THE TRANSITIVITY ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST SEGMENT

IN THE THIRD PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

BETWEEN PRESIDENT BARRACK OBAMA AND MITT ROMNEY

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ABSTRACT

This thesis, entitled "The Transitivity Analysis of The First Segment in The Third Presidential Debate between President Barrack Obama (PBO) and Mitt Romney (MR)", has two objectives: finding out the kinds of transitivity and the field of discourse involved in the debate text of the first segment between President Barrack Obama and Mitt Romney. This analysis is based on the theory by Gerot and Wignell (1994) and Eggins (2004).

In this study, the researcher uses descriptive method in analyzing data because the researcher tries to analyze and identify each clause transcription in all process types, participants, circumstances and field of discourse of the debate text between PBO and MR of the first segment that were taken on October, 24 2014.

There are 586 clauses found from the whole utterances of two speakers. There are 225(38.6%) material processes, 3(0.5%) behavioural processes, 45(7.7%) verbal processes, 21(3.6%) mental of cognitive processes, 41(7.04%) mental of affective processes, 14(2.4) mental of perceptive processes, 213(36.5%) relational of attributive processes, 12(2.06) relational of identifying processes and the last is 8(1.37%) existential processes, while meteorological process is not found in the analysis because both of speakers donot inform the audience about the weather in their speech. There are found 402 participants of PBO and 536 of MR involved in the debate text. Meanwhile, the circumstances involved in the debate text are circumstance of place, time, manner, cause, role, and accompaniment. There are 71 circumstances of PBO and 79 circumstances of MR are involved in the debate text.

Material process is the dominant process used by PBO while Relational of attributive process is dominant used by MR. It is because PBO works as the president of America and MR is a president candidate.

Keywords: *debate, field of discourse, Mitt Romney, President Barrack Obama, transitivity.*

INTRODUCTION

People are human beings that need to communicate with other people with a language. Moreover, language is a tool of communication. Someone can reach the goal of communicate with others by language. The tool of communication must be appropriated with the purpose of language used.

Trask (2007: 93) defines "language as a formal system of signs governed by grammatical rules of combination to communicate meaning. The definition explains that human languages can be described as closed structural system consisting of rules that relate particular signs to particular meanings. Thus, language makes people can convey their message one to another without difficulties. On the other hand language is also a media of communication, especially for making some arguments in debate situation.

Debate is one of the communication tools to convey message and argument about something. Moreover, the debaters can give the reason to defend their argument. Argument is an attempt to persuade something by giving reasons for accepting a particular conclusion as evidence. The general form of an argument in a natural language is that of premises (typically in the form of propositions, statements or sentences) in support of a claim: the conclusion. At this moment, there is a learning system that can help to analyze meaning in a context of written text or spoken text debate through Systemic Functional Linguistics.

According to Eggins (2004: xiii) "SFL now has a wide range of resources to draw on to learn about theory and its analytical methodologies". Systemic functional linguistics is a study of language focused on meaning that appears in utterance or text. Eggins (2004: 2) said that one of Michael Halliday's major contributions to linguistic analysis is his development of a detailed functional grammar of modern English (Halliday 1994), showing how simultaneous stands of meaning (the ideational, interpersonal, and textual metafunctions) are expressed in clause structures. However, this study will be discussed about transitivity that is included in ideational metafunctions theory.

Ideational meaning in fact involves two components: that of experiential meaning in the clause and that of logical meaning between clauses in clause complexes. This study focuses on experiential meaning. Experiential meaning is expressed through the system of Transitivity or process type, with the choices of process implicating associated participant roles and configurations (Eggins, 2004: 206).

Ideational meaning is being expressed in a text by someone that should examine the transitivity structure of its clauses. By examining the transitivity in a text, someone can explain how the field of the situation is being construed. Transitivity is the system of clause as representation (Gerot and Wignell, 1994: 52).

This study tries to analyze only the major clause. Major clause can be showed to select for a process type (material, mental, behavioural, verbal, existential, relational and meteorological). The process type specifies the action, events or relationship between implicated participants (nominal constituents, functionally labeled according to the process type), and the process may be situated circumstantially (for time, place, cause, etc.) (Eggins, 2004: 249).

There is a previous study about transitivity in narrative text found by the researcher. The title of the study is TRANSITIVITY IN "THE TREASURE SHIP" by Yenny Yulianti. She analyzed a text book with the title "The Treasure Ship". In the textbook, she found that there are 1951 clauses which can be found. The processes are Material, Behavioural, Mental, Verbal, Relational, Existential, and Meteorological. The most frequent process that occurs in the text is Material Process because the process describes processes of doing.

