



TRANSITIVITY ANALYSIS IN SHORT STORY *THE LAST LEAF* BY O. HENRY

Suci Hanifa¹, Havid Ardi²

English Department

Faculty of Languages and Arts

Universitas Negeri Padang

email: sucihanifaaa@gmail.com

Abstract

The purpose of this research to find the process type found in the short story titled *The Last Leaf* by O. Henry. The method used in this research is qualitative descriptive, while the data were taken from the short story. In Systematic Functional Linguistics, it is the approach used to analyze the text and context. Where SFL itself is the study of function language divided the function into three are Textual Function, Interpersonal Function, and Ideational Function. Ideational Function is express the idea and experience, that experience is language illustrated how people is view of the world as consisting of “going-on or what happen” (verb) included things (as noun) and attributive (as adjective) and other such as place, manner and time (as adverb) or we call as transitivity aspect. The result of study, the dominant process used in the source text and target text that are 120 process for Material Process, 35 process for Mental process, 49 process for Relational process for source text, and 111 process for Material Process, 44 process for Mental process, 30 process for Relational process in target text. Therefore, Material, Mental, Relational is the dominant used type process in the some text especially in narrative text, as (Gerot and Wignell 1995) said some typical Processes are found in the text type such as Mental, Material and Relational Processes.

Keywords: SFL, Transitivity, Type process, Short story

A. INTRODUCTION

The last leaf is a short story by O. Henry that appeared on October 15, 1905, in the News York. The story is set in *Greenwich Village* during a pneumonia epidemic. It tells the story of an old artist who saves the life of a young neighboring artist, dying of pneumonia, by giving her the will to live. Through her window she can see an old ivy creeper (growing on a nearby wall), gradually shedding its leaves as autumn turns into winter, and she has taken the thought into her head that she will die when the last leaf falls. Edgar Allan Poe stated that a short story is a short prose narrative that needs from a half-hour to one or two hours in this age we can say that short story is a short prose narrative which can we read between ten minutes and an hour and a half

¹ English ELLSP of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang graduated on Juni 2023

² Lecturer of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang

(Jeremy Sims: 1991). The short story can be read in one sitting, there has 1000 to 2000 words long, has a limited set of characters, a single setting, and a simple plot. The short story gives the illusion of life because the short story from the imaginary the writer written in the text that has the aim to entertain, to amuse, to interest the reader while reading it.

The Narrative text is an imaginative story to entertain people, the purpose of narrative text is to amuse, entertain, and deal with the actual or vicarious experience in different ways and it deals with problematic events which lead to crisis or turning point of some kind, which in turn finds a resolution Gerot and Wignell (1994:p.204). The narrative text has a structure orientation that is opening the story, a complication is the problem of the story developed, the resolution is the problem of the story is solved, and reorientation the lesson of the story. The language feature has in the short story or narrative text are used the past tense, adverb time, time conjunction, and also the narrative used the action verbs, like the material process, or direct speech such as verbal process.

In an analysis of the text, systematic functional linguistics is the approach used by some experts in analysis the meaning in text analysis. As SFL is the study of function language that has relation between text and text, where Systematic functional linguistics developed by Michael Halliday in the 1960s where it is part of broad social semiotics approach to language that called systematic linguistics. The form “systematics” refers to the view of language as a network of systems, or connected sets of options for making meaning, structure, and how the language is expressed. The form “Functional” included that the relation is concerned with the contextualized. In concept SFL, Language is a system meaning, and the meaning call as metafunction, it dived into three functions the first one Textual function, second one Interpersonal Function, and the last one Ideational Function (Halliday & Matthiessen 2013).

As (Halliday 2004) said ideational function, is the function of the language that has relation with experience and idea. The experience refers to the features that can be thought of as representing the real world as it is received by people’s experience (Halliday, 2004). There is a basic difference between inner and outer experience; between what people experienced as going on out there, in the world around them, and what people experienced as going on inside themselves, in the world of consciousness (including senses, emotion, perception, and imagination. In other to, the point of the system involved in experiential meaning is called transitivity. Transitivity is part of the Ideational function, where the function of clauses that represent the pattern of experience by a system of transitivity. Halliday (2004) said transitivity has three aspect structures, the first process, is expressed the activity that call a verbal group, a participant is a subject involved in the process that called a nominal group and circumstances are the elements that provide a piece of information about “how, when, where and why” of a process happening that call as adverbial group and proposition.

According to (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004) explained, in Transitivity element is divided into 6 type process that are material process is process happened and doing something with have two participant (Actor and Goal), Mental Process is process feel, think, or perception of things with participant (Senser and Phenomenon), Relational Process is involve state of being that included identify and attribute with participant (Carrier and Attribute; Token and Value), Existential process is process involve the existence of things with participant “there”, Verbal process is process telling or talking of verbal

language, where have (Sayer, receiver, and verbiage) as participant in this process, and last behavioral process is process about psycho and physical the human activities with participant behavior.

