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**Actual division of the sentence on the material of languages with different structures**

**Актуальное членение предложения на материале разноструктурных языков**

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***Article.*** *The article is devoted to the analysis of the actual division of the sentence on the material of languages with different structures. The objective of the article is examining the structure of the sentences in Russian, Tajik and English languages in comparative aspects; revealing peculiarities of the structural-grammatical and actual aspects of studying the words order in sentences of the compared languages.*

***Key words:*** *actual division of the sentence, theme, rheme, Tajik language, Russian language, English language, old information, new information, analysis.*

***Аннотация.*** *Статья посвящена анализу актуального членения предложения разноструктурных языков на материале английского, русского и таджикского языков, используя сравнительный метод. Цель статьи раскрыть особенности структурно-грамматических и актуальных аспектов порядка слов в предложениях сравниваемых языков.*

***Ключевые слова:*** *актуальное членение предложения, тема, рема, таджикский язык, русский язык, английский язык, старая информация, новая информация, анализ.*

More than a centenary have passed since theoretical linguistics started discussing the phenomenon of actual division of the sentence. It is the period, which is more than enough to try to fully understand and figure out the nature of this phenomenon in the language. But, despite the abundance of works on this topic, there is still a lot of misunderstood, unsolved facts for science, that’s, there is still a distance to travel. The relevance of the topic of our article is due to the fact that nowadays linguists draw special attention to the phenomenon of actual division of the sentence, since this topic has not been fully studied and there are many inaccuracies in its understanding. Especially, there are few works on comparative analysis of the structure of actual division of the sentence on the material of Tajik, Russian and English languages. Our work presents an attempt to analyze and compare the structure of the actual division of the sentence on the material of languages with different structures. In our work, we relied on the information about the structure of sentences in the compared languages, namely, on the material of different structural languages.

The theory of actual division of the sentence was first established by the Prague linguistic school. The inability to clearly define the approach of linguists to understand the phenomenon of actual division is the distinctive feature of Prague researchers. From one side, scientists have created a significant basis for further research, but from the opposite side their concepts and views are multidimensional, indivisible and of a general nature. It is well-known that, one of the first attempts to analyze linguistically the contextually relevant communicative semantics of the sentence was undertaken by the scholars of the Prague Linguistic Circle at the beginning of the 20th century. The first linguist who tried to describe the informative value of different parts of the sentence in the actual process of communication, making the informative perspective of an utterance and showing which component of the denoted situation is informationally more important from the point of view of the speaker was the Czech linguist Vilém Mathesius. According to the model of grammatical, or nominative division of the sentence the idea of the so-called “actual division” of the sentence was put forward. This linguistic theory is known as the functional analysis of the sentence, the communicative analysis, the actual division analysis, or the informative perspective analysis. There are a lot of work devoted to the analysis of Mathesius’s views on the phenomena of actual division of the sentence, works of such scientists as K.G. Krushelnitskaya, O.A. Lapteva, I.I. Kovtunova, V.E. Shevyakova, V. P. Danilenko, A.A. Zagnitko, Yu.Ya. Burmistrovich. V. Mathesius separated the actual division of the sentence from the formal division, believing that the formal division divides the composition of the sentence into grammatical elements, and the actual division of the sentence finds out how the sentence is included in the subject context on the basis of which it arises. The main elements of formal division are the grammatical subject and the grammatical predicate, while the main element of actual division of the sentence are theme and rheme. He considered that, the main elements of the ADS are the starting point of the statement and the core of the statement, refusing the terms psychological subject and psychological predicate, which were introduced by G. Gabelenets [Bloch M.Ya., 2000:189]. By starting point we mean something known or something that can be easily understood in a particular situation, while the core of the statement is what the speaker reports about the starting point of the statement. The theory of ADS in Tajik linguistic still has not finally solved. Only at the end of XXth century and beginning of XXIst century the following scientists: A. Sobirov (1973),T. Usmanov (1979), A.Saidmamadov (1990), M. Normatova (2000), Z.R. Yusupova (2006), R.D. Salimova (2006), A.M. Niyazova (2012), E.Bekchaeva (2020) - started to investigate the structure of ADS. The problem of studying the actual division of the sentence was done by Z.R. Yusupova. The phenomenon of actual division of the sentence in Russian is called “актуальное членение предложения” and in Tajik “таҷзияи актуалии ҷумла” [Yusupova Z.R.,2006]. The first investigations were developed by French grammarians: Ts. Dumaret, N. Bose, Sh. Bato. The interpretation of the phenomenon, which have been suggested by V. Mathesius, differs from the one which preceded it. One big difference between definitions of the phenomenon is that V. Mathesius expands in general the formulation of the issue of actual division, demanding “opposition” actual division to formal - syntactic. There is the universalization of the phenomenon of the actual division in theory of V. Mathesius. Two aspects of division are opposed to each other and differentiated on functional grounds. The ratio of actual division and syntactic word order is considered as parity, equipollent, because both are the necessary aspects of the division of the statement. Accordingly, the two ways of division are connected dialectically, there is no «competition» between them. The nature of the statement is such that it should be both at the same time; «...the relationship between the actual and formal division of the sentence is one of the most characteristic phenomena in each language» [Mathesius 1967: 240]. According to Mathesius, the main function of word order is to express the way the sentence is actually divided. [Matesius 1967: 249].