Based on the explanation of the previous study above, the researcher decides to analyze which is having different data. The study is the transcription of debate text. The researcher believes that there are some processes also which is found in that data because the data is form of spoken text. It is the reason why the data are different from the previous study.

In general, the researcher tries to analyze and identify each clause in the video data and transcript in all process type, participants, and circumstances of the third presidential debate between President Barrack Obama (PBO) and Mitt Romney (MR) in the first segment that is taken on October, 24 2014. The reasons why the researcher attempts to analyze those data is because after watching and finding the transcript of the data, the researcher has found that there are many types of processes, participants, and the circumstances in clauses of the third presidential debate in the first segment between PBO and MR.

The data can be supported with the appropriate example of the analysis. It can be proved that there are processes, participants, and circumstances in the third presidential debate between PBO and MR. it can be seen from a part of the debate, for example: MR's argument" We (carrier) were (attributive: circumstantial) together (attributive) at a humorous event (circ: place) a little earlier (circ: time), "we" takes a role as carrier; "were" has a function as attributive of circumstantial process; "together" takes a function as attributive; "at humorous event " has a function as circumstance of place; and "a little earlier" has a role as circumstance of time. The reason why it is called relational of attributive process is because relational of attributive process is a process which assign a quality and circumstance and it is appropriate to explain the complex relationships between PBO and audience. As a result, MR argument address is first time for him to give a formal argument as a president candidate and also an optimal time to show himself that he can be qualified as a president.

Based on the example above, the researcher chooses the title "The Transitivity Analysis of The First Segment in The Third Presidential Debate Between President Barrack Obama And Mitt Romney".

RESEARCH METHOD

Data and subject

The data is about the difference transitivity between two different arguments and respondents of the third presidential debate in the first segment between President Barrack Obama and Mitt Romney retrieved from www.youtube.com and also found the transcription on http://www.npr.org/2012/10/22/163436694/transcript-3rd-obama-romney-presidential-debate.

Unit of analysis

The unit of analysis of this research is focused on every clause in the text under study of debate text between PBO and MR in the third presidential debate in the first segment.

Technique of Data Collection and Analysis

In analyzing the object of this research, there are two techniques that used in finding and collecting the data. The methods of data collection are documenting and transcribing. The resercher choosen the third presidential debate between PBO and MR as the data and then transcribed the data into printed out. The data were analyzed into six steps. The researcher reads the debate text to get comprehensive understanding of the context. The next lists the transcription was segmented into sentences, and then the sentences are segmented into clauses. So, this step produced clause boundaries of the transcription. The clauses can be differentiated based on the speakers, 'PBO and MR'. Clause boundaries were made in order to identify the phenomenon of transitivity in the clauses which were used analyzed in the table identification. Classifying is the next step of analysis in order to classify the identified clauses into table.

Example:

No.	Process types	PBO	MR	∑	%
1.	Material	3	-	3	50
2.	Relational		2	2	33.3
3.	Mental		1	1	16.6
		3	3	6	100 %

The table classification is used in order to interpret the data results. After interpret the data, the researcher make a conclusion of the whole analysis.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Finding

Table 4.1 are the finding of the quantitiy of the process types and related participants the first segment in the third presidential debate between president Barrack Obama and Mitt Romney.

Table 4.1 Process Types and Related Participants

No.	Process types		PBO		MR		∑ per process	%
			∑	%	∑	%		
1.	Material		131	47.46	94	30.7	225	38.6
	a. Actor		88	21.8	48	11		
	b. Goal		69	17.16	42	9.6		
	c. Range		19	4.7	11	2.5		
	d. Recipient		1	0.24	5	1.14		
2.	Behavioural		-	0	3	0.9	3	0.5
	e. Behaver		-	-	2	0.45		
	f. Range		-	-	2	0.45		
3.	Mental	Cognitive	15	5.43	6	1.9	21	3.6
		Affective	9	3.26	32	10.45	41	7.04
		Perceptive	3	1.08	11	3.5	14	2.4
	g. Senser		25	6.21	43	9.8		
	h. Phenomenon		7	1.7	24	5.5		
4.	Verbal		21	7.6	24	7.8	45	7.7
	i. Sayer		16	3.9	17	3.8		
	j. Verbiage		4	0.9	4	0.9		
	k. Target		1	0.24	2	0.45		
5.	Relational	Attributive	89	32.24	124	40.5	213	36.5
		Identifying	6	2.17	6	1.9	12	2.06
	l. Carrier		82	20.39	114	26.14		
	m. Attributive		77	19.15	108	24.7		
	n. Token		6	1.49	5	1.14		
	o. Value		5	1.24	3	0.6		
6.	Existential		2	0.72	6	1.9	8	1.37
	p. Existent		2	0.45	6	1.37		
7.	Meteorologial		-	-	-	-		
	Total participants		402	100%	436	100%		
	∑ per clause		276	100%	306	100%	582	100%

