



**THE STUDY OF TRANSITIVITY ON THE COMMENTS ON  
BARACK OBAMA'S SELFIE PICTURES**

**THESIS**

Written by:

**DIANA TUTIK MAGHFIROH**

**NIM 080110191034**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

**FACULTY OF LETTERS**

**JEMBER UNIVERSITY**

**2015**



**THE STUDY OF TRANSITIVITY ON THE COMMENTS ON BARACK  
OBAMA'S SELFIE PICTURES**

**THESIS**

A Thesis Presented to the English Department,  
Faculty of Letters, Jember University,  
as One of Requirements to Obtain  
the Award of Sarjana Sastra Degree  
in English Studies

Written by:

**DIANA TUTIK MAGHFIROH**

**NIM 080110191034**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

**FACULTY OF LETTERS**

**JEMBER UNIVERSITY**

**2015**

## DEDICATION

This thesis is profoundly dedicated to:

- ❖ My beloved parents H. Moh Aqil, SH and Hj. Muhaiminah, S. Pd for their unwavering loves, prayers, and supports, thank you for everything you have given to me
- ❖ My beloved husband Sulton Firdaus, S. Pdi., M. Pd for the endless courage
- ❖ My adorable daughter Mejda Nabila Firdaus. You are my inspiration
- ❖ My beloved sisters Devis Syafiqiah and Diva Zariroh for the full spirit
- ❖ My beloved parents in law H. Sulton and Ummu Nasruna, ‘Ayah Oong’ and ‘Ibu Beta’ thank you for their supports, loves, and prayers
- ❖ My big family for supporting me all the way
- ❖ My Alma Mater

**MOTTO**

*“Man Jadda Wajada”<sup>1</sup>*

“When someone tries so hard to achieve the ideals, he will succeed”



---

<sup>1</sup> Arabian Quote

**DECLARATION**

I hereby state that the thesis entitled *The Study of Transitivity on the Comments on Barack Obama's Selfie Pictures* is an original piece of writing. I certify that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have not already been submitted for any other degree or any publications. I certify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, June 18, 2015

The writer,

Diana Tutik Maghfiroh

NIM 080110191034

**APPROVAL SHEET**

Approved and received by the Examination Committee of English  
Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University, on:

Name : Diana Tutik Maghfiroh  
Student Number : 080110191034  
Thesis Title : The Study of Transitivity on the Comments on Barack  
Obama's Selfie Pictures  
Day/ Date : Thursday, June 18, 2015  
Place : Faculty of Letters, Jember University

Chairman, Jember, June 18, 2015  
Secretary,

Dr. H. Sukarno, M. Litt.  
NIP. 196211081989021001

Riskia Setiarini S.S., M.Hum.  
NIP. 197910132005012002

The Members:

1. Prof. Dr. Samudji, M. A. (.....)  
NIP.194808161976031002

2. Sabta Diana, S.S., M.A. (.....)  
NIP. 197509192006042001

Approved by the Dean,

Dr. Hairus Salikin, M. Ed.  
NIP. 196310151989021002

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, I gratefully praise Allah SWT for bestowing His blessings upon me. Therefore, I would like to express my deepest sincere thanks to those who have encouraged me to finish this thesis:

1. My deepest gratitude to Dr. Hairus Salikin, M. Ed., the Dean of Faculty of Letters, Jember University and Dra. Supiastutik, M. Pd, the Head of English Department for their permission to write this thesis
2. My utmost gratitude is for my first and second supervisors, Dr. H. Sukarno, M. Litt., and Riskia Setiarini S.S., M. Hum who have encouraged and given me a valuable assistance to finish this thesis. I thank them for their countless hours of guidance, knowledge, advice, patience, and inspiration throughout the entire process of my thesis
3. Prof. Dr. Samudji, M. A, and Sabta Diana, S.S., M.A. as my first and second examiners respectively for the suggestions to improve my thesis
4. My sincere thank also goes to my academic supervisor Indah Wahyuningsih, S.S., M.A, for her support and assistance. She has been very generous in her support and advice during my academic years
5. All of the lecturers of the English Department who have given me the valuable knowledge during my academic year
6. The librarians of Jember University who have provided me the books that I need to support my thesis
7. My warmest thanks to my best friends Aan, Amik, Beben, Ita, Mug, Taufiq, for their support, friendship, and care
8. My friends in the Academic Year of 2008

Jember, June 2015

Diana Tutik Maghfiroh

## SUMMARY

**The Study of Transitivity on the Comments on Barack Obama's Selfie Pictures**; Diana Tutik Maghfiroh, 080110191034; 2015: 44 pages; English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

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 picture of the 44<sup>th</sup> president of United States, Barrack Obama. He likes to take a selfie picture in every moment of his job as a President of the United States. It is not the first time in recent months that the president has taken a selfie picture with some very famous people. The selfie pictures of a president like Obama seem not well received by society. One of the selfies that arises a divergence of opinion is one taken during Nelson Mandela's memorial service at the Johannesburg's FNB Stadium at last December with various world leaders.

The goal of this study is to examine what kinds of processes used dominantly and to find out the dominant processes in the newspaper texts on the comments on Barrack Obama's selfie pictures and to discover what is inside the comments so that the correct assumptions on Barrack Obama's selfie pictures can be achieved. The investigation is based on the theory of DA and SFL proposed by Halliday from the point of processes includes in transitivity.

This study applies the mixed method (both qualitative and quantitative method) to analyze the data. The primary data are taken from some selected newspapers on Barrack Obama's selfie pictures. The primary data are collected by using random sampling. Next, the data are analyzed by using transitivity analysis and the result is presented in the form of statistical analysis.

The findings of this thesis expose that the processes used by the writers inside the newspapers texts and the choice of verbs in delivering their news on the comments on Barack Obama's selfie pictures. Most of the news serves negative



report about Obama selfie that taken during his presidency occupation with some famous world leaders and invoke other persons as the participant. In other words, it can be assumed that Obama's selfie is not always been well received by the society.



## *The Study of Transitivity on the Comments on Barack Obama's Selfie Pictures*

**Diana Tutik Maghfiroh**

*English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University*

### ***ABSTRACT***

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 44<sup>th</sup> 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

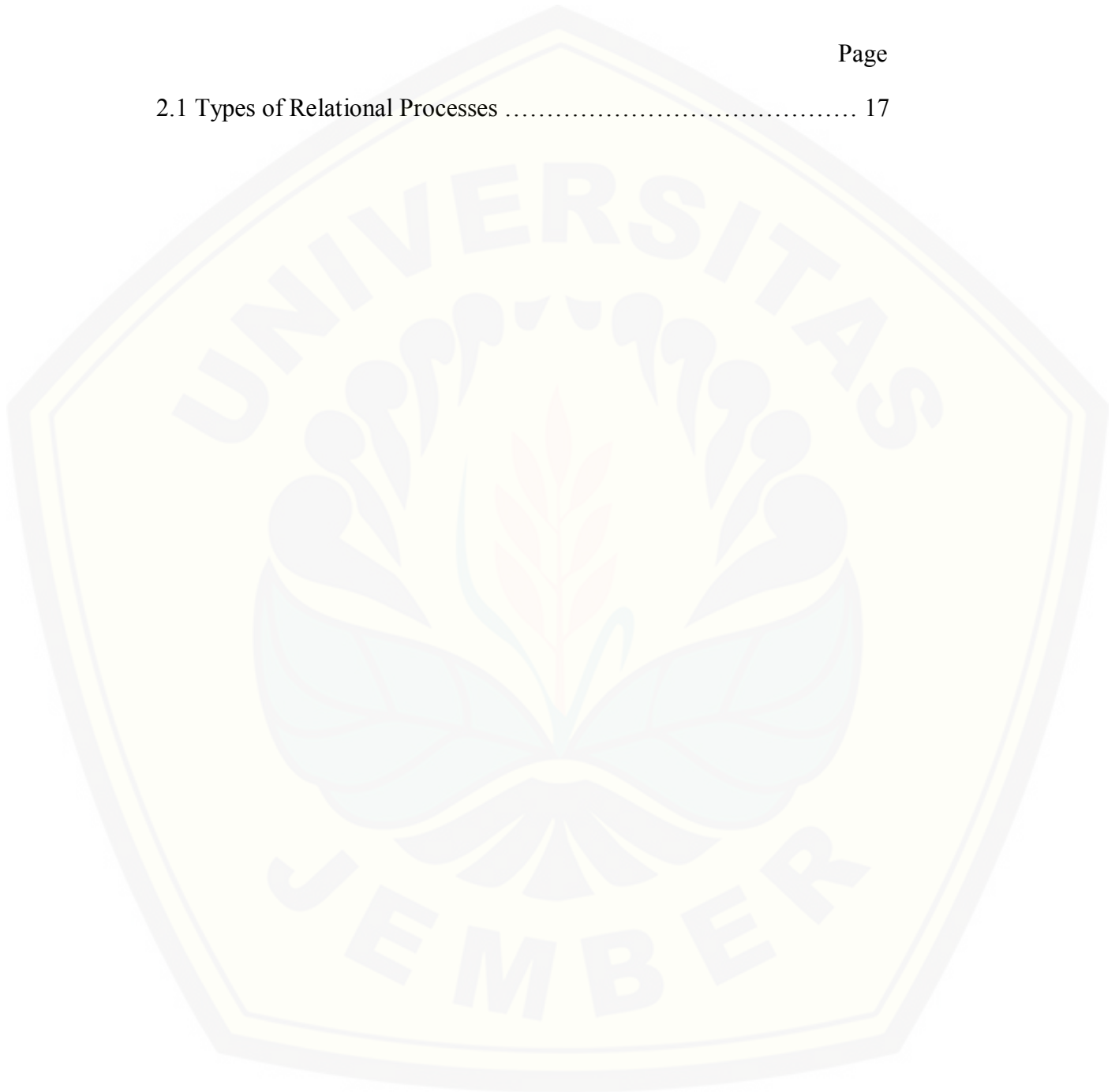
TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>FRONTISPIECE</b> .....	i
<b>DEDICATION PAGE</b> .....	ii
<b>MOTTO</b> .....	iii
<b>DECLARATION PAGE</b> .....	iv
<b>APPROVAL SHEET</b> .....	v
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b> .....	vi
<b>SUMMARY</b> .....	vii
<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	ix
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	x
<b>LIST OF FIGURE</b> .....	xii
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b> .....	xiii
<b>LIST OF APPENDICES</b> .....	xiv
<b>CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION</b>	
<b>1.1 The Background of the Study</b> .....	1
<b>1.2 The Research Problem</b> .....	3
<b>1.3 The Research Questions</b> .....	3
<b>1.4 The Scope of the Study</b> .....	3
<b>1.5 The Goals of the Study</b> .....	4
<b>1.6 The Significance of the Study</b> .....	4
<b>1.7 The Organization of the Thesis</b> .....	4
<b>CHAPTER 2. THEORETICAL REVIEW</b>	
<b>2.1 The Review of Previous Studies</b> .....	6
<b>2.2 The Review of the Related Theories</b> .....	8
2.2.1 Discourse Analysis .....	8
2.2.2 Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL) .....	9
2.2.3 Transitivity .....	10
2.2.3.1 The Types of Process .....	11

