# Schema in "To Love and To Honor" A Discourse Analysis

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## Abstract

A schema is a Cognitive Framework that helps to build and interpret information. Schema can be described as a useful tool because it allow as to take shortcuts in interpreting amount of information that is available in our environment. In most cases, Schemas Can occur automatically or with little effort , but sometimes Schema Can actually hinder the learning of new information . People may have certain believe , So , their existing Schemas may interpret things incorrectly

## Introduction

Schema is the mental representation of typical situation which is used in the discourse in order to predict a specific situation .The core of schema is the mind which has a vital role in interpreting the discourse through its activities.

Schemata (the plural of schema) can be considered as a kind of communication through which people in particular community interact with each other.

Sometimes, there is a misusing in applying schemata theory in narrative because the analyzing of schema depends on the experience of what people hear and read. Thus, in order to clarify this overlapping the best way is to analyze text according to the data collection.

Section one deals with definition of schema, the types of schema, the notion of the script and the he day of schema.

While section two is devoted to discuss schemata theory, schemata processor and schemata as organizational units.

The analysis of narrative short story is going to be explained in section three because narrative has exited in every human society so, the following kind of short story which is entitled (To Love and To Honor) demonstrates the social inquiry by discussing some elements of narrative theory and introducing a specific techniques of data collection.

Section four ends with conclusions.

**Section one**

**1.1 Definitions**

Schema or knowledge schemata can be defined as the mental representation of typical situations, and used in discourse processing to predict the contents of the particular situation which the discourse describes. The idea is as follows, the mind is stimulated by key words or phrases in the text or by the context activities a knowledge schema (Tehrani and Yeganeh (1999:215).

Thus, the type of situation has a very active role in the interpretation of discourse. Fludernik (Ibid),cited in(Tehrani and Yeganeh(1999:215) views that schema exemplified by the type of situation in which on going state or activity interpreted or crossed by an event that occurs from outside and the effect the on going situation, e.g.: As I was comfortable setting in my chair, smoking a pip and leaving through the recent issue of Dickens little Dorrit, there was a sharp knock on the door, following by a heated debate and wrangle between my better and intruder. I go up and open the door to find……

The schema is the classic case of the beginning of a tale or an episode of it. In English there may be a continuous form of the verb and the foreground is taken by the perfective (www.ccsenet.org/elt).

Hebert links schema with presupposition. He views that the underlying presupposition is that the perfective of the interviews which is best related to stories in the informant in using his / her own spontaneous language in the narrative of events. However, it would be naïve to claim that the narration is without structure. A narrative follows the self generation of schema (www.ccsenet.org/elt).

Narrative has several advantages over other means of linguistic data collection. They approximate data in using context and thus allows the researcher to study language properties that emerge only in connected speech such as temporal reference or cohesiveness (Ibid).

Furthermore, schema is can be defined as cognitive framework and concept that help to organize and interpret the information. Schemata can be useful because they allow us to take shortcuts in interpreting the vast amount of information that are available in our environment. However, this mental information leads us to exclude pertinent information focusing only on things that confirm our pre-exiting believes and ideas (www.ccsenet.org/elt).

Schemata can contribute to stereotypes and make it difficult to retain new information that does not conform to our established ideas about the world (Ibid).

## 1.2. The types of schema

There are three types of schema as stated by (Carel( 1984), cited in www.ccsenet.org/elt)

Linguistic schema, content schema, and formal schema.

Linguistic schema refers to reader's prior linguistic knowledge, including the knowledge about phonetics which can be recognized as grammar and vocabulary. Thus, in order to obtain the necessity information; the readers should be decoded the meaning of a passage. While content schema can be defined as "the background knowledge about the formal , rhetorical, organizational structures of different kinds of text" (Ibid). This type of schema is described as the product of culture because this type among three decides the reader's understanding the passage, since whatever is read, it must be interpreted under a cultural context.

