Chapter 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

This section will first review the theories about reading. Secondly, notions of Theme and Rheme structure will be discussed and then different thematic progression patterns are proposed to explore text development. Next, types of cohesive ties are to be discussed. Further, the relationship between thematic progression and cohesive ties is to be elaborated. Finally, previous research will be reviewed.

2.1 What Is Reading ?

In his psycholinguistic model of reading, Goodman describes reading as a "psycholinguistic guessing game," in which the "reader reconstructs, as best as he can, a message which has been encoded by a writer as a graphic display" (Goodman, 1970, p. 498). Coady (1979) interprets and elaborates his model:

> Goodman views this act of the construction of meaning as an ongoing, cyclical process of sampling from the input text, predicting, testing and confirming or revising those predictions, and sampling further. In this model, the reader need not use all of the textual cues. The better the reader is able to make correct predictions, the less confirming via the text is necessary, that is, the less visual perceptual information the reader requires. Goodman's argument is that the good reader takes advantage of the redundancy inherent in language which enables the reader to reconstruct the whole although he extracts only part of the graphic display. (p. 5).

However, what are "the textual cues" or what does "the redundancy inherent in language" mean? As an EFL reader, knowing what components a text is made up of should be prior to knowing how they are arranged to develop the text. Of course, "the textual cues" or "the redundancy inherent in language" are necessary components of a text. Once the notion of "textuality" is stored in the reader's mind and thus further becomes the background knowledge of the reader, then it stands a chance of interacting with other factors in the reading process, as shown in Coady's (1979) psycholinguistic model of the ESL reader in Figure 2.1. The model shows that the