

## TEXTUAL FUNCTION ANALYSIS OF CRIMINAL TEXT IN DER SPIEGEL ONLINE 2022

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### Abstract

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This study aims to analyze the textual function of the criminal text in the online magazine Der Spiegel Online 2022. The data of this research are German sentences that collect 101 sentences from 6 criminal articles. The data sources for this research are 6 crime articles from the online magazine Der Spiegel Online published in August 2022. The six criminal text titles in sequence are: 1) Tödliche Schüsse in Malmö Mutmaßlicher Täter ist 15 Jahre alt; 2) Polizeieinsatz in Malmö Ein Toter und eine Verletzte nach Schüssen in Einkaufszentrum; 3) Misteriöser Criminalfall in Ingolstadt Vermeintliches Gewaltopfer lebend gefunden – und festgenommen; 4) Ermittlungen at zwei Ländern 32-jähriger Mainzer in Mexico durch Schüsse verletzt; 5) Mindestens 20 Kilogramm wertvoller Abfall Mann schmuggelt Goldspäne aus Trauringfabrik – fast vier Jahre Haft; and 6) Freiheitsstrafe für 93-Jährige Urteil gegen Ursula Haverbeck ist rechtskräftig. The theory used in this study is Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics. The technical model approach of the data analysis of this research is from Eggins (2004) regarding patterns of thematic choice: marked theme and unmarked theme. Based on the results of research data analysis, the results of this study are: 1) types of thematic choice patterns in criminal texts in Der Spiegel Online 2022 in August there are 2 types, that is 60 items (59%) unmarked themes and the marked theme as much as 41 items (41%); 2) The dominance of the thematic choice pattern in criminal texts in Der Spiegel Online 2022 in August, that is the unmarked theme.

Keywords: textual\_function; criminal\_text; Der\_Spiegel\_Online\_2022

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Currently, a new approach to learning modern German grammar can be done by analyzing the textual function of Halliday's theory in well-known German weekly online magazines such as Der Spiegel Online. This is confirmed by Halliday's statement about the function of his Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory which can be applied in various types of language texts. Among the 20 uses/functions of linguistics proposed by Halliday (F56), there are 5 functions that are in line with the topic of this research, namely: (1) to understand the nature and functions of language; (2) to understand what all languages have in common (i.e. what are the properties of language as such), and what may differ from one language to another; (3) to understand how language varies, according to the user, and according to the functions for which it is being used; (4) to help people learn foreign languages; (5) to help train translators and interpreters. German-language online magazines such as Der Spiegel play a very important role in informing the thematic choices produced by the thoughts of their German writers. The thoughts of the writer of the text are sometimes in the form of the dominance of an unmarked theme and sometimes it can also be the appearance of a marked theme in the sentences of the text. In the newspaper Der Spiegel Online there are various interesting texts to analyze. The texts consist of readers' opinion texts, editorial, international, economics, health, sports, crime, education, travel, food/beverage, beauty, lifestyle, technology, science, job vacancies, fashion, politics, life, work and career, music and so on. These texts certainly have the dominance of different thematic choices by the authors so that they are worthy of research.

Criminal texts cannot be separated from the existence of a magazine, including one of the world's leading online magazines such as Der Spiegel Online which is available in German. News on criminal texts can provide direct education to all readers, including German grammar researchers. Even though crime news is dominated by crimes around/in the world, the news can still provide



vigilance as a positive side for readers wherever they are. In general, the contents of the crime rubric are in the form of information, advice/advice, or an invitation to stay alert from the author to the readers. With the information contained in these criminal texts, newspaper readers will be more and more eager to know the continuation of the news the next day. The expertise of the criminal text writer in maintaining the dominance of thematic choice in the form of a marked theme has strengthened the formal character of delivering the news of the text to the public. The public or readers always want the reality/facts of criminal news that are true and not hoaxes.

Textual function analysis is one of 3 types of analysis (ideational analysis and interpersonal analysis) known from the theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics by Halliday. In the analysis of this textual function, thematic choice will be discussed in terms of the emergence of common themes (unmarked themes) and unusual themes (marked themes). In addition to the thematic choice, the analysis of textual functions can also include an analysis of the method of text development. The unmarked theme is in line with the grammatical suitability applied to a foreign language, for example German. Unmarked themes can be indicated by the prevalence of the order of the subject, predicate, object and description in a sentence that is in accordance with the grammar of a foreign language such as German. Meanwhile, the marked theme shows a discrepancy in the order of the subject, predicate, object and description based on the grammar that is commonly applied. Marked themes are usually known by the appearance of adverbs (adverbs of place, time, manner, intensity) in the first position of the sentence which automatically precedes the subject of the sentence. In addition to descriptions, marked themes can also be recognized by the appearance of the object of the sentence in the first position of the sentence so that it precedes the actual subject of the sentence. In informal texts, marked themes may appear more often than unmarked themes. However, the emergence of marked themes in formal texts such as crime news texts is very important to analyze with Halliday's textual function theory, so that readers will know the intensity of the appearance of the opinion of the author of the text in the form of this marked theme.

