A STUDY OF THE IDEATIONAL FUNCTION: TRANSITIVITY ANALYSIS OF SIMON STIELL'S SPEECH

Danial Hamdani*

Program Study of English Education, Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, Indonesia

danialhamdani.2020@student.uny.ac.id*

ABSTRACT

This study examines the discourse of Simon Stiell's political speeches through the lens of Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar. Additionally, it aims to substantiate the claim that Systemic Functional Grammar, in particular the idealization meta-functions, underlies Stiell's political speech at COP27. It employs both a qualitative and a quantitative mixed approach. The study's sample is Simon Stiell, executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, addressing during the COP27 closing session on November 20, 2022. After that, transitivity analysis was done to determine the outcomes. These speeches have undergone transitivity system analysis. The study's findings show that Simon Stiell heavily employs the idealization meta-functions in his speeches. It demonstrates that he has extensively trained using systemic functional grammar in his discourse, which made persuading the listener to take action far more successful and persuasive. Additionally, the results demonstrate that the proportion of Material processes that use the idealization meta-functional aspects varies depending on his speech and even the context.

Keywords: Transitivity, Political Discourse, COP17

I. Introduction

Global ecosystems and human livelihoods are both seriously threatened by climate change. It is one of several current crises that demand coordinated action and international cooperation. Due to the COVID19 epidemic and the economic and energy uncertainty brought on by the Russian Federation's war on Ukraine, climate action may not be as high on the political agenda in many countries. However, each of these recent crises highlights how open societies are to fresh dangers and the necessity for international cooperation to deal with them (Moosmann et al., 2022). Without a doubt, science has demonstrated that there is a limited window of opportunity for action. In order to build on prior accomplishments and pave the way for future ambition, Egypt will host the 27th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh in November 2022. An excellent chance for all parties involved to step up and deal

with the global problem of climate change, made possible by Egypt on the African continent (*COP27 - Presidency*, n.d.).

It is hoped that COP27 will mark a turning point where the entire globe united and showed the necessary political will to address the climate crisis through coordinated, cooperative, and significant action. When the world demonstrated that we are serious about cooperating and rising to the challenge, when climate change ceased to be a zero-sum game, and when there was no longer a "we and them" but rather a single international community working for the common good of our shared planet and mankind. From 2013 to June 2022, Mr. Stiell held the position of Minister for Climate Resilience and the Environment. He served in this capacity for five years. He formerly held the positions of Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, and Fisheries as well as Minister for Education and Human Resource Development and Minister of State with oversight of human resource development and the environment. He also appointed as Leader of Government Business in Grenada's Senate, the country's upper house of parliament. The Mexican Patricia Espinosa is succeeded by Mr. Stiell. As the world community gets ready for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm el-Sheikh in November, his nomination was made public (*Simon Stiell Named as UN Climate Change Executive Secretary | World Meteorological Organization*, n.d.).

According to the transitivity system, experiences are a particular kind of process that are related to participant and circumstance elements. Transitivity is a grammatical system which deals with several types of process found in structure of language (Jackson et al., 2020). Language functions as a tool for oral expression and assumes a critical role in elucidating the accuracy of a text and its connection to the communication context (Hardiyanti et al., 2023). Transitivity can demonstrate how people explain their own and other people's experiences in light of reality. Unlike traditional grammar, functional grammar doesn't classify verbs solely based on having an object or not. Instead, it describes the whole sentence, not just the verb and its object (Emilia et al., 2017). Additionally, transitivity is connected to the process type and participant role that are actualized in the actuality of experience. A clause might express several processes intended to explain how someone does something and for whom or by whom it is done (Eggins, 2004). The goal of this study is to compare and generalize Halliday's theory, which holds that English generally exhibits three dominance processes, namely material, relational, and mental processes, in COP27's speech.

