



TRANSITIVITY SYSTEM IN CNN ONLINE NEWS

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ABSTRACT

This study was concerned with the types of transitivity system elements in CNN Online News. The objectives of this descriptive qualitative study were to discover: (1) the types of transitivity system, (2) the realization of transitivity system, and (3) the reasons for transitivity system realized in CNN Online News. The data of this study were clauses that consist of a transitivity system in 10 Covid-19 Online News taken from CNN Online News. The results of the study showed that: 1) CNN Online News realized all the types of process: Material, Mental, Relational, Behavioral, Verbal, and Existential process. The dominant process was Material Process. It was realized 214 (50,47%). CNN Online News realized participants: Actor, Goal, Sayer, Carrier, Attribute, Verbiage, Sensor, Phenomenon, Target, Existing, Existence, Behavior, Token, Value, Receiver, Behavior, and Range. Actor and Goal were dominantly realized in the clauses of CNN Online News, there were 167 (26,38%) of Actor and 141 (22,27%) of Goal. The most dominant was Actor, and CNN Online News realized circumstances: Location, Cause, Manner, Accompaniment, Extent, Matter, Angle, and Role. It was realized 193 (60, 50%). The dominant was Location; 2) There were congruent realization and incongruent realization of transitivity system. The most dominant realization was congruent realization; 3) The reason why the types of transitivity system realized in CNN Online News is based on the context of the situation related to the field. Field stand for three entries, namely *arena/social activity* [+institutionalized/-institutionalized], participant's characteristics [person/social] and semantic domain [+specialized/-specialized]. The most dominant was *arena/social activity*, especially [-institutionalized].

Keywords: *Metafunction, Transitivity System, Online News, CNN*

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INTRODUCTION

Language is an effective means of conveying ideas and sentiments in both spoken and written forms as a communication tool. Text will be produced when people speak or write. The term "text" refers to any occurrence of language (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014). When humans produce written work, they employ language to portray and define real and imagined events. The ability to build a mental image of reality, to make sense of what is going on around them and inside them, is predicated on language's transitivity (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). It entails analyzing all that is "going on" around us—what is occurring, doing, sensing, meaning, and being and becoming.

Written content, such as news, is sometimes more concerned with advancing its own agenda, such as taking a particular point of view, than it is with conveying facts. A news publication is a periodic publication that offers information about a certain event. According to Suprpto (2018), news is a means of conveying the reader's opinion and perspective on a certain phenomenon. Readers can learn about some phenomena in the news that are used to convey thoughts and opinions using language in a specific way. The language of the news can also be used to give readers a different perspective. Ghannam (2011) also stated that language may be utilized to support and control a message in a variety of ways. As a result, news regarding covid-19, like other news stories, can be a source of perspective for readers, particularly in all societies throughout the world. Mineshima (2009) found that even if the writing is not prejudicial, readers may be unaware of the need to accept some writer's viewpoints on a given reality. Some facts are simply perceived from a specific point of view that is aimed at the intended audience. As a result, language is no longer regarded as a mirror of our reality, but rather as the source of it (Taiwo, 2007).

According to White (2006), linguistic choices that portray people as agentive, influenced, or acted upon may contribute to prejudice in opinion. As a result, the amount of blame attributed to one participant versus another may be influenced by the degree of agency assigned. As a result, language ceases to be a reflection of our world and instead becomes an active participant in the creation of reality. As a result, whether the writer intended for the messages to be given or not, it creates a distinct point of view from the rest.

As a result, news uses language to build perspectives, and this viewpoint can be expressed by observing ideological shifts in the news. Systematic functional grammar is

a field of linguistics that takes a comprehensive approach to language. Since Halliday's presentation of Functional Grammar, there has been a review of perspectives (FG). In functional grammar, the distinction between active and passive structures embodies the concept of viewpoint. The point of view of the subject is said to be described by active construction, while the point of view of the object is said to be described by passive construction. In functional grammar, there are three types of metafunctions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual. The researcher is interested in ideational function since an idea can perceive ideas in language and readers can create views about a situation using ideas.

Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) explained that transitivity refers to a system that construe the world of experience into manageable set of process types. A transitivity system consists of a set of processes that may be handled, as well as a process that includes an idea. Similarly, when using the verb exhibit, show an idea arising from the phenomenon. According to Ifrayanto & Maulia (2014), The verb displays feelings regarding the topic of the clause. As a result, readers require the component transitivity in order to understand what types of transitivity systems are realized, how news writers represent their experiences in a news text, and why the transitivity system is realized in the news so that the readers don't get a different point of view. It demonstrates how distinct viewpoints are formed by differences in the usage of individuals, procedures, and conditions. The entities participating in the clause's process, as well as the circumstances, are referred to as participants are related to the clause's process, indicating to what extent, when, where, why, and how the process occurs.

Because the readers must comprehend the elements of the transitivity system in order to comprehend the meaning of the news, the text news involves clauses that describe phenomena. The researcher will examine ideational metafunction in experiential function with the transitivity system in order to uncover, investigate, and discover the elements of the transitivity system (participants, process, and circumstances) in the clauses of CNN Online News.

METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted by descriptive qualitative research design. The data of this study were clauses consist of transitivity system in CNN about covid-19. The data source were 10 Covid-19 Online News taken from Cable News Network (CNN) International edition that was published in December 2020 at edition.cnn.com. The

researcher chose these news randomly. Garson (2012) stated that random sampling was data collection in which every person in the population has a chance of being selected which was known in advance. The reason was, as a wide range of sampling strategies available to qualitative researchers (Patton, 2008) within a complex case or across cases. They could selected ahead of time or could evolve during early data collection. The researcher chose Cable News Network (CNN) because it was the first television channel to broadcast 24 hours news coverage and the first television news channel in the United States and Covid-19 news were chosen based on the top information during the pandemic. The documentary technique and observation were used to collect the data. The data were analyzed using an interactive model by Miles, Huberman, and Saldana (2014) namely Data collection, Data condensation, Data display, and Conclusion drawing.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The research findings refer to research question of the study. The first question is “what elements of transitivity system are realized in CNN Online News?” The second question is “How are the elements of transitivity system realized in CNN Online News?” And the third question is “why are the elements of transitivity system realized in CNN Online News?”. Based on the data analysis was found the result as explanation below:

A. Transitivity Systems realized in CNN Online News

1. Types of Process Realized in CNN Online News

Table 1. Proportions of Process

No	Types of Process	Number	%
1	Material	214	50,47
2	Relational	90	21,23
3	Verbal	82	19,34
4	Mental	24	5,66
5	Behavioral	7	1,65
6	Existential	7	1,65
Total		424	100

From the table above, the most dominant types of process used was material process and the lowest frequency was existential process because the news told about the

experience of human's physical action, about the external world, things, events, qualities, etc and concern with the question of what human did and what actually happened in the world such as how the people or patients's activity during covid-19 pandemic in some countries and describe what the doctors, healthcare workers, hospitals do or face in covid-19 by using material process. Existential process used there and the verb be to show the current happenings and existings. In this text the writers used some existential process to describe the quantity such as the virus, period, and cases that's why the existential became the lowest process.

2. Participants Realized in CNN Online News

Table 2. Proportion of Participants

No	Participants	Number	%
1	Actor	167	26,38
2	Goal	141	22,27
3	Sayer	25	12,32
4	Carrier	18	12
5	Attribute	76	10,11
6	Verbiage	28	4,42
7	Senser	25	3,95
8	Phenomenon	18	2,84
9	Target	6	0,95
10	Existing	6	0,95
11	Existence	5	0,79
12	Behaver	5	0,79
13	Token	4	0,63
14	Value	4	0,63
15	Receiver	3	0,47
16	Behavior	2	0,32
17	Range	1	0,16
Total		633	100

From the table above, the dominant participants realized in CNN Online News were Actors and Goals. The most dominant process was related to the dominant participants uncovered in CNN Online News; material process found dominantly in CNN Online News was related to the most dominant participants, which is actor and goal, which implied that the the news writer focused on the actor in order to emphasize the efforts made by those involved in the text and the events that occurred or happened.