Based on the problems described above, it is very important to analyze the textual function of criminal texts. Through this research entitled "Analysis of Textual Functions in Criminal Texts in Der Spiegel Online 2022", it is hoped that the dominance of thematic choice patterns (thematic choice: marked theme and unmarked theme) in the text will be more revealed.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1. Definition of Textual Function

According to Eggins (2004: 296), the textual function is an 'enabling' function. By Halliday's statement (1974: 95, 97) in Eggins (2014: 298), the textual function is a relevant or possible metafunction (the 'relevance' or the enabling metafunction). This textual function is the level of clause structure that allows clauses to be packaged in ways that make them effective in providing their purpose and context. The textual function is centered on the potential of the clause offering its constituents arranged differently, to achieve different purposes. The textual meaning in English is mostly expressed through the sequence of constituents. It is what is put first (and last) in an English clause that realizes the textual choice. Other languages will express textual meanings differently (eg through the function of particles to mark the textual status of certain constituents). However, what seems true is that after all all languages will encode textual meaning, because language users depend on signs that indicate cohesive relationships between clauses, their context and use.

The unmarked theme is in line with the grammatical suitability applied to a foreign language, for example German. Unmarked themes can be indicated by the prevalence of the order of the subject, predicate, object and description in a sentence that is in accordance with the grammar of a foreign language such as German. Meanwhile, the unusual theme (marked theme) shows a discrepancy in the order of the subject, predicate, object and description based on the commonly applied grammar. Unusual themes (marked themes) are usually known by the appearance of adverbs (adverbs of place, time, manner, intensity) in the first position of the sentence that automatically precedes the subject of the sentence. In addition to descriptions, marked themes can also be recognized by the appearance of the object of the sentence in the first position of the sentence so that it precedes the actual subject of

the sentence. In informal texts, marked themes may appear more frequently than unmarked themes. However, the emergence of unusual themes (marked themes) in formal texts such as crime news texts is very important to analyze with Halliday's textual function theory, so that readers will know the intensity of the appearance of the opinion of the author of the text in the form of this unusual theme. (marked theme) in the resulting text.

Based on the above definition, it can be said that textual function is one of 3 types of analysis (ideational analysis and interpersonal analysis) which are known from the theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics by Halliday. In the analysis of this textual function, thematic choice will be discussed in terms of the emergence of common themes (unmarked themes) and unusual themes (marked themes).

## 2.2. Crime text definition

Criminal text is text that contains information on crimes that are reported in the rubric of print newspapers and online newspapers. Criminal texts can also be found in the rubric of a magazine or tabloid. Criminal text can be a crime text that happened in the past or what is happening now. From the editorial writer to the newspaper readers, the crime text serves to provide knowledge and alert responses to similar crimes or modern crimes that may occur around. Crimes that are reported may endanger the lives of readers if they are not responded to with vigilance. Crimes that are generally reported in newspapers or print/online magazines can be in the form of murder, massacre, rape, conspiracy, bullying, lying, infidelity, blasphemy, harassment, money laundering, malpractice, beheading, theft, vandalism, break-in, abortion, embezzlement, smuggling, drugs, violation, forgery, unilateral cancellation of agreement, illegal copying, human trafficking, illegal logging, unilateral transfer, unilateral divorce, mugging, shooting, brawl, wrongful arrest, throwing, leaking, beating, propaganda, sale of human organs, disposal, hit-and-run, wiretapping, incitement, bribery, unilateral withdrawal, disarmament, obscenity, coercion, and so on. The rubric that reviews criminal texts in Der Spiegel Online is Justiz & Kriminalität, which when translated means justice and crime.

Based on the definition above, it can be said that criminal text is a form of text that contains information about news of crimes that have occurred or have recently occurred/revealed, which are generally found in a newspaper rubric or a printed or online magazine.

