



MENTAL PROCESSES IN THE POSTINGS OF HUMANSOFNY'S INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT: BONDING HUMANS THROUGH LANGUAGE

PROSES MENTAL DALAM POSTINGAN AKUN INSTAGRAM HUMANSOFNY'S: HUBUNGAN IKATAN MANUSIA MELALUI BAHASA

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Abstract

It is said that emotions make the powerful relationship between humans. However, the study investigating types of mental processes in the stories of HumansofNY's instagram account found that among 112 clauses, 34 of them belong to perceptive, 44 cognitive clause, 19 desiderative clause, and 15 emotive clauses. By using descriptive analysis, the result shows that not only emotion but also perception and cognition are most frequently used type of sensing the tellers, the citizens of New York City, apply to deliver their stories to other people. All of them creates bond between the tellers and the readers.

Key words/phrases: mental process, perceptive, cognitive, desiderative, emotive

Abstrak

Dikatakan bahwa emosi membuat hubungan yang kuat antara manusia. Namun, penelitian yang menyelidiki jenis proses mental dalam cerita-cerita di akun instagram HumanofNY menemukan bahwa di antara 112 klausa, 34 di antaranya termasuk dalam pengertian, klausa kognitif, 19 klausa desideratif, dan 15 klausa emotif. Dengan menggunakan analisis deskriptif, hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa tidak hanya emosi tapi juga persepsi dan kognisi yang paling sering digunakan tipe penginderaan pencerita, warga kota New York, berlaku untuk menyampaikan ceritanya kepada orang lain. Semuanya menciptakan ikatan antara teller dan pembacanya.

Kata Kunci: mental process, perceptive, cognitive, desiderative, emotive

A. INTRODUCTION

Emotion, as the strong feeling humans have, is one of the most effective ways in binding the relationship of people. It requires the ability of human beings in sensing.
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Other types of sensing process are perceiving, thinking, and having other kind of feeling like desiring. People are bounded by having these productions of senses shared each other. In order for all of those-emotion and some other production of process of sensing humans possessed to be shared and communicated towards others, people need to communicate them through language.

Language, as Scovel (1995, p.4) states, is a window used to see the nature and structure of human mind. Mind is the organized conscious and unconscious mental events and activity in an organism; it allows humans as the organism to think, feel, perceive, and have desire (Merriam-Webster dictionary, 2016). Thus, it is possible to see mental process possessed by human being through language. One of linguistic fields that study the mental process in clause produced by humans is systemic functional linguistics.

Halliday (1985) in Sutjana (2013, p. 2), the one who established systemic functional linguistic approach, states “language is a system of meanings.” Learning functional means learning how language is used. In systemic functional linguistics, language has three metafunctions of meaning: interpersonal, textual, and ideational. Textual meaning analyzes clause as representation by use of transitivity system. The system of transitivity allows people to see processes, participants, and circumstances involved in the clauses. Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) and Sujatna, E.T. (2013) distinguishes the processes into material, mental, relational, behavioral, existential, and verbal.

Clause as representation relates to processes which are seen through system of transitivity. Processes in the clause are the focus of transitivity. Gerot & Wignell (1994, p. 54) categorizes the processes into seven types (based on Halliday): material, behavioral, mental, verbal, relational, existential, and meteorological. However, in revision of the previous book, Halliday and Matthiessen (2014, p. 300) generally divide transitivity into three principles types. They are material, mental, and relational. The other three types are emerged at the border line between two principle types: between material and mental there is behavioral, between mental and relational there is verbal, and between relational and material there is existential. Material is process of doing and happenings; behavioral is process of behaving; at last, mental process involves process of sensing.

