Dynamicity: Starting points and methods of progression

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Building on my presentation at the inaugural Round Table and the ensuing publication (Bartlett 2016), in this paper I will discuss textual development in Scottish Gaelic and English, focusing on an original text and its translation by the author. In general I will consider the relationship between Theme as a grammatically marked element of the clause and textuality as a property of text. I go on to make a distinction between two aspects of textuality: *textualisation*, as the immanent and dynamic production of coherent language, and *texture,* as the quality of whole texts as cohesive products.

In the previous work cited, I used the parallel Gaelic and English texts to problematise the concept of Theme as a crosslinguistic category, questioning the transferability of its emic realisation in English as the first experiential element of the clause and also its etic conceptualisation as the "point of departure of the message" (Halliday 1985: 39). In the present paper I will continue this discussion by (i) outlining the textual resources available in Gaelic and (ii) tracing the realisation in the Gaelic text of the Thematic element from the English original, in order to (iii) compare the dynamics of progression between the two languages as these relate to the characterology (Mathesius 1964) of each as an integrated system and (iv) raise further crosslinguistic questions on the concepts of Theme and textuality.

References

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Mathesius, V. 1964. On linguistic characterology with illustrations from Modern English. In V. Josef (ed.) *A Prague School Reader in Linguistics.* Bloomington IN: Indiana University Press.