## 2.3. Definition of Der Spiegel Online

In line with current technological developments, newspapers are not only in the form of printed newspapers, but also non-printed/online newspapers. Coupled with the Covid-19 pandemic that has shaken the world for approximately 2 years and has not even fully recovered until 2022, the role of online newspapers can make it easier for readers to obtain the latest information around them as well as foreign news without having to leave the house or be exposed Covid-19 virus.

Among the many magazines in the world, Der Spiegel magazine is one of the leading weekly magazine originating from Germany and headquartered in Hamburg. Apart from Der Spiegel, there are several other political, business and economic news magazines, including Stern, Focus, Die Zeit, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Bild and so on. Meanwhile, one of the German women's magazines is Bunte. Meanwhile, *Erwachtet!* is one of the religious magazines in Germany. According to Augustyn, Der Spiegel is a weekly news magazine, leading in Germany and one of the most widely circulated in Europe, published in Hamburg since 1947. Furthermore, Der Spiegel was originally founded in 1946 and was known as *Diese Woche*. In addition, the magazine is renowned for its aggressive, passionate, and well-written disclosures about government malpractices and scandals and for its photography. Although the format resembles its American counterparts such as Time and Newsweek, it is usually twice as thick. Furthermore, Der Spiegel is notorious for its aggressive pursuit of news without regard for the German government's peace of mind. The magazine's tough news approach made it one of the largest circulations in Europe and many advertisers. It is widely respected both for its coverage of news events and news analysis and for shorthand writing, and is generally regarded as one of the best news weeks in Europe.

In line with Augustyn, Perdana said, Der Spiegel is a well-known German news media and has been active for around 70 years since 1947. In addition, several of its reporters have won the

prestigious German Reporter Award for their expertise in writing good reports. Automatically, the award will motivate the reporters in improving good reporting results.

According to Nurdiana (2019: 39), Der Spiegel is a local German media. This German local media is a weekly magazine having its address at Ericusspitze 1, 20457 Hamburg. This weekly magazine was first published on January 4, 1947 under the leadership of Rudolf Augstein. Der Spiegel magazine which was once led by Steffan Klausmann as its editor-in-chief is one of the magazines with the largest circulation in Germany. Kemmerich (2019) on the Statista page said that the circulation of Der Spiegel magazine in 2018 averaged 710,000 copies per issue and achieved sales of around 261 million euros. With such a large number, Der Spiegel has 5.64 million readers and about 365,000 subscriptions. In 2017, more than 1,100 workers have owned this weekly magazine. Weidenbach (2019) from the Statista page it is said that Der Spiegel Online is the most visited news site after bild.de with the number of visits in May 2019 reaching around 266.4 million, followed by Focus online. This magazine is also the most cited media among national and international media in the January-March 2019 period with 347 citations followed by Bild magazine and the New York Times. The Der Spiegel Portal page has many news rubrics, one of which is a political column that actively reports on events, including news about refugees coming to Germany.

Based on the above definition, Der Spiegel Online is a German language weekly magazine originating from Germany whose web portal was established in 1994 which is divided into 2 types of news delivery methods, that is print and online / non-print. In non-print/online, this newspaper is certainly very influential on the acquisition of information for readers. The online newspaper can be customized in various languages based on the translation features available in the smartphone device. Der Spiegel has long produced a non-print/online version of the news on their site. Der Spiegel Online can make it easier for non-native speakers of German readers to know what is happening in Germany and even what is trending in that country. Like other magazines or newspapers, Der Spiegel Online also has complete types of news, including the reader's opinion section / commentary column, editorial (editors by the editor-in-chief), the Krieg in der Ukraine rubric, Coronavirus, Climacrise, Politics, Australia, Panorama, Sport, Wirtschaft, Wissenschaft, Netzwelt, Kultur, Leben, Job & Karriere, Start, Geschichte, Mobilität, Tests, Dein Spiegel, Audio, Video, and Englisch. The interest of online readers can be seen from the summary/total daily/weekly/monthly visits of online readers on the Der Spiegel Online site. The more readers access the site, the more the role of the online newspaper will affect the interest of its readers.

### 3. METHODS

This research includes a qualitative descriptive method because it explains the textual function of criminal texts in the online magazine Der Spiegel Online 2022. The approach to the qualitative descriptive method model applied is that of Miles, Huberman and Saldaña (2014). In addition, this research method/technique model approach is based on Eggins (2004) regarding thematic choice of unmarked and marked themes.