Halliday and Matthiessen (2014, p. 256) distinguish mental process or what they refer as “type of sensing” into four categories; they are perceptive (by use of five senses such as see, hear, smell), cognitive (set of clauses as the content of thinking such as remember, understand, realize), desiderative (expressing desire such as want, desire, hope, decide, determine), and emotive type of sensing (like, dislike, love, enjoy). In addition, Sujatna (2013), based on her study on verbs of perception in mental process in English, concludes that the verbs *hear*, *smell*, *watch*, *see*, *touch*, and *tasted* could be categorized under type of perceptive one in mental process. Then, P. Nike and Sujatna (2013) found there are verbs of *appreciate*, *believe*, *understand*, and *wonder* distinguished as cognitive type of sensing. Meanwhile, the verbs include in desiderative, as Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) suggest, can be *want*, *wish*, *would*

like, desire, hope, intend, decide, and agree. In emotive type, the verbs have gradable degree in expressing affection which can be seen grammatically and lexically, such as: *detest-loathe-hate-dislike-like-love*.

Elements in mental processes are senser, process, and phenomenon. Senser which is defined as a conscious being and phenomenon as the one which is sensed are participant roles in mental processes (Gerot and Wignell, 1994, p. 58). Types of phenomenon vary from thing, act, fact, and idea. Fact and idea are usually projection which have role as phenomenon in mental process. In perceptive type, it is usually found act qualifier which can be divided into perfective and imperfective type of embedded clause. In cognitive, the phenomena found are thing and idea (representation of the content of thinking). Meanwhile, desiderative usually contains phenomenon in the form of thing and idea. At last, emotive has phenomenon of thing and projected idea of fact.

In relation to phenomenality, projections are sometimes found in the type of mental clauses. Gerot and Wignell (1994, p.60) explain that projection occurs when one clause suggests that something was thought or said (the projecting clause) and another, separate clause indicates what it was that was thought or said (the projected clause). Tuckyta (2013, p. 84) locution and idea are categorized as projection. Idea can be distinguished into proposal (goods and services: offer and command) and proposition (information: statement and question). Mental processes of cognition can project proposition by both quoting and reporting while mental processes of desiderative can project proposals.

As elaborated previously, mental clauses are used in expressing people's feeling, thinking, perceiving, showing other desire toward things in life. With these mental productions, humans not only want to express them but also share them towards others because human beings are social creatures. The media used to share this vary, from having direct casual conversation to sharing them via internet on personal blog, and other social media. One of the most popular social media used by people in this era of 21st century is Instagram. People share their experience and stories through pictures and stories posted in the Instagram.

One of the most popular accounts which gains 6.3 millions followers is HumansofNY. HumansofNY is one of accounts in Instagram which randomly captures pictures of New York citizens and post their stories of their lives along with the pictures. In relation to mental processes, there are mental clauses also found in the stories posted in the account of HumansofNY. Stories are usually used to reach and get people attention. Stories carrying processes of sensing with them may make bond between the tellers and the readers. HumansofNY gets much attention with the stories it posts. Therefore, this study attempted to figure out the types of mental processes in the Clauses of Stories posted in HumansofNY's Instagram Account as well as verbs and phenomenon in each type of mental processes in the clauses of stories in humansofny's instagram account.

B. RESEARCH METHODS

In conducting the research, descriptive analysis was employed. It provides description of the types of mental processes, verb and phenomenon in each type of mental processes found in the stories in Humansofny's instagram account. Firstly, data were collected from HumansofNY account by taking screenshots of 25 stories. The data were then analyzed and classified into the types of mental processes appeared in clauses constructing the stories based on the verbs found. There were found 112 mental clauses categorized into types of perceptive, cognitive, desiderative, and emotive. Furthermore, phenomena in the processes were identified in order to see the projected ideas shared by New York citizens.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on classification by Halliday & Matthiessen regarding the type of mental process, process of sensing vary from perceptive, cognitive, desiderative, and emotive. All of these types were also found in the data among 25 stories posted in HumansofNY. It was calculated that there are 112 clauses categorized as having mental process. For more detail information, it can be seen from the table 1 below.

