Challenges to Systemic Functional Linguistics: Theory and Practice

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Preface

With the cooperation and support from our international and domestic friends, the 36th ISFC 2009 and the pre-congress institute concluded smoothly and successfully on 18 July 2009. About 350 scholars, students and guests attended this great occasion. We received more than 300 abstracts and about 250 participants gave their presentations at the congress. This was the second time for Tsinghua University to host a function contributing to the popularization of Systemic Functional Linguistics – the first time being the Summer Institute preceding the 22nd ISFC 1995. Indeed it was a great honour and pleasure for us to host this convention!

The papers addressed at the plenary, colloquia and parallel sessions were either around the theme of ISFC 2009 “Challenges to Systemic Functional Linguistics: theory and practice” or on many of the issues which the presenters were interested in. They can be cataloged in the following areas: challenges to the exploration to the theory of SFL, covering the system network, the description of and comparisons between different languages spoken in different regions and nations in terms of typological linguistics and comparisons among the various models within SFL and between SFL and other linguistic schools, to the potential for discourse analysis taking SFL as an applicable linguistics, to the application of this theoretical model to verbal analysis in new areas and new dimensions, to the theory, technology and software development of multimodal studies, to the cross-disciplinary stylistic analysis, to the theory and practice of various modes of translation, to the problems to be solved in language education encountered at macro and micro levels, to the description of Chinese (Due to the convenience for attending the congress in China, there were more than 200 Chinese participants, many of whom contributed papers particularly to the study of Chinese both in theoretical descriptions and text analysis presented either in the Chinese or English language.), and to finding ways of globalizing SFL in the 21st century. We have included 69 papers representing these areas in this proceedings.

The organizing committee express our sincere thanks to all the plenary speakers, all the lecturers of the pre-congress institute and all the participants, to the chair, vice-chair and members of the executive committee of ISFLA, and the chair, vice-chairs and members of China Functional Linguistics Association, to Beijing Normal University, the pre-congress host, and also to our generous sponsors for their enthusiastic attendance and strong support! As the convener of the congress, I feel greatly indebted to my teacher Michael Halliday for his kind guidance, and acceptance of our invitation to be present and actively involved in both the institute and congress, to James Martin for his valuable suggestions and to Jonathan Webster, our congress partner, for many of his good ideas which made this occasion possible. We extend our particular gratitude to Professor Christian Matthiessen and his colleagues of Macquarie University for kindly swapping places with us due to the impossibility for us to host the 35th ISFC in Beijing in 2008, the year for the Olympics. We are also grateful to Macquarie University and its representative Dr. WU Canzhong for collaboration with me in editing this proceedings.

Thanks again to all my dear international and domestic colleagues and friends!

Fang Yan

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NOMINALIZATION IN INDONESIAN SCIENTIFIC TEXTS: CASES OF FOUR JOURNAL ARTICLES

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Abstract
This paper reports a case study of nominalization in four journal articles in biology, economics, social science, and language written in Indonesian. In order to know the patterns of nominalization in the four articles, the clauses containing nominalization were identified, seen from whether the lexical items in the four articles were realized congruently or incongruently. The data analysis shows that nominalization in the four articles is realized by means of grammatical metaphor where verbs, adjectives, adverbs, modals, and conjunctions are metaphorically shifted to nouns. From the total lexical items incongruently employed in the four articles, the nominalization amounts to 97.6% in Biology Text, 95.2% in Economics Text, 96% in Social Science Text, and 97.8% in Language Text. The findings about nominalization are not only ideationally significant to the abstraction of real world (Martin, 1991, 1993a, 1993b; Halliday, 1993a, 1993b, 1998), but also textually significant to the text structure of the articles (Hyland, 2008).

Key Terms:
Nominalization, scientific text, grammatical metaphor, congruent, incongruent

1. Introduction
Nominalization in scientific texts has been a salient subject area of research in English (Martin, 1991, 1993a, 1993b; Halliday, 1993a, 1993b, 1998). It is also generally evident that nominalization is one of the dominant characteristics of English scientific texts. However, this subject area is not yet well investigated in scientific texts of Indonesian. It is not yet widely known either how nominalization plays a role and how it applies to such types of texts.

This reported research explored the pattern of nominalization in four Indonesian scientific articles published in journals in the fields of biology, economics, social science, and language. It was hypothesized that nominalization was of a great contribution to realize ideational and textual meanings in Indonesian scientific articles.

In this paper it will be made clear that in addition to supporting the theory of nominalization that applies to scientific texts, the results of this research also show that nominalization can be used to express both ideational and textual meanings. Ideationally, nominalization is a good tool to create the abstraction of real world presented in the selected articles (Martin, 1991, 1993a, 1993b; Halliday, 1993a, 1993b, 1998). Textually, nominalization has an effect on the condensation of information on the one hand, and it also contributes to the text structure of the articles on the other (Hyland, 2008).

2. Literature Review
Nominalization is a metaphorical change of lexis other than Noun into Noun by means of incongruent realization. Whereas congruent realization is a natural or literal realization in which lexis is used to construe reality, incongruent realization is a metaphorical realization where there is a shift or transfer from one lexicogrammatical type to another (Halliday, 1985: 321-342; Halliday, 1998: 196-197). In congruent realization, for example, Thing is realized as Noun, Proses as Verb, Condition as Adjective, and Circumstance as...
addition, the discussion of the findings has been clear that nominalization is ideationally significant to the abstraction of real world and is textually significant to the text structure of the articles as well, not only at the level of clause but also at that of discourse.

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