a. Material Process .....	11
b. Mental Process .....	12
c. Verbal Process .....	13
d. Existential Process .....	13
e. Behavioral Process .....	14
f. Relational Process .....	14
2.2.3.2 The Type of Participant in Process ...	18
2.2.3.3 Range .....	28
<b>CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY</b>	
<b>3.1 The Type of Research</b> .....	29
<b>3.2 The Type of Data</b> .....	30
<b>3.3 The Data Collection</b> .....	30
<b>3.4 The Data Processing</b> .....	31
<b>3.5 The Data Analysis</b> .....	32
<b>CHAPTER 4. THE RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>4.1 The Result of Transitivity Analysis</b> .....	33
4.4.1 The Result of Verb Processes Analysis .....	33
4.4.2 The Result of Participants Processes Analysis .....	35
4.4.3 The Result of Circumstances Processes Analysis ..	36
<b>4.2 The Discussion of Transitivity Analysis on the Selected</b>	
<b>Clauses</b> .....	38
Text 1 .....	38
Text 2 .....	41
Text 3 .....	44
<b>CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION</b> .....	48
<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	50
<b>APPENDICES</b> .....	52

**LIST OF FIGURE**

	Page
2.1 Types of Relational Processes .....	17

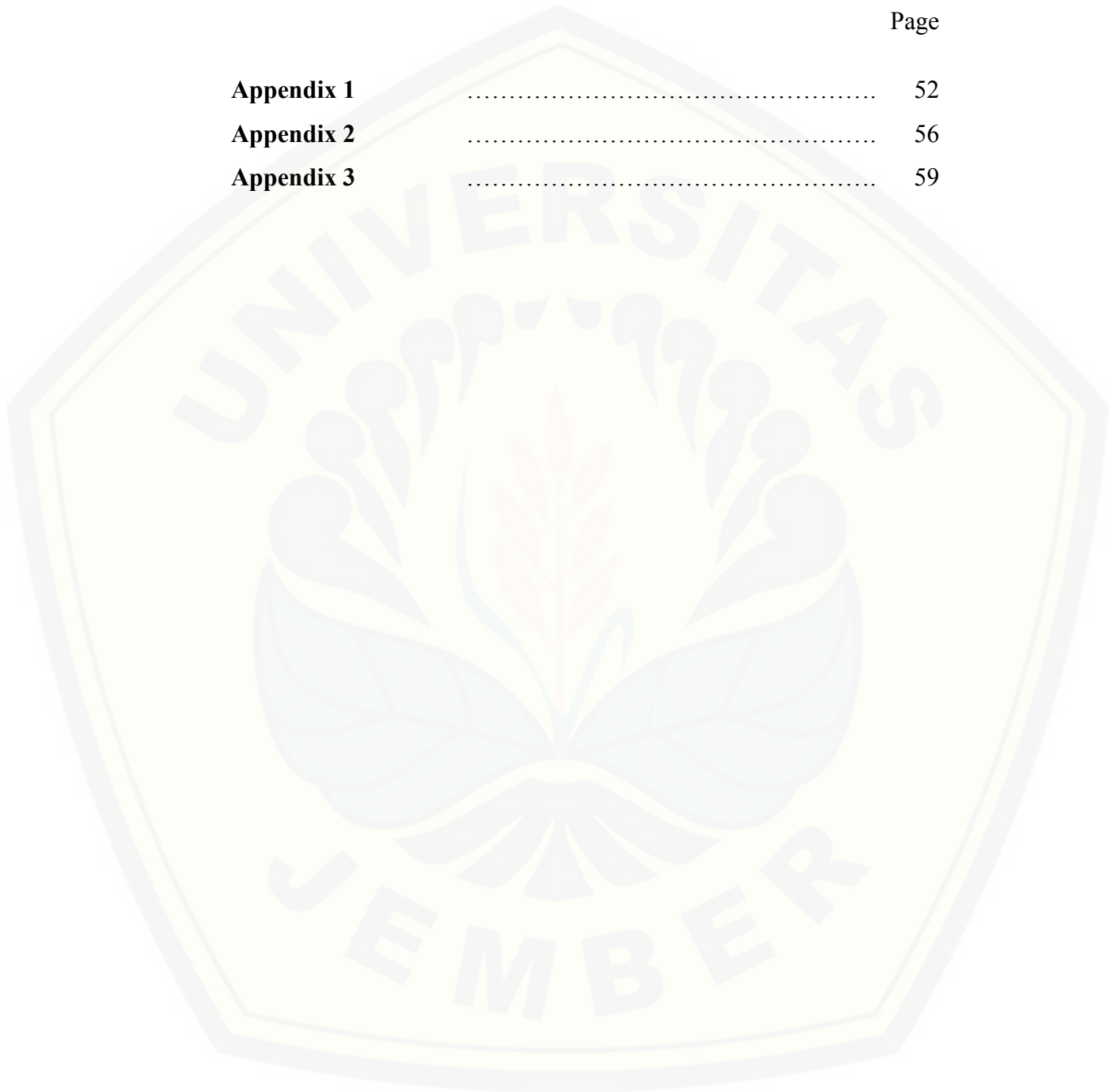


**LIST OF TABLES**

	Page
2.2.3.1.1 The Principal Types of Relational Process .....	14
2.2.3.2.1 Transitivity: Process Types and Participants .....	19
2.2.3.2.2 Types of Circumstantial Element .....	20
2.2.3.2.3 Circumstantial of Extent .....	21
2.2.3.2.4 Circumstantial of Location .....	21
2.2.3.2.5 Circumstantial of Manner .....	22
2.2.3.2.6 Circumstantial of Cause .....	22
2.2.3.2.7 Circumstantial of Contingency .....	22
2.2.3.2.8 Circumstantial of Accompaniment .....	23
2.2.3.2.9 Circumstantial of Role .....	23
2.2.3.2.10 Circumstantial of Matter .....	23
2.2.3.2.11 Circumstantial of Angle .....	24
4.1 Transitivity Analysis of Verb Processes in the Newspapers Texts .....	30
4.2 Transitivity Analysis of Participants Processes in the Newspapers Texts .....	31
4.3 Transitivity Analysis of Circumstantial Processes in the Newspapers Texts.....	32
4.4 Transitivity Analysis on Text 1, Clause 1.....	33
4.5 Transitivity Analysis on Text 1, Clause 2 .....	34
4.6 Transitivity Analysis on Text 1, Clause 3 .....	35
4.7 Transitivity Analysis on Text 2, Clause 1 .....	36
4.8 Transitivity Analysis on Text 2, Clause 2 .....	37
4.9 Transitivity Analysis on Text 2, Clause 3 .....	38
4.10 Transitivity Analysis on Text 3, Clause 1 .....	39
4.11 Transitivity Analysis on Text 3, Clause 2 .....	40
4.12 Transitivity Analysis on Text 3, Clause 3 .....	40
4.13 Transitivity Analysis on Text 3, Clause 4 .....	41
4.14 Transitivity Analysis on Text 3, Clause 5 .....	41

**LIST OF APPENDICES**

	Page
<b>Appendix 1</b> .....	52
<b>Appendix 2</b> .....	56
<b>Appendix 3</b> .....	59



## CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter is very essential in this thesis, because by knowing this part the readers will find it easy to understand the main discussion of this study. This chapter provides the overview of the content of this thesis to give brief information about the main topic of this study which is going to be analyzed. The introduction of this thesis consists of the background of the study, the research problem, the research questions, the scope of the study, the goal of the study, the significance of the study and the organization of the thesis. The explanation of each point will be discussed in the following subchapter.

### 1.1 The Background of Study.

Selfie is a photo of yourself that you take, typically with a smartphone or a webcam, and usually put on a social networking site ([www.oxforddictionary.com](http://www.oxforddictionary.com)). Usually the opinion of making a selfie comes from how easy they are to create and share.