The main constituents of the actual division of a sentence are the theme and the rheme. The theme, which is originally called “the basis” by V. Mathesius is the starting point of communication, a thing or a phenomenon about which something is reported in the sentence; it usually contains some old, “already known” information. The rheme, which is originally called “the nucleus” by V. Mathesius is the basic informative part of the sentence, its contextually relevant communicative center, the “peak” of communication, or the information reported about the theme; it usually contains some new information. There also may be transitional parts of actual division of various degrees of informative value, neither purely thematic, nor rhematic; they can be treated as a secondary rheme, the “subrhematic” part of a sentence; this part is called “a transition”. This idea was put forward by another scholar of the Prague Linguistic Circle, J. Firbas. For example:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Transition** | **Theme** | **Rheme** |
| *Again* | *Carol* | *is late.* |

It is well-known that, each language has its own certain word order in the sentence. In our work, we began the analysis by comparing the order of words in three languages, since the word order is one of the vital factors in determining the theme and the rheme of the sentence. English is analytical language, therefore the word order is fixed. It is divided into the following types: direct and reverse. If the direct word order is used in affirmative and negative sentences, the reverse word order is used in questions. The structure of direct word order:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Direct word order** | | |
| **Subject** | **Predicate** | **Object** |
| *She* | *bought* | *a book last month*. |

It should be noted that the main informative part of the English sentence is its final segment, since the composition of the rhematic part carries a large information load.

The Russian language, on the contrary, is synthetic, which denotes that grammatical meanings are expressed within the word itself with the help of affixes and flexions. The word order in the Russian language is quite free compared to many other languages, but in some cases, the word order follow some certain grammatical rules [Kovtunova I.I.,1976:9].

|  |
| --- |
| *Отец видит сына.* |
| *Отец сына видит.* |
| *Сына видит отец.* |

In Russian, the word order has a communicative functions and these communicative functions serve, firstly to express the actual division of the sentence:

|  |  |
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| **The theme** | **The rheme** |
| *He* | *took* *her in his arms*. |

Secondly, to express the degree of communicative significance of words that are not new information.

*Спросонья ей показалось, что он порезался, что пальцы его в крови, и она испугалась (Муравьева).*

In this sentence we can miss the word *его,* since it doesn’t carry communicative significance.

The third, no less important function of word order is an expressive stylistic function that emphasizes specific word in speech in order to require special attention to them.

