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The expansion phenomenon in clause complexes within systemic functional framework

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Abstract

When we analyse a clause complex we refer to the ideational metafunction of language and to the ways in which a clause can combine with further clauses in order to form a clause complex. Clauses within complexes are interrelated grammatically in two systems, the logico-semantic system and the taxis. The logico-semantic system of a language is represented by two types of relationships: *projection* which includes direct and indirect speech and thought and *expansion* which includes the meanings realised by conjunctions. In this paper we are concerned only with the expansion phenomenon. The paper consists of two distinctive parts. In the first part we present the taxis and logico-semantic systems and the ways they combine within clause complexes. In the second part we analyse the three major types of expansion: elaboration, extension and enhancement that can be finite (paratactic and hypotactic) or non-finite. Elaboration represents the adding of a non-essential new element to the message, but which gives more information. Extension has two basic meanings: addition and variation. This type of expansion is mainly paratactic. The enhancement refers to the circumstances within the clause.

Key words: clause complex, expansion, paratactic, hypotactic