In this study, data were obtained from German sentences in the crime news text, totaling 101 sentences. The first criminal text consists of 16 sentences; the second criminal text consists of 13 sentences; the third criminal text consists of 15 sentences; the fourth criminal text consists of 8 sentences; the fifth criminal text consists of 33 sentences; and the sixth criminal text consists of 16 sentences. The data sources of this research are from 6 criminal texts in the online newspaper Der Spiegel in August 2022 in the Justiz und Kriminalität rubric. The six criminal text titles in order are: 1) Tödliche Schüsse in Malmö Mutmaßlicher Täter ist 15 Jahre alt; 2) Polizeieinsatz in Malmö Ein Toter und eine Verletzte nach Schüssen in Einkaufszentrum; 3) Mysteriöser Kriminalfall in Ingolstadt Vermeintliches Gewaltopfer lebend gefunden – und festgenommen; 4) Ermittlungen in zwei Ländern 32-jähriger Mainzer in Mexico durch Schüsse verletzt; 5) Mindestens 20 Kilogramm wertvoller Abfall Mann schmuggelt Goldspäne aus Trauringfabrik – fast vier Jahre Haft; and 6) Freiheitsstrafe für 93-Jährige Urteil gegen Ursula Haverbeck ist rechtskräftig.

By analyzing the content, the techniques in data collection are as follows: 1) Downloading a sample criminal text on the official website <https://www.spiegel.de/>; 2) Underline/bold all themes at

the beginning of each sentence; 3) Enter all 101 sentence data into the table to be analyzed based on the types of thematic choice patterns (patterns of thematic choice); 4) Mark in red for the type of thematic research with unusual themes (marked themes) in the analysis table; 5) Count all the number of thematic selection patterns that appear in the 6 criminal texts and percentage them.

There are four characteristics that are applied to become the focus of data analysis techniques (Miles, Huberman and Saldaña, 2004) in this study, namely:

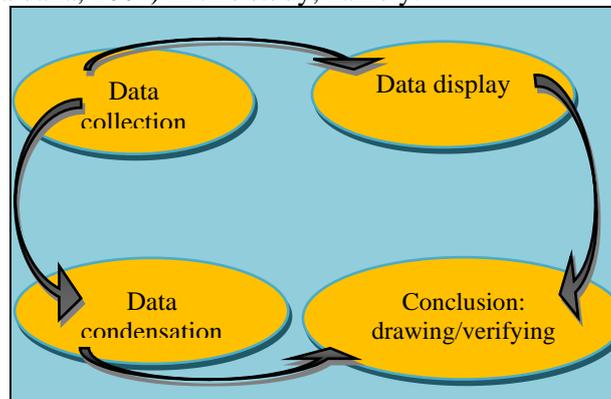


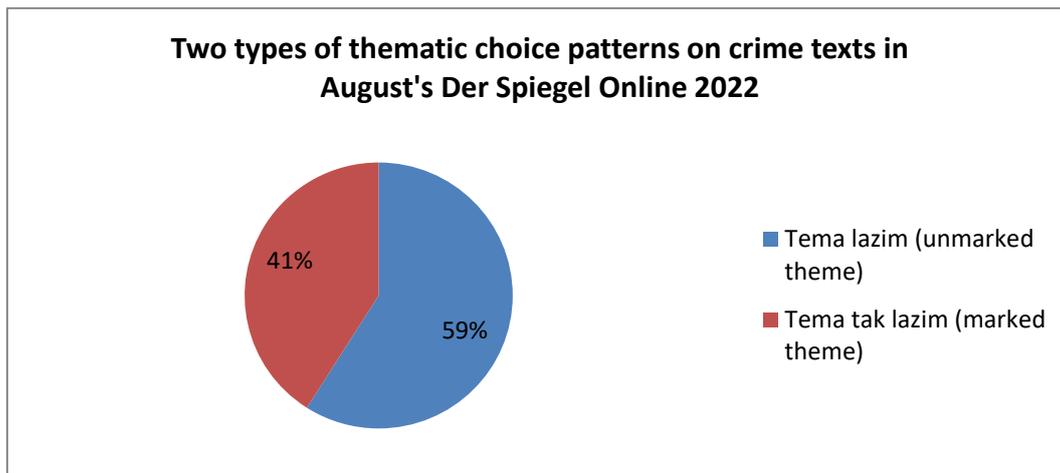
Figure 1. Data analysis techniques based on Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña (2014)

