



**TRANSITIVITY PROCESS IN MARY NORTON'S NOVEL *THE
BORROWERS* (1952)**

Yulia Rendadirza¹, Havid Ardi²

English Department

Faculty of Languages and Arts

Universitas Negeri Padang

email: yuliarendad@gmail.com

Abstract

This study analyzed the transitivity process in the novel *The Borrowers*. The method used in this research was descriptive qualitative. This study focused on transitivity which is a part of the Ideational meaning in Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). According to Halliday, the three main components in transitivity are the process itself, the participants involved in the process and circumstance. There are six process of transitivity, namely Material, Mental, Relational, Behavioral, Verbal and Existential. The data in this study were divided into two, which were utterances and narrations. This study only focused on chapter one. The source of data in this research was a novel *The Borrowers* written by Mary Norton. This study aims to find out the dominant process found in the novel. The instrument used was the researcher herself and assisted by the analysis table to show the dominant process found in the novel. In analyzing the data, the researcher used several steps, which were reading the text, identify the data and put it in data card, calculated the data, and making conclusion. There are 269 clauses of transitivity found in the chapter one of the novel *The Borrowers*. The process that appears mostly in chapter is Relational: Attributive with 67 clauses/ 24.90%. Research on transitivity has been done a lot before. Nonetheless, there is a difference between the new research and the old one. Other researchers who also examined transitivity in fiction text were (Kurnia, 2018; Koutchade, 2017; Rashid, 2016). Most researchers in fiction text only examined short story, and the data results that obtained are all the clause of the full story. However, this research only focuses on the beginning chapter in fiction text

Key words: *Transitivity, Systemic Functional Linguistics.*

¹ English ELLSP of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang graduated on December 2020

² Lecturer of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang



A. INTRODUCTION

Every language in the world must be arranged with grammar. The grammar pattern can be different from one language to another language. The meanings contained in each sentence can be seen from how the sentence patterns are formed. Sentences have a process in their formation and the formation of the sentence also depends on who is involved in the utterance. This process is referred to as transitivity. Transitivity is a depiction of what people do, who does what to whom, how (Machin & Mayr, 2012: 104). In realizing a matter in reality, the participation of participants and the choice of a process is a part of transitivity (Egins, 2004: 205). Therefore, real-world events that involving participants are part of transitivity.

The Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is a development of traditional grammar developed by M. A. K. Halliday in 1985. This theory says that language is the main point, language is used to represent situations in life by individuals in social life to adopt culture, ways of thinking and actions (Halliday & Mathiessen, 2004). SFL is a theory that discusses language perspective based on how the speaker uses language structure to interpret reality. According to Halliday, there are three main components known as metafunction, namely ideational, interpersonal, and textual function.

Transitivity is related to ideational meaning. Transitivity according to Halliday (2004:101) is a system that explains the experiences that occur in real life, have processes that are expresses through language and characterized by the presence of participants and circumstance. It can be said that the main element in transitivity is the process itself, the participants involved in the process and circumstance. There are six types of transitivity process: material processes, mental processes, relational processes, behavioural processes, verbal processes, and existential processes.

Material process is the process of doing. Main elements that can be found in this process are actor, the one who does the action; and goal, the one who affected the action. Goal may or may not be involved in the process. Mental process is the process of sensing which consist of two potential participants, Sensor and Phenomenon. Sensor is the conscious being that is feeling thinking or seeing. The

phenomenon is what is sensed, felt, thought and seen. Mental processes can be divided into: perception, affection and cognition. Relational process is the process of being and having. There are two types of relational process, Attributive (classify something) and Identifying (Explain something). Behavioural process is the process that need physical action, such as breath, dream, smile, cry, cough, with the participant called Behavior. Verbal process is the process of saying which consist of three participants, Sayer, Receiver and Verbiage. The Sayer is the addresser, the Receiver is the addressee and the Verbiage is the content of the message. Existential process is the process that shows something exist. The six-transitivity process are summarized in the table:

Table 1. The transitivity process

Process	Participants	Circumstances
Material	Actor - process – goal	Time
Mental	Senser - process – phenomenon	Place
Relational	Attributive: carrier - process - attribute	Manner
	Identifying: token - process - value	Cause
Behavioural	Behaver – process	Accompaniment
Verbal	Sayer – verbiage – receiver	Matter
Extential	Process – Existent	Role

In this research, the writer analyzed Mary Norton' novel *The Borrowers* because it contains various types of transitivity. This study aims to find out what transitivity process appear in chapter one of novel *The Borrowers* and to get the dominant process of this chapter.

In analyzing the data, the writer uses Systemic Functional Linguistics presented by Halliday as a reference. The writer chooses SFL that conducted by Halliday because he said that this theory tells language perspective is used for interpreting reality. Because of this, novel is one of the suitable data for transitivity research.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This research used descriptive qualitative method. The clauses which had transitivity processes in chapter one were the data of this research. The data were divided into two, which were utterances and narrations. The source of data in this research is a novel *The Borrowers* written by Mary Norton which was published in 1952 by the Puffin Book. There were two instruments that researcher used. The first instrument needed was the researcher herself. The second instrument were book, notes, pens and table to simplify and clarify data in analyzing the novels.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Research Finding (tentative)

Based on the analysis, the process that appears in chapter one can be drawn into the following table:

Table 2. Transitivity Analysis in the chapter one of *The Borrowers*

Transitivity Process	Chapter One (Orientation)	Percentage (%)
Material	57	21.19
Mental		
• Cognition	29	10.78
• Reaction	7	2.61
• perception	23	8.56
Relational		
• Attributive	67	24.90
• Identifying	6	2.23
Behavioral	13	4.83
Verbal	54	20.07
Existential	13	4.83
Total	269	100

Chapter one talks about a grandmother who tells about tiny people called *The Borrowers* to her grandchildren. The story in this chapter contains an explanation of the characters, this is the beginning of a story. According to the structure, chapter one in this story is an explanation of the character who will and have appeared.