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Table 1 Based on the table above, it can be exemplified that PBO speech consist of 276 clauses. There are five processes of PBO speech. They are 131 material processes, Mental processes divided into three types 15 cognitive here means PBO thinks, 9 affective that means PBO feels something, and 3 perceptive here means PBO uses one of five sense in his speech, 21 verbal processes here means PBO say something accurately , relational processes divided into two types 89 attributive it means PBO assign the quality, and 6 identifying here means PBO explaines to identify something, and the last 2 existential processes here means express something that exist. There are no behavioural process and meteorological process.

Based on the table of process types above, it can be exemplified that MR speech consist of 306 clauses. There are six processes of MR speech. The distributions are 94 material processes it means that MR does something, 3 behavioural processes it means that MR uses process of physiological psycholoical behaviour, mental processes divided into three types 6 cognitive here means MR thinks , 32 affective it means MR feels something, and 11 perceptive here means MR uses five sense in his speech, 22 verbal processes here means MR want to tell the opposition debater, relational divided into two types 124 attributive here means MR wants to assign the quality of his speech and 6 identifying here means he wants to identify something and the last 6 existential processes here means MR is expressed something that exist. There is no meteorological process because in this debate context did not explain about the weather.

Table 2 Related Circumstances

No.	Circumstance type	PBO		MR	
		∑	%	∑	%
1.	Circumstance of place	20	28.16	33	41.7
2.	Circumstance of manner	24	33.8	14	17.7
3.	Circumstance of time	13	18.3	10	12.6
4.	Circumstance of cause	4	5.6	11	13.9
5.	Circumstance of matter	5	7.04	10	12.6
6.	Circumstance of role	2	2.8	1	1.26
7.	Circumstance of accompaniment	3	4.2	_	_
	Total	71	100%	79	100%

Table 2 shows that the circumstance mostly are circumstance of manner by PBO and circumstance of place by MR.

Discussion

According to the finding of the discussion shows that there are the process types, participants and circumstances across the examined written in transcript of the third presidential debate in the first segment between President Barrack Obama (PBO) and Mitt Romney (MR) with the total 583 number of clauses analyzed.

PBO speech consist of 276 clauses. There are five processes of PBO. They are material processes, mental processes, verbal processes, relational processes and existential processes. There are no behavioural process and existential process. Because PBO does not use phsyological of behaviour and inform the audience about weather. While MR speech consist of 306 clauses. There are six processes of MR speech. They are material processes, mental processes, behavioural processes, verbal processes, relational processes, and existential processses. There is no meteorological process because MR does not inform thre audience about the weather. It can be showed that material process is dominant by PBO while attributive process is the dominant by MR. In the table 2 above, circumstance of manner and circumstance of place are mostly used by PBO and MR. In order to have a better view about the transitivity system and field of discourse between PBO and MR, the example of both speakers each can be seen as below:

Material processes and Related Participants in PBO speech

The transcription of debate text have 124 clauses of PBO speech that belong to material process. The following clauses show the analysis of material process and related participants from the transcription can be seen in the below:

When	We	Received	that phone call
	Actor	Material	Goal

(Clause number 14)

 "when" takes no role In this clause; "we" takes a role as actor (participant1); "received" here means doing something which result in action' and "that phone call" here takes the function as the goal of action (participant2).

Attributive processes and related participants by MR speech

The transcription of debate text have 124 clauses of MR speech that belong to attributive processes. The following clauses show the analysis of attributive process and related participant from the transcription can be seen in the below:

and	It	's		nice
	Carrier	Attributive: intensive		Attribute

(clause number 3)

"and" has no role in the utterance; " it" here has a function as carrier; " 's" takes a role as attributive of intensive process; and " nice" takes a role as attribute.

Interpretation

The findings of the speech of PBO and MR above lead us to interpret of the field of discourse of both speakers.

