A Transitivity Analysis of William Wordsworth's Poem "I wandered lonely as a Cloud"

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini mengkaji transitivitas dalam puisi "I wandered lonely as a cloud" yang ditulis William Wordsworth. Tujuan utama dari penelitian ini terletak pada pengkajian detil terhadap proses transitivitas dengan menggunakan Tatabahasa Sistemik Fungsional (TSF) yang dikembangkan oleh Halliday. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Analisis transitivitas ini mengikuti cara analisis dari Sasongko (2011). Untuk menjawab tujuan penelitian ini maka peneliti menggunakan representasi kuantitatif dalam bentuk tabel persentase agar mengetahui elemen-elemen utama yang sering muncul dalam teks puisi tersebut. Terdapat empat jenis proses transitivitas dari hasil penelitian ini yaitu proses tingkah laku (45%), Proses Material (35%), Proses Relasional (10%), dan Proses Mental (10%). Kemunculan yang paling dominan dari proses transitivitas dalam puisi ini adalah proses tingkah laku yang menyiratkan kemampuan penulis dalam mengekspresikan keindahan alam dan mental emosional penulis secara mendalam.

Kata kunci: *Transitivitas, Puisi, Tatabahasa Fungsional*

Abstract

This study analyzes transitivity in William Wordsworth's poem "I wandered lonely as a Cloud" The main focus of this study is to evaluate the transitivity process using Systemic Functional Grammar (TSF) created by Halliday. This investigation employs a qualitative descriptive methodology. The transitivity analysis adheres to Sasongko's (2011) methodology. For the purpose of answering the question addressed in this study, the researcher employs a quantitative representation in the form of a percentage table to determine the most frequently occurring elements in the poetry text. The results of this study identify four categories of transitivity processes: behavioural processes (45%), material processes (35%), relational processes (10%), and mental processes (10%). The most prevalent instance of the transitivity process in this poem is the behavioral process, which suggests the author's ability to convey nature's beauty and his or her emotional state in a profound manner.

Keywords : *Transitivity, Poems, Systemic Functional Lingusitics*

INTRODUCTION

Literature, as an art form, holds a significant place in human existence, intertwining with various aspects of life. It encompasses diverse genres, ranging from creative works to more technical or scientific compositions. When referring to literature, it commonly denotes imaginative works, through which individuals employ fiction or nonfiction to express their thoughts, emotions, experiences, and ideas. Poetry, song lyrics, film, and drama serve as channels for this expression (Barnet et al., 1961, as cited in Reed, 1946:92).

A poem, in precise, intends to verbalize feelings and thoughts through language in an extraordinary style, incorporating devices such as figures of speech, rhyme, and rhythm. It embraces textual value for understanding a certain period or the works of protuberant versifiers, as well as being inherently marvelous. The poem obliges as an intermediate to

convey the writer's emotions, reactions, and perspectives on daily human life, leaving a lasting impression (Reed, 1946; Bugeja, 2001).

Furthermore, Poems, as a literary form, vitrines the writer's imaginative and contemplative expression, shaping language to create aesthetic experiences. It possesses dissimilar characteristics, wherein language serves as the underdone material for the rhymester's creative work. The strategic arrangement of words by the versifier gives birth to a poem (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004).

This study scrutinizes the transitivity in William Wordsworth's poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" by demystifying previous research, such as that of Afrianto et al. (2014), who focused on transitivity analysis in Shakespeare's poems. The present investigation leverages SFL theory, which emphasizes language as a source of information for meaning creation. This research aims to examine the processes established in the poem by focusing on the representational aspect of clauses, specifically transitivity (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004).

Moreover, by conducting meticulous scrutiny, this study intentions to contribute new insights to the field, focusing on a different rhythmical work. It strives to ascertain and scrutinize the transitivity patterns within the poem by applying the SFL framework. Through this research, a deeper understanding of the poem's linguistic features and the meanings conveyed will be achieved.