Systemic functional linguistics serves as an approach for communicating the lexical and grammatical selections inherent in a word system, while also elucidating how language is harnessed in the construction of meaning (Sigalingging, Pasaribu, et al., 2022). SFL considers languages as systems that can deconstruct and elaborate the development of language in terms of its usefulness, one of which is through transitivity system. Instead of using standard grammar, this method can extend and encode what is happening in society into three categories: Process,

Participant, and Circumstance. Regarding the earlier phrase, there are also six categories: There are four types of processes: material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal, and existential (Halliday, 2014)

Material processes

The sentences that define doing and occurring are those that refer to material processes. They usually refer to physical changes in the world's materials. They are involved in what occurs outside of themselves. As a result, the process is always tied to action words, and the participant's function is that of an actor.

Mental processes

Mental processes interpret the clauses that demonstrate a person's internal sensing. It is imprinted with the notion of emotion or thinking. It is used to explain an item in the field of psychology (Nurwanti, 2022). These processes are internalized as opposed to the material processes, which are externalized, claim Halliday et al. (2014). As a result, the participant's role will be that of a sensor, one who is conscious, and the thing or person being felt will be a phenomenon.

Relational processes

The sentences that represent the generalization of the conventional concept of Capula formations are relational processes. These procedures interpret the experience of being or becoming. Relational clauses construe being and do this in two different modes, attribution and identification (Rakhmatullah & Simatupang, 2022). The participant roles involved in attributing mood clauses always seem to be carrier + attribute. When it comes to relational identifying clauses, token + value is frequently used. Typically, verbal clauses refer to the act of saying. As a result, the speaker is the primary participant, occasionally joined by the recipient, the target, and the receiver. However, the verbal process does incorporate semiotic processes that are not always verbal in addition to the many modes of talking (asking, demanding, offering, and proclaiming) (showing, indicating).

Behavioural clauses

Behavioural clauses can be thought of as an intermediate type that combines elements of the material and verbal/mental processes. The traits that behavioural possesses in terms of physiological processes (such as shivering, sweating, coughing, and grasping) and social activities (such as dancing, hugging, conversing, and gossiping), among other things, set it apart from the competition. and the behavioural clause's participant role is referred to as behaviour.

Existential clauses

Existential clauses are comparable to relational clauses in that they both hint at the relationship between being something and the clause being used. The only participant is the existent, which makes them different from relational ones. Similar to a behavioral process, it involves only one participant. However, unlike a behavioral process, it involves a second participant referred to as the Existent (Nurlela et al., 2020).

Inquirers decided to use Halliday's transitivity framework to determine whether or not a specific political ideology appears in the UN Climate Change Executive Secretary speech regarding the COP27 through transitivity analysis. Therefore, it can be argued that the profound effects of his persuasive talks at COP27 thoroughly penetrated the emotions of the attendees, bringing about the urgent need to address climate change. It is no secret that he became the most important person in the UN Climate Change department. Since Simon Stiell's speech at the COP27 closing plenary on November 20, 2022, proved to be an important one, the primary goal of the current study is to examine the idealization meta-functions of Simon Stiell's Speeches using Systemic Functional Grammar in order to uncover the main causes of its lasting effects

II. Methods

This study combines qualitative and quantitative methods. The UN Climate Change Executive Secretary, Simon Stiell speeches were picked to make up the study's sample. Stiell 's speeches have been regarded as the main resource for gathering information about the targeted issue. The idealization meta-functions of Simon Stiell's remarks on Halliday's Systematic Functional Grammar are examined in this paper   (Halliday, 1994). "Transitivity analysis" is a useful tool for expressing "The ideational Function." To put it another way, "functional grammar" makes extensive use of "transitivity analysis." Additionally, it must be crucial in describing the full "ideational function." It signals to the dire system to tell the story using the entire clause or sentence rather than just the verb and its object. Additionally, "transitivity analysis" serves as a useful tool for examining how senses are included into the clause. As a result, the clauses that make up a phrase have received considerable attention. The main clause, the coordinate clause, and the subordinate clause make up a sentence. The subordinate clause is typically embedded; thus it is treated as a separate clause. The transitivity technique divides the many process types into six basic processes. In addition, the procedures' communication goals are explained pragmatically and semantically (Halliday, 1994).

The entire 'transitivity' elements practiced by Stiell in his speeches at COP27 conference have been analysed or grubbed out, one by one as under: Process uses are Material, Mental, Relational, Behavioural, Verbal, & Existential. The first stage is to distinguish between processes and participants, the second is to ascertain the type of process and participants, and the third and

last step is to identify the entity that is impacted by the specific process. The data was gathered, examined, and the results were presented and explained speech by speech.