Material processes is dominated by PBO. There are 131 material processes in the transcription of debate text. Mostly material processes are realized by verbs like –*made sure, take, help, are going to do, etc.* the other processes in the transcription of debate text are 27 clauses of mental processes (mostly- *want, know, see, think, and heard)*; 21 clauses of verbal processes like - said, to interrupt, etc; 95 clauses of relational processes like – is, was, must be, etc; and 2 clauses of existential processes like – *are* and *were.* The reason why material process is dominant in PBO specch because he not only gave the real example of what he has done for America. But also , he gave the figure out of his experience as the president of America.

The participants that can be found in the material processes mostly are – we, I and Americans, you, Afghans, etc. the circumstance of the transcription in debate text mostly are circumstance of manner like - *immediately, exactly, like Iraq and Afghanistan,* etc; and circumstance of place like – in Libya in the Middle East, etc. the whole study speech of PBO spoken on past tense and simple present tense.

Attributive processes is dominated by MR. There are 130 attributive processes. Attributive processes are realized by verbs like – is, have, should, was. The others processes in the transcription of debate text are 94 clauses of material processes like – congratulate, had to do help, etc; 3 clauses of behavioural processes like– *watched, threatens*, etc; 6 clauses of identifying processes like – *occur, would change*, etc; 49 clauses of mental processes like – *thought, don't want, see*, etc; and 5 clauses of existential processes like – is, are, etc. The reason why relational of attributive process is dominant in MR speech because he did not something but he just explained about what he wants to do for America without an evidence of his experience. He beliieves that he will be qualified as the president candidate.

The participants can be found in the attributive processes mostly are- we, this, it, etc. the circumstances in the transcription of debate text are mostly circumstance of place like – in Libya, in Egypt, in Syria, etc; and circumstance of

manner like- certainly, how, etc. the whole speech of MR are mostly spoken on past tense and simple present tense.

Through the whole study of the transcription in the third presidential debate in the first segment between PBO and MR, it is assumed that transcription materials of both speakers are about debate text. It is concluded based on the research and the fact of data analysis. Both speakers have different processes used in their speech. PBO refers to material process because he expresses the notion that physically does something as the president of America. While MR refers to the attributive processes because he wants to assign the quality of her speech as the president candidate.

CONCLUSION

In the transcription of debate text in the presidential debate in the first segment between President Barrack Obama (PBO) and Mitt Romney (MR), there are 582 clauses can be found. The processes are Material, Behavioural, Mental, Verbal, Relational, and Existential. The most frequent that occurs in the text is Material Processes with 225 clauses (38.6%). However, PBO takes the highest Material Procesess with the frequency number 131 (47.46%). It is because he commits to work as the president of America While, the most frequence process occurs in the debate text of MR is Relational of Attributive processes with 124 clauses (40.5%). It is because he wants to assign the quality of his speech, and he hopes that he can be qualified as the president candidate.

The participants found in the transcription of debate text are Actor, Goal, Range, Recipient, Behaver, Range, Senser, Phenomenon, Sayer, Verbiage, Target, Carrier, Attributive, Token, Value, and Existent. The most frequent participant of PBO is Actor with the frequency number 88 (21.8%). It is asummed that every MR speech, he refers something that he wants to do for America. While, MR takes Carrier as the highest participant with the frequency number 114 (26.14%).

The circumstances found in the transcription of debate text are circumstance of place, manner, time, cause, matter, role, accompaniment. The highest circumstance of PBO is circumstance of manner with frequency number 24 (33.8%). While MR takes the highest circumstance is circumstance of place with the frequency number 33 (1.7%).

The interpretation which leads to field of discourse in the transcription of debate text between PBO and MR are realized through the lexicogrammatical features and realization of Experiential domain as well as the short-term and Long-term Goals. The Experiential domain of PBO that can be drawn is the most importantly, Americans are trying to help Libyans with the respect for developing their own economy in the region of Middle East. Meanwhile the short-term goal

of field of discourse is about retelling the leadership of Americans experience in organizing the relationship between America and Middle East in Libya and the long-term goal of field of discourse is telling the audience that to get something valuable there must be democratic country and respect to the other nation in the world. On the other hands, the field of discourse is also realized in MR speech. The experiential domain that can be drawn is certainly, we should be passing the troops in the Middle East. While, the short- term goal is retelling we as American should be kept our people in the Middle East and the long-term goal of field of discourse is telling the audience that to secure our country should be put the troops in the opposition country. Based on the field of discourse of both speakers above, it can be concluded that PBO works as the president of America while MR is a president candidate.

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