contain notational conventions as follows :
  - || Clause boundary
  - <> Clause boundary (included clause)
  - [] Downranked clause
  - 1) Paragraph number (in case that the body consists of several paragraphs)
12. *The Japan Times*, May 3, 1992
13. *The Japan Times*, October 20, 1990
14. *The Japan Times*, July 5, 1992
15. *The Japan Times*, March 22, 1992

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