Moreover, the formal schema is "abstract, encoded, internalized, coherent patterns of meta-linguistic discourse, and textual organization that guide expectation in our attempts to understand meaningful pieces of language" (Ibid). It is the knowledge of deferent text genres and there respective organization, language structure, vocabulary, grammar, etc. All the types of schema  are very necessary for readers to grasp the whole reading material and help them to understand in an easy way.

Thus, schema enables the person to relate new information to their prior experience by bridging the new with old and prediction in reading is possible .Schema helps to solve the problem in reading (Ibid).

## 1.3 A schema and the notion of the script

A schema is a general term for a conventional knowledge which exists in memory. People have many schemata stored in their minds which are used in the interpretation of what they hear or read .Thus, the hearers or readers are able to understand the situation or the text if they have the information as Parker and Riley (2005, 261-262) state.

They view that the readers are able to understand the text better when they integrate information in the text with pre-existing knowledge (represented in the schema). One type of schema is a script, prototypical sequence of events in the familiar situation. For example, it has been hypotheses that a "restaurant script" would  be organized according to the following scene headers; entering, ordering, eating, and exiting  Schemata and scripts provide us with  a structure framework for processing the information encountered   in the text (Ibid).A script can be

considered as one particular kind of schema. A script is essentially dynamic schema through which series of conventional action take place. For example, the person has a script for "going for the dentist" or "going to the movies ".All people have version of an "eating in the restaurant script, which can be activated to make sense of discourse.

### 1.4 The heday of schema

Plato elaborates the doctrine of ideal type such the perfect which exits in the mind there is no one ever seen. Furthermore, Kant develops the notion of schema as for example, he describes the dog as "a mental pattern which can delineate the figure of the four-footed animal in a general manner without limitation to any single determinate figure as experience or any possible image that I can represent in concerto" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/schematatheory).

However, at that time , many terms  have been used,  as "frame" ,"scene", "scenario" , "script" and even "model", "theory" thus, the key of the theoretical development of schemata theory which are made in many fields in  linguistic  anthropology, psychology, and artificial intelligence. One of the main engines is the artificial intelligence which can be considered as a very important field in getting computers that serve  humanity.

Most of what are communicated in various fields cannot be understood without great deal of information. For example, consider the following story from D' Anrade (1995), John wanted to do well on the exam but this pen ran out of ink and his pencil broke. He tried to find a pencil sharpener,But there wasn't one in the room. Finally, he borrowed a pen from another student . He was so far behind he had to rush and the teacher took of minutes for manship.

In order to understand this story, you should  have to understand the writing schema because the text itself left unstated connection between John's running out of ink and he is not being able to pass the exam.

Such a scene invokes a writer as  implement as a surface on which traces are left. Schema specifies a particular implement; it could be a pencil, pen, piece of chalk, typewriter, stick, or even an aeroplane (Ibid).

<div align="center">**Section two**</div>

### 2.1 Schemata theory:

Schema theory is a term used in psychology and cognitive science which describes a systematic pattern of thought and behavior. Schemata affect on our attention and the absorption of new information. People use schemata to organize their prior knowledge and provide framework for future understanding.

In 1781,  Annel proposed the word schema .He defines it as a frame, script, or background knowledge which been rooted in philosophy, psychology, and cognitive informational processes.

In schema theory, people make sense of new experience and the world by activating the mental representations or schemata stored in their  memories. New experiences and information are interpreted according to how it fits into their schemata (www.schema theory-etec510.com).

A schema (plural: schemata) is an abstract knowledge, a mental representation stored in memory upon which all information processing depends. It may represent knowledge at different levels e.g. cultural truths, linguistic knowledge, or ideologies. They are mental templates that represent person's knowledge  about people, situation, or object, and which originate from prior knowledge or experience (Ibid).

There are some properties of schemata or issues relating to schemata theory (http.//beaugrand.com):

1.  Conceptual structures that help us to understand, interpret, and remember incoming information.

2.  Related to Gestalt theory in that one develops structures (and restructure) the information.

3.  Sometimes called constructivist theory rather than simply reduce the information which is received information . Information is often added, substructure, ignored, trance formed depending on how the agent views the schema.

