TRANSITIVITY IN BARRACK OBAMA'S SPEECHES

Henny Fauziah Harahap

Sumarsih

English Department, Faculty of Language and Arts

State University of Medan (UNIMED)

Abstract

The objectives of this research were to find out the types of processes, participants, and circumstances, the dominant types of processes, participants and circumstances, and the implication of the dominant process, participant and circumstance in Barrack Obama's speeches. It was a descriptive quantitative design. The analysis was based on two speeches of Barrack Obama, they were Election Night Victory Speech (November 4th, 2008) in Grant Park, Chicago, Illionis and Obama Inaugural Address (January 20th, 2009) in Washington DC and there were 525 processes, 618 participants, and 204 circumstances in 525 clauses. The result showed the most dominant process was Material process (54,6%), the most dominant of participant was Actor (31,1%), and the most dominant of circumstance was (46,1%). Material Process is the most dominant process because it indicates activities that happen in the outside world of human beings. Furthermore, the speeches of Barrack Obama told about many activities that can be done to make America better. So, the physical or action verbs are mostly used as the representation of the physical experience of human beings. As the process controls the participant so the most dominant participant which appeared in the analysis was Actor. And the last, the most dominant circumstance appeared in this analysis was Location. It was caused Obama mentioned more both place and time in his speeches as the implication of the most dominant process, participant, and circumstance.

Keywords: Speech; transitivity

Introduction

Language is inseparable in human's life since no way to replace its role and function to express what people think and feel. It conveys meaning from someone's intention, emotion as well as feeling as stated by Bloor and Bloor (1995: 1) language is a 'system of meanings'. When people communicate by using language, their language acts are the expression of meaning. Of course every single word we utter has meaning that can be understood and caught by the listener, then there will be such interaction that we call as communication. However the use of language doesn't direct from one person to another person individually, but also to the public in globally.

Expressing language is influenced by the complex elements of situations. We have to know where we are, whom we are talking to, how to say it in good order and etc. It means that in doing communication using language we need to concern to the situation and condition involved to convey what speaker's intention and purpose in proper order precisely without having been misunderstood by the listener. However it is related to the ethics of communication; no wonder that language can change human's mood because its influence has been part of human's life. People can be in bad temper, sorrow, as well as in happiness by someone's language just because of the meaning caught is different from one person to other persons; that's why we have perception in understanding human's utterances or intention through language used since language can't be touched even be seen by human's part of body, but indeed it can be felt. Searle emphasizes that Language is not seen as continuous with, nor as an extension of, the rest of our specifically human biological inheritance. (Serle, 2006: 1)

Communication can be expressed and conveyed by two ways; they are written and spoken. However language has interconnection with society that The key connecting link between language and society is the notion of deontology, a notion involving commitments of various kinds, about which I will say more later. (Serle, 2006: 3). Through written the communication done by using the symbols of letters combined together and produce meanings. The use of written language recently has been booming and widespread; it can be seen through newspapers, magazines, books and many other writings which are the collection of human beings' inspiration.

In this case, the researcher would like to analyze the written form which is from a phenomenal president of United State, Barrack Obama, in his speeches. Since he is a well-

known man, it is easier for me to access his speeches and find the data related which he has delivered along the year of 2002-2009, they are; "Election Night Victory Speech" (November 4[th,] 2008) in Grant Park, Chicago, Illionis; "Obama Inaugural Address" (January 20[th,] 2009) in Washington DC.

Review of Literature

The relation of grammar to semantics is in sense natural, not arbitrary; and both are purely abstract system of coding (Halliday, 1985: 12). There is no clear line between semantics and grammar, and a functional grammar is one that is pushed in the direction of semantics. Haliday (1994: 15) says that Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) is concerned primarily with the choices that are made available to speakers of a language by their grammatical systems. These choices are assumed to be meaningful and related speakers' intentions to the concrete forms of language. Meanings are in systemic functional grammar divided into three broad categories, called metafuntion; the ideational, the interpersonal, and the textual function. It is different aspects; it is concerned with a different mode of meanings of clauses.

Haliday (1994: 15) says that Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) is concerned primarily with the choices that are made available to speakers of a language by their grammatical systems. These choices are assumed to be meaningful and related speakers' intentions to the concrete forms of language. Meanings are in systemic functional grammar divided into three broad categories, called metafuntion; the ideational, the interpersonal, and the textual function. It is different aspects; it is concerned with a different mode of meanings of clauses.