Nowadays, selfie is very popular, so there are many selfie pictures in social media including the selfie picture of the 44<sup>th</sup> president of United States, Barrack Obama. He likes to take a selfie picture in every moment of his job as a President of the United States. It is not the first time in recent months that the president has taken a selfie picture with some very famous people. The selfie pictures of a president like Obama seem not well received by society.

One of the selfies that arises a divergence of opinion is one taken during Nelson Mandela's memorial service at the Johannesburg's FNB Stadium at last December with various world leaders. He took a selfie picture with Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt, and later



with British Prime Minister David Cameron, as they gathered to pay tribute to Mandela. In April 2014, he was captured with Boston Red Sox at the white house's yard.

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.

To facilitate more understanding of the phenomenon in the newspapers texts, transitivity proposed by Halliday is chosen. Halliday (1994:106) says, "Analyzing transitivity aims to explore what social, cultural, ideological and political factors determine what process type (verb) is chosen in a particular type of discourse". He then continued explaining that the transitivity system construes the world of experience into manageable set of process type. The transitivity system includes six processes: material process, mental process, relational process, behavioral process, verbal process and existential process.

In this thesis Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar is applied to analyze the texts (newspaper texts). Halliday (1994: xiii) proposes that functional grammar is a natural grammar, in the sense that everything in it can be explained, ultimately, by reference to language use. Systemic analysis aims to uncover and state how a text means (Eggins, 1994:309). 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.

## 1.2 The Research Problem

Based on the comments on Barack Obama's selfie pictures in some selected newspapers, President Barack Obama should not take a selfie picture in every moment of his job as a President of the United States. It is not the first time in recent months that the president has taken a selfie pictures with some very famous people, but the selfie pictures have not always been well received by society. One of the selfie taken during Nelson Mandela's memorial service at the Johannesburg's FNB Stadium at last December with various world leaders, he takes a selfie picture with Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt, and later with British Prime Minister David Cameron, as they gathered to pay tribute to Mandela. In April, he was captured with Boston Red Sox at the white house's yard.

In such sacred situation is not supposed to him to take a selfie picture. His act makes many newspapers set reactions, in the form of comments on what he did. In this research, I will discover what going on the comments in the selected newspapers on Barack Obama's selfie pictures by using Halliday's transitivity.

## 1.3 The Research Questions

This study focuses on three main problems, those are:

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?

## **1.4 The Scope of the Study**

To get a clear description of the process and result of this study, limitation of discussion is needed. This limitation leads into a greater range of validity of the results and gives better understanding of the topic. The scope of discussion is limited on exposing the transitivity analysis of dominant processes in selected clauses used in the newspaper texts on the comments on Barack Obama's selfie pictures based on Halliday's Functional Grammar.

## **1.5 The Goals of the Study**

The study is intended to analyze the news through the application of theories and designed to achieve the following goals:

1. To discover kinds of processes used dominantly in the newspaper texts on the comments on Barack Obama's selfie pictures.
2. To find out 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.

## **1.6 The Significance of the Study**

Based on the goals of the study above, hopefully this thesis is not only advantageous to the thesis writer, but also to the other, as follows:

1. This study is expected to be a valuable reference for the next researches that will conduct research to the similar topic.
2. This study is also intended to give a comprehensive understanding to the readers about language analysis concerned with critical discourse analysis.

## **1.7 The Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis is organized into five chapters: introduction, theoretical review, research methodology, discussion, and conclusion. The first chapter illustrates the general view of the thesis which consists of the background of the study, research problem, the research questions, the scope of the study, the goals of the study, the significance of the Study, and the organization of the thesis. The second chapter, theoretical reviews, contains brief description of the supporting theories of the study, such as discourse analysis, SFL, and transitivity. Moreover, the previous researchers are also provided in this chapter. The third chapter deals with the methods in collecting and analyzing the data. Chapter four is analysis and discussion. It discusses the analysis of selected clauses taken from the newspapers texts through transitivity system of verb processes. Finally, the last chapter is the conclusion. It contains the conclusion of the analysis of the study.

## CHAPTER 2. THEORETICAL REVIEW

This chapter provides the review of the previous researches and the review of the related theories to this study. The review of previous researches done by other researcher in relation to the comments on Barack Obama that are relevant to discuss. Furthermore, the review of the theory of Discourse Analysis is presented to build the concept of transitivity analysis on newspapers texts on the comments of Barack Obama's selfie pictures.

### 2.1 The Review of Previous Studies

There are several researches discussing transitivity analysis as the tool to reveal a particular problem as this thesis does. First, Chen-xi and Feng-jun (2009) from Chengdu Sport University investigated a report of Barack Obama from the point of transitivity, transformation (nominalization and passive transformation), modality (modals) and classification. The investigation aims to reveal the ideology hidden in the report. The report is about Barack Obama and John McCain. Barack Obama is a civil rights lawyer before pursuing a political career while John McCain is a senator who has a remarkable record of leadership and experience that embodies his unwavering lifetime commitment to service in the United States. The results of this study are: from the transitivity analysis, material and verbal process are the dominant processes. It describes the happening of an event and Obama is portrayed as the right choice for the new president. From the transformation, it provides the ugly nature of John McCain's campaign as the rival of Barack Obama. From the modality analysis, modal auxiliary such as 'must' and 'only' used to describe character and charisma of Obama and McCain as candidates of

president of the United States. Then, from classification, it tries to portray Obama's ability and determination to cope with every obstacle. The report gives the perspective about the ideology to the reader that Obama is the right choice for the new president.

Second, Alameda-Hernández (2008) analyzed the contributions of the analysis of the transitivity in the study of the discursive construction of national identity. This study focuses on the period surrounding the holding of the last referendum in Gibraltar (November 2002), when the governments of Britain and Spain discussed the future of this British colony. This study applies SFL theory. Martin *et al.* (1997:1) stated that SFL is a method of looking at grammar in conditions of how grammar is used. The application of SFL categories in this critical discursive analysis has helped to discover that Gibraltar was mainly represented as a passive entity, affected by the actions and decisions of other. Its identity was generally built on this community's inner-self because of the relevance given to Gibraltar in mental processes as a Senser participant. Gibraltar's agency was mainly limited to the expression of its wishes and opinions. Thus, the discursive representation of Gibraltar was that of a community with little power to exert and influence on its present situation or to manage its future.

Last, Maria Ulfa (2012) analyzed the speech text of Barack Obama's Speech in Jakarta, Indonesia, on November, 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The speech of Obama has been quite phenomenal since his visit to Indonesia in Asian Tour 2010. The speech got more enthusiasm from the audiences, especially the young people in the University of Indonesia. It is interesting to investigate the factors behind the success of his speech and the power he serves to recover his image and the United States in the perspective of Indonesian people. The goal of this study is to examine the language used by Obama in his speech in serving power. This study is conducted to expose the production of power used by Obama on the behalf of his

country to present the United States and Indonesia. It also investigates the existence of inequality and power abuse used in the speech. The investigation is based on the theory of SFL proposed by Halliday from the point of processes, including transitivity. Moreover, the theory of CDA along with the theory of Power is offered in this study to examine the existence of inequality and power abuse. The findings of this thesis exposes that the processes Obama used and the choice of verbs in the speech indicate the balanced production of power and domination both the United States and Indonesia. It means that the speech delivered by Obama in Jakarta shows the equality of power. In other words, it can be assumed that there is no power abuse or inequality in Obama's speech.

This research has not been investigated previously by other researchers and the topic about the study of transitivity on the comments on Barack Obama's selfie pictures is not a repetition topic.

## **2.2 The Review of the Related Theories**

Providing the theories related to the study being analyzed is important to support the analysis and data presentation. Some reviews of the related theories used in this study are discourse analysis and systemic functional linguistics (SFL)

### **2.2.1 Discourse Analysis**

Cook (in Nunan, 1993:6), claims "Discourse is stretches of language perceived to be meaningful, unified, and purposive. Furthermore, Brown and Yule (1983: ix) states that Discourse Analysis examines 'how human use language to communicate' and in particular, 'how addressers construct linguistic messages in order to interpret them' and 'how forms of language are used in communication'. Considering the description above, then it can be suggested that discourse may appear in form of writing or

speaking. Spoken discourse is expressed through the set of sounds or voices while written discourse is expressed through the set of writings.

Based on those statements, it is concluded that discourse can be spoken or written language in communication, and constituting a coherent unit between its elements. Spoken discourse is expressed through the set of sounds or voices while written discourse is expressed through the set of writings.

## 2.2.2 Systemic Functional Linguistics

According to Halliday (1994: xiii) a functional grammar is essentially a natural grammar, in the sense that everything in it can be explained, ultimately, by reference to how language is used. He also adds that the most generalizeable application of systemic linguistics is to understand the quality of texts: “why a text means what it does, and why it is valued as it is” (Halliday, 1994: xxix). Moreover, Martin *et al.* (1997:1) state:

“Functional Grammar is a way of looking at grammar in terms of how grammar is used. It also sees grammar as shaped by, and as playing an important role in determining the way we get on with our lives. Its orientation is social rather than biological”.

Systemic Functional Linguistics focuses on the development of grammatical system to understand the fundamental meaning in language as a means of social interaction (Martin *et al.* 1997: 1). In line with this, Halliday (1994: xiii) stresses

“All languages are organized around two main kinds of meaning, the ideational or reflective, and the interpersonal or active. These components, which are called metafunctions, are the manifestation in the linguistic system of the two very general purposes which underlie all uses of language: to understand the environment or ideational function and to act on the others in it or interpersonal function”.



