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The Theme–Topic Interface: Evidence from English

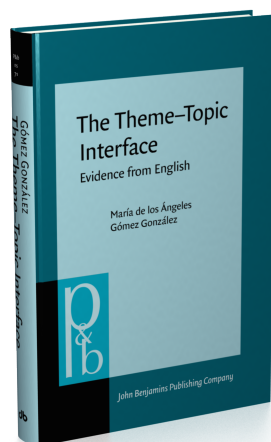
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To my parents, Cándida González and Isaac Gómez

Thematic patterns are not optional stylistic variants; they are integral part of the meaning of language. Texture is not something that is achieved superimposing an appropriate text form on pre-existing ideational content. The textual component is a component of meaning along with ideational and interpersonal components [...]. The system does not first generate a representation of reality, then encode it as a speech act, and finally recode it as a text [...]. It embodies all these types of meanings in simultaneous networks of options, from each of which derive structures that are mapped onto one another in the course of their lexicogrammatical realization.

[Halliday, M. A. K. *Language as Social Semiotic: The Social Interpretation of Language and Meaning*. 1978: 134]

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