**ABSTRACT**: Is there a real contradiction between the light subject constraint defended by Wallace Chafe and the hypothesis of use of the intransitive subject for introducing the new human protagonists in discourse suggested by John Du Bois? In the light subject constraint, the term light can mean given and accessible, but new only if the importance of the referent placed in subject position is trivial. How can both hypotheses hold? If the intransitive subject conveys new human protagonists, it will be expressing a heavy referent?

The present study shows that, since the protagonists or referents of primary importance are few, the fact that only some of them are introduced in subject position does not violate the light subject constraint.