Clearly, Halliday (1994, 16) adds that the theory is functional because language functions as a resource for making meanings, an indefinitely expandable source of meaning potential. Transitivity means that a clause functions as a resource for representing experience.

This study applies Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics to explore the problems in this thesis specifically through the processes of verbs in transitivity system. Systemic functional linguistics within the context of situation includes field, tenor and mood. Halliday and Hasan (1985: 12) state that field refers to what is happening, to the nature of the social action that is taking place; what is it that the participants are engaged in, in which language features as some essential component? Field includes complexing and transitivity. Complexing is a clause complex function as logical relation (Halliday. 1994: 215) while transitivity is a clause functions as representation (Halliday. 1994: 162). The discussion of transitivity will be explained in the following sub chapter. According to Halliday and Hasan (1985: 12), tenor is who is taking part, to the nature of participants, their statutes an role; what kinds of role relationship obtain among the participants. Mood is a clause functions as exchange (Halliday. 1994: 43).

### **2.2.3 Transitivity**

Transitivity concerns 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:

1. The first is the type of process. The process of transitivity system includes six processes: material process, mental process, relational

process, behavioral process, verbal process and existential process (Mayr, 2008:16).

2. The second is the type of participant in process. The type of participant in process means how participant affect one another through their involvement in a process (Mattheissen and Halliday. iii: 2004). In addition, Halliday (1994:107) defines the types of participant in process such as material, mental and relational process, behavioural process (between material and mental process), verbal process (between mental and relational process) and existential process (between relational and material process).

Transitivity also deals with circumstance such as extent, location, manner, cause, contingency, accompaniment, role, matter and angle (Halliday, 1994:107). To make a brief understanding of transitivity, here is the explanation of each process in transitivity system:

### 2.2.3.1 The Type of Process

#### a. Material Process

Material processes are processes of doing something (Halliday, 1994:110). They refer to the process of doing something and the doing may be done to some other entities. These processes are expressed by an action verb, an Actor and the Goal of the action. They also concern with action and events. They are indicated by the existence of an Actor (the person/thing that carries out the action) and the Goal (patient at which the action directed) (Halliday, 1994:109). E.g. John writes the letter.

In material processes, the role of the Actor, as first participant, is assigned to the person or object which is able to perform some actions and bring change toward the Goal. The Actor is constructed as person in control of the action (intransitive), or as person had power to influence the actions of others (transitive).

John	Writes	the letter
Actor	Pro: Material	Goal

The letter	was written	by John
Goal	Pro: Material	Actor

b. Mental Process

Mental processes are acts of sensing which express mental phenomena as perception (see, hear, smell, taste), affection (like, please, wish, determine, hurt) and cognition (know, think, understand, believe). Furthermore he explains that the mental processes are used to represent a person's perception and awareness of or reaction to other people's actions. A mental process involves two participants, Senser and Phenomenon (Halliday, 1994:112). In mental process, Senser is assigned to person who has no ability to perform any action and lack the kind of power. E.g. I know the answer, The cat loves fish, and She heard annoying sound.

I	Know	the answer
Senser	Pro: Cognition	Phenomenon

The cat	Loves	Fish
Senser	Pro: Affection	Phenomenon

She	Heard	annoying sound
Senser	Pro: Perception	Phenomenon

## c. Verbal Process

Verbal processes are processes of saying (Halliday, 1994:140). Those processes usually used verbs *say, praise, boast, tell, talk, describe*, etc. In this process, the main participants are Sayer and the second participants can be Receiver, Verbiage or Target (Halliday, 1994:140). Sayer is person or object which is able to speak or utter information, the Receiver is the one whom the saying is directed, The Verbiage is the function that corresponds to what is said while the Target is the entity which is targeted by the process of saying (Halliday, 1994:141). E.g. I reply his message, They criticize my presentation, and She was told the story.

I	Reply	his message
Sayer	Pro: Verbal	Verbiage

They	Criticize	my presentation
Sayer	Pro: Verbal	Target
She	was told	the story of her parents
Receiver	Pro: Verbal	Sayer

## d. Existential Process

Existential processes represent something that exists or happens (Halliday, 1994:142). Those typically have the verb *be* and also the other verb that are closely related in meaning exists or happens such as: *exist, remain, arise, occur, happen, take place, sit, stand, stretch, hang and emerge*. In every existential process, there is an Existent (Halliday, 1994:142). E.g. There was a concert and There was a beautiful lady.

There	Was	a concert
	Pro: Existential	Existent: Event

There	Was	a beautiful lady
	Pro: Existential	Existent: Entity

## e. Behavioral Process

Behavioral processes refer to physiological and psychological behavior such as coughing, smiling, breathing, laughing, crying, staring, and dreaming, etc. The first participant is called Behavior, which is often a human. The second participant is called phenomenon (Halliday, 1994:139). E.g. She smiles to me.

She	Smiles	to me
Behavior	Pro: Behavioural	Phenomenon

## f. Relational Process

Relational processes are process of being (Halliday, 1994:119). The relational processes classified into two types: Attributive and Identifying. The attributive expresses what attributes a certain object has, or what type it belongs to. The entity to which it is ascribed is 'Carrier' and the quality is labelled as 'Attribute' (Halliday, 1994:120). For example: The painting (*Carrier*) is beautiful (*Attribute*). However, the identifying expresses the identical properties of two entities (Halliday, 1994:119). For instance: Lily (*Token*) is a doctor (*Value*). There are three kinds of relational process; intensive, circumstantial and possessive. The summary of categories of relational process sets out in the table below:

Table 2.2.3.1.1 The Principal Types of Relational Process

type:	mode:	(i) Attributive	(ii) Identifying
a.	Intensive	I am a student	Jill is the manager The manager is Jill
b.	Circumstantial	The book is on a table	Next Sunday is the 9 <sup>th</sup> The 9 <sup>th</sup> is next Sunday
c.	Possessive	Mary has a cat	The cat is Mary's Mary's is the cat

Source: Halliday (1994:119).

#### 1. Intensive Process

In the attributive mode (i), an entity has some quality ascribed or attributed to it. The entity labelled as the 'Carrier' and the quality as the 'Attribute'. Attributive mode can be interpreted as 'x is a member of the class of a' (Halliday, 1994:120). For example: I (*Carrier*) am (*Process*) a student (*Attribute*). It can be interpreted that *I* is the member of the class of students.

The identifying mode (ii) reflects that something has an identity assigned to it. It means that one entity is being used to identify another. Identifying mode can be interpreted as 'x is identified by a' or 'a serves to define the identity of x'. 'x' is identified as 'Identified' and *a* is identified as 'Identifier' (Halliday, 1994:122). For example: Jill (*Identified*) is (*Process*) the manager (*Identifier*).

## 2. Circumstantial Process

In the attributive mode (i), the circumstantial element is an attribute that is being ascribed to some entity. The entity is labeled as ‘Carrier’ and attribute as ‘Attribute’. It can be interpreted as ‘x is on a’ (Halliday, 1994:130). For example: The book (*Carrier*) is (*Process*) on a table (*Attribute*).

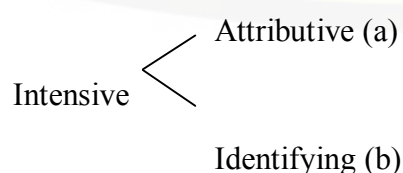
In the identifying mode (ii), the circumstance takes the form of relationship between two entities; one entity is being related to another by a feature of time, place, or manner. The participants are labeled as ‘Identified’ and ‘Identifier’ (Halliday, 1994:131). For example: Next Sunday (*Identified*) is (*Process*) the 9<sup>th</sup> (*Identifier*).

## 3. Possessive Process

In the attributive mode (i), the possessive relationship may be expressed either as attribute or as process. The carrier can be labeled as ‘Possessor’ and attribute as ‘Possessed’ (Halliday, 1994:132). For instance: Mary (*possessor*) has (*Process*) a cat (*possessed*).

In the identifying mode (ii), the possession takes the form of the relationship between two entities. The participants are labeled as ‘Identified’ and ‘Identifier’ (Halliday, 1994:132). For instance: The cat (*identified: possessed*) is (*Process*) Mary’s (*identifier: possessor*).

