

***The Study of Transitivity on the Comments on Barack Obama's Selfie Pictures
(Pembelajaran Transitivity Pada Komentar-Komentar Pada Foto-Foto Selfie Obama)***

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini membahas tentang analisis transitiviti pada komentar pada gambar selfie Barack Obama. Selfie adalah foto diri yang di ambil, biasanya diambil dengan ponsel kamera atau webcam, dan biasanya diletakkan pada situs jejaring sosial. Saat ini, selfie sangat populer, jadi ada banyak gambar selfie di media sosial termasuk foto selfie dari Presiden ke-44 Amerika Serikat, Barack Obama. Salah satu foto selfie yang menimbulkan sebuah perbedaan pendapat adalah salah satu yang diambil selama Presiden Obama bersama-sama dengan beberapa pemimpin dunia selama upacara peringatan Nelson Mandela di Stadion FNB Johannesburg, Desember lalu. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis komentar di beberapa surat kabar terpilih pada gambar selfie Barack Obama dari sudut pandang Analisis Wacana melalui analisis transitiviti. Terutama, analisis berfokus pada analisa transitiviti yang digunakan dalam surat kabar. Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan menggunakan metode campuran (baik kualitatif dan metode kuantitatif). Hasil investigasi transitiviti menunjukkan bahwa tidak semua proses transitivi digunakan oleh penulis dalam memberikan komentar mereka tentang foto selfie Obama. Artinya, bahwa hanya lima dari enam proses yang muncul di surat kabar yang digunakan oleh penulis untuk memberikan komentar negatif untuk para pembaca berita tentang foto selfie Obama.

Kata kunci: Analisis Wacana, SFL, Analisis Transitiviti, Proses Kata Kerja.

Abstract

This research talks about transitivity analysis on the comments on Barack Obama's selfie pictures. Selfie is a photo of yourself that you take, typically with a smartphone or a webcam, and usually put on a social networking site. Nowadays, selfie is very popular, so there are many selfie pictures in social media including the selfie pictures of the 44th President of United States, Barack Obama. One of the selfies that arises a divergence of opinion is one taken during by President Obama together with some world's leader during Nelson Mandela's memorial service at the Johannesburg's FNB Stadium last December. The purpose of this study is to analyze the comments in some selected newspapers on Barack Obama's selfie pictures from the point of view of Discourse Analysis through the transitivity analysis. Particularly, the analysis focuses on the transitivity of processes used in the newspapers texts. This study is conducted by using mixed method (both qualitative and quantitative method). The result of investigation in transitivity shows that not all transitivity processes are used by the writers in delivering their comments about Obama's selfie. It means that only five out of six processes are appearing in the newspapers texts used by the writers to give negative comments to the readers of the news about Obama's selfie.

Keywords: Discourse Analysis, Systemic Functional Linguistics, transitivity analysis, verbs processes

Introduction

This thesis deals with transitivity analysis proposed by Halliday. In this thesis Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar is applied to analyze the newspapers texts. Particularly, this study analyzes the comments on Obama's selfie pictures from the transitivity in the point of processes through transitivity system which views a clause as representation meaning, the text in the form of comments on Barack Obama's selfie pictures will be depicted by the result of dominant verb processes analysis.

In accordance with those problems, this study tries to answer the following questions:

1. What kinds of processes are used in the comments of newspapers texts?
2. What is the dominant process used in the comments of newspapers texts?

3. How is the representation of Barack Obama's pictures through the given comments?

In line with those questions, the study is designed to achieve some goals, they are:

1. To discover kinds of processes used dominantly in the newspaper texts on the comments on Barack Obama's selfie pictures.
2. To know the dominant processes used in the comments of newspapers texts.
3. To discover what is inside the comments so that the correct assumptions on Barack Obama's selfie pictures can be achieved.

This study applies Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics to explore the problems in this thesis

specifically through the processes of verbs in transitivity system. Transitivity is concerned with construing one particular domain of our experience. It supports the statement of Halliday (1994:106) that says "The transitivity system construes the world of experience into manageable set of process types". There are two types of variable in systems of transitivity those are: the first is the type of process, the second is the type of participant in process. Transitivity also deals with circumstance.