3. Circumstances Realized in CNN Online News

Table 3. Proportion of Circumstances

No	Circumstances	Number	%
1	Location	193	3,13
2	Cause	50	60,50
3	Manner	22	6,90
4	Accompaniment	21	15,67
5	Extent	10	6,58
6	Matter	10	0,94
7	Angle	10	3,13
8	Role	3	3,13
9	Contingency	0	0
Total		319	100

From the table above, The dominant circumstance realized in CNN Online News was location. A location that reached place or time, It relates to the location and time when the process took place. The information we received from the location circumstances provided us with detailed descriptions of what was going on in certain countries during COVID-19.

B. The Realization of Transitivity System in CNN Online News

Table 4. Proportion of Realization

No	Realization	Number	%
1	Congruent	354	83,49
2	Incongruent	70	16,51
Total		424	100

From the table above, there were congruent realizations and incongruent realization of transitivity system happened in the clauses of CNN Online News. The most dominant realization was congruent realization. The congruent realization happened due to the use of human or animate being that can do something physically. Meanwhile, The incongruent realization occurred as a result of the actor's use of inanimate participants, who lacked the potential of a human to do something physically, experience something, express something, and say something.

C. The reasons of Transitivity System realized in CNN Online News

Transitivity System realized in the ways they are based on the analysis of processes, participants, and circumstances. The reasons why the transitivity system elements were realized in the ways they were based on the context of the situation in this

study's field (what topic is being talked about). The field represents three entries: arena/social activity, participant characteristics and semantic domain. Arena or social activity indicates location of interaction that indirectly gives hints to features of the institution that sets the activity. A social activity is identified with reference to it's as a determinative factor. In this way a social activity is located in a continuum with (+) institutionalized at one end of the pole and (-) institutionalized in the other end. By (+) institutionalized is meant an activity which is conducted by the rules of institution whereas one with the (-) institutionalized refers to a social activity that is free from the influence of institution. Participants's characteristics specifically involve physical and or mental aspects, which are inherent to the participants at the moment of interaction. As the participants' features, physical and mental characteristics may be either inherited personally or induced socially (Personal/Social). Semantic domain indicates the subject matter, topic or content of the text. Varieties of linguistics resources coding domains of the texts are attributed to two categories of features, namely [+specialized] and [-specialized]. Like the features of arena, the semantics domain features also form a continuum with the feature of [+specialized] at one pole at the end of the continuum and that of [-specialized] at the end of continuum. The most dominant entry appeared in text were *arena/social activity*, especially [-institutionalized]. It refers to a social activity that is free from the influence of official institution. It means that an arena/social activity in the text of CNN Online News is not constrained by institutional rules or requirements.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings and discussions, there were some conclusions namely:

1. There were six types of process; Material, Mental, Relational, Behavioral, Verbal, and Existential process realized in CNN Online News. Three process types that occupied mostly in the news were Material Process, Relational Process, and Verbal Process. The dominant process was Material Process. CNN Online News realized participants: Actor, Goal, Sayer, Carrier, Attribute, Verbiage, Senser, Phenomenon, Target, Existing, Existence, Behavior, Token, Value, Receiver, Behavior, and Range. Actor and Goal were dominantly realized in the clauses of CNN Online News. CNN Online News realized circumstances: Location, Cause, Manner, Accompaniment, Extent, Matter, Angle, and Role. The dominant was Location.
2. There were congruent realization and incongruent realization of transitivity

system. The most dominant realization was congruent realization. The congruent realization happened due to of the use of human or animate being that could do something physically. The incongruent realization happened due to of the use of inanimate participant by which actor didn't have capacity of human like that could do something physically, experience something, describe and say something.

3. The transitivity system elements were realized in the ways they were based on the context of the situation in this study's field. The field represents three entries: arena/social activity [+institutionalized/-institutionalized], participant characteristics [person/social], and semantic domain [+specialized/-specialized]. Arena/social activity, particularly [-institutionalized], was the most dominant entry in the text.

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