





# An introduction to Systemic Functional Linguistics: Participant, Theme and Subject

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This workshop offers an introduction to Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), covering the basics concepts of SFL with a particular focus on clause analysis. We will focus on the nominal group as one of the main grammatical resources for all three metafunctions - the experiential, the interpersonal and the textual. In this exploration of meaning making in SFL, we will draw on a variety of different texts. Throughout the workshop, there will be regular opportunities to gain hands-on practical experience in analysing English grammar. In particular, the workshop will cover:

- The structure of the nominal group, including both the functions it serves in the clause and the functions of the different elements of the group
- Representing participants and processes (the experiential metafunction)
- The role of Subject and speech roles (the interpersonal metafunction)
- The role of Theme in writing (the textual metafunction)

## **Anticipated schedule**

### Day 1:

Overview of SFL and experiential metafunction, representing participants and analysing transitivity.

### Day 2:

Interpersonal metafunction, analysing mood in English
Textual metafunction, theme, analysing theme in different types of text

#### **Suggested Readings**

Fontaine, L. 2012. Introduction. Analysing English Grammar. Cambridge: CUP.

Martin, J. 1992. English Text: System and Structure. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Martin, J., Matthiessen, C. and Painter, C. 1997. Working with functional grammar. London: Edward Arnold.

Thompson, G. 2004, 2nd edn. Introducing Functional Grammar. London: Arnold.

Thompson, G. and Thetela, P. 1995. The sound of one hand clapping: The management of interaction in written discourse. Text 15 (1): 103–127.

Thompson, G. 2008. From process to pattern: methodological considerations in analysing transitivity in text. In Carys Jones and Eija Ventola (eds.) New Developments in the Study of Ideational Meaning: From Language to Multimodality, 17-33. London: Equinox.