Sinar (2007: 59) says "the ideational function can be classified into two sub functions: the experimental and the logical function." Experimental function as the basic theory of this study use language to describe this experience. The powerful impression of experience is that experience consists of "goings on". All these 'goings on' are sorted out in the grammar of clause by using grammatical called transitivity. Martin (1997: 100) explains that the system of transitivity belongs to experimental metafunction and the overall grammatical resource for construing goings on. These are represented as a configuration of a process, participants involved in it and attendant circumstances.

Process

Processes are central to transitivity (Gerot and Wignell: 1994: 54). Participants and circumstances are incumbent upon the doings, happenings, feelings and beings. This suggests that there are different kinds of goings on, which necessarily involve different kinds of Participants in varying Circumstances. Martin (1997: 102) says that there are seven kinds of processes in English, but they have been discriminated as the types of processes. The three major ones are: (1) material, (2) mental, (3) relational, each with a small set of subtypes, in addition there are three further process types (4) verbal, (5) existential, (6) behavioral and (7) meteorogical.

Material Process

Material Processes are processes of material doing. Halliday (1994: 110). They express the notion that some entity does something which may be done 'to' some other entity. So clauses with Material Process obligatory have a doing (Process) and a doer (Participant).

For examples:

1) What did the snake *do*?

   The snake *caught* the crocodile

2) What did Samuel *do*?

   Samuel *went* to Jakarta

Saragih (2006:6) elaborates that semantically material process indicate events or activities, which happens in the outside world of human beings. This process refers to physical experience of human beings.

For examples:

1) The girl is *walking*

   The girl is an actor, and she is doing an action

2) He is *reading* a book

   She is an actor, and she is doing an activity

The prototypical form or the "outer experience" or the process of the external is that world of actions and events: things, happens and people or other actors, do things, or make them happen.

And from all about the quotation above, it can be concluded that material process are the processes occur in the outside world, including action, activity, events, behavior and so on. Therefore, for identifying this kind of process is by asking: *what did x do*?

Mental process

Mental Processes differ from Material ones in as much as the latter are physical, moving, overt doings. Mental processes are mental, covert kinds of goings-on. And the participant involved in Mental Processes is not so much acting or acting upon in a doing sense, as sensing – having feelings, perceiving or thinking. (Gerot and Wignell, 1994: 58)

Semantically a mental process involves sense which is inside the human or conscious being. Mental process is related to psychological matters (Saragih, 2006: 6). Mental process is to be realized through the use of verbs such as *like think, know, feel, smell, hear, see, want, like, hate, please, repel, admire, enjoy, fear, frighten* (Bloor, 1995: 117). It is about mental reactions: about thoughts feelings, and perceptions.

For examples:

1) My uncle didn't like me
2) We *admired* the singer
3) I *enjoy* the panorama
4) You *know* it very well
5) It terribly *smells* bad

Within the overall category of mental process, these three – feeling, thinking, and seeing – then constitute the principal the subtypes; we will label them in more general terms as perception, affection, cognition and desirability.

Relational Process

Relational Process involves states of being (including having). They can be classified according to whether they are being used to identify something or to assign a quality to something (Gerot and Wignell: 1994: 67)

Halliday (1994: 119) elaborates that in relational clauses, there are two parts to the "being": something is being said to "be" something else. In other words, a relational is being set up between two separate entities.

Every language accommodates, in grammar, some system in construction of relational processes. The English system operates with three main types:

1) Intensive : '*x is a*'

2) Circumstantial : '*x is a* (where is "at" stands for "is at, in, on, for, with about, long, etc")'

3) Possessive : '*x has a*'

Each of these comes in two distinct modes

   a) Attributive : 'a is an attributive of x'
   b) Identifying : 'a is an identifying of x'

These give six categories of relational processes, as set out in the following table:

The principal types of relational process

Modes/Type:	(i) attributive	(ii) identifying
1. Intensive	Joko *is* a husband	Jack is the thief The thief is Jack
2. Circumstantial	The show *is on* Wednesday	Friday is the fifth The fifth is Friday
3. Possessive	William *has* a car	The car is William's William's is the cat

The examples given in this table bring out one important difference between the attributive and the identifying mode. The identifying ones are reversible, so that the *x* and the *a* can be switched around: Jack is the thief/ the thief is Jack. The attributive one is not reversible there is no form of husband is Joko which is agnate (systematically related) to Joko is a husband.