The types of circumstantial processes which are divided into two modes; attributive and identifying are shown in the figure below:



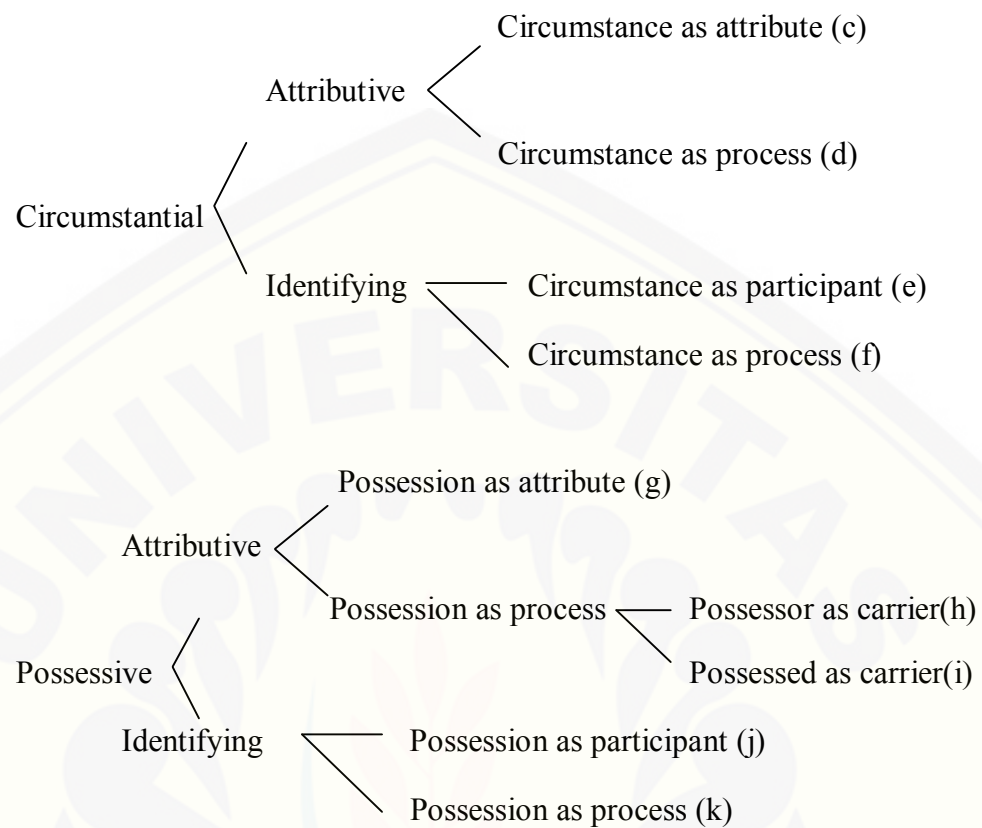


Figure 2.1 Types of Relational Processes

Source: Halliday (1994:130).

Following is the example of each type of processes derived from intensive process, circumstantial process, and Possessive Process.

a). Intensive process: attributive

She	Was	happy
Carrier	Pro: Intensive	Attribute

b). Intensive process: identifying

Daniel Radcliffe	Played	Harry Potter
Identified	Pro: Intensive	Identifier



c). Circumstantial (attributive) process: circumstance as attribute

His thesis	Is	about CDA
Carrier	Pro: Intensive	Attributive: Circumstantial

d). Circumstantial (attributive) process: circumstance as process

The room	Cost	sixty dollars
Carrier	Pro: Circumstantial	Attribute

e). Circumstantial (identifying) process: circumstance as participants

The possible way to get there	Is	by bicycle
Identified / token	Process: intensive	Identifier / value

Active

By bicycle	Is	the possible way to get there
Identified / Value	Process: intensive	Identifier / token

Passive

f). Circumstantial (identifying): circumstance as process

She	Accompanied	her daughter
Identified / Token	Pro: Circumstantial	Identifier / Value

her daughter	is accompanied	by her
--------------	----------------	--------

Identified / Value	Pro: Circumstantial	Identifier / Token	Active
--------------------	---------------------	--------------------	--------

g). Possessive (attributive) process: possession as attribute

The car	Is	Daniel's	Passive
Carrier	Pro: Intensive	Attribute: Possession	

h). Possessive (attributive) process: possession as process: possessor as carrier

William	has	a jet plane
Carrier: Possessor	Pro: Possession	Attribute: Possessed

i). Possessive (attributive) process: possession as process: possessed as carrier

The jet plane	belongs to	William
Carrier: Possessed	Pro: Possession	Attribute: Possessor

j). Possessive (identifying) process: possession as participant

The piano	Is	Peter's	Active
Identified / Token: Possessed	Pro: Intensive	Identifier / Value: Possessor	

Peter's	Is	the piano	Passive
Identified / Value: Possessor	Pro: Intensive	Identifier / Token: Possessed	

k). Possessive (identifying) process: possession as process

Peter	Owns	the piano
Identified / Token	Pro: Possession	Identifier / Value

Active

The piano	was owned by	Peter
Identified / Value	Pro: Possession	Identifier / Token

Passive

### 2.2.3.2 The Type of Participant in Process

In each processes in the transitivity system consists of three principal components. They are; the process it self, the participants in the process and circumstances associated with the process. The table below will explain each process of transitivity and its participants

Table 2.2.3.2.1 Transitivity: Process Types and Participants

Process type	Participants	Example (process types in <i>italic</i> ; participants in <b>bold</b> )
Material	Actor (A), Goal (G), Beneficiary (B)	<b>She</b> (A) <i>brought</i> a <b>book</b> (G) <b>He</b> (A) <i>buys</i> <b>me</b> (B) <b>an ice cream</b> (G)
Mental	Senser (Se) Phenomenon (P)	<b>I</b> (Se) <i>saw</i> <b>the accident</b> (P)
Behavioural	Behaver (Be) Phenomenon (P)	<b>They</b> (Be) <i>watched</i> <b>the game</b> (P) <b>Peter</b> (Be) <i>smiled</i>
Verbal	Sayer (S)	<b>Mary</b> (S) <i>didn't reply</i>

	Verbiage (V)	<b>She (S) said this is her pen (V)</b>
Relational:	Carrier (C)	<b>Helen (C) was cleaver (A)</b>
a. Attributive	Attributive (A)	(not reversible: cleaver was Helen)
b. Identifying	Token (T)	<b>Harvard (T) is the best university (V)</b>
	Value (V)	(reversible: the best university is Harvard)
Existential	Existent (E)	There <i>were</i> <b>many changes (E)</b>

Source: Mayr (2008:18)

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). Since the circumstances play an important role in transitivity, this study takes it as a part of transitivity analysis of processes used in newspaper text. In addition, Halliday (1994:150) argues that there are three perspectives of circumstance. First, circumstances are associated with or attendant on the process such as the location of an event in time or space, its manner, or its cause. Second, from the clause itself, whereas participants function in the mood grammar as subject or complement, circumstances map onto adjuncts. Third, they are typically expressed not as nominal groups but as either adverbial groups or prepositional phrases.

Halliday (1994:151) also adds that there are nine types of circumstances: extent, location, manner, cause, contingency, accompaniment role, matter, and angle. The specific categories of each circumstantial element are:

Table 2.2.3.2.2 Types of Circumstantial Element

No.	Type	Specific categories (subtypes)
1.	Extent	Distance, Duration
2.	Location	Place, Time
3.	Manner	Means, Quality, Comparison
4.	Cause	Reason, Purpose, Behalf
5.	Contingency	Condition, Concession, Default
6.	Accompaniment	Comitative, Addition
7.	Role	Guise, Product
8.	Matter	-
9.	Angle	-

Source: Halliday (1994:151).

- 1). Extent is expressed in term of some unit of measurement like yards, rounds and years (Halliday, 1994:152).

Table 2.2.3.2.3 Circumstantial of Extent

Extent	Spatial	Temporal
	Distance:	Duration:
	Walk (for) seven miles	Stay (for) two hours
Incl.interval	Stop every ten yards	Pause every ten minutes
		Frequency:
		Knock three times
Definite	five miles	five years
Indefinite	a long way	a long time

Source: Halliday (1994:152)

2). Location expresses spatial (place) and temporal (time) (Halliday, 1994:153).

Table 2.2.3.2.4 Circumstantial of Location

Location	Spatial	Temporal
	Place:	Time:
	Work in the kitchen	at six o'clock
Definite	at home	at noon
Indefinite	Near	Soon
Absolute	in Australia	in 1985
Relative	here, nearby, there, a long way away	now, recently, then, a long time ago
Rest	In Sydney, at the airport	on Tuesday, at noon
Motion	to Sydney, from Sydney	till Tuesday, since Tuesday

Source: (Halliday, 1994:153)

3). Manner. It comprises three subcategories: Means, Quality, and Comparison (Halliday, 1994:153).

Table 2.2.3.2.5 Circumstantial of Manner

Means	Quality	Comparison
by or with:	Adverbial <i>-ly</i> :	Like or unlike:
with the stick, by train	heavily, too much, in, with	Like an earthquake, differently

Source: Halliday (1994:153).

4). Cause. The circumstantial element of cause also comprises three subcategories: Reason, Purposes, Behalf (Halliday, 1994:154).

Table 2.2.3.2.6 Circumstantial of Cause

Reason	Purposes	Behalf
Prepositional phrase:	Prepositional phrase:	Prepositional phrase:
through, because of, as a result of, thanks to, for of, for the lack of, due to, owing to	for, in the hope of, for the purpose of, for the sake of	for, for the sake of, in favour of, on behalf of

Source: Halliday (1994:154).



- 5). Contingency. Again, there are three subcategories: Condition, Concession, Default (Halliday, 1994:155).

Table 2.2.3.2.7 Circumstantial of Contingency

Condition	Concession	Default
in the case of,	in spite of, despite	in default of,
in the event of,		in the absence of

Source: Halliday (1994:155).

- 6). Accompaniment. It represents the meaning ‘and’ or ‘not’ as circumstantial such as with, without, besides, and instead of (Halliday, 1994:155).

Table 2.2.3.2.8 Circumstantial of Accompaniment

Comitative, positive:	Comitative, negative:	Additive, positive:	Additive, negative:
accompanied by: with	not accompanied by: without	in addition to: as well as	as alternative to: instead of

Source: Halliday (1994:155).

7). Role. This category includes the subcategories of Guise and product (Halliday, 1994:157).

Table 2.2.3.2.9 Circumstantial of Role

Guise	Product
as, by, way of, in the role of	into, act as, turn into

Source: Halliday (1994:157).

8). Matter. This category is related to verbal process; it is the circumstantial equivalent of the verbiage (Halliday, 1994:157).

Table 2.2.3.2.10 Circumstantial of Matter

Matter
about, concerning, to (referring to), with reference to

Source: Halliday (1994:157).

