

SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTICS OF POLITICAL ARTICLES IN EASTERN AND WESTERN ONLINE NEWS

Ali Hussein Abdulameer¹(A. H. Abdulameer¹),

Alienglish78@gmail.com

Siti Noor Fazelah Mohd Noor² (F. Mohd Noor²)

snfazelah@gmail.com

^{1&2} Centre for Language Studies

University Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia, Malaysia Batu Pahat, Johor, Malaysia

pa@uthm.edu.my

ABSTRACT: *Political discourse causes a large attendance, due to their influence on economic, cultural and societal. The current study applies transitivity analysis within systemic functional linguistics by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) to analyze 80 political articles in Eastern and Western online news. The study employs a qualitative analysis, to find out the answers for the next two questions: First, How the experiential meaning recognizes via the transitivity process in social actors' discourse in the Western and Eastern online news? Second, what are the differences or similarities in the discourse of social actors in Western and Eastern online news? The documentation method uses to collect data from the four online newspapers, from Eastern (Al JAZEERA, and THE STAR) and from Western news (THE GUARDIAN and New York Post) from 6th December 2017 to 13th May 2018.*

The main findings show that verbal processes, material processes are most predominant in social actors' discourse in Eastern and Western online news and followed by relational, mental and existential processes and the behavioral processes rarely the social actors use. On the basis of the study, can better understand the thinking manner and cultural features and the attitudes and judgments of the political in East and West.

1. INTRODUCTION

The rise of language is along with construction and growth of humanity as the language is correlative to the humanity. According to [12], language is used to express the peoples' experience and serve a variety of different functions. Halliday's systemic-functional linguistics shows how language is used and sheds light on the three meta-functions of language: the ideational function is related to the representation of reality; the interpersonal function, is concerned with establishing and maintaining the interaction between the hearer and speaker; and the textural function, is considered with representation of ideational and interpersonal meanings as text. The three met functions are raising three strands of meaning in the clause:

The clause as representation, The clause as an exchange, and The clause as a message [24], Why the researcher chooses the "functional" grammar because the study is based on the meaning and interpretation of linguistic forms [11], holds that "the aim has been to construct a grammar for purposes of text analysis: one that would make it possible to say sensible and useful things about any text, spoken or written, in modern English." This enables one to show how, and why, the text means what it does. Halliday employed transitivity analysis on the different type of text and he has analyzed the *Inheritors* written by William Golding from the perspective of transitivity, in 1971. The transitivity system is represented through six processes: the material process, the mental process, the relational process, the behavioral process, the verbal process, and the existential process. Many scholars have used the transitivity system to provide a qualitative analysis of discourses. They have gotten a profound interpretation of their data. Recently, the researchers have been using the transitivity system in literary works and news texts.

Whereas, the researcher uses transitivity analysis to analyze political articles in eastern and western online news. The discourse of the articles is quite different from other types of

text, when the social actors construct their discourse, in order to achieve the goals of their political aspiration. The social actors have used the advantage of the transitivity in order to reflect their ideology in the society. The study transitivity analysis to interpret the reaction of the social actors concerning Trump's decision.

Specifically, through a qualitative study, this paper tries to find the answer for two questions: First, How the experiential meaning recognizes via the transitivity process in social actors' discourse in the Western and Eastern online news? Second, what are the differences or similarities in the discourse of social actors in Western and Eastern online news? This study shifts from the meaning level to the expression level.

2.PREVIOUS STUDIES OF TRANSITIVITY SYSTEM IN DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

The term "discourse analysis" first proposed by [13]. Many linguists have defined the discourse as "unit beyond the sentence" like [19], [7]. To pragmatics, [17], defines the discourse as "utterance". While the functional linguists are defined the discourse as "discourse is the use of language" [25].

investigated seven of Obama's speeches by utilized transitivity analysis via systemic functional linguistics. The results show that the material processes predominately on Obama speeches [18].

applied transitivity theory to analyze the headlines of the newspaper on terrorism in Kenya. The study aims to explain how the headlines of newspapers portrayed Al-Shabaab attacks at Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya. The study concluded that material and relational processes, most predominately the headlines of the newspaper [16].

studied the first television debate between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump by applying the transitivity system within systemic functional linguistics. The quantitative analysis of this study concluded that material processes, relational

process, and mental processes are most predominant in both politicians' discourses [22].