Table 1. Mental processes in the stories posted in HumansofNY

No	Perceptive		Cognitive		Desiderative		Emotive	
1	Feel	(26)	Remember	(6)	Want	(13)	Encourage	(1)
2	Heard	(2)	Think	(12)	Decide	(3)	Love	(3)
3	Respond	(1)	Know	(10)	Hope	(2)	Enjoy	(1)
4	See	(1)	Learn	(4)	Tend	(1)	Attract	(1)
5	View	(1)	Acknowledge	(1)			Like	(4)
6	Smell	(1)	Judge	(1)			Bother	(2)
7	Seem	(2)	Believe	(1)			Traumatize	(1)
8			Understand	(2)			Embarrass	(1)
9			Convince	(1)			Hurt	(1)
10			Forget	(1)				
11			Imagine	(1)				
12			Wonder	(1)				
13			Unlearn	(1)				
14			Realize	(1)				
15			Guess	(1)				
	34 clauses		44 clauses		19 clauses		15 clauses	
	Total				: 112 clauses			

Based on the table 1above, it can be described that there are 34 clauses of perceptive type with 7 various verbs of perception, 44 clauses of cognitive type with 15 various verbs of cognition, 19 clauses of desiderative type with 3 different desiderative verbs, and 15 clauses of emotive type with 9 various verbs of emotion.

Perceptive Type of Sensing

In the perceptive type, there is a verb that is most frequently used in the mental clauses, it is verb of *feel*. As the stories are about the tellers, the citizens of New York

city, the senser of all mental clauses is the teller herself/himself. Thus, the senser for most clauses in the following discussion is *I* referring to the teller who tells the story.

- 1) I feel homeless.
 Senser Perceptive Phen: thing: abstraction; feeling

Datum 1 shows that *feel* as verbs of perception and phenomenon which is perceived by the senser is a thing as of abstraction: the feeling of being homeless.

If the previous clause contains projection, there appeared as projected clause as in Datum 2:

- 2) I feel like I don't understand where I am.
 Perceptive idea: proposition

In datum 2, the main clause has other clause within it, it is a projected clause of how the senser feels. The projected clause then is analyzed separately:

- I don't understand where I am.
 Senser Cognitive idea: proposition

In the projected clause, process of sensing once again occurs, but it is cognitive type with the verb of *undersand*. Again, within this projected clause which is also embedded one, there is also projected clause which contains idea of proposition giving information that the senser does not understand where she/he is.

The other verb of perceptive found in the stories of HumansofNY is *heard*.

- 3) We heard a loud explosion
 Senser Perceptive Phen: Thing

Datum 3 also shows that in the verb of cognition *heard*, the senser is we, and phenomenon as the one which is sensed by the senser is a thing, a loud explosion.

Therefore, based on description data 1, 2, and 3 which represent most of data appeared in the verb *feel*, and *heard* perceptive clauses occur with phenomenon thing or in case of the verb *feel*, with projection of proposition. Before the projection, it is frequently preceded by the word *like* as the circ of comparison which links the projecting clause and the projected clause.

Cognitive Type of Sensing

This type of sensing is the most frequently employed in the mental clauses found in the stories of HumansofNY. By rank of frequent of verbs appeared, there are *think*, *know*, *remember*, *learn*, *realize*, *believe*, and *understand*. The rest of the verbs appeared once.

Verb *think*

Most of clauses with verb *think* appeared with the projection. It is in line with Gerot and Wignell (1994, p.92) that mental processes such as think, remember, and know can project propositions by both quoting and reporting.

4) I think she'd be a great mom and a great wife.
Cognitive Idea: Proposition

5) I think that's what makes me a good ER nurse
cognitive idea: proposition

Data 4) and 5) show that both clauses of cognitive type have projection. The difference between both clauses is that datum 5 uses relative *that in* projecting the idea while the other clause does not.

Another type found in the clauses using verb *think* in them is the cognitive clause which have projection of proposition in quoting as in datum 6 and 7 below:

6) But I thought: "I'm gonna be in the friendzone..."
Conj. Senser Cognitive Projection: Quoted Idea of Proposition

7) But I thought: "Go for it!"
Conj. Senser Cognitive Projection: Quoted Idea of Proposition

As it is shown by data 6) and 7) that both clauses have quoted projections inside the clause. The clauses in quoted projection are in the mode of declarative as in datum 6) and imperative as in datum 7).