9). Angle. This category is related to verbal process, but in this case to the Sayer (Halliday, 1994:158).

Table 2.2.3.2.11 Circumstantial of Angle

Angle
according to, to, from the view point of, from the opinion of, from the standpoint of

Source: Halliday (1994:158).

### 2.2.3.3 Range

There are other participant functions in transitivity process that specific to each particular process type. One of the types is range. Halliday (1994:144) says that the range is the element that specifies the range or scope of the process. A range may occur in material, behavioural, mental, and verbal process. For example, The whole country (actor) is paying (pro: material) a heavy price (range).

This thesis will intensively focus on analyzing the comments on newspapers texts on President Barack Obama's selfie pictures by paying attention to the dominant verb processes of selected clauses.

## CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the methodology of research. It consists of the type of research, the type of data, the data collection and the data analysis. Each of those subchapters is discussed below:

### 3.1 The Type of Research

This study conducts qualitative and quantitative research or can be called as mixed method approach. Denscombe (2007:107) states “a mixed methods strategy is one that uses both qualitative and quantitative methods.” The use of qualitative and quantitative approaches within a single research project is one of the characteristic features of mixed method approach (Denscombe, 2007:108).

“Quantitative research tends to be associated with numbers as the unit of analysis” (Denscombe, 2007:248). According to Mackey and Gass (2005:2), quantitative research starts with an experimental design in which a hypothesis is followed by the quantification of data and several sort of numerical analysis. Meanwhile qualitative research tends to be associated with words or images as the unit of analysis as stated by Denscombe (2007:248). Mackey and Gass (2005:2) suggest that qualitative research is not set up as experiments in which the data cannot be easily quantified and the analysis is interpretative rather than statistical.

## 3.2 The Type of Data

This study uses both primary and secondary data. Primary data is the data that has been collected from first-hand-experience or have never collected before (Blaxter *et al.* 2006:153). However, the data collected from a source that has already put together by somebody else and been published in any form is called as secondary data (Blaxter *et al.* 2006:153).

In this study, the comments on newspapers texts about Barack Obama's Selfie Pictures are the primary data. This data are original and have never been collected before for any other study in discourse analysis. Then, the secondary data used in this study are review of literature in discourse analysis research conducted by other researchers. Those secondary data are collected from the linguistic journals and linguistic thesis.

Particularly, the primary data in this study are quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data are in the form of numbers (Denscombe, 2007:254) while qualitative data are in the form of words (Denscombe, 2007:286). In line with those statements, the quantification of processes in the clauses is quantitative data. However, the selected clauses used by newspaper texts are qualitative data.

## 3.3 The Data Collection

The technique of data collection in this study applies the documentary method. Blaxter *et al.* (2006:154) state:

“Documents are using written materials as a basis for the research. It is preceded by abstracting each element of document which is considered to be important and by grouping together those findings or setting on them alongside others which considered to be related”.

The data of this study are collected from written text. The texts are comments in newspaper on Obama's selfie pictures in some occasions with some famous persons in the world”.

In this study, the primary data are collected by using random sampling. According to Denscombe (2007:13) sampling is taking a small portion of the whole population of data. “Simple random sampling is selection at random of the data” (Blaxter *et al.* 2006:163). The data derived from some clauses in each part of the texts such as in text 1, text 2 and text 3. The texts consist of 41 clauses which are derived from 7 clauses in text 1 entitled *President Obama Poses For A Funeral Selfie And Gets Chummy With Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt But Michelle Does Not Look Impressed*, 14 clauses in text 2 entitled *Selfie Overload: Obama Poses For Picture With Malaysian Prime Minister*, and 20 clauses in text 3 entitled *HURT: President Obama’s ‘Selfie Doctrine’*.

The samples which are taken as a primary data are 11 clauses of which the participant is President Barack Obama derived from 3 clauses in text 1, 3 clauses in text 2, and 5 clauses in text 3.

### **3.4 The Data Processing**

After collecting data, it is necessary to organize them into a manageable, easily understandable, and analyzable base of information. There are some steps to process the data, those are:

1. There are many kinds of texts such as political, literary, commercial, lyrical, fictional, narrative, informative, academic, scientific, etc. After categorization, political texts are taken as data or object of this study.
2. Next, I classify whose news will be taken as data. There are many people whose takes a selfie picture and those are interesting to analyze. Finally, the selfie picture news of the president of USA, Barack Obama is chosen as the data.
3. The last, the selected news are analyzed and discussed through the analysis of transitivity in term of verb processes as an application of Discourse Analysis.

To sum up, the document is used to analyze the newspaper texts by using systemic functional grammar from the point of transitivity to find what kinds of process are use in the texts and what are the dominant processes used in the comments of newspaper texts?

### **3.5 The Data Analysis**

The data analysis of this study uses statistical and the descriptive method since it uses mixed method. Statistic result of analysis is also served in this study. The statistical analysis is useful to make the interpretation of the study become easier. Descriptive method can be considered as the procedure to solve problems of the research by using current facts and phenomena, and this method describes the facts and explains the phenomena (McMillan, 1992:12).

The descriptive method is used to apply Halliday's SFL theory, in particular transitivity of processes used in selected clauses of the newspapers texts. The transitivity identifies the processes of the clauses such as material, mental, verbal, existential, behavioral and relational process. Next, the statistical method is applied to classify and count the kinds of processes and find the most dominant one which is used in the newspapers texts. Finally, the result of the statistic is interpreted.

## **CHAPTER 4. THE RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

This chapter presents the result of transitivity analysis and the discussion of data in newspapers texts. Those are elaborated in relation with the theories of transitivity. The related theories are applied to support the investigation of transitivity analysis on the comments on Barack Obama's selfie pictures.

### **4.1 The Result of Transitivity Analysis**

The transitivity analysis used on the three selected newspapers texts about Barack Obama's selfie pictures are derived from some clauses in each part of the newspapers texts. The samples which are taken as a primary data are 11 clauses of which the participant is President Barack Obama derived from 3 clauses in text 1, 3 clauses in text 2, and 5 clauses in text 3. The result of transitivity analysis will be discussed in the following subchapter.

#### **4.1.1 The Result of Verb Processes Analysis**

There are five processes used by writers 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 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 4.1: Transitivity Analysis of Verb Processes in the Newspapers Texts

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

Table 4.1 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%.

#### 4.1.2 The Result of Participants Processes Analysis

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 on the comments on Barack Obama’s selfie pictures are shown in the table below.

Table 4.2: 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%
Behaver	The president	1	-	-	-	1	1	9%
Goal	1. President Obama 2. Funeral faux pass 3. A selfie 4. To British executive Stephen Kinnock	4	1. President Obama 2. A selfie 3. Mr. Obama	3	-	-	7	50%
Overall total		7		4		3	14	100%

Table 4.2 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.

### **4.1.3 The Result of Circumstances Processes Analysis**

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 4.3: Transitivity Analysis of Circumstantial Processes in the Newspapers Texts

Types of Circumstances	Kinds of Circumstances	Examples Realized By:			Total	Percentage
		Text 1	Text 2	Text 3		
Location	Time	-	1. On Sunday morning 2. This time 3. In recent months 4. In April	-	7	46%
	Place	-	1. On camera	1. Outside the white house 2. In this fairy tale of selfie land		
Manner	Quality	Particularly	-	-	1	7%
Cause	Reason	-	Though	For a selfie	2	14%
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%

Table 4.3 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.

#### 4. 2 The Discussion of Transitivity Analysis on the Selected Clauses

This research fully concentrates on the clause of which participant is President Barrack Obama on the newspapers texts. Here are the discussions on each part of the clauses of each text:

##### Text 1:

Table 4.4: Transitivity Analysis on Text 1, Clause 1

President Obama	was caught committing	funeral faux pas	Snapping	a selfie
Goal	Pro: Material	Range	Pro: Material	Goal

There are 2 kinds of transitivity processes in clause 1. Material process occurs twice in this clause indicated by the verb “*was caught committing*” and “*snapping*”. Material processes refer to the process of doing something. The verbs that show material process indicated by “*was caught committing*” and “*snapping*”. The writer of the newspaper text does not mention the actor in the clause. Explicitly, the actor in this clause refers to the reporter who reported the news taken during Nelson Mandela's memorial service at the Johannesburg's FNB Stadium. For action in which the actor does, the goals of the verbs “*was caught*

*committing*” and *snapping*” refer to “*President Obama*” and “*a selfie*” in the clause respectively.

The Range which occurs in this clause (indicated by “*funeral faux pas*”) expresses the domain over which the process takes place. It means that President Obama was caught by reporters while being on camera to take a selfie picture in a cemetery. This process shows that the writer tries to attract the reader’s attention that take a selfie in sacred moment is not respectful.

Table 4.5: Transitivity Analysis on Text 1, Clause 2

The Danish politician,	Who	is married	to British Executive Stephen Kinnock	Appeared	particularly	Chummy	with President Obama
Actor		Pro: Material	Goal	Pro: Relational/ Attributive	Cir: Manner Quality	Attribute	Cir: Accompaniment Comitative

In clause 2, there are 2 kinds of transitivity processes. It also consists of 2 kinds of circumstances processes. The first process of transitivity is Material process, indicated by verb “*is married*”. “*The Danish politician*” is mainly presented as the Actor in this clause. Actor is the one who does the action, while the goal is “*to British executive Stephen Kinnock*”. In finer detail, by this process the writer wants to inform the reader that the Danish politician is married to Stephen Kinnock as British Executive.