The term "poetry," derived from the Latin word "poeta," refers to a literary art form that emphasizes the aesthetic and evocative qualities of language over its literal meaning. It can exist as a standalone poem or be combined with other artistic expressions, such as dramatic poetry, hymns, lyrics, or prose poetry. Hillyer (1960:1) emphasizes the fundamental role of poetry in connecting us to the past, connecting extinct civilizations to heroic deeds, religious devotion, love, and festivities. This time-honored mode of expression functions as a conduit for a poet's spontaneous emotions, as it finds the ideal words to express profound feelings. Authors express their thoughts and emotions through poetry, while the power of language shapes their physical and mental being.

Gerot and Wignell (1994, p. 2-5) explicated that grammar provides a theoretical framework for comprehending language and its construction. Traditional grammar, which emphasizes producing grammatically correct sentences, has limitations because its rules are founded on a small subset of English speakers and address only the most fundamental aspects of writing. A different theoretical perspective is offered by systemic functional linguistics (SFL). SFL attempts to shed light on how decisions are made at the lexical and grammatical levels, with a focus on how meaning is made in a given situation. This theory is also providing a comprehensive analysis of language usage by concentrating on the interaction between text and its surrounding context (Gerot and Wignell, 1994, p. 6). The exploration of the context of the situation and the concept of transitivity are both important to the subject of semantics. Three sections encompass transitivity clauses. There are Process varieties, Participant roles, and Circumstances. Historically, the relationship between the nominal group and the clause has been one of dialectic interaction. Language does not represent an impediment to this process, which somewhat began in ancient Greek and has since become more prevalent in English and other European languages. The researchers incorporated a visualization of transitivity concerning Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) for evidence of transitivity:
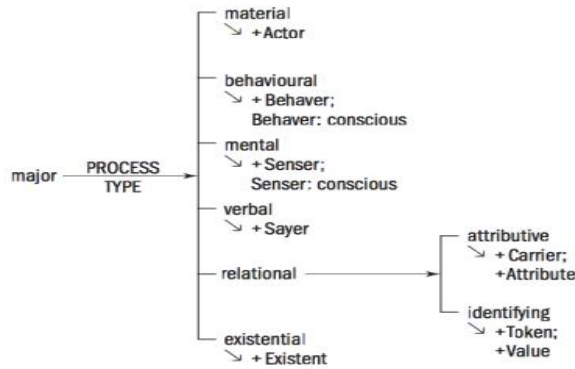
Figure 1. Transitivity Process (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, p. 219).

Figure 1 depicts the transitivity process type (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, p. 219), which the researchers elucidate below:

The doing and the happening of objects are both constituted by material processes. According to Halliday and Matthiessen, the same entity can accomplish an action those other entities may also perform. A transitive Material clause describes what occurs, whereas an intransitive Material clause describes what occurs. The functions of participants can be categorized into two different groups. They are both the agent and the object of the material process. Given that the actor receives satisfaction regarding meeting the demand or carrying out the action, the target of the action typically experiences adverse consequences or undergoes a transformation as a result.

A mental process is one that involves emotion, thought, and perception. Mental processes contain the senser and phenomenon. A senser is a sentient entity that experiences sensations, cognitive processes, or sensory perceptions. The term "phenomenon" entails a specific subjective encounter, concept, or observation. In spite of its proximity to Material's Choice, it is frequently classified as a category detail in Range. There are four categories of Mental Processes, according to Lock (1996, p. 105): perception, affection, cognition, and volition.

Relational processes entail being and having states. They can be categorized based on whether they are used to identify or attribute qualities to something. The process of establishing an identity is called the Identifying process, while the process of attributing an attribute is called the Attributing process. Each individual involved in the study possesses distinct Participant functions, respectively. The prevalent categorization of these entities involves their classification into three distinct subcategories, namely intensive, possessive, and circumstantial. Every participant involved in the study possesses distinct Participant Functions.

The behavioral process is a confluence of physiological and psychological mechanisms. Most of the behavioral processes exhibited by Clause, including but not limited to treatment, dreaming, beaming, and coughing, are typically carried out by a solitary agent. The Participant known as Behaver is a conscious entity similar to Senser, but the underlying mechanism is more closely aligned with action.