3.THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: SYSTEMIC-FUNCTIONAL APPROACH, TRANSITIVITY ANALYSIS

Our analysis also includes a study of Transitivity processes. Transitivity within Systemic Functional Linguistics is a system that, according to [10], “construes the world of experience into a manageable set of process types. Each process type provides its own model or schema for construing a particular domain of experience as a figure of a particular kind [...]” In this sense, transitivity is described as providing “the lexicogrammatical resources for construing a quantum of change in the flow of events as a figure—as a configuration of elements centered on a process.” [10]. Transitivity is, therefore, concerning the experiential dimension of meaning inside the clause, and it is realized through a process, the verbal component, in which Participants and Circumstances are involved. The concept of the ‘process’ refers to the semantic category and describes how the phenomena of our experience of the world can be interpreted as a linguistic structure.

4.TYPES OF TRANSITIVITY PROCESSES AND PARTICIPANTS ELEMENTS AS A FRAMEWORK FOR EXPERIENTIAL ANALYSIS IN THE DATA

There are six processes of transitivity system: Material, Mental and Verbal processes as major and Relational, Behavioral and Existential as a minor process. These processes have the participants, which serve different roles in the clause [10], The researchers also classified the clause process based on Halliday’s classified, as [9, 21, 23] The participants in the clause play specific functions.

4.1 MATERIAL PROCESS AND PARTICIPANTS.

When the process in the clause is used to represent the experience of events and actions, it is called Material [10], Any Material process has the participant of Actor which functions as the doer of the process. And it may have the participant of Goal which is impacted by the process [21]. There are two other types of participants which have the same function of Goal of being impacted upon by the process: Beneficiary and Scope. The beneficiary is the participant benefits from the process and Scope define the domain of the process [23]. Table 3.6 depicts the roles of the participants in the material process.

The material process is considered to represent the experience of events and actions, [10]. It has the participant as the actor and the functions as the doer of the process [21]. The process also has participants of Goal [21]. The Material Process has more two participants and impacted by the process: Beneficiary and Scope. Participant as a Beneficiary is benefited from the process but the Scope defines the domain of the process [23]. Table (1) portrays the roles of the participants in the material process.

Table (1): Material Process and Participants

Actor	Pr: Mat	Beneficiary	Goal	Scope
Jerry	Opened	-	the door	
He	Gave	Thaler	Some of the bills	
Nobody else	Paid	him	-	any attention

4.2 MENTAL PROCESS AND PARTICIPANTS

The mental process is based on sense. The Mental process has two participants: Senser which does the function of sensing and Phenomenon the thing being sensed. The phenomenon can be as a person, fact or particular object [10]. Halliday and Matthiessen divide the Mental Process into four kinds: Perception, Affection, Cognition, and emotion. According To [10], the Material processes are represented by the external experience while the Mental process represented by internal experience [20]. Table (2) illustrates this classification with examples.

Examples of the mental process and its participants are displayed below in table (3), (4), (5) and (6):

Table (2): Halliday's Classification of Mental Process

Type of Mental Process	Examples
Perceptive	Perceive, sense, notice, hear,
Cognitive	Think, believe, suppose, consider, expect.
Desiderative	Want, wish, like, hope.
Emotive	Fancy, love, hate, adore dislike.

Table (3): Mental process: perceptive

He Cordelia	could not see heard felt	Anything a faint sound her face burning
Senser	Pr:: Mental-Perception	Phenomenon

Table (4): Mental process: emotive

She II	hated like appreciated	Thought of leaving him alone. most operas the fact that you kept quiet
Senser	Pr: Mental- Emotive	Phenomenon

Table (5): Mental process: cognitive

You no one she	can imagine would choose never discovered	the car
Sensor	PR: Mental- Cognitive	Phenomenon

Table (6): Mental process: desiderative

I You	don 't want may crave	any trouble a cigarette
Senser	Process: Mental- Desiderative	Phenomenon

4.3 RELATIONAL PROCESS AND PARTICIPANTS

The relational process is based on characterizing or identifies [10]. The relational process is realized in clauses by ‘being’ and ‘having’. There are verbs involved in the Relational process: verbs ‘be’ and the verbs of possession such as: have, own, and possess. Relational processes have two types: Attributive (Hassan is wise) and Identifying (Hassan is a leader) (Examples from Halliday & Matthiessen), The Relational attributive process does not identify the situation or case but describes it. In other words, it attributes to some entity [4]. There are two Participants in the Attributive Relational Carrier and Attribute. In some cases, Attributive process shows to serve possession or ownership so is known as a Possessive process [13]. In this case, the participants are the Possessor and the possessed [6]. Table (7) offers

examples of the Attributive Relational process and its participants 'roles.