The second transitivity process is relational on attributive mode. It shows by the verb “*appeared*”. It means that, the writer wants to describe that the Danish politician looked chummy with the President while taking a selfie picture. Another transitivity component which appear in clause 2 is circumstances processes. This clause makes strong use of manner (quality) and accompaniment (comitative) which makes sense for the clause. From

the investigation, it can be concluded that the writers also present other leader of other country who also takes a selfie picture with President Obama. The Danish politician looks familiar with the president while taking a selfie picture. In summary, the relationship between President Obama and the Danish Politician as the leader of each country as captured in the process is intimate.

Table 4.6: Transitivity Analysis on Text 1, Clause 3

The President	laughed away	with the Danish leader
Behaver	Pro: Behavioural	Cir: Accompaniment Comitative

The next discussion of transitivity analysis is on clause 3. The transitivity elements which appear in this clause are behavioural process and circumstances. The physiological behavior derived from the verb “*laughed away*”. In behavioural process, the writers mention “*The President*” as behavior. “*The President*” refers to President Obama. As the participant who is behaving, President Obama seems consciously laughing with the Danish leader. The circumstance found in clause 3 is on type of accompaniment (comitative). It means that someone who did physiological thing “*laughed away*” with the Danish leader is President Barack Obama. The writer shows Obama and Danish Leader look so close and seem to have fun together.

**Text 2:**

Table 4.7: Transitivity Analysis on Text 2, Clause 1

	was	again			
President Obama	roped	into	on Sunday morning,	this time	with Malaysia Prime Minister Najib Razak
	taking	a			
	selfie				
Goal	Pro: Material	Cir: Location Time (Temporal)	Cir: Location Time (Temporal)	Cir: Accompaniment Comitative	

The next investigation is on text 2, clause 1. In this clause, there are 2 kinds of transitivity variables; those are material process and circumstances. Circumstances are the important element in transitivity because it can construct a sense of the interpretation of transitivity as the grammar of experience. The material process which appear in this clause is in the form of passive form (derived from the verb *was again roped into taking a selfie*). The goal is *President Obama*.

The types of circumstances found in that clause are location (time/temporal) which appear twice (*on Sunday morning, this time*) and another type of circumstances is accompaniment (comitative) (*with Malaysia Prime Minister Najib Razak*). From the investigation above, it can be concluded that the writer of this text 2 wants to inform the readers that again president Barrack Obama was captured by reporter on Sunday morning taking a selfie picture with Malaysia Prime Minister Najib Razak.



Table 4.8: Transitivity Analysis on Text 2, Clause 2

It	's not	the first time	in recent months	that	the President	has taken
Token	Pro: Relational Identifying	Value	Cir: Location Time (Temporal)		Actor	Pro: Material
a selfie	with some very famous people	though		the candid photographs	have not always been well received	
Goal	Cir: Accompaniment Comitative	Cir: Cause Reason		Phenomenon	Pro: Mental	

Text 2, clause 2 shows there are 3 kinds of transitivity processes and 3 circumstances. The first process is relational process, the second process is material process, and the third process is mental process. Relational process is a process of being. It can be divided into two modes: Attributive and Identifying. In addition, the relational process in this clause is identifying mode (derived from the verb *'s not*). It is used widely by the writer to represent president Barrack Obama and produce *"it"* as token. However, even though the writer describes *"it"* as token, the value still refers to *"the first time"* and it is followed by circumstances on type of location (time/temporal).

The second transitivity process is material process. Material process is process of doing something. The doer is labelled by actor which

is able to perform some action and bring change toward the goal. The verb indicated by material process is “*has taken*”. The actor is “*the president*” which refers to President Obama, while the goal is “*a selfie*”. From the above table, it clearly found that the actor is President Obama. Material process, as a process of doing, is a good choice in addressing what President has done that President Obama often takes a selfie picture in the recent months with some very famous people and it arouses American peoples’ opinions toward the President’s selfie. The material process in this clause is also followed by circumstances process on the type of accompaniment (comitative).

The third process is mental process. As the process of feeling, thinking and seeing, the writer in this clause use the verb “*have not always been well received*” to express his thought and idea to intervene the reader thought of phenomenon (*the candid photographs*). At the start of this process there is a circumstance on type of cause (reason). Briefly, from the analysis of processes above, it can be identified that president Barack Obama is often on camera to take a selfie picture during the following months with some very famous people but the selfie pictures do not get a positive response from the society. It means the selfie pictures have not always been well received.

Table 4.9: Transitivity Analysis on Text 2, Clause 3

And	in April,	Mr. Obama	was captured	on camera	with Boston Red Sox Slugger David Ortiz
	Cir: Location Place (Spatial)	Goal	Pro: Material	Cir: Location Place (Spatial)	Cir: Accompaniment Comitative

The last investigation in text 2 is on clause 3. The transitivity analysis which appears in this clause is material process and circumstances. The writer use the material process in passive form (*was captured*) to affirm that Mr. Obama labelled as a goal is factually was again captured by reporter taking a selfie picture in April with Boston Red Sox Slugger David Ortiz. Material process concerns with actions and events. It is also called the process of doing. It is indicated by the existence of an actor (the doer which carries out the action) and the goal (patient at which the action directed). The circumstances occur in this clause are on types of location (Place/Spatial) and accompaniment (comitative). By this clause, the writer wants to interpret that president Barack Obama likes to take a selfie pictures with some very famous persons in the world.

### Text 3

Table 4.10: Transitivity Analysis on Text 3. Clause 1

President Obama	Is	that rightful king
Token	Pro: Relational Identifying	Value

This is the first clause in text 3. It contains one process only. The process is relational on identifying mode. Relational process is process of being and it is classified into two types: attributive and identifying. The attributive expresses what attributes a certain object has, or what type it belongs to. However, the identifying expresses the identical properties of two entities. This clause is used by the writer to represent to figure the token “President Barack Obama” identity that the value still refers to President Barack Obama. Here, the writer identifies President Barack Obama as the rightful king. In other words, the writer acknowledges President Obama’s social role and social function as the leader of the country, as everybody knows that president Barack Obama is the 44<sup>th</sup>

President of United States. He was elected to the U.S presidency in 2008, and won reelection in 2012.

Table 4.11: Transitivity Analysis on Text 3, Clause 2

The President	Mugging	for a selfie	outside House	The White	House
Actor	Pro: Material	Cir: Cause Reason	Cir: Location (Spatial)	Place	Place

The second clause in text 3 consists of material process and circumstances. The material process shows the process of doing action (derived from the verb “*mugging*”). From this process, it shows that the writer presents Obama as an actor. In material process, actor can be defined as a doer which has power to do action. It deals with the statement of Fairclough (1995:17) that powerful person will be able to act or force others to do something to reach one’s interest.

The circumstances appearing in this clause are on types of cause (reason) and location (place/spatial). This phenomenon evidences that the writer really wants to give information that as the president of United States, Obama enables himself to have and to take a selfie picture outside the White House.

Table 4.12: Transitivity Analysis on Text 3, Clause 3

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

The third analysis is clause 3. As the same as clause 1, 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.

Table 4.13: Transitivity Analysis on Text 3, Clause 4

In this fairy tale of selfie land	President Obama	can be	all the things,
Cir: Location (Spatial)	Place Token	Pro: Relational Identifying	Value

The next investigation of transitivity process in text 3 is on clause 4. There is only one process appear in this clause, that is relational process on identifying mode. Circumstances also appear in this clause in types of location (place/spatial). As the process of being, relational process is appropriate to explain Obama’s competence of selfie era (derived from the verb “*can be*”).

As a result, this clause is used by the writer to produce the figure of token “President Obama” identity which the value still refers to President Obama. Furthermore, the writer definitely shows President Obama’s powerful authority as the U.S president to make a decision concerning with selfie era. Nowadays, selfie is popular; as a powerful person, President Obama is able to be what he said he would be.

Table 4.14: Transitivity Analysis on Text 3, Clause 5

He	Said	He	would be
Sayer	Pro: Verbal	Identified	Pro: Relational Intensive

The last investigation of transitivity process in text 3 is on clause 5. There are two processes appearing in this clause. The first process is verbal process. Verbal processes are processes of saying. The verb showing this process in this clause is “*said*”. The participant of this verbal process is “*he*” that refers to President Barack Obama. The main participant is called sayer. Sayer is person or object which is able to speak or utter information. In this case, Obama as a Sayer is described as a person who has power and he can assure that everything he said will happen.

The second process is relational process. The type of relational process is intensive process. It is derived from the verb “*would be*” which identified “*he*”. “*he*” refers to President Obama. This process shows the relation of the statement of Obama before that he would be all the things he wants. In conclusion, this clause is used by the writer to reassure the reader of the news that President Obama as the king of United States is a powerful person shown by his self confidence that he can be or does everything he wants.

## CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION

This is the final chapter to recap of what have been elaborately put down after successfully identifying and analyzing the samples on the newspapers texts about President Obama's selfie pictures as the data. Since the result of this study is clearly found, it indicates an exact time to come with the conclusion from the entire processes done in this research. In detail, the results of analysis elaborated in this chapter are presented to answer the questions raised in chapter one as the problems to discuss.

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. It is proved by the

result of quantitative analysis of the processes shown in the Table 4.1 page 30.

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 Barrack 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.

Last but not least, it is expected to give contribution to a better understanding of the transitivity analysis on newspapers texts. 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.



