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TRANSITIVITY ANALYSIS ON BARACK OBAMA VICTORY SPEECH

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Abstract: This thesis is entitled *Transitivity Analysis on Barack Obama Victory Speech*. It has one objectives: it is aimed at finding the types of transitivity cover the process, participant and circumstances found in Barack Obama Victory Speech. In analyzing the data, the researcher used the framework proposed by David Butt. Et.al. While the steps in analyzing the data are as follows: reading Barack Obama Victory speech transcript, segmenting the sentences into clauses, identifying the clauses, classifying the clauses into types of process, participant and circumstances and describing each process, participant, and circumstances. Based on the table of the finding, it can be concluded that relational process has the most dominant process found in Barack Obama victory Speech. This number has dominated with 88 divided into attributive with 51 and identifying is 37. Then it is followed by material process with 20 numbers. Meanwhile, verbal and behavioral processes have the same number with 5. The least number of the process found in the data is mental process with only 1 found in the data of Barack Obama victory speech.

Keywords: circumtaces, participant, process, speech, transitivity

Language holds a very important role in human's life to make a good communication. Chaika (1982:3) defines language as the system of sounds and words that is composed of a system of meaningless elements that is combined by roles into meaningful structures used by human to reveal or conceal their thoughts and feelings. Language as a tool for communication is used by people of all ages, such as: children, teenagers, adults.

Communication is a process by which information is ex-changed between individuals through a common system of symbols, signs, or behavior (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary 1981: 225). By communicating using language, human can interpret their ideas, thought, reality, concept or feeling and give information to other. There are three components of communication process, they are: (1) the participants (2) the information to be communicated and (3) a means that is used in communication. The third component that is a means of communication can be in the form of language, sign, gesture, etc. According to Chaer (1995:26) there are two kinds of communication based on the means that is used. They are non-verbal and verbal communication. Non-verbal

communication is a communication using a means except language, such as light, whistle, gesture, etc. While verbal communication is a communication that uses language as its means. What most people mean when they say “language” is talk, communication, and discourse.

In order to be able to communicate well, we have to know the system and rules of the language we use. English as an International language has its own system and rules, usually called grammar. Functional grammar is a type of English grammar. It is a kind of grammar which is used to understand the meaning, making resources of the language. In functional grammar there are three strands of meaning. They are ideational meaning, interpersonal meaning and textual meaning. They are usually called *Metafunction* (Gerot and Wignell, 1994:12-14). These three types of meaning or metafunction can be glossed as follows: 1) *Interpersonal meanings* are meaning which express a speaker’s attitudes and judgments. These are meanings for acting upon and with others. Meanings are realized in wordings through what is called *Mood* and *Modality*. Meanings of this kind are most centrally influenced by the *tenor* of the discourse. 2) *Textual meanings* express the relation of language to its environment, including both the verbal environment - what has been said or written before (co-text) and the non verbal, situational environment (context). These meanings are realized through patterns of *Theme and Rheme*. Textual meanings are most centrally influenced by the *mode* of the discourse. 3) *Experiential meanings or Ideational meanings* are meaning about phenomena - about things (living and non living, abstract and concrete), about goings on (what the things are or do) and the circumstances surrounding these happenings and doings. These meanings are realized in wordings through *Participants, Processes* and *Circumstances*. Meanings of this kind are most centrally influenced by the *field* of the discourse.

In this research, Barrack Obama Victory Speech is analyzed because it contains various types of information, so that the three semantic categories that arise in transitivity i.e. processes, participants, and circumstances will vary. Secondly, the three categories in the transitivity system of the functional grammar view point could be used to understand more of the speech through its news, and beside that, people sometimes think that ‘learning a language’ is a simple matter of learning vocabulary and grammar but anyone who has visited a country where an unfamiliar language is spoken can tell you this is only part of the story. Our daily lives are conducted in situations that are part of our context of culture which is partly how people recognize and understand other’s people meaning. Whenever people speak or write, people make selections from the entire lexical and grammatical system of English to produce appropriate meanings for the fields of a context of situations. When people first operate in a second language people may know the words, not only words and grammar but also which words and which grammatical choices are appropriate for a situation.