Table (7) Relational attributive process and participants

She	was	in a ward on the third floor
The other four beds	were	Empty
She	could have been	a girl of twenty –five or a woman of fifty-five
Her face	was	a bloated spotty mask
Carrier	Pr: Attar	Attribute

Table (8): Relational possessive process and participants

Carrier/po ssessor	Pr: possessive	Rel	Attribute: possessed
I	had		a daughter
You	ve got		less blood than me

Examples of Relational Identifying process are presented in table (8). According to [10], that the second function of the relational process is identified so is realized through the Identifying Relational Process. The two participants involved are the Token and Value [15], either can be used to identify the other [10]. Examples of Relational Identifying process are presented in table (9).

Table (9): Relational identifying process and participants

Token	Pr: Relational-Ide	Value
My lecturer	is	Fontaine
Your cousin	is	my neighbor

4.4 VERBAL PROCESS AND PARTICIPANTS

The verbal process realizes by the verbs such as (say, tell, speak, criticize, explain, repeat and declare) [14]. The verbal process is related to three participants: Sayer, Verbiage, and Target. Examples of Verbal process and participants are in the table (10).

Table (10): Verbal process and participants

Sayer	Pr: Verbal	Target	Verbiage
II The report	explained was not told sharply criticizes	to her	what it meant about any side-effects Lilly 's quality control procedures

4.5 BEHAVIORAL PROCESS AND PARTICIPANTS.

Behavioral processes are realized by physiological and psychological behavior, like breathing, coughing, smiling, dreaming and staring [10]. Behavioral processes have two participants: Behaver and Range, and the function like scope participant in the material process. Table (11), shows examples of the Behavioral process with its participants.

Table (11): Behavioral Process and Participants

She The boy	gave laughed	A faint sigh an embarrassed laugh. an embarrassed laugh
Behaver	Pr: Behavioral	Behavior

4.6 EXISTENTIAL PROCESSES AND PARTICIPANTS

The existential process is represented existence or happening in the clauses. The existential process is realized by there is/ there are in the clauses [23]. The existential process has one participant is called existent and represents the thing existed. Table (12), has a drawing of the existential process and its participants [6].

Table (12): Existential Process and Participants

Subject	Process	Existent
There	was	a storm
On the wall there	hangs	a picture
There	is	a man at the door

5.DATA ANALYSIS

The dataset contained 63,040 words from four online newspapers, and these data are analyzed using tools from a Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), 'Transitivity'. The researcher downloads the texts and then copies and past into a widely available word processing software package. They are divided into clauses and identify.

5.1 TRANSITIVITY ANALYSIS

The process type for each clause was identified according to social actors in Eastern and Western in online newspapers (e.g. Presidents, Prime Ministers, Ministers, and Ambassador) that occurs as participants or in circumstances in the clauses were also identified according to the grammatical role. (E.g. Actor or Goal in material process, Sensor or Phenomenon in the mental process). As a result of an iterative process of analyzing the data according to process type and a grammatical role, and identifying relevant social actors, a list of the most relevant social actors emerged [8].

After identifying the participants, the counts on the participants were counted and tallied. These counts were put into a separate spreadsheet according to the data (The Star, Al-Jazeera, The Guardian and The New York Post), to produce graphs representing the distribution of grammatical roles for each social group. The occurrences or frequencies of the social actor in the different grammatical roles (e.g. as the Sayer, Actor, Sensor, or Phenomenon) was analyzed and converted into percentages for the four online newspapers. For example, what is the number and % of instances in the star of the president being represented as Actor, or Sayer, or Goal? What is the number and % of instances in Al-Jazeera newspaper of president being represented as Actor, or Sayer, or Goal? By comparing these findings, we can see the patterns in the representation of groups across the discourse of each [5].

6. RESULTS OF DISCUSSION

The results reveal that the most discourses and recurred themes across the four online news made by the social actors condemned the decision of Trump. In the articles of The Star online news, there are 326 clauses, among which material processes take up 49.079% as the majority, then followed by a verbal process which take up 30.20%, mental process takes up 10.22% also relational process take up 10.22%, existential process takes up 0.30% and the behavioral process 0% as shown in the table (13), The Star News.