The sole participant in the process of existence is the entity that is already in existence. The aforementioned process exhibits two principal grammatical associations: one with a copular verb and "there" serving as the subject, and the other with a copular verb, the Existent as the subject, and commonly a circumstantial adjunct.

The verbal process pertains to the act of vocalizing. The constituents of this process comprise Sayer, Receiver, and Verbiage. The individual who performs the act of verbal communication is commonly denoted as the recipient. The verbal process pertains to the act of speaking, while verbiage refers to the specific words or phrases that are spoken. At times, there exists an auxiliary aim that pertains to a verbal process component.

METHOD

In this study, the researchers employed a descriptive qualitative method. According to Arikunto (1993), descriptive research focuses on providing a detailed account of a phenomenon rather than formulating hypotheses. The objective of this study was to use transitivity analysis to describe the phenomena observed within the poem. The authors utilized the model notion of choice proposed by Sasongko (2011) to examine transitivity.

Furthermore, the researchers chose the poem "I wandered lonely as a cloud" by William Wordsworth as the primary data source for this study, with the researchers enacting as the primary instrument. The researcher assumed various responsibilities, including planning, collecting data, analyzing it, and disseminating the research outcomes. We conducted an examination of the frequency of Process Types to evaluate the experiential significance of the poem. We meticulously examined each line, identifying and scrutinizing the predicators used in the poetic composition. Once we identified the process type associated with each predicator, we computed and compared the percentages. We individually analyzed the poems, and then the scholars further explained and interpreted the identified procedures based on the data presented in the provided tables.

Finding

"I wandered lonely as a Cloud"

I	Wandered	Lonely as a Cloud
Subject	Finite	Predicator
Participant: Actor	Process: material	

"That floats on high o'er Vales and Hills,"

That	Floats	On High O'er Vales and Hills
Subject	Finite	Predicator
Participant: Actor	Process: material	Goal

When all at once I saw a crowd,

When all At once	I	Saw	a crowd
	Subject	Finite	Predicator
	Participant: Senser	Process: mental	

A host of golden Daffodils;

A Host of Golden Daffodils
Subject
Participant: Behaver

Beside the Lake, beneath the trees,

Beside the lake beneath the trees
Circumstance of location

Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Fluttering	And	Dancing	in the breeze
Finite		Finite	Adjunct: place
Process: Behavioural		Process: Behavioural	Circumstance: location

Continuous as the stars that shine

Continuous	As	the stars	that	shine
		Subject		Finite

	Participant: actor	Process: material

And twinkle on the Milky Way

And	Twinkle	On the milky way
	Finite	Predicator
	Process: material	

They stretched in never-ending line

They	Stretched	In never-ending line
Subject	Finite	Predicator
Participant: Actor	Process: material	

Along the margin of a bay:

Along the margin of a bay
Predicator

Ten thousand saw I at a glance,

Ten thousand	saw	I	At a glance
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Adjunct: place
Participant: Senser	Process: mental		

Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

Tossing their heads	In sprightly dance
Finite	Predicator
Process: behaviour	Circumstance

The waves beside them danced, but they

The Waves beside them	danced	but	they
Subject	Finite		Subject
Participant: Actor	Process: material		Participant: Behaver

Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:—

Out-did	The sparkling waves	in glee
Finite	Predicator	Adjunct: place
Process: Behaviour		Circumstance: location

A Poet could not but be gay

A poet	Could not	But	be	gay
Subject			Finite	
Participant: carrier	Process: relational			

In such a jocund company:

In such a jocund company
Predicator
Token

I gazed—and gazed—but little thought

I	Gazed	and	Gazed	but	little	though
Subject	Finite		Finite			

Participant: Behaver	Process: behaviour	Process: behaviour

What wealth the shew to me had brought:

What wealth	**the shew**	**to me had brought:**
Subject	Finite	predicator
Participant: Behaver	Process: behaviour	

For oft when on my couch I lie

For	**oft**	**When**	**on**	**my**	**Couch**	**I**	**lie**
						Subject	Finite
						Participant:behaver	Process: behaviour

In vacant or in pensive mood,

In vacant or in Pensive mood
Process: behaviour

They flash upon that inward eye

They	**Flash upon**	**That inward eye**
Subject	Finite	Predicator
Participant: Actor	Process: material	

Which is the bliss of solitude,

Which	**Is**	**Bliss of solitude**
		Predicator
Process: relational		

And then my heart with pleasure fills,

And	**Then**	**My heart**	**With pleasure fills**
Adjunct: conjunction		Subject	Finite
		Participant: Behaver	Process: behaviour

And dances with the Daffodils.