TRANSITIVITY

The ideational metafunction engenders resources for construing our experience of the world around us and inside us; the ideational system at clause rank is transitivity. Transitivity is concerned with construing one particular domain of our experience in the world, both the external world of happenings and events, and our own internal world of our thoughts and feelings.

In describing the ideational metafunction we must first have a set of terms to show how the clause can be broken down into three functional constituents. Those are participant, process, and circumstance.

PARTICIPANTS

A participants can be a person, a place, or an object. And in the grammar of a clause the participant is most commonly realized by a NOMINAL GROUP. At the nucleus of the nominal group structure is the word that most generally represents the thingness concept that is being talked about, typically a noun or pronoun. We call this nucleus the Head of the nominal group; that is the THING element in the nominal group structure. And the participant constituent can be further described in terms of various participant role such as *actor, goal, sener, phenomenon, carrier, attribute, token, value, behaver,sayer, existent*. The process is divided into seven types: material process, mental process, behavioral process, verbal process, relational process, existential process, and meteorological process. There is also metalanguage set that allows us show final function distinctions within the circumstance constituent.

Sometimes a single word is all that is needed to signify the concept under discussion, for example when we say “trees are beautiful” or “beer tastes bitter”. But we often want to be specific in some way, for example by pinning down some trees as “those trees” or by qualifying them as “those trees on the hill”. So the thing may stand alone or be preceded and followed by other words in the group which modify it in some way. In other words, we can have premodification before the thing and postmodification after it. (Butt *et al.*2001:67-68)

PROCESS

Process is realized in the grammar of the English clause. Here verbal groups model the experience of eventness in English – whatever is happening, acting, doing, saying, or simply being. As with nominal group, the verbal group may consist of one word or of a group of words. Just as the Head of nominal group (which expresses thingness in English) typically involves a noun or pronoun, the word at the heart of the verbal group (which expresses eventness) most generally represents the concept of eventness. This is typically a member of the word class verb, and is known as the Event in the verbal group structure. The event is thus the central verb and signifies the activity taking place. In an English verbal group, the Event may stand alone or be preceded by other words in the group. The Event is shown in bold in the examples below: (Butt *et al.*2001:69-70)

CIRCUMSTANCES

Circumstances are realized by adverbial groups, prepositional phrases and event by nominal group. We will look at the structures of each of these in turn.

TYPES OF PROCESS

A process is typically expressed by the verbal group in the clause, and is the central component of the message from the ideational perspective. Halliday in Gerot and Wignell (1994:54) identified that there are 7 different process types, those are: material, mental, behavioral, verbal, relational, existential and meteorological processes.

METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted by using the qualitative approach which the source of data was from the utterances of Barack Obama Victory speech. The speech was downloaded from <http://alief.wordpress.com/2008/11/09/download-pidato-kemenangan-obama/>. The data are all of the sentences in the Barrack Obama Victory Speech. That speech did in Chicago, Illinois USA on 6th November 2012. The unit of analysis is the clauses in Barrack Obama Victory Speech. As Eggins (1994:220) states, the organization of the clause is realized in experiential meaning, instead of ideational and textual meaning. Therefore, the researcher focused his analysis on the clauses that represent experience.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this research, there was only one data which is analyzed and it was taken from Barack Obama victory speech. After the data were divided into clauses, there were found 134 utterances. The analysis of each transitivity variable of the clauses in Barack Obama victory speech lexicographically can be seen in the appendix.

Transitivity analysis focuses on the distribution of process types, the participants and circumstances. The process is always realized by a verb phrase. Meanwhile, the participant is realized by a noun phrase. Besides, the circumstance is typically realized by an adverbial phrase or prepositional phrase. There are 7 process types according to Halliday. They are material, mental, verbal, relational, behavioural, existential and meteorological.