III. Findings and Discussion

The transitivity analysis of Simon Stiell's political speeches is exhibited and interpreted here, one by one. It should be emphasized that Stiell presented his speech   On November 22, 1961, while he was hiding out in South Africa, he gave this speech, which was quickly made public by the press. There are 1090 words in it. The sentence constructions suggest that he was deeply committed into the climate change urgency. He believed that climate change aversion is the name of all nations struggle in order to preserve a better life. Transitivity analysis of his speech has been shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Transitivity Analysis of Simon Stiell's Speech

Total Sentences	Material Processes	Mental Processes	Relational Processes	Behavioural Processes	Verbal Processes	Existential Processes	Total procs
72	38	15	7	4	0	5	69

Transitivity analysis shows that Mandela uses material process in 38 clauses, relational process in 7 clauses, mental process in 15 clauses, behavioural processes in 4 clauses and existential processes in 5 clauses as described in Table 1. It is possible to say that he uses the relational process to connect the mental world of reality to the physical world or that he illustrates how real-world events, particularly those that pertain to peripheral nations of abstraction, have an impact on climate change by connecting them to one another. According to Ihsan Ali dkk (2021), The relationship between meanings and wordings in political speech can be successfully uncovered using the transitivity analysis of the Systemic Functional Grammar. It appears that the climate change conferences that have been held thus far need to be improved upon, put into motion, and effective in getting other nations to take action to stop it and improve the situation. He usually brings up the three actors in his discourse. The overall COP27 attendees and the periphery nation that is suffering from climate change have been referred to as "We" in this sentence. "You" has been used to address all nations in particular the member of COP27 conference and "I" have been used for himself as a UN Climate Change Executive Secretary. By using these pronouns, he demonstrates how he interprets the physical world using mental reactions like perception, thought, and emotion. He also provides insight into his consciousness, connects it to the conference attendees' current circumstances, establishes a course of action for them, and persuades others to share the same goal. He and the other COP27 participants were represented as an actor who is typically connected with the inclusion concept by the usage of the pronoun "We". He appears to be setting himself and the audience up for activities, particularly

those related to COP27 policy and project, based on the predominance of material process and the use of activation.

The findings appear to demonstrate that Stiell employs "Systemic Functional Grammar" in his speeches, particularly those that are political in nature and that make use of idealization meta-functions. Simon was not only the most powerful politician in the UN Climate Change organization, but also a leading figure in the world at large. For fourteen years, Mr. Stiell worked successfully in the IT industry. He held senior management positions in a number of market-dominating companies, including Silicon Valley start-ups and significant international corporations like Nokia and G.E.C. He was first trained as an engineer, and the University of Westminster in the UK awarded him a Master of Business Administration. He handled political discussions with great dexterity while using considerably more care when choosing terms to use in his remarks. He selected his phrases to influence the listener by taking into account their demands and mentalities. The research's findings show that the idealization meta-components functions have been heavily utilized, demonstrating his status as an ideological politician. Additionally, the results demonstrate that the degree to which he uses the idealization meta-functional aspects varies depending on the context of his speech. As a result, we can stated that Interpersonal meaning serves a crucial role in establishing and maintaining social relations by allowing individuals to interact and express their unique identity (Sutrisna, 2020).

Figure 1. The Theoretical Framework

The theoretical foundation of Stiell's political speeches is depicted in Figure 1. It demonstrates how Systemic Functional Grammar, which relates to the idealization-meta functions leading to transitivity analysis, shapes his political rhetoric. Stiell utilizes material processes more often than the other process categories, according to an analysis of the transitivity of his speech. Material processes in a transitivity system are connected to actions or occurrences in the real world. Thus, it supports claim that the material process is a wise choice for political speeches. A relational process is also the second most prevalent one in his speeches, and it is used in accordance with Halliday's relational statements of being and having(Wang, 2010). Using this method, he connects his own struggles with those of his people. He uses his mental processes to become more conscious, instill a sense of freedom in his people, and

highlight the psychological state of his country. The mental processes have the power to arouse the audience's emotions (Kondowe, 2014). It supports the conclusions Mensah's study, which contends that in the political sphere, politicians purposefully utilize linguistics elements to represent experiences or occurrences for stylistic purposes. The study confirms that the transitivity analysis aids users in representing their experience of reality (Bloor et al., 1995). It also supports Halliday et al (2014).'s claim that language structures can produce certain meanings and ideas that readers cannot directly understand. It follows that the transitivity system is a practical method for identifying the process's participants and the entities to which it is extended. It can reveal how political language's meanings and wording interact.