4.  Schema theory is useful for reasoning, categories, story interpretation, evaluation, inferences, and much more.

5.  There are problems agreeing the properties of schemata Bartlett schemata, Minisky .. Frames, Schand and Abelson…… scripts, Rumelhart, Mandler and Johnson ……story grammars.

6.  There are a lot of data which has been interpreted to support schema analysis (Ibid).

**2.2 Schemata processor**

Schemata effect our recall of events Bernard, killword, Kronenfled, and Saller make a series of studies on information accuracy in which half of what information tell us are wrong. This causes a firestone of argument and replication including one study by Freeman and Romney in (1987) view that the accuracies in the information are not random but rather systematic and predictable, and come from schemata which can be developed by depending on the experience and social networks (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/schematatheory).

Freeman and Romny study attendance data for participation in an informal seminar of Irvine mathematical social science program during the spring quarter of 1985. The seminar met in a large lounge in which the participation sat a Ciclelar pattern people which visible each other. A Hen dance was recorded for nine consecutive sessions. The ninth and final session is used as the memory target session. Thus, all the participants were interviewed five days after the final session and asked if they have been at the ninth meetings ,who has attended. Only 17 persons remembered having attend (Ibid).

With regard to those who attended, their error rate is about 52% (exactly in line with Bernard's studies). O n average respondents forget about 6 of 16 while other people recalled the presence of 1-5 persons who in fact were not there.

Basing on a survey of the literature on memory, Freeman et al hypotheses that depend on two major factors: firstly, how the person well organized his schema. Secondary how the events are remembered . So, the better organization of schema is the better over all memories will be and the more typical an event, the more likely it will be recalled falsely as occurring because it will be "filled " by the schema rather than actual perception.

Furthermore, it is not just the researchers who believe in the power of schemata, but the native speakers do too. They assume that listeners understand through
their schemata.


## 2.3 Schemata as organizational units

A schema is an asset of related place holders or slots which can be filled in by context or additional information by the speaker. Often what is filled in one slot may affect other slots. For example, the writing schema, if the subject is written about the sky the implement is likely to be in ear plan. Specially, if there is no specific information provided for a particular slot, thus, the hearers tend to fill the slot with their normal expectation "default values". For example, in English, the writing schema may properly include pen as the impeliment and paper as a surface (Beaugrande and Dressler,( 1992: 84-110).

One function of schemata is to relate terms drawn from different linguistic domains. For example, the writing schema relates pencils, pen, chalk, typewriter,……etc, to paper, blackboard, newspaper, manuscript.. As an important aspect of the organization that the simpler schemata which can be impeded within more complex schemata or in another way, schemata can be hierarchically structured.

The writing schema contains the number of sub-schemata, the schema for writing implement, a writing surface, a language, and an entity that is trying to communicate. Moreover, each of these sub-schemata is composed from sub-schemata (Ibid).

## Section three
## Data analysis

### 3.1 Introductory note

Schema is often invoked in discourse as an explanation of the process of understanding so, the relationship which exists between schema and the text is often left rather vague.

Thus, this section tests the validity of schemata theory as an instrument to analyze a short story entitled "To Love and to Honor". The text that will be analyzed in this section has many events which happened in the past. The clause structure is complex and the sentence perspective is often marked. It is not always possible to distinguish scripts, plans, goals, or themes, uncertainty may be arise because of the interrelationship depends on reader's schemata and this will be vary from one individual to another.

The content of some schemata might be as follows

[ ] Square brackets indicate default events found in the text.

< > angle brackets indicate suggestions for further default elements which are not mentioned in the text.

SIT[situational] R[review] House

- Type: situational.

- View point: reader.

- Content: house.

- Header in text: living room

- A number of events: [gossiping], <Althea's departure>, <postage stamps>.

- The role of participants [George's Potter (the hero of the story), Althea (George's first wife), George's friend and his lawyer, Esther (George's second wife)].

### 3.2 Analysis of the story:

This text might be interpreted in terms of the following schemata:

3.2.1 Scripts:

- SIT R Civilized city.

- SIT R business place.

- SIT R Church.

- SIT R house.