There is a lot of controversy over the assignment of the Tajik language referring it to analytical or synthetic language. However, now scientists believe that the Tajik language belongs to both analytical and synthetic language. In the Tajik language, in the sentence the word order performs grammatical and stylistic functions. The grammatical functions of the word order lies in the fact that they determine the syntactic relations between the members of the sentence, contribute to the distinction of sentence members, which are similar in form. The stylistic function of word order in Tajik language is very important. This type of word order function is used widely in fiction, as here it serves to emotionally highlight the certain part of the narrative. The inverted word order doesn’t change the meaning of the statement, but allows to highlight, emphasize, transfer logical stress to the main part.

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| **Original** | **Subscript translation** |
| *Шиносонам диламро бо баҳорон (Л.Шералӣ).* | *I will introduce my heart to spring.* |

The word order in the Tajik language performs the distinguishing the main members function, especially in cases, where main members of the sentence are expressed in nominal parts of the speech, when the predicate is not decorated with either a ligament or auxiliary verbs.

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| **Original** | **Subscript translation** |
| *Сардори ҳукумати қишлоқ – ман (Ҷалил).* | *Chairman of the village government – I.* |
| *Номам – Саломатшоҳ (Ҷалил).* | *My name is Salomatshoh.* |

The importance of the word order function in the Tajik language is also evidenced by the impossibility of rearranging sentence members in such uncommon two-component sentences:

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| **Original** | **Subscript translation** |
| *Кӯчаҳо – торик (Ҷалил).* | *Streets are dark.* |
| *Замин – бечора (Лоиқ).* | *The land is poor.* |

It is well-known that, the most common place of Tajik predicated is the end of the sentence:

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| **Original** | **Subscript translation** |
| *Мо ба ин корхона ана аз ҳамин нуқтаи назар нигоҳ кунем (Ҷалил).* | *We have to look at this enterprise from this point of view.* |
| *Гулбибӣ як ғунчаи ношукуфтае буд (Айнӣ).* | *Gulbibi was an undisclosed bud.* |

The place of secondary members of the sentence in one position depends on number of factors, such as the way they are expressed, the types of communication with other members of the sentence, the place of logical stress, the text links of related sentences, etc. the most common position in the sentence for secondary members, except the adverbial modifier of the place and time is in the middle of the sentence. For adverbial modifiers of the place and time the usual position in the sentence is the beginning of the sentence.

Based on all of the above, preliminary results can be made. Each member of the sentence can bear can be the theme or the rheme of the sentence, which depends on its communicative load, thereby causing its actual division. Word order is a formal means of fixing the actual division. As the analysis shows, the fixed place of the predicate in the Tajik and English and its positional freedom in Russian determine the main distinguishing feature of these languages in the possibility of using the word order as a means of updating the statement in the compared languages.

The theory of actual division of the sentence is closely connected with the logical analysis of the proposition. On one hand, the principal parts of the proposition are the logical subject and the logical predicate, on the other, these two parts correlate with the theme and the rheme of the sentence respectively. While, logical analysis deals with the process of thinking and the actual division reveals the corresponding lingual means of rendering the informative content in the process of communication. In the sentence, the logical subject and the logical predicate, exactly like theme and rheme, may or may not coincide, respectively, with the subject and the predicate of the sentence. When the actual division of the sentence reflects the natural flow of thinking directed from the starting point of communication to its semantic core, from the logical subject to the logical predicate, the theme precedes the rheme and this type of actual division is called “*direct*”, “*unspecialized*”, or “*unmarked*”. In English, with its fixed word order, direct actual division means that the theme coincides with the subject or the subject group in the syntactic structure of the sentence, while the rheme coincides with the predicate (the predicate group) of the sentence.

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| **The theme** | **The rheme** |
| *Madison* | is late. |

There are cases when in some sentences, the rheme may be expressed by the subject and it may precede the theme, which is expressed by the predicate.