1. Data collection, with finding problems in the thematic selection of German-language criminal texts in German online magazines;
2. Data condensation, meaning (1) for the purposes of data acquisition, from the total number of criminal texts in August 2022 in Der Spiegel Online magazine, only 6 criminal articles were used; and (2) for the purposes of data collection, from the total data of 101 sentences in the 6 criminal texts that contain textual functions, there are only 2 things that will become the description of the research: (1) types of thematic selection patterns in criminal texts (patterns of thematic choice) in Der Spiegel Online 2022; (2) the dominance of the type of thematic choice pattern on the crime text in Der Spiegel Online 2022;
3. Data display, showing tables, graphs, diagrams of research findings regarding: (1) types of thematic choice patterns in criminal texts (patterns of thematic choice) in Der Spiegel Online 2022; (2) the dominance of the type of thematic choice pattern on the crime text in Der Spiegel Online 2022;
4. Conclusions, leading to verification: (1) types of thematic selection patterns in criminal texts (patterns of thematic choice) in Der Spiegel Online 2022; (2) the dominance of the type of thematic choice pattern on the crime text in Der Spiegel Online 2022.

## **4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **4.1. Two types of thematic choice patterns on crime texts in August's Der Spiegel Online 2022**

Based on the results of the analysis of the data obtained, it was found that there are 2 types of thematic selection patterns in criminal texts in Der Spiegel Online 2022 in August, that is unmarked themes and marked themes. This can be seen from the graph of the acquisition of the following theme choice pattern.



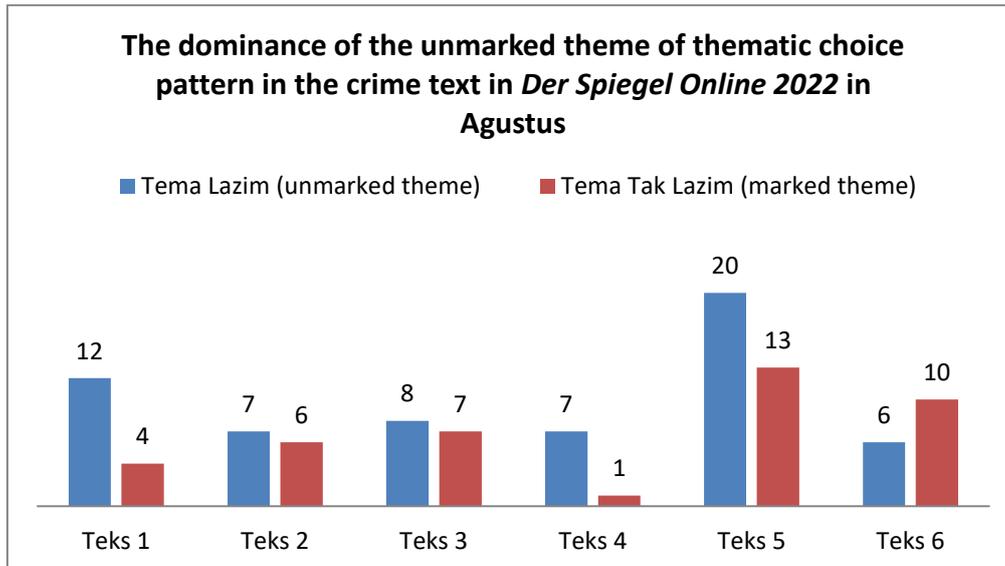
Graph 1. Two types of thematic choice patterns in criminal texts in Der Spiegel Online 2022 in August

Based on graph 1 above, there are 60 items in the sentence (59%) which represent a common theme (marked theme) and there are 41 items in the sentence (41%) which represent an unusual theme (unmarked theme). The sixty sentences showing the common theme consist of 6 criminal texts, that is 1) Tödliche Schüsse in Malmö Mutmaßlicher Täter ist 15 Jahre alt (12 items); 2) Polizeieinsatz in Malmö Ein Toter und eine Verletzte nach Schüssen in Einkaufszentrum (7 items); 3) Mysteriöser Kriminalfall in Ingolstadt Vermeintliches Gewaltopfer lebend gefunden – und festgenommen (8 items); 4) Ermittlungen in zwei Ländern 32-jähriger Mainzer in Mexico durch Schüsse verletzt (7 items); 5) Mindestens 20 Kilogramm wertvoller Abfall Mann schmuggelt Goldspäne aus Trauringfabrik – fast vier Jahre Haft (20 items); and 6) Freiheitsstrafe für 93-Jährige Urteil gegen Ursula Haverbeck ist rechtskräftig (6 items). Based on the results of data analysis on the six criminal texts, the dominance of the most unmarked themes occurred in the 5th text as many as 20 items in 20 sentences. Meanwhile, the sixth text is the text with the smallest number of occurrences of unmarked themes, that is 6 items in 6 sentences.