Other verb of cognition which shows different types of phenomenon is *remember*. In clauses containing verb of *remember*, it is not followed by phenomenon nor projection. It is followed by circumstances of time and place instead, as in datum 8):

8) I remember onetime in high school
Senser cognitive Circ: time Circ: place

In other clause, the cognitive verb of *rememberi is* followed by act qualifier imperfective type denoted by the existence of verb+ing and after that followed by projection of quoting idea.

9) I remember thinking: "It will be OK. He just needs an operation."
cognitive imperfective Projection: Quoting idea

- 15) I wanted to propose to her one day.
 Deisderative Phen: act qualifier: perfective bounded

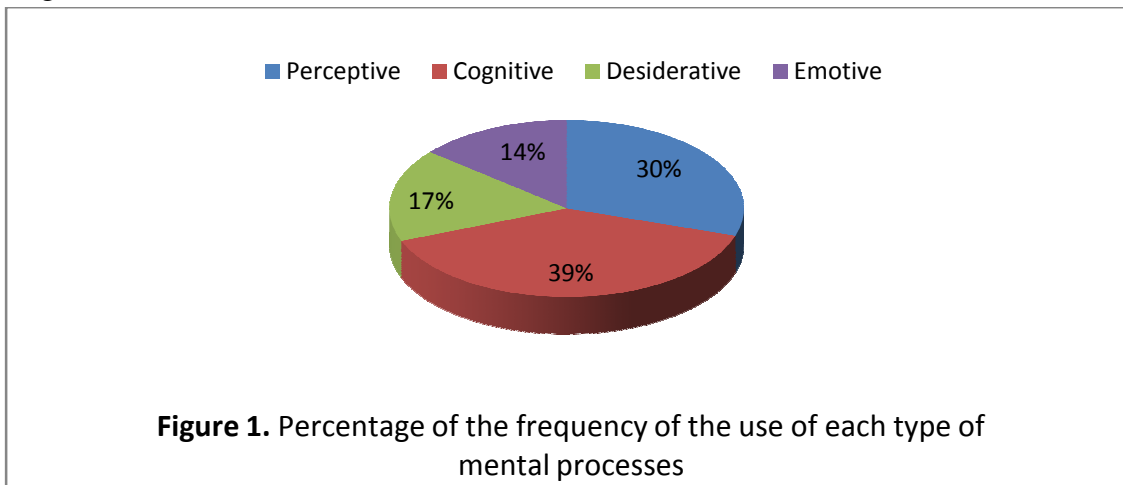
Other phenomenon appeared in this clause where the verb is followed by imperfective clause. It occurs in the verb *enjoy*.

- 16) I don't enjoy observing people as much as I used to.
 Senser Emotive Act qualifier: Imperfective clause

There is also the clause with the verb which is followed by perfective clause. It occurs in the verb *like*.

- 17) I don't like to feel better than them
 Emotive Act qualifier: Imperfective clause

If it is put into comparison between the types which is the most frequently used, the diagram will be as follow:



Regarding the phenomenon sensed by the senser or can be called as phenomenality in the clauses found in the stories of HumansofNY, it can be generalized into table 2 as below:

Table 2. Phenomenality in each type of mental processes

Type of Mental Processes	Perceptive	Cognitive	Desiderative	Emotive
Phenomenality	Thing, Projection of idea	Projection of idea in the form of reporting and quoting	Projection Act qualifier either perfective or	Thing Act qualifier either in perfective or

Act either perfective imperfective clause	qualifier in or	imperfective clause	imperfective clause
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D. CONCLUSION

In suffice to say, there are four types of mental processes applied in the clauses found in the stories of HumansofNY's instagram account. They are mental processes of perception, cognition, desideration, and emotion. The type most frequently used as found in the stories is cognition. It gives insight to the characteristics New York citizens that in telling stories, to get their message across, and to represent their ideas, they tend to express it as the content of thinking created by cognition, not emotion. Emotion even has the least percentage for the frequency of the use of mental process found in the stories. However, the stories still captivate the readers in which it means that the bond bonded not only emotionally but also intellectually in a way people use their cognitive function in thinking.

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