There is a previous study on transitivity analysis particularly on the ideational metafunction. The study entitled "An Analysis of Ideational Metafunction on News Jakarta Post about Some Good Covid-19 Related News" (Hutabarat et al., 2020). This study analyzes the transitivity system in memoirs written by EFL students. The objective is to investigate the stylistics and linguistic choices in EFL students' writing, specifically focusing on the process, participant, and circumstance components of the transitivity system. The study uses Halliday and Matthiessen's theory of ideational metafunction. The data consists of 950 clauses from 15 memoir texts written by English Department students at Padang State University. The analysis reveals that material process is the most dominant process type, followed by mental process. The study also compares the linguistic choices in memoirs to those in biographies and finds some similarities in the dominant process types. This research provides insights into the linguistic features of memoirs and contributes to the understanding of how EFL students use language in creative writing. Both studies employ transitivity analysis, grounded in the ideational metafunction theory. However, they diverge considerably in terms of their substantive and contextual orientations. The first investigation delves into the transitivity phenomena within the realm of creative writing, specifically examining memoirs authored by English as a Foreign Language (EFL) students, thereby shedding light on the prevalence of various process types within this genre. Conversely, the second study takes a distinct approach by centering its analysis on the application of transitivity within the domain of political discourse, with a specific focus on the speeches delivered by Mr. Stiell. These two studies contrast not only in their choice of data sources but also in their overarching theoretical frameworks, with the second study introducing a comprehensive theoretical model for the analysis of political rhetoric. The research undertaken serves to complement and extend the findings of the preceding investigation in several significant ways. While the initial study primarily focuses on transitivity analysis within memoirs composed by English as a Foreign Language (EFL) students, the subsequent analysis broadens the scope by centering on political speeches as its dataset. This shift in focus introduces a contrasting corpus, providing a comparative perspective for a more comprehensive exploration of linguistic choices across different genres and communicative contexts. Furthermore, the latter

research incorporates a theoretical framework, illustrated in Figure 1, which furnishes a structured basis for the analysis, facilitating a deeper examination of linguistic choices within the realm of political rhetoric. Consequently, the subsequent research plays a pivotal role in enhancing the insights gained from the initial study and contributes to a more holistic understanding of transitivity analysis within the broader field of linguistics.

IV. Conclusion

The study was conducted to examine Simon Stiell's political speech's discourse in the context of Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar and the idealization metafunctions. The investigation has also supported the theory that Systemic Functional Grammar, in particular the idealization meta-functions, provides the foundation for the persuasiveness of Siegel's political discourse. The research's findings show that, overall, the Material and other parts of the idealization meta-functions have been heavily utilized in the majority of his speeches. It demonstrates that he has extensively studied the principles of systemic functional grammar in his speech, which was convincing due to his exciting phrases being significantly more impactful and ground-breaking to convey the seriousness of climate change. Additionally, the results demonstrate that the use of idealization meta-functional aspects in speech varies depending on the situation. The study comes to the conclusion that Simon Stiell uses idealization meta-functions in accordance with Systemic Functional Grammar to enhance the effectiveness and persuasiveness of his talks. The study also asserts that the relationship between meanings and wordings in political speech can be successfully uncovered using the transitivity analysis of the Systemic Functional Grammar.

References

Ali, I., Mukhtar, A., Mansoor, A., & Butt, M. (2021). A Study of The Ideational Function in Systematic Functional Grammer: Transitivity Analysis Of Nelson Mandela'. *Palarch's Journal of Archeology of Egypt/Egyptology*, *18*(7).