*Who is late?*

|  |  |
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| **The rheme** | **The theme** |
| *Madison* | is late. |

This type of actual division is called “*inverted”,* “*reverse*”, “*specialized*”, or “*marked*”. The last example shows that actual division of the sentence finds its full expression only in a concrete context of speech.

The strong correlation of the actual division of the sentence with the context makes it possible to split the informative parts of the communication into “already known” by the listener and “not yet known”. Nevertheless, this close connection does not mean that the actual division is a merely semantic factor. For sure, there are dedicated formal lingual means of expressing the difference between the meaningful center of the utterance, the rheme, and the starting point of its content, the theme. These includes: word order patterns, constructions with introducers, syntactic patterns of contrastive complexes, constructions with articles and other determiners, constructions with intensifying particles, and intonation contours.

The connection between word order and actual division has been described above: direct actual division usually means that the theme coincides with the subject in the syntactic structure of the sentence, while the rheme coincides with the predicate. Inverted word order can indicate inverted actual division, though the correlation is not obligatory. For example*: There was a bag. Inside the beg was a book;* the adverbial modifier of place at the beginning of the sentence expresses the theme, while the subject at the end of the utterance is the rheme; the word order in this sentence is inverted, though its actual division is direct. Reversed order of actual division, i.e. the positioning of the rheme at the beginning of the sentence, is connected with emphatic speech, e.g.: *Off you go! What a nice little girl she is!*

The same phenomenon is observed in Russian and Tajik languages, Z.R. Yusupova writes: “…normal, neutral, fixed order is if the theme and the rheme are arranged in the usual sequence, with the increasing the meaning of sentence from theme to rheme”. This word order in linguistics also called direct, progressive, non-emphatic.in this type of word order the theme is usually coincides with the subject or group of subjects and the rheme coincides with predicate of group of predicated. The reverse word order is called regressive. The position of the rheme at the beginning or end of the sentence may also be due to the need for its positional contact with the corresponding member of the preceding sentence.

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| **Original** | **Subscript translation** |
| *Ин аст насиҳати падаронаи мо ба ту! (Айнӣ)* | *This is our father’s advice to you!* |
| *Издали услышал Владимир необыкновенный шум и говор. (Пушкин)* | *Vladimir heard extraordinary noise and dialect afar.* |

The concept of actualizing the sentence by means of new information cannot be imagined without the use of special means. There are various ways of actualizing the sentence and in linguistics they are called “methods of recognizing the components of actual division”. These methods include: intonation – character of stress and pause, position in the sentence, adverbs, conjunctions and particles, constructions, article and etc. In the Tajik linguistic, the “Academic grammar of Tajik language” [Grammar, 1989, 186] mention word order, intonation and particles as ways to emphasize the components of actual division.

Syntactic ways of highlighting the theme and the rheme is the views of representatives of the psychological direction in linguistics are given, who drew attention to the discrepancy between the grammatical subject and predicate with the psychological subject and predicate – as they called the theme and the rheme. At the same time, followers of this direction in linguistics emphasized the important function of the “psychological predicate” defining it as the “purpose of communication”. It was found that the theme and the rheme can be recognized in the text on the basis of their position in the sentence, so the zones of the beginning of the sentence – the thematic zone and the second part of the sentence – the rhematic zone were highlighted. Each of these zones, in addition to the main members of the sentence, includes secondary members of the sentence, which are called distributors.

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| **The theme** | **The rheme** | **The distributor** |
| *Людовик* | *взглянул* | *на офицера с беспокойством.* |

Repetition is also one of the syntactic means that introduces expressive tone to a sentence or a statement, accentuates and singles out particular meaning and actualizes the rheme, especially the repetition of the verb form or the combination of the verb form with adverbial forms indicates the duration or intensity of the action:

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| **The theme** | **The rheme** |
| *Что-то он* | *все думал, думал…(Твардовский)* |
| *Осторожней, осторожней,* | *Орлов! (Горький)* |

Tautological structure also have a variety of additional meanings and they are expressive: *Жизнь как жизнь. Гулять как гулять. Работа есть работа.*

Although, the basic means of denoting the expression of actual division is considered to be word order, intonation and repetition, all the same, often these means are not enough to implement the communicative task of the sentence. For this reason, there are special lexical means in the language that serve as an additional tool of expressing the actual division of the sentence.