This research will analyze some comments on Barack Obama's selfie pictures published by some Media such as New York Daily News, CBS News, and The Washington Times are taken to be the data of this thesis. The news are containing negative comments toward Barack Obama's selfie pictures. Particularly, this study analyzes the comments in some selected newspapers on Barack Obama's selfie pictures from the discourse analysis through the transitivity analysis.

Research Methodology

This study applies qualitative and quantitative research or can be called as mixed method approach. The data analysed in this study uses both primary and secondary data. Denscombe (2007:107) states "a mixed methods strategy is one that uses both qualitative and quantitative methods". "Quantitative research tends to be associated with numbers as the unit of analysis" (Denscombe, 2007:248). Meanwhile qualitative research tends to be associated with words or images as the unit of analysis as stated by Denscombe (2007:248). The data are from both primary and secondary data. The primary data are collected by using random sampling. The samples of data derived from some clauses in each part of the texts they are about 11 clauses from total sentences 41 clauses of the data. The data analysis of this study uses statistical and the descriptive method since it uses mixed method. The statistical analysis is useful to make the interpretation of the study become easier. The descriptive method is used to apply Halliday's SFL theory, in particular transitivity of processes used in selected clauses of the newspapers texts.

Result

The result of this research shows that the writers of the texts totally use material process with the percentage of 40% compared to the other processes included in transitivity. It is proved by the quantitative analysis on the number of processes. The writers try to present their opinions about what has been done by the President that takes a selfie pictures with some famous people in several occasions under presidency job. Most of the texts give negative information to the readers about Obama's selfie pictures and invoke other persons as the participants in those texts. Furthermore, looking back at the result of the quantitative analysis, it shows that the writers of the texts use transitivity analysis on behavioural process and

relational process within the five processes appeared in the analysis.

Discussion

There are five processes used by writers of the newspaper texts to address the issues or ideas to inform the readers about Barack Obama's selfie pictures. The five processes include material, relational, mental, verbal, and behavioural. In other words, not all of processes types proposed by Halliday in his SFL theory appear in the newspapers texts. The quantity of each process and the most dominant one used in the newspapers texts are shown in the table below.

Table 1. *Transitivity Analysis of Verb Processes in the Newspaper Texts*

Types of Processes	Text			Total	Percentage
	1	2	3		
Material	2	3	1	6	40,00%
Relational					
a. Attributive	1	-	-	1	7%
b. Identifying	-	1	4	5	32%
Mental	-	1	-	1	7,00%
Verbal	-	-	1	1	7,00%
Behavioural	1	-	-	1	7,00%
Overall Total	4	5	6	15	100,00%

The table shows the analysis of transitivity process produced by the writers in the newspapers text on the comments on Barack Obama's selfie pictures. It can be clearly found that the dominant process used by the writers is material one. It reaches 6 processes out of 15 processes with the percentage of 40% processes. It means that the material processes are mostly used by the newspapers texts. Next is followed by relational processes, the identifying mode is used more frequent as much as 32% than the attributive one. The attributive mode is found only once in the newspapers texts as much as 7%. Next, it is followed by 7% mental processes. Another process appearing is verbal process as much as 7%, existential process as much as 7%, and the last is behavioural process as much as 7%.

The result of transitivity analysis also concerns with the participants of processes. The participants include the first participant (person who does actions) and the second participants (person affected the action). The participants of the dominant processes used by the writers of the article on the comments on Barack Obama's selfie pictures are shown in the table below.

Table 2: *Transitivity Analysis of Participants Processes in the Newspapers Texts*

Types of Participants	Realized By						Overall total	Percentage
	Text 1	Total	Text 2	Total	Text 3	Total		
Actor	The Danish	1	The president	1	The president	1	3	23%
Sayer	-	-	-	-	he	1	1	9%
Existent	Chummy	1	-	-	-	-	1	9%
Behavior	The president	1	-	-	-	1	1	9%
Goal	1. President Obama	4	President Obama	3	-	-	7	50%
	2. Funeral faux pass							
	3. A selfie							
	4. To British executive Stephen Kinnock							
Overall total		7		4		3	14	100%

Table 2 above shows that the writers present the president as an Actor twice. In addressing the comments, the writers also mention the Danish Politician as an actor as much as once. The writers also mention President Obama as goal 3 times, funeral faux pass once, a selfie as much as twice, to British Executive Stephen Kinnock once. In existential process, chummy is mentioned as existent once. In verbal process, President Obama is mentioned by the writers as sayer as much as once in the newspapers texts. In behavioural one, President Obama is mentioned once as behavior.