Bloor, Thomas, & Meriel. (1995). *The Functional Analysis of English* (Second Edition). Oxford University Press Inc.

COP27-Presidency. (2022). Introduction Addressing The Climate Crisis Requires Bold And Rapid Collective Action. United Nations Climate Change Conference. Retrieved January 7, 2023, from https://cop27.eg/#/presidency#introduction

Eggins, Suzanne. (2004). *An introduction to systemic functional linguistics*. Continuum.

Emilia, E., Moecharam, N. Y., & Syifa, I. L. (2017). Gender in EFL classroom: Transitivity analysis in English textbook for Indonesian students. *Indonesian Journal of Applied Linguistics*, *7*(1), 206–214. https://doi.org/10.17509/ijal.v7i1.6877

Halliday. (2014). *Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar* (Fourth Edition). Routledge.

Hardiyanti, S., Setiawan, I., & Sari Oktaviani, F. (2023). Transitivity of President Jokowi's Speech Text at the G20 Event: Systemic Functional Linguistics Study. *Indonesian Journal of EFL and Linguistics*, *8*(1), 2023. https://doi.org/10.21462/ijefl.v8i1.593

Hutabarat, E., Herman, H., Silalahi, D. E., & Sihombing, P. S. R. (2020). An Analysis of Ideational Metafunction on News Jakarta Post about Some Good Covid-19 Related News. *VELES Voices of English Language Education Society*, *4*(2), 142–151. https://doi.org/10.29408/veles.v4i2.2526

Jackson, S., Nugraha, I. S., & Mahdi, S. (2020). Transitivity System on Building Character of Mr. Summers in the Lottery. *Celtic: A Journal of Culture, English Language Teaching, Literature and Linguistics*, *7*(1). http://ejournal.umm.ac.id/index.php/celtic/index

Kondowe, W. (2014). Presidents and Ideologies: A Transitivity Analysis of Bingu wa Mutharika's Inaugural Address. *International Journal of Language and Linguistics*, *2*(3), 174. https://doi.org/10.11648/j.ijll.20140203.16

Moosmann, L., Siemons, A., Fallasch, F., Schneider, L., Urrutia, C., Wissner, N., Mendelevitch, R., Hermann, H., Healy, S., Oppelt, D., & Heinemann, S. (2022). *The COP27 Climate Change Conference Status of climate negotiations and issues at stake Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies Directorate-General for Internal Policies*. European Union.

Nurlela, Ganie, R., & Sofyan, R. (2020). *Transitivity Analysis of the English Version of Hikayat Deli*. 1335–1341. https://doi.org/10.5220/0010073513351341

Nurwanti. (2022). A Transitivity Analysis on The Third Semester English Education Department Students' Descriptive Writing. *Sibatik Journal,* *1*(2). https://doi.org/10.54443/sibatik.v2i1.11

Rakhmatullah, L. A., & Simatupang, E. C. (2022). Transitivity Process in "The Peace and The Picnic" Album By Neck Deep Corresponding Email Article's History Transitivity Process in "The Peace and The Picnic" Album By Neck Deep. *Ethical Lingua*, *9*(1), 259. https://doi.org/10.30605/25409190.396

Sigalingging, G. A., Pasaribu, A. N., & Sihite, J. E. (2022). Transitivity Analysis of Olivia Rodrigo's Song Lyrics. *Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Konseling*, *4*(5). https://doi.org/10.31004/jpdk.v4i5.7392

Stiell, S. (2022). Simon Stiell named as UN Climate Change Executive Secretary. World Meteorological Organization. Retrieved January 7, 2023, from https://public.wmo.int/en/media/news/simon-stiell-named-un-climate-change-executive-secretary

Sutrisna, G. (2020). Processes In Report Text: An Analysis Of Systemic Functional Linguistic On Transitivity. *WIDYA ACCARYA: Jurnal Kajian Pendidikan FKIP Universitas Dwijendra*, *11*(1). http://ejournal.undwi.ac.id/index.php/widyaaccarya/index

Wang, J. (2010). A Critical Discourse Analysis of Barack Obama's Speeches. *Journal of Language Teaching and Research*, *1*(3). https://doi.org/10.4304/jltr.1.3.254-261