The conjunction is considered as a multifunctional marker. It can help to create a special, actualized type of statement and carry supporting information. The use of construction of new mean is due to the fact of desire to express a new tone of content. The conjunction, which acts as a means of supply segmentation, serves as a kind of exploiter of the relationship between parts of the structure. The conjunction at the beginning of the sentence expresses the relation with a neighboring sentence.

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| **The theme** | **The rheme** |
| *Когда труд - удовольствие* | *жизнь хороша. (Горький)* |
| *Как видите,* | *мы можем похвалиться. (Горький)* |

The conjunction, along with formal and syntactic means, is also a mean of actualizing the components of the sentence. Together with other means of actualizing it usually highlights the theme and the rheme of a sentence.

|  |  |  |
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| **The theme** | **The rheme** | **The distributor** |
| *Оқибат офтоби толеи Одина баромад,* | *дунё ба назараш равшан шуд,* | *чунки офтоб охирин шўълаи худро аз теғаи кўҳ гирифта ба уфуқ фурў рафта дунёро дар зери пардаи торикӣ андохта буд» (Айни)* |
| *Наконец вышло счастливое солнце Одины,* | *мир казался ясным,* | *потому что солнце потушив свои последние лучи на гребне горы, спустилось к горизонту и покрыло мир пеленой тьмы.* |

Particles are also actively used as lexical means. Particles related to a word or an entire sentence can distinguish between a theme or rheme. The polyfunctionality of the syntactic role of particles determines the relationship of their research, both with the study of the features of various syntactic constructions and with the problem of actual division of the statement. Particles usually specify the meaning of significant words, thereby distinguishing this significant word from among others, which ensures the updating of the components of the statement:

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| **The theme** | **The rheme** |
| *Пусть сильнее* | *грянет буря! (Горький)* |
| *Куда ни оглянусь,* | *повсюду рожь густая»(Горький)* |
| *Well, maybe it is,* | *and maybe it ain't. (Twain)* |
| *In such ecstasies,* | *that he even cоntrоlled his tоngue and was silent. (Twain)* |

The rheme of the sentence in Tajik language singles out particles: танҳо, маҳз, фақат, ҳарчанд, гӯё, бале, чунон and etc.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The theme** | **The rheme** |
| *Мўйсафеди барзангӣ* | *алафи хаму пуштаҳои Девлоха чунон пасту покиза даравидааст, ки ҳисобаш гум. (Самад А.)* |

In Russian language these particles are только, именно, даже, зато, и, как раз, лишь, не только and etc.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The theme** | **The rheme** |
| *Память оживляет* | *даже камни прошлого» (Горький)* |
| *Только что вылечили,* | *и тут тебе такие разговоры!» (Муравьева)* |

In ehglish various intensifying particles, such as only, just, merely, namely, at least, rather than, even, precisely, etc., identify the nominative part of the sentence before which they are used as the rheme.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The theme** | **The rheme** |
| *Only Charlie* | *is late today.* |
| *I did help* | *your sister.* |

Amplifying adverbs, like particles, perform the function of rematizers in the sentence. In English the most common adverbs are: Absоlutely, tоtally, cоmpletely, awfully, extremely, terribly, amazingly, remarkably, surprisingly, dramatically, perfectly and etc.

|  |  |
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| **The theme** | **The rheme** |
| *I am very hungry* | *and I am absolutely starving.* |

In Russian, the following amplifying adverbs are more common, which define the rheme of the sentence: совершенно, довольно, неожиданно, пугающе, ужасно, бойко, чрезвычайно.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The theme** | **The rheme** |
| *Там, на дне её,* | *яростно в,kозились две фигуры, хрипя и ругаясь. (Горький)* |