The result of data analysis show that the process that appears mostly in chapter one (orientation) is Relational: Attributive with 67 clauses/ 24.90% from

269 clauses in this chapter. According to the structure, chapter one in this story is an explanation of the character who will and have appeared. Because this is the beginning of the story, the Relational process, to be precise Attributive, is the process that appears the most.

A hat-pin	is	a very useful weapon
car	Rel: att	att

Datum no. 78

The second process that arises the most is Material process with 57 clauses (21.19%). In this chapter, the two characters involved in this chapter doing an activity such as sewing.

they	were making	a bed quilt
act	Mat	goal

Datum no. 32

The third process is Verbal process with 54 clauses (20.07%). The two characters are talking about *The Borrowers*, who are the main characters in this story.

“No,”	said	Kate
verb	Ver	say

Datum no. 29

The fourth process is Mental: Cognition with 29 clauses (10.78%).

sometimes	I	think	there must be
Circ: time	Senser	Men: cognition	Phenomenon

Datum no. 57

Then, Mental: Perception is the fifth one with 22 clauses (8.17%).

Kate	stared	a little fearfully
sen	Men: perc	circ

Datum no. 48

Next, Behavioral and Existential process comes up with the same percentage (4.83%) with 13 clauses.

Mrs May	Laughed	Suddenly
Behaver	Behavioral	Circ: manner

Datum no. 79

There	is	a kind of sadness in them
	Existential	Existent

Datum no. 15

Mental: Reaction process is under Behavioral and Existential proses with 7 clauses (2.60%).

She	hesitated
Senser	Men: reaction

Datum no. 81

Process that rarely comes up is Relational: Identifying with 6 clauses (2.23%).

Her sitting-room	was	a room called 'breakfast-room'
Token	Rel: Identifying	Value

Datum no. 11

2. Discussion

In the beginning part of fiction text, Relational: Attributive process is the most dominant process in the novel *The Borrowers*. This study is similar with Gumiran (2015) and Kurnia (2018). Gumiran (2015) with her research *Transitivity Analysis of John Green's "The Fault in Our Stars"* found that in the introduction of the novel, Relational process is the process that appear the most followed by Mental and Material process. Relational process appear the most because it is the introduction part, Mental process as the second process is because the story told about Augustus feelings toward Hazel, and material process as the third process because Augustus showed his feelings by his action. Kurnia (2018) analyzed transitivity with the title *Transitivity Analyisis of Short Story No Witchcraft For*

Sale By Doris Lessing. The short story talked about Teddy, who is the son of a rich family insulted a dark skinned person. She found that in exposition, Relational process is the process that appear the most, followed by Material and behavioral process. Relational process appear the most because it is the introduction part, and Teddy's behavior and action showed in this part indicated the Material and behavioral process. Thus, in this research, the most dominant process in exposition is Relational: Attributive, and it is same with Gumiran (2015) and Kurnia (2018) research.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the results of the transitivity analysis in the novel *The Borrowers*, it can be concluded that there are six transitivity process found in the novel *the Borrowers* namely material process, mental process, relational process, behavioural process, verbal process and existential process. Chapter one talks about a grandmother who tells about tiny people called *The Borrowers* to her grandchildren. The story in this chapter contains an explanation of the characters, this is the beginning of a story. Relational: Attributive process is the most dominant process in chapter one with 67 clauses (24.90%) from 269 clauses.

After concluding this research, researcher hopes that other researchers can develop transitivity analysis using other types of texts such as recount text, description text, and other texts. Other than the data, the other researchers can also extend the analysis by exploring another aspect in Systemic Functional Linguistic theory.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Ezzina, Rym. 2015. *Transitivity Analysis of The Crying lot of 49 By Thomas Phynchon*. University of Sfax, Tunisia.
- Gerot, Linda and Peter Wignell. 1994. *Making Sense of Functional Grammar*.
- Koutchade, Innocent Sourou. 2017. *Transitivity Patterns in Selected Excerpts From Amma Darko's Beyond The Horizon and DapoAdeleke's Thrills and Trials*. Universite d' Abomey-Calavi, Republique du Benin.
- Manggala, Simon Arsa. 2017. *The Transitivity Process Patterns and Styles in The Characterization of The Protagonist Character in Phouc's "The Story of Tam and Cam*. English Letters Department, Universitas Sanata Dharma.
- Matthiessen, C. M., & Halliday, M. *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*. London: Hodder Anold, 2004. Simpson, P. 2004. *Stylistics: A Resource Book for Students*. London: Routledge.
- Verdonk, P. 2002. *Stylistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Wulandari, Niyati. 2016. *Transitivity System in Two Version of Cinderella Stories: A systemic Functional Perspective*. Syekh Nurjati State Islamic Institute, Cirebon.