In addition to the unmarked themes, there are forty-one sentences that show marked themes in 6 criminal texts, that is 1) Tödliche Schüsse in Malmö Mutmaßlicher Täter ist 15 Jahre alt (4 items); 2) Polizeieinsatz in Malmö Ein Toter und eine Verletzte nach Schüssen in Einkaufszentrum (6 items); 3) Mysteriöser Kriminalfall in Ingolstadt Vermeintliches Gewaltopfer lebend gefunden – und festgenommen (7 items); 4) Ermittlungen in zwei Ländern 32-jähriger Mainzer in Mexico durch Schüsse verletzt (1 item); 5) Mindestens 20 Kilogramm wertvoller Abfall Mann schmuggelt Goldspäne aus Trauringfabrik – fast vier Jahre Haft (13 items); and 6) Freiheitsstrafe für 93-Jährige Urteil gegen Ursula Haverbeck ist rechtskräftig (10 items). Based on the results of data analysis on the six criminal texts, the dominance of marked themes (marked themes) mostly occurs in the 5th text as many as 13 items in 13 sentences. Meanwhile, the sixth text is the text with the smallest number of occurrences of marked themes, which is 1 item in 1 sentence.

#### **4.2. The dominance of the common thematic choice pattern (unmarked theme) in the crime text in Der Spiegel Online 2022 in August**

Based on the results of data analysis obtained on 2 types of theme choice patterns in the criminal text, it was found that the dominant type of theme choice pattern in the criminal text in Der Spiegel Online 2022 in August was the unmarked theme. This can be seen from the graph of the acquisition of the following theme choice pattern.



**Graph 2. The dominance of unmarked themes in criminal texts in Der Spiegel Online 2022 in August**

Based on graph 2 above, there are a total of 101 sentences analyzed. Among the 101 sentences, the marked theme is in 60 sentences (59%) and the unmarked theme is in 41 sentences (41%). In the graph it is clear that all texts are dominated by unmarked themes. In text 1, that is Tödliche Schüsse in Malmö Mutmaßlicher Täter ist 15 Jahre alt, there are 16 sentences, dominated by 12 unmarked theme items. Then, in text 2, that is Polizeieinsatz in Malmö Ein Toter und eine Verletzte nach Schüssen in Einkaufszentrum, there are 13 sentences, which are dominated by 7 unmarked theme items. Then, in text 3, that is Mysteriöser Kriminalfall in Ingolstadt Vermeintliches Gewaltopfer lebend gefunden – und festgenommen, there are 15 total sentences dominated by 8 unmarked theme items. Furthermore, in text 4, that is Ermittlungen in zwei Ländern 32-jähriger Mainzer in Mexiko durch Schüsse verletzt, there are 8 total sentences dominated by 7 unmarked theme items. Similar to the dominance of common themes in the previous 3 texts, in text 5, that is Mindestens 20 Kilogramm wertvoller Abfall Mann schmuggelt Goldspäne aus Trauringfabrik – fast vier Jahre Haft, there are 33 total sentences dominated by 20 unmarked theme items. Then, in text 6, namely Freiheitsstrafe für 93-Jährige Urteil gegen Ursula Haverbeck ist rechtskräftig, there are 16 total sentences dominated by 6 unmarked theme items. Based on the results of data analysis on the six criminal texts, the dominant theme is the type of theme choice pattern that dominates the crime article text in Der Spiegel Online 2022 in August.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the research results obtained, the conclusions that can be drawn are as follows There are 2 types of thematic choice patterns in criminal texts in Der Spiegel Online 2022 in August, that is of unmarked themes and marked themes The dominance of thematic choice patterns in criminal texts in Der Spiegel Online 2022 in August, that is on unmarked themes. Based on the conclusions obtained, the suggestions that can be given are as follows Subsequent research can be directed at researching editorial texts or reader opinion texts or travel journal texts (traveling) and so on on the Der Spiegel Online page or on other German-language online newspaper pages on the internet (eg: Süddeutsche Zeitung); Subsequent research can be directed at researching the types of text development methods that occur in editorial texts or reader opinion texts or travel journal texts (traveling) and so on on the Der Spiegel Online page or on the pages of other German-language online newspapers on the internet ( eg: Süddeutsche Zeitung).

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