The following table covers the process types of Barack Obama victory speech with total 134 clauses analyzed and followed by more detailed comment for each process type. It can be seen in table 4.1 below:

Table 4.2 The Process Types of Barack Obama Victory Speech

No.	Process Types	Σ	%	
1.	Relational	Attributive	51	38.1%
		Identifying	1	0.7%
2.	Material	28	20.1%	
3.	Behavioural	20	14.4%	
4.	Mental	Cognitives	8	6%
		Affectives	7	5.2%
		Perception	4	3%
5.	Verbal	12	9%	
6.	Existential	4	3%	
Total		134	100%	

From the table above, there are 134. It can be seen that Relational Process becomes the first domination with Relational Attributive Process is 51 process or 38,1% and Relational Identifying Process with 1 process or 26,1%. This number means that in Barack Obama Victory speech, he tries to convince his people to keep believing to him that he will be a great president. Besides that, it also describes that there is process of being in his speech meaning that Barack Obama also tells all the people who come for his speech to believe that he will make USA better than before. The second domination is Material Process with 28 process or 0,7%. This number means that there is a process of action. In his speech, Barack Obama asked all the people in the room that, he along with the people will make USA better by doing some revitalization. The third domination is Behavioural with 20 process or 14,4%. The fourth domination is Mental Process with Cognitives: 8 process or 6%, Affectiveness: 7 process or 5,2%, and Perceptive: 4 process or 3%. The existence of mental process in Barack Obama speech is actually he tells his people to see and feel what has happened in USA on that day. That is why he, Barack Obama, invites all the people who come to hear his speech to unite and makes USA better. The fifth is Verbal Process with 12 process or 9%. The sixth is Existential with 4 process or 3%. The meteorological process is not found in the data. The detail analyss can be seen as follows:

4.2 The Discussions

After giving the findings of Barack Obama victory speech, in this section the researcher discussed about the findings of transitivity found in his Speech. As stated in the framework, there are three elements in the transitivity: Participant, Process, and Circumstance. Here, the researcher classifies the data based on the process. It is choosen because Some of the analysis can be seen below:

Participant

1. who still doubts

who	still	doubts	Transitivity
Senser		Mental: Cognitive	Mental Process

2. that America is a place

that	America	Is	a place	Transitivity
	Carrier	Attributive: Intensive	Attribute	Relational Process

3. where all things are possible

where	all things	Are	possible	Transitivity
	Carrier	Attributive: Intensive	Attribute	Relational Process

4. who still wonders

who	Still	wonders	Transitivity
Senser		Mental: Cognitive	Mental Process

5. if the dream of our founders is alive in our time

If	The dream of our founders	is alive	(by us)	in our time	Transitivity
	Range	Behavioral	Behaver	Circ.: time	Behavioural Process

6. who still questions the power of our democracy

who	still	questions	The power of our democracy	Transitivity
Actor		Material	Goal	Material Process

The above data were the participants found in Barack Obama Victory Speech. The participants can be determined based on the process. From the analysis, it can be seen that the clauses are analyzed by transitivity, so they exactly know who refers to whom. From the discussion above, we can see some evidences that the transitivity system is a way to analyze clause effectively. The participants here can be found in the sixth clauses above with actor, carrier, senser, behaver and existantial. These participants are indicated that there are process of action which is indicated by the use of its material process or action verbs, process of being which is indicated by the use of auxiliary verb such as to be (is, am, are). Meanwhile, existatial process was indicated by the word 'there' meaning that it indicates there is something mentioned as the existing thing.

Process

1. I that their voices could be that difference.

that	their voices	could be	that difference	Transitivity
	Carrier	Attributive: Intensive	Attribute	Relational Process

2. It's the answer spoken by young and old, rich and poor, Democrat and Republican, black, white, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, gay, straight, disabled and not disabled, Americans

It	is	the answer	spoken	by young and old, rich and poor, Democrat and Republican, black, white, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, gay, straight, disabled and not disabled, Americans	Transitivity
		Verbiage Verbal		Sayer	Verbal Process

3. who sent a message to the world

who	Sent	a message	to the world	Transitivity
Actor	Material	Goal	Recipient	Material Process

4. that we have never been just a collection of individuals or a collection of red states and blue states.

that	we	have never been	just	a collection of individuals or a collection of red states and blue states	Transitivity
	Carrier	Attributive: Intensive		Attribute	Relational Process