Circumstances are the important element in transitivity. The circumstantial elements construct a sense of the interpretation of transitivity as the grammar of experience (Halliday, 1994:150). Halliday (1994:151) also adds that there are nine types of circumstances: extent, location, manner, cause, contingency, accompaniment, role, matter, and angle. Since the circumstances play an important role in transitivity, this study takes it as a part of transitivity analysis of processes used in newspapers texts. The writers identify types of circumstances in the newspapers texts as the following:

Table 3: *Transitivity Analysis of Circumstantial Processes in the Newspapers Texts*

Types of Circumstances	Kinds of Circumstances				Total	percentage
		Text 1	Text 2	Text 3		
Location	Time	-	1. On Sunday morning	-	7	46,00%

			2. This time									
			3. In recent months									
			4. In April									
	Place	-	1. On camera	1. Outside the white house 2. In this fairy tale of selfie land								
Manner	Quality	Particularly	-	-	1	7,00%						
Cause	Reason	-	Though	For a selfie	2	14,00%						
Accompaniment	Comitative	1. With President Obama 2. With the Danish leader	1. With Malaysia Prime Minister Najib Razak 2. With some very famous people 3. With Boston Red Sox slugger David Ortiz	-	5	33%						
							Overall Total	3	9	3	15	100,00%

Table 3 shows there are 4 types out of 9 types of circumstances are used by the writers in the newspapers texts. The 4 types of circumstances are location on specific categories on time and place. The next is manner on quality category; cause on reason category, the last one is accompaniment on comitative category. The following table is one of the investigations and the discussion of transitivity analysis:

Table 4: *Transitivity Analysis on Text 3, Clause 3*

The Obama selfie	has become	its own cult of personality
Token	Pro: Relational Identifying	Value

This clause consists of relational process on identifying mode too. The relational process is derived from the verb "has become". The writer applies this process to inform the reader that he emphasizes that this explicitly shows Obama's personality. The verb of this clause "has become" takes the form of the relationship between two entities. In conclusion, by this clause the writer shows that Obama selfie is a part of his cult of personality.

Finally, Hopefully this study is useful for others as the reference of their study in Discourse Analysis which exposes transitivity analysis on verb process in other texts and also can support the further analysis in the same study.

Conclusion

This study's theoretical framework is rooted in Discourse Analysis theory to criticize the newspapers texts and transitivity system of verb processes as the main tool to expose what going-on on the newspapers texts about Obama's selfie pictures.

In the first place, the investigation in this thesis is conducted to answer several questions that are set up to be the problems to discuss. They are; what kinds of processes are used in the comments of newspapers texts? What is the dominant process used in the comments of newspapers texts? And how is the representation of Barack Obama's pictures through the given comments?

Referring to the first question in this study, that is, what kinds of processes are used in the comments of newspapers texts? It is briefly answered that not all of types of processes proposed by Halliday (1994) are used by the writers to inform the news readers. It means that there are five processes appearing in the newspaper texts, they are material, relational, mental, verbal, and behavioural process.

Secondly, this study aims to answer the second question "What is the dominant process used in the comments of newspapers texts?" it is clearly answered that the most dominant verb process that the writers use is material process with the percentage of 40% compared to the other processes included in transitivity. It is proved by the quantitative analysis on the number of processes.

Lastly, the answer of the third question which aims to expose the representation of Barack Obama's pictures through the given comments is that the writers try to present their opinions about what has been done by the President that takes a selfie pictures with some famous people in several occasions under presidency job. Most of the texts give negative information to the readers about Obama's selfie pictures and invoke other persons as the participants in those texts. Furthermore, looking back at the result of the quantitative analysis, it shows that the writers of the texts use transitivity analysis on behavioural process and relational process within the five processes appeared in the analysis.

I may conclude that the opinions on Obama's selfie pictures are negative. As depicted in the texts, President Obama is as the person who has strong capability and great influence as the king of United States mugging for a selfie with so many famous people in the world through the candid photographs. The selfie pictures as shown in the texts have not always been well received. In the end, regrettably, one of the selfie pictures is taken during Nelson Mandela's memorial services.

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