  George Potter is being an old business man

3.2.2 Plans:

- George Potter retires from his job.

- George Potter decides to marry Althea Deane after his illegal relationship with her.

- After Althea's death, George decides to marry Esther.

- George Potter avoids the social contact.

- George Potter chooses the same violinist to play in his first and last marriage.

- George's celebrates his silver anniversary.

3.2.3 Goals:

- George Potter wants to retire from his job to travel around the world.

- George Potter, after he gets married to Althea (when people began to gossip about them because of their love affair), George wants to be a successful man but he never had a chance to be successful.

-  George does his best to please his second wife, Esther.

- George wants to make an unusual party of marriage to Esther.

3.2.4 Themes:

- George Potter is a widower; his first wife Althea Dean is dead.

- George Potter is an old  and successful businessman who decides to marry another woman called Esther.

- Most of wedding's guests are  rather gray haired.

- In spite of the advance of the age for both (the bride and the groom), the ceremony of the marriage is perfect, Esther carries a bouquet of the brides mind in pink, bouquets of killarney roses. And she wears bridal dress.

- George frightens as he had been as if it is the first wedding.

    This story illustrates  social life . It illustrates three characters who play the vital roles in the  short story  entitled "To Love and To Honor". The main important one is  George Potter,  an

old business man. George Potter marries Althea Dean and after her death, he decides to marry Esther. So, they celebrate their marriage in the church.

1.    " It was rather surprising to discover a deep vein of sentiment in little George Potter. I had been his friend and his lawyer for many years and had watched the always fat and once alert little man settle into a domestic routine. He had been moderately successful in business, sufficiently successful to permit him to retire from business and to travel about the world a little if he had wanted to do so."

This paragraph illustrates a person whose name is George Potter who lived in the civilized city. According to the script of schema, he is being a successful business man. He decides to retire from his business and to travel around the world.

2.    " Looking back over the years of my friendship with Potter, I can see that the vein of romance had probably been there all the time. There was, for instance, his romantic love-affair with Althea Deane—an affair which almost became a scandal. But just when people began to gossip about them, George married her".

The speaker is George's friend; he states that George Potter is an old business man. George has an illegal relationship with Althea Dean. Thus, George decide to marry her after the rumors gossip about them.

٣."The very George Potter who had lived a quit life since his second marriage and who had social contacts".

This paragraph illustrates that George Potter is a lonely man who avoids the sociability since his second marriage.

٤."There was even the same minister—very old now—and the same violinist who had played "Oh, Promise Me" at the other ceremony. A good many of the original guests were there: most of us rather gray-haired now."

-It seems from the atmosphere the events happened in the nineteenth century where the people brought the violinist in their parties. It is also appeared that the characteristics are Christian and base their marriage in the church.

**Section four**

**4.1. Conclusions**

Schemata theory refers to the capability of combing one's background knowledge with information. It also can be described as a mental framework represent  ideas about the world. Schema can be clarified as bridge between the past and the present knowledge which play a vital role in the people 's  activities. The usefulness of schema by people is to organize the current knowledge and provide a framework for current understanding.

In addition to that, there are other remarkable facts about comprehension. Information from a text is stored and measured by a schema againsts other kinds of knowledge base. The result is that, certain information in a narrative is elaborately processed and assigned to a hierarchy in working memory according to relative importance while much else is disordered.

Furthermore, events in text are marked as silent and acquire special significance because of expectation defined by the internal order of schema.

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### الخلاصة

الاطار العقلي هو عبارة عن هيكل معرفي يساعد على تمييز وتفسير المعلومات ويمكن وصفه على إنه اداة مفيدة ويعزو ذلك الى انه يسمح لنا بأخذ المجال في تفسير الكم من المعلومات المتوفرة في المحيط  الذي حولنا في معظم الحالات ، يحاول الاطار العقلي ان تتم محاولاته بصورة تلقائية مع الجهد القليل ، ولكن في بعض الاحيان تتم إعاقة معرفة المعلومات الجديدة . يمتلك الاشخاص معتقدات معينة  لذا فان الاطار العقلي الموجود في أذهانهم ربما يحاول تفسير الاشياء بصورة خاطئة .