In Tajik language, these amplifying adverbs are mostly used: беҳад, ниҳоят, бештар, бағоят and etc.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The theme** | **The rheme** |
| *Дар мактабу донишгоҳҳо ба фарзандони мо* | *мо ба ҷои таърихи халқи тоҷик бештар таърихи халқҳои дигарро меомӯзонданд. (Гафуров)* |
| *Соҳибони маданияти Чуст* | *бештар ба зироат машuул буданд. (Гафуров)* |

Personal pronoun traditionally highlight the theme of a sentence:

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| **The theme** | **The rheme** |
| *Mr. Rоchester is blind, but he always burns candles* | *in his rооm in the evenings,' she said. (Brоnte)* |
| *A pretty little girl walked tоwards me, she was* | *abоut eight years оld. (Brоnte).* |

In Tajik and Russian, there is also a similar trend when personal pronoun relate to the theme of the statement.

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| **The theme** | **The rheme** |
| *Когда мы,* | *как одурелые, сами прямо в сеть лезем. (Салтыков Щедрин)* |
| *Девочку*  *и чем старше она становилась,* | *назвали Аленушкой*  *тем меньше подходило ей это сказочное длинное имя. (Муравьева).* |

However, there are exceptions when a personal pronoun is a rheme of a statement.

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|  | **The theme** | **The rheme** |
| **English** | *We selected* | *yоu.* |
| **Russian** | *И мы остановили выбор* | *на вас.* |
| **Tajik** | *Ва мо интихобамонро кардем* | *ин шумо.* |

There are some lexical mean in English such as pronoun ‘there’, articles and determiners. Constructions with the pronoun ‘there’ identify the subject of the sentence as the rheme, while the theme - usually it is an adverbial modifier of place is shifted to the end of the utterance.

There is a book on the table.

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| **The rheme** | **The theme** |
| *There is a book* | *on the table.* |

The actual division of such sentences is reverse without any emotive connotations expressed.

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| --- | --- |
| **The theme** | **The rheme** |
| *The book* | *is on the table.* |

Articles and other determiners, in accord with their either identifying or generalizing semantics, are used to identify the informative part “already known“, the theme, which are definite determiners or the “not yet known” information, the rheme, which is indefinite determiners.

|  |  |
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| **The theme** | **The rheme** |
| *The man* | *appeared unexpectedly.* |

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| --- | --- |
| **The rheme** | **The theme** |
| *A man* | *appeared*. |

As has been mentioned, actual division of the sentence finds its full expression only in a concrete context of speech. The sentences in the text are connected with each other. These sentences are related to different types of communication. In Russian, these connections are traditionally divided into two types: sequential communication and parallel connection.

If new information is duplicated at the beginning of the next sentence, that is, the rheme of the previous sentence becomes the subject of the next one, it is called sequential connection. The word itself can be duplicated and it is called Lexical repetition, the word can be replaced by its synonym, it is called Synonymous repetition, and when a word is replaced by its pronoun, it is called Pronoun repetition.

**Theme 1 Rheme 1**

**Theme 2 Rheme 2**

**Theme 3 Rheme 3**

If known information is repeated at the beginning of the next sentence, that is, the theme of the previous sentence becomes the theme of the next sentence it is called parallel connection. This type of connection is relevant when we want to give a versatile description of the subject of study.

**Theme 1 Rheme 1**

**Rheme 2**

**Rheme 3**

**Theme 1 Rheme 1**

**Theme 2 Rheme 2**

**Theme 3 Rheme 3**

Thus, based on the material of languages we have studied , we can emphasize that the actual division of the sentence in multi-structural languages is a relatively new paradigm of theory. It highlights the essence of the actual division of the sentence, the content and means of updating the actual division of the statement. The study was conducted by us using all known ways of transmitting the latest information in the proposals of the languages we considered.

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