Characterization and Texture in Hemingway's Short Story 'Cat in the Rain': An SFL Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Using the systemic functional model of language analysis, the paper aims to explain how the main characters' personality in stories is represented through its language. It also aims at uncovering how "theme choices" and "thematic progression patterns" in the text help in organizing texts. The paper analyses Ernest Hemingway's short story 'Cat in the Rain' for this purpose.

Keywords: Systemic functional linguistics, transitivity, theme, character, texture, Hemingway.

INTRODUCTION

Representation of characters, commonly called "characterization" has always been an important aspect of literary analysis (Escamilla 2015; Forster 1927; Lamb 2013; Earl 1628). It refers to the procedure wherein an author gradually introduces and then describes a character in a dramatic or narrative work. According to *Collins COBUILD Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (2011: 225), "the characters in a film, book or play are the people it is about." They are the people who create the plot, thus, they are of prime importance. In a literary text, characters can be described by the author directly or through the actions, ideas and speech of the characters indirectly. To do this the authors introduce the characters in the clause structures