And	**Dances**	**With the daffodils**
Adjunct: conjunction	Finite	Predicator
	Process: Material	

The researchers have summarized the results in a table that represents the occurrence of each process in the poem as follows, based on their findings.

Table 1. Types of Processes in Transitivity Analysis

Type of Process	Number	%
Behavioural Process	9	45%
Material Process	7	35%
Relational – Attributive	2	10%
Mental Process	2	10%
Existential Process	-	-
Verbal Process	-	-
Total	20	100%

DISCUSSION

The researchers have determined that the predominant type of process in the poem is the behavioral process, as indicated by the aforementioned findings. Furthermore, the present poem lacks various types of processes, including the existential and verbal processes. The identified processes reveal that the behavioral process transpires on nine occasions, representing 45% of the total processes. The statement pertains to the manifestation of both physiological and psychological behaviors. The subsequent instances serve as illustrations of this concept:

Excerpt 1.
"A host of golden daffodils" (Behaver) "Besides the lake, beneath the trees" (Circumstance) "Fluttering and dancing in the breeze" (Behavioural).

In contrast, the material process is observed on seven occasions, representing 35% of the processes identified. This process category elucidates the manner in which entities participate in physical activities. The researchers have utilized material process verbs to portray diverse actions. The following instances serve as illustrations of this phenomenon:

Excerpt 2.

"I wandered lonely as a cloud" (Actor) "That floats on high o'er vales and hills" (Material)

The identified processes comprise a total of 10%, with the relational process being present twice. The term "relational-attributive" refers to the processes of existence and possession. The following examples are presented:

Excerpt 3.

"A poet could not but be gay" (Carrier) "Which is the bliss of solitude" (Relational)

The most important type of process identified in the poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" is the behavioral process. These processes reveal the physiological and psychological behaviors of both the natural world and the writer who wrote them. The poem complies with the aesthetic qualities of the natural world and the intense sentiments that are generated by the poet. The creator of the piece employs the behavioral process to explicate the physiological behavior of nature, as demonstrated in the subsequent statement.

Excerpt 4.

"A host of golden daffodils" (Behaver) "Beside the lake, beneath the trees" (Circumstance) "Fluttering and dancing in the breeze" (Behavioral).

The aforementioned section's discussions on transitivity align with the theoretical perspectives espoused by Halliday (2004; 2014) and Wignel & Gerot (1994). The aforementioned researchers emphasize the significance of situational and cultural contexts in the interpretation of poetic works, as these factors inform the author's expression.

CONCLUSION

Benefiting Halliday's framework and the computations presented in the preceding table, it can be posited that the poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" exhibits four distinct types of transitivity. The Material Process pertains to the execution of actions and the occurrence of events. The Relational Process, on the other hand, pertains to the state of being and possession. Lastly, the Mental Process pertains to the act of sensing.

The poem employs a combination of behavioral and non-material processes, with the former accounting for 45% and the latter for 55% of its overall composition. By analyzing the Transitivity processes employed in the poem, we can gain a deeper understanding of how the situational field is constructed and how these patterns are reflected in the text. The primary approach employed in the poem is the Behavioral Process, which effectively communicates the splendor of nature and the author's intense emotions. Additional measures enhance the progression of the poem.

In conclusion, "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" has various types of transitivity, with the Behavioral Process being the predominant one. The aforementioned results demonstrate the manner in which the poem effectively communicates the aesthetic appeal of the natural world and the author's deeply felt sentiments. Various techniques can improve the creative structure and thematic elements of a poem.

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