**REFERENCES**

- Alameda-Hernández, Á. (2008). SFL and CDA: Contributions of the Analysis of the Transitivity System in the Study of the Discursive Construction of National Identity (Case study: Gibraltar). *J. Lang. Teach. Res.* 3 (3): 6-12
- Blaxter, L., Hughes, C., and Tight, M. (2006). *How to Research*. Third Edition. London: Open University Press.
- Brown, G., and Yule, G. (1983). *Discourse Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Chen-xi, Z., and Feng-jun, Y. 2009. The Critical Discourse Analysis of a Report on Barack Obama. *Sino-US Eng. Teach.* 6 (10): 49-55.
- Denscombe, M. (2007). *The Good Research Guide for Small-Scale Social Research Projects*. Poland: Open University Press.
- Eggins, S. (1994). *An Introduction to Systemic Functional Linguistics*. London: Printer Publisher.
- Halliday, M. A. K., & Hasan, R. (1985). *Language, Context, and Text. Aspect of Language in a Social-Semiotic Perspective*. Victoria: Deakin University Press.
- Halliday, M. A. K. (1994). *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*. Second Edition. London: Edward Arnold.

Halliday, M. A. K. (2004). *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Rev. Cristian M. I. M. Mattheissen. London: Arnold.

Mackey, A., and Gass, S. M. (2005). *Second Language Research: Methodology and Design*. New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associated.

Martin, J. R., Mattheissen, C. M. I. M., and Painter, C. (1997). *Working with Functional Grammar*. London: Edward Arnold.

Mayr, A. (2008). *Language and power: An Introduction to Institutional Discourse Analysis*. New York: Continuum International Publishing Group.

McMillan, J. H. (1992). *Educational Research Fundamentals for the Consumer*. Virginia: Harper Collins Publisher.

Nunan, D. (1993). *Introducing to Discourse Analysis*. London: Penguin Group.

Ulfa, M. (2012). *A Study of Transitivity in Barack Obama's Speech Delivered in Jakarta on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010: A Critical Discourse Analysis*. Jember University: Unpublished.

**Internet:**

[www.oxforddictionary.com](http://www.oxforddictionary.com)

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1:

#### Newspaper Text 1

### **President Obama poses for a funeral selfie and gets chummy with Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt but Michelle does not look impressed**

**President Obama was caught committing a funeral faux pas — snapping a selfie during Nelson Mandela’s memorial service with Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt and British PM David Cameron.**

BY Leslie Larson

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Published: Tuesday, December 10, 2013, 11:41 AM

Updated: Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 1:39 PM



President Obama was caught committing a funeral faux pas — snapping a selfie with Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt and British PM David Cameron during Nelson Mandela’s memorial service Tuesday.

The threesome smiled as the Scandinavian beauty held her smartphone out to capture the moment but Michelle Obama sat at a distance, as if in disapproval of the digital display.

Thorning-Schmidt, 46, was animated as she took her place among the dignitaries in the stands at the FNB stadium in Johannesburg for the somber occasion, chatting with other leaders and unabashedly typing away on her device.

The Danish politician, who is married to British executive Stephen Kinnock, appeared particularly chummy with President Obama but Michelle Obama, 49, seemed annoyed at the mingling, looking solemn as she stared intently in the opposite direction and paid attention to the proceedings.

As the President laughed away with the Danish leader, at least one photograph shows the First Lady flash a disapproving glare in their direction.

Thorning-Schmidt, who has two daughters with Kinnock, is the first female prime minister of Denmark. She assumed office in October 2011. Obama took the time to give Thorning-Schmidt a peck on the cheek as well.



She has met Obama on numerous occasions, including a White House visit in February 2012 and the NATO Summit in Chicago in May 2012.

In September, Obama visited with Thorning-Schmidt during his visit to Stockholm, when he also met with Finnish President Sauli Niinisto and Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt.

The Danish leader's selfie went viral on Twitter, with scores of comments on the total lack of propriety shown by the three leaders.

After the hoopla over Obama's pic, a candid snapshot of George W. Bush emerged on his Instagram account — showing him posing with Bono as they sat in the stands for the remembrance occasion.

The Obamas were just part of the U.S. delegation to the Tuesday service, accompanied by President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, President Bill Clinton, his wife, Hillary, and daughter, Chelsea, and President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn.



Chelsea Clinton, 33, is an avid tweeter, but abstained from accessing the social media website during the event, as did her parents, who also both have Twitter accounts.

Laura Bush is also on Twitter but did not post any updates to the website.

After the memorial service ended, the Obamas and Bushes boarded Air Force One to return to the U.S.

They were in South Africa for less than 13 hours.

Though former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton traveled from the U.S. to Africa aboard Air Force One with the two couples, she did not return home on the President's plane Tuesday night.

Former President Bill Clinton, his daughter Chelsea, 33, and President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn were also among the U.S. delegation but they traveled separately.

**Appendix 2:**

**Newspaper Text 2**

**Selfie Overload: Obama Poses for Picture with Malaysian Prime Minister**

By Jake Miller CBS News April 27, 2014, 3:13 PM

This may be getting out of hand.

President Obama was again roped into taking a selfie on Sunday morning, this time with Malaysia Prime Minister Najib Razak, who promptly posted the photo to his Twitter account.



The two leaders are all smiles in the photograph, but Mr. Obama's trip to Malaysia, part of a four-country swing through Southeast Asia, was more substantive than lighthearted. He raised human rights issues with Razak regarding the Malaysian government's treatment of the opposition, and he extended his condolences to a country that is still grieving the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370.



President Barack Obama poses for a selfie picture with Denmark's Prime Minister Helle Thorning Schmidt (C) during the memorial service of South African former president Nelson Mandela.

ROBERTO SCHMIDT/AFP/Getty Images

It's not the first time in recent months that the president has taken a selfie with some very famous people, though the candid photographs have not always been well received.

During a memorial service for former South African President Nelson Mandela last December, the president was spotted posing for a selfie with British Prime Minister David Cameron and Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt. Some thought the moment of levity was inappropriate for such a somber occasion.

And in April, Mr. Obama was captured on camera with Boston Red Sox slugger David Ortiz, who also tweeted his selfie with the president.





Boston Red Sox player David Ortiz (L) poses for a "selfie" with President Barack Obama at the White House April 1, 2014 in Washington, DC.

Win McNamee, Getty Images

When the picture was later revealed to be a promotional stunt by Ortiz and Samsung, the maker of the phone that took the image, the White House cried foul.

"As a rule the White House objects to attempts to use the president's likeness for commercial purposes," spokesman Jay Carney told reporters, "and we certainly object in this case."

Less controversial was a selfie taken by Vice President Joe Biden of himself and the president as the two men were riding in the back of the presidential limo during a joint trip to Oakdale, Pa.

**Appendix 3:**

**Newspaper text 3**

**HURT: President Obama's 'Selfie Doctrine'**

By Charles Hurt - - Tuesday, April 22, 2014

**ANALYSIS/OPINION:**

In these selfie times when freedom, joy and posterity are just a head-tilt, grin and finger-click away, it is only fitting that the United States of America would have as commander-in-chief the undisputed King of Selfies.



**PHOTOS: Armed and liberal: Left-leaning celebrities who are pro-gun**

The Selfie Presidency for the Selfie Generation in a Selfie World.

President Obama is that rightful king.

There he is with the greatest baseball players of our day. The president mugging for a selfie outside the White House. Later he feigned outrage when it became public that the picture of him with Boston Red Sox slugger David Ortiz and a “44” jersey was just part of some sleazy corporate product campaign by Samsung.

And here he is now with Vice President Joe Biden in the back seat of his limo with the Presidential Seal embroidered on the plush leather armrest between them. Another selfie that is part of another campaign, this one political for Biden in 2016.

The most infamous selfie of all got snapped during the funeral of Nelson Mandela. That unfortunate photo immortalized what apparently mattered most at this funeral for the man who patiently stared down violent apartheid: King Selfie’s own iconic image.

Stop and think about it. Can you envision any other president in history posing for a selfie and distributing it to the world?

Ronald Reagan? Jimmy Carter?

Bill Clinton? Perhaps. But he would most likely point the camera some place other than his smiling face. At least, he would have the decency to keep the picture between himself and one or two of his favorite interns. Maybe send it to Anthony Weiner.

This plague of becoming your own paparazzi has infected the entire White House publicity apparatus. The Obama selfie has become its own cult of personality.

On the 225th anniversary of George Washington’s first election to the presidency, the White House dispatched a picture of — President Obama!

In the background of that presidential selfie is a portrait of George Washington hanging over the fireplace mantel in the Oval Office.

In observance of Abraham Lincoln's birthday, the White House sent out another presidential selfie. This one with his First Lady. They are visiting the Lincoln Memorial.

Aside from being a supernova of self-absorption, the practice of snapping pictures of yourself for public consumption is a willfully delusional view of the world. As if you are all that exists and the whole ugly world all around you, pressing in, can be simply blocked from the aperture by your own mugging face.

In this fairy tale of Selfie Land, President Obama can be all the things he said he would be.

He can simply become that "moment when the rise of our oceans began to slow and our planet began to heal."

He can simply become that "moment when we ended a war and secured our nation and restored our image as the last, best hope on earth."

Call it the Selfie Doctrine. It is when you tightly close your eyes, plug your fingers into your ears, stamp your feet and begin jabbering loudly to drown out everything that anyone around you is trying to say.

It is how Selfie Doctrine achieves peace in this Selfie World. Just ask them in Syria, in Iran, in Ukraine and in Afghanistan.

It is also the behavior you spank out of your children before they graduate from kindergarten.

*Charles Hurt can be reached at [charleshurt@live.com](mailto:charleshurt@live.com) and on Twitter @charleshurt.*