



Unscrambling thematic progression

The following is a piece of text which is perfectly well-formed except for one thing: one aspect of its textual structure (namely its ‘thematic’ patterns—i.e., the way Theme and Rheme are organized) has been deliberately scrambled:

Now comes the President here. It's the window he's stepping through to wave to the crowd. On his victory his opponent congratulates him. What they are shaking now is hands. A speech is going to be made by him. ‘Gentlemen and ladies. That you are confident in me honours me. I shall, hereby pledge I, turn this country into a place, in which what people do safely will be live, and the ones who grow up happily will be able to be their children.’

M.A.K. Halliday, ‘The sociosemantic nature of discourse’. Chapter 7 of: *Language as social semiotic: The social interpretation of language and meaning*. London: Edward Arnold, 1978.

Unscramble the text by re-writing each sentence in a more natural way:

What was wrong with each sentence? [Note: We'll revisit this topic next week.]