To Love and to Honor

By Octavus Roy Cohen

It was rather surprising to discover a deep vein of sentiment in little George Potter. I had been his friend and his lawyer for many years and had watched the always fat and once alert little man settle into a domestic routine. He had been moderately successful in business, sufficiently successful to permit him to retire from business and to travel about the world a little if he had wanted to do so. But instead he and Esther were content to sit night after night in their pleasant living room; she was busy with her sewing or reading, he passing the time with his excellent collection of postage stamps.

Looking back over the years of my friendship with Potter, I can see that the vein of romance had probably been there all the time. There was, for instance, his romantic love-affair with Althea Deane—an affair which almost became a scandal. But just when people began to gossip about them, George married her.

That marriage appeared to extinguish George Potter's last spark of romanticism. It never had a chance to be successful, and when Althea left him suddenly, George's friends thought that he was fortunate to lose her. Later came the news of Althea's death while living abroad, and a couple of years later George began to call upon Esther seriously. The people of our group were only slightly interested—it is difficult to become greatly excited over a possible marriage when both the man and the woman are equally rather dull and uninteresting.

The marriage was a very nice affair. There followed the usual series of parties for the newly married couple. Then it seemed that George and Esther retired from life. Even his business affairs ran so well that there was little need on George'' part for my services as his lawyer--and while I never ceased to like him, we found less and less in common as the years passed. I couldn't imagine that they were happy; perhaps they were contented, but not really happy. There wasn't enough sentiment that's the way I figured George. And nothing happened to change my opinion until a few weeks before their twenty-fifth anniversary.

It was then that he came into my office his fat little face shining with enthusiasm, and told me of his unusual plans for the silver anniversary. His bright eyes shone as he explained the thing, and I'll confess that I was pretty well confused; not alone because his plan was very sentimental and profoundly impressive, but mainly because it was quiet, dull, old George Potter who was planning this thing—the very George Potter who had lived a quiet life since his second marriage and who had avoided social contacts.

According to what George told me, he was doing this thing for Esther's sake. "It'll please her," he explained. "Women like that sort of thing, you know—and this seems to me a real idea. You have to be a part of it, because you were the best man when Esther and I were married. It's just a gesture on my part—a sort of sacrifice to please the old lady".

I'll say this to George; he didn't do things halfway. Instead of the usual party, he presented a perfect duplication of his marriage to Esther twenty-five years before. There was even the same minister—very old now—and the same violinist who had played "Oh, Promise Me" at the other ceremony. A good many of the original guests were there: most of us rather gray-haired now. But the thing was very impressive: Esther in the same bridal dress she had worn twenty-five

years before—let out around the hips perhaps—and carrying a bouquet of bride roses; even a person to carry the ring. It was great fun and very impressive where one might have expected it to be absurd.

As for Esther, I never saw a woman look more beautiful. She took on an aura of genuine beauty. Of course she would have been less than human and far from feminine to have failed to respond to this magnificent exhibition of husbandly devotion. George himself was as frightened as he had been on the occasion of their first wedding.

But finally the ceremony was finished and the guests went to the dining room for the rich supper which had been prepared by special cooks employed for this occasion. George and I were left alone and he sank exhausted into a chair. I placed my hand on his shoulder and congratulated him on the success of his party.

"You really think it was a success"؟

"Wonderful! And," jokingly, "you certainly should feel completely married".

"Yes, I do." He became silent for a moment or two, and when he spoke again it was in a deeply serious tone. "There's something I've got to explain to you as my friend and my lawyer." He stopped for a second, and the asked suddenly: "You remember my first wife"؟

"Althea?" I was surprised by the question. "Certainly".

"Did you know," he went on in a strange voice, "that she died only the last year"؟

"Good Lord! I thought she died twenty-seven years ago".

"So did I," he said quietly. "And when I married Esther, I thought I was a widower. But I wasn't—and in case anything ever comes up—well, I want you to understand that affair tonight was a real wedding for Esther and me".