5. We are the United States of America

We	are	The United States of America	Transitivity
Carrier	Attributive: Intensive	Attribute	Relational Process

6. (We) always will be, the United States of America

We	always	will be	The United States of America	Transitivity
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Carrier	Circ.: Manner	Attributive: Intensive	Attribute	Relational Process
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7. It's the answer

it	is	the answer	Transitivity
Carrier	Attributive: Intensive	Attribute	Relational Process

8. That (it) led those

that	it	led	those	Transitivity
	Actor	Material	Goal	Material Process

It can be seen in the transitivity analysis above that there are many processes found in the data. Those are material, verbal, attributive, and mental. In the data above, the highest process existed in the data is relational process. The different processes show that Obama has a different purposes and meaning in his sentence. Relational process indicated that there is process of being. Besides that, in his speech, Barack Obama asked all the participants who attend his victory speech to obey and follow the rules Obama asked. Besides that, he, Barack Obama, convinced his people that they can live happily and there will be democracy in the United States of America during his reign.

Circumstances

The data below show the circumstances found in Barack Obama Speech. The distribution of the analysis can be seen in the following examples below:

1. If there is anyone out there

If	there	is	anyone	out there	Transitivity
		Existential	Existent	Circ.: Place	Existential Process

2. if the dream of our founders is alive in our time

If	The dream of our founders	is alive	(by us)	in our time	Transitivity
	Range	Behavioral	Behaver	Circ.: time	Behavioural Process

3. (We) always will be, the United States of America

We	always	will be	The United States of America	Transitivity
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Carrier	Circ.: Manner	Attributive: Intensive	Attribute	Relational Process
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4. who've been told for so long by so many to be cynical and fearful and doubtful about

who	have been told	for so long	by so many	to be cynical and fearful and doubtful about	Transitivity
	Verbal	Circ.: Time	Sayer	Circ.: Cause	Verbal Process

5. what we can achieve to put their hands on the arc of history

what	we	can achieve	to put their hands	on the arc of history	Transitivity
	Behavior	Behavioural	Range	Circ.: time	Behavioural Process

6. but tonight, because of what we did on this date in this election at this defining moment

But tonight	Because of what	we	did	On this date in this election at this defining moment	Transitivity
Circ.: Time		Actor	Material	Circ.: Time	Material Process

7. but tonight, because of what we did on this date in this election at this defining moment

But tonight	Because of what	we	did	On this date in this election at this defining moment	Transitivity
Circ.: Time		Actor	Material	Circ.: Time	Material Process

The examples of the data above show circumstances found in the data of Barack Obama Victory Speech. Here, it can be seen that there are some circumstances such as circumstance manner, time, place, and cause . The circumstances show the additional information about the time, place, cause, etc.

They help the people know more about the context of Barack Obama victory speech better. In the meantime, those circumstances are indicated by some time indicator such as *tonight, at this defining moment, for so long and etc.* Then, circumstances of place is indicated by *out there*. It means that, Barack Obama as the new president of the United States of America asked the people who stay out the building and listening to his speech.

CONCLUSION

After the researcher had done with the analysis in chapter 4, then, the researcher comes with the conclusion. The conclusion can be drawn as follows:

There are 134. It can be seen that Relational Process becomes the first domination with Relational Attributive Process is 51 clauses or 38,1% and Relational Identifying Process with 1 clauses or 26,1%.. The second domination is Material Process with 28 clauses or 0,7%. The third domination is Behaviourall with 20 clauses or 14,4%. The fourth domination is Mental Process with Cognitives: 8 clauses or 6%, Affectiveness: 7 clause or 5,2%, and Perceptive: 4 clause or 3%. The fifth is Verbal Process with 12 clauses or 9%. The sixth is Existential with 4 clauses or 3%. The meteorological process is not found in the data.

The number which was presented in the findings is indicates that Barack Obama through his victory speech tells all the people who come for his speech to believe him that he will become a great president for USA. Besides that, the use material process also indicates that there are some actions that Barack Obama will do after he becomes the president of USA.

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