Transitivity have been studied by several researcher with different in the area and object research. The first one in the text type, (Oktoma, 2017) analysis transitivity in narrative text, he focused in the process type appear in students narrative texts and the errors of the process types occur in students' narrative texts, (Rahmawati, 2019) analysis transitivity in recount text with focused in the process type used in eleventh graders student if ISAT-U senior high school and identify the dominant process used in text, (Apendi & Mulyani, 2020) analysis transitivity in descriptive text, with focused on the dominant process type used in the text, (Elisabet, 2020; Putri et al., 2021) analysis transitivity in the news item with focused in the process type. Second one from (Nguyen, 2012; Nugraha & Mahdi, 2020), they analyzed transitivity in short story, they analyzed transitivity in process type in building the character or explained how the character of the short story. However, some previous research before, they analyzed the transitivity in the English text. (Riztya, 2019), he focused on analyzed the processtype in children book with finding out the equivalence of the realization of M.A.K Halliday's transitivity in The Twits' English and Indonesian versions, particularly to discover the similarities and the differences by the use of transitivity in both versions. The last from (Rosa et al., 2019), they analyzed focused on process type and circumstance with finding out the structure of transitivity elements used in the translation of student translators through which typical characteristics of Indonesian history text would be obtained.

Based on previous studies above, this research focused on analysis transitivity process by Halliday's (2004) theory, in this research is find the process type has in the short story "*The Last Leaf*" (1907) by O. Henry in English Version.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is conducted with used qualitative descriptive method. According to Sugiyono (2010) who states that qualitative research is descriptive. It means the method used by explaining or describing used by word. The source data of this study is "*The Last Leaf*" (1907) by O. Henry English Version ([The Last Leaf \(americanliterature.com\)](http://TheLastLeaf.americanliterature.com)). The data of this research were all clause have the transitivity system especially the process type. The collected data in this research is by identifying or classifying the type process, by using the table and indicator instrument the transitivity element, then calculating each process found in the text. The data in this research were classified based on every process itself, participants involved in the clause in the next story. The process types are Material, mental, relational, behavioral, existential, and verbal. For data analysis the researcher will explain the data by using the word, describing the process found based on the theory transitivity element by Halliday.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Research Findings

The research finding in this study begun with the type of process transitivity found in the source text and target text on the last leaf short story.

Table C. Type Process in English Short Story

Process	Clause
Material process	120
Mental process	35
Relational process	49
Existential process	1
Verbal process	32
Behavioral process	0
Circumstance	10
-	0
TOTAL DATA	247

Based on the data, there researcher found out that in English version or source text, the clause has 247 clause. But the type process found in the English version are 120 process for Material Process, 35 process for Mental process, 49 process for Relational process, 1 process for Existential process, 32 process for Verbal process and there is no Behavioral process found in the text. Addition there are 10 circumstances found in the source text as the clause. According to the finding above, there are described or analysed of the type process found in the text story “The Last Leaf” as below.

a) Material process

Material process is a process of material doing which present that an entity materially, physically, and bodily doing something. Material process explained about what is happened and what is doing. Material Process have two participant are Actor and Goal. Actor is the one that makes the action and gives a direct effect to the others (as a doer), while goal is the one that is affected by the action (as the object). Besides, material process has two other participants which are recipient and client. Recipient is the one to whom something is given and client is the one for whom an action is done. As illustrated, this is example of Material Process found in the text story such as:

Data 48 Material Process

Clause	ST			
48	I	will promise	you	a one-in-five chance forher, instead of one in ten."
	Actor	Material Process	Client	Goal

The clause 48, it is as the material process, with process “*will promise*”, which refers to appointment from the doctor to the patient of recovered the patient from the illness, where the sign of the material process of “what did x do” that is the goal “*a one-in-five chance for her, instead of one in ten*” which is as sign if this statement in the source text is material process. And in the clause 48, there has two participant the first participant as actor and the second participant have client and the goal.

b) Mental Process

Mental process pick up with human mind experience. In other words, mental process is the process of perceiving, feeling, thinking, and sensing (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013), the participant have in the mental process are sener and phenomenon. Sener is the one who can perceive, feel or think wittingly. Phenomenon is the one that is being perceived, felt or thought. This process divide three type are, Affective is the process of sensing which deals withthe feeling of the sener (process of feeling and liking). However, cognitive is theprocess of sensing which deals with the thoughts (cognition) of the sener (process of thinking, knowing and understanding). Meanwhile, perceptive is the process of sensing which deals with the perception of the sener (process of seeing and hearing). As illustrated this is example of Mental Process found in the text story such as:

Data 66 Mental Process

Clause	ST			
66	Sue	look	solicitously out	of the window.
	Seneser	Mental Process	Phenomenon	Cir

The example above, the “look” it is as mental process perceptive, where in this example the “look” it is like the sense of the process see of something. We can see the example in this process has two participant “Sue” as sener or first participant and “solicitously out” as second participant or phenomenon.

c) Relational Process

According to (Halliday, 1994, p.119), relational process divided two type are Attributive process and Identifying process. Attributive process is the process to attributive and entity with some quality, classification or descriptive (Eggins, 1994, p.256). It means attributive process can be said as s “x is a member of the class of a”. Attributive process is irreversible. Participant in attributive process areattributive and carrier. Second identifying process, it is as build an identity. This process can be said as “a is the identity of x” or “a serves to define the identity of x”. identifying process contrast to attributive process, the identifying process is reversible. The participants are token and value. Token stands for the entity that isbeing defined, whereas value stands for the entity that defines. As illustrated this is example of Relational Process found in the text story such as:

Data 41 Relational Identifying Process

Clause	ST			
41	there	is	nothing	of the kind."
	Token	Rel: Ident	Value	Cir

In clause 41, “is” as relational identifying process, with have “there” as token and “nothing” as Value. We know relational identifying process is explained the define of the things in the clause, where this process usually used verbal “be” such as (am, is, are, were, was).

Data 218 Relational Attributive Process

Clause	S T				
218	and	Sue	had	an excuse to go	into the hallway as he left.
	Cir	Carrier	Rel: Atr	Attribute	Cir

From the example above “had” as the relational attributive process, with have “Sue” is as carrier and “an excuse to go” as attributive. In this process usually sign of the identified article “a or an” in the nominal group.

d) Existential Process

According to Gerot and Wignell (1994), existential process is associated with the existence of something. The process is commonly verbs showing an existence, for example „be“ or „arise“. The participant related with this process

is existent which refers to an entity existing in the world/real life or in imagination only. In addition, circumstantial elements (particularly of location) are common in existential process (Eggins, 1994, p.255). As illustrated this is example of Existential Process found in the text story such as:

Data 180 Existential Process

Clause	ST		
180	There	yet stood out against	the brick wall one ivy leaf
		Existential Process	Existence

From the example above, the word “*there*” as marked to express the existence of something of the reality exist of the something.

e) Verbal Process

Gerot and Wignell (1994) explained that verbal process is the process of telling or signaling something orally, talking, telling, saying, explaining, shouting, crying, screaming and other. The main participants of this process are sayer as an entity which gives signal and the phenomenon as a thing being talked about. The other participants are the receiver, target, and range or verbiage. Receiver is the entity or commonly as a person whom the signal is addressed. However, target is the entity acted upon orally. Meanwhile, verbiage is the oral signal itself. As illustrated this is example of Verbal Process found in the text story such as:

Data 31 Verbal Process

Clause	ST		
31	"She has one chance in - let us say, ten,"	he	said,
	Verbiage	Sayer	Verbal Process

From the example above, “*said*” is as Verbal process to show the information of activities such as asking, and telling. In this process sayer as participant in this process, that refers to the person of this process, the sayer is “*He*” and verbiage refers to the statement of the verbal process, such as “*She has one chance in - let us say, ten,*”

f) Behavioral Process

Gerot and Wignell (1994) said behavioural process is the process between material and mental process. It concerns with physical and psychological human activities, Several activities which are the examples of the process are breathing, smiling, watching, looking, listening, and dreaming. This type of process normally has only two participants namely behavior and range. Behavior is like an actor in material process or sener in mental process, but behavioural process is not sensing and done habitually. The range is the scope

of the process itself. In this research the writer not found Behavioral process in the ST and TT. and there is not found the shift happened in the Behavioral process in the source text and target text.

D. CONCLUSION

This research is descriptive qualitative research, with having purpose to find the type process have in the short story text, where the short story titled "The Last Leaf" (1907) by O. Henry English Version ([The Last Leaf \(americanliterature.com\)](http://americanliterature.com)). This research used the concept transitivity element based on Halliday Theory as a theory for analysis and collected the data research. The result of this study indicates that the source text has 5 types of transitivity elements are Material process, Mental process, Relational Process, Behavioral process, and existential process.

As from the finding research the dominant process typically used in this text in source text also target text are Material Process, Mental Process, and Relational Process, as According to (Gerot and Wignell 1995) also said some typical Processes are found in the text type such as Mental, Material and Relational Processes. At the same time, some previous research that analyzed the same object are narrative text, they result study also find that material process also the dominant process used in the text.

For future research especially the people who English learner or student that have an interest in this field, the researcher hope the other researcher will develop deeply or more detailed research through similar topic research or different focus of the research, and the similar object research or the different object research, but the future research will research the focused of translation.

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