Abstract

The thesis studies *thematic progression* (TP) in selected journalistic texts. Thematic progression, a concept introduced by FrantišekDaneš (1974), draws on the theory of *functional sentence perspective* (FSP). According to FSP, overwhelming majority of sentences contain *the theme* and *the rheme*, i.e. elements carrying the lowest and the highest degree of *communicative dynamism* (CD), respectively. Despite being the least dynamic element, the theme plays an important role in the organization of the text; its progression throughout the text notably contributes to textual cohesion. The empirical part of the thesis is based on Peter H. Fries's (1995) assumption that patterns of thematic progression (TP) do not occur randomly, but different patterns of thematic progressions correlate with different genres. The aim of the thesis is to ascertain which pattern of thematic progression might be specific for the newspaper genre. For this purpose, thematic progression will be observed in two different journals – USA Today and New York Times – concerning the same subject matter; the 2016 US presidential election. For the analytical part, fifty utterances will be extracted from each article. Finally, the articles will be compared in terms of the prevailing pattern of thematic progression.

key words: thematic progression, theme and rheme, cohesion