Table (13): existential process takes up 0.30% and the behavioral process 0%

Process	Material	Verbal	Relational	Mental	Existential	Behavioral	Total
Number	160	99	33	33	1	0	326
Percentage	49.079	30.20%	10.22%	10.22%	0.30%	0%	100

Table (14): existential process 1.66% and behavioral process employed the least

Process	Verbal	Material	Relational	Mental	Existential	Behavioral	Total
Number	251	100	42	21	7	0	421
Percentage	59.61%	23.75%	9.97%	4.98%	1.66%	0%	100

Table (15): relational process 12.33, mental process and behavioral process utilized the least

Process	Verbal	Material	Relational	Mental	Existential	Behavioral	Total
Number	260	192	64	1	1	1	519
Percentage	50.09%	36.99%	12.33%	0.19%	0.19%	0.19%	100

Table (16): a relational process which takes up 23.17%, mental process 4.35%, existential process 1.04% and the last behavioral process 0%

Process	Verbal	Material	Relational	Mental	Existential	Behavioral	Total
Number	214	196	133	25	6	0	574
Percentage	37.28%	34.14%	23.17%	4.35%	1.04%	0%	100

The analysis of political articles in Eastern and Western online news discovers that verbal process is mostly utilized in the discourse of social actors. The social actors use the verbal process to express their stance after Trump declaration the Jerusalem as Israel’s capital on 6th December 2017 in Eastern and Western online news. For instance,

The Star online: 64 Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said, that Malaysia rejects and will never accept the proposal to make Jerusalem the capital of Israel [1].

The Star online: 111 Lebanese presidents says Trump decision threatens stability, Trump decision threatens stability.

The social actors also use material process and it’s the process of ‘doing’, which gives the audience a feeling of power and strength. The social actors utilize material processes to describe their stance consider Trump’s decision. For instance:

The Star online news: 1 Trump undermining stability with Jerusalem move Germany’s Schulz.

New York Post: 4 Erdogan, Macron will urge US to reverse Jerusalem decision. **Al- Jazeera News:** 3 World leaders chastise US over Jerusalem 'escalation'.

The Guardian News: 496 Twenty-two of the 28 EU countries voted for the resolution, including the UK and France and Germany. The analysis further discovers that the social actors utilize the relational process to attribute and identification clauses in their discourse, they employ the relational process to elaborate their reaction consider Trump’s decision when declares the Jerusalem as Israel capital on 6th December 2017[2].For instance:

Al- Jazeera News: 241 The Turkish presidents have been highly vocal in criticizing the US administration over its Jerusalem decision.

New Post News: 72 “I’m convinced that it is impossible to ease tension with a unilateral solution.”.

The analysis also discovers that mental processes take proportion in the social actor’s discourse. The mental process is the process of “sensing”. It involves activities like the affection, cognition and perception in the social actor’s discourse. Mental process distributes in the recovering the audience’s confidence and looking forward to a better future for the Jerusalem [3]. For instance:

The Star News: 272 The Prime Minister also hoped the United States would withdraw its decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and work towards facilitating peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

They applied different mental process verbs which show their different attitudes and subjective emotion. The social actors seldom use the Existential processes to express their stances consider Trump’s decision. The behavioral processes are not used in the discourse of the social actors.

7. CONCLUSION

The present thesis applies the transitivity system to analyze the political articles in Eastern and Western online news. The qualitative analysis proves that the transitivity theory in systemic functional linguistics is an effective method in political articles. The study concludes that the verbal processes, material process, and relational process are most frequently processing, in the discourse of the social actors. While the mental process, existential process, and behavioral process are seldom utilized. The political articles are the typical political discourse with specific political aims. The social actors can express their ideology only through their discourse. The politicians always select the most effective and convincing processes to reach their goals. Both Verbal processes and material processes are the best options for their political aims because verbal and material process presented the social actor's statement consider Trump's decision.

So most of the social actors in Eastern and Western online news have used transitivity process, especially verbal process and material process to express their reject or criticize, Trump's decision when declaration the Jerusalem as Israel capital in 6th December 2017. The analysis also discovers that some of the social actors are used transitivity processes to elaborate their agreement with Trump's decision like Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Togo, and the United States. The analysis also finds there are similarities between the social actor's opinion in the Eastern and western online news, that most of the social actors reject the Trump's declaration the Jerusalem as Israel capital on 6th December 2017 and there are countries agree with Trump's decision like; Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Marshall, Nauru Islands, Micronesia, Palau, and Togo. Through the transitivity analysis of the language of political articles in Eastern and Western online news the study concludes that most of the social actors reject Trump's decision and less of them agree with him.

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