Verbal Process

Verbal process are processes of saying, or more accurately, of symbolically signaling. Very often these are realized by two distinct clauses: the projecting clause encodes a signal source (Sayer) and a signaling (Verbal Process) and the other projected (clauses) realizes what was said (Gerot and Wignell, 1994: 62)

Verbal process shows activities of saying, commanding, asking, and offering (Saragih: 2004) which covers only kind of symbolic exchange meaning.

For examples:

1) The man *said* "good night"
2) My uncle *told* us about the legend

Behavioral Process

Behavioral Processes are Processes of physiological and psychological behavior, like breathing, dreaming, snoring, smiling, hiccupping, looking, watching, listening, and pondering (Gerot and Wignell, 1994: 60).

Many of these verbs also occur non behavioral: contrast think behavioral process in 'be quite! I'm thinking', with think as mental process in 'they think we are stupid'

Existential Process

Existential Processes are processes that represent something exist or happen (Halliday, 1985: 130). Halliday (1994: 142) also in his next book elaborates that existential clause typically has the verb 'be': in this respect also they resemble relational process. But the other verbs that commonly occur are mainly different from either the attributive or the identifying. One group is a small set of closely related verbs meaning '*exist*' or '*happen*': exist, remain, arise, occur, come about, happen, take place.

Existential process shares feature of relational process in the sense that the common verb is BE (is, am, are, was, were, have been, etc) and other verbs such as go, come, toil (Saragih, 2006: 8). Syntactically the process is preceded by 'there'. It also represents experience by posting that *'there was/is something'*, for example:

1) *There was* dirt on the floor

2) *There i*s a frog in the pool

Meteorological Process

According to Gerot and Wignell (1994: 73), the analyzing of the meteorological process is all participants have no representation function, but does provide a subject. Meteorological process is process about season or weather and process about clock.

Participant

The subject is the one who experiences Process. Saragih (2004: 5) states participants are persons or things, which are involved in a process. It is realized in noun phrase or nominal groups are directly involved in the processes.

Bloor (1995: 126) states the participants are the entities involved in the process, in some tests, the participants are mostly humans or at least animate. Thus the participants are determined or labeled according to the process types.

Process is the core of an experience in a clause. Consequently, the process itself determines the number of experience bound or attracted. The capacity of a process to attract or to tie the participant is known as valency. Participants are divided into two, there are participant I, - one which does the activity, and participant II, - one which the process is done too.

Table of Types of participants and process

Types of process	Participant I	Participant II
Material	Actor	Goal
<u>We</u> *Actor*	<u>washed</u> Material	<u>the car</u> *Goal*
Mental	Senser	Phenomenon
<u>She</u> *Senser*	<u>Admired</u> Mental	<u>The singer</u> *Phenomenon*
Relational • Identification	Token	Value

Dude	Is	The driver	
Token	Identification	*Value*	
• Attribution	Carrier	Attribute	
Tukiyem	Is	A wife	
Carrier	Attribution	*Attribute*	
• Possession	Possessor	Possessed	
My boyfriend	Has	A big house	
Possessor	Possession	*Possessed*	
Behavioral	Behavior		
She	Smiles	Broadly	
Behavior	Behavioral		
Verbal	Sayer	Verbage	
She	Asked	Me	
Sayer	Verbal	*Verbage*	
Existential		Existent	
There	Is	A car	
	Existential	Existent	

In some respects, Circumstances, as the name suggests, are more peripheral than Participants, being concerned with such matters as the settings, temporal and physical, the manner in which the Process is implemented, the people or other entities accompanying the process rather than directly engaged in it (Bloor and Bloor, 1995: 126). There are nine circumstances known; they are extent, location, manner, cause, contingency, accompaniment, role, matter, angle.

Table of Types of Circumstances

Types of Circumstance	Subcategory	Probe	Example of Realization
Extent	Temporal	For how long?	For three hours
			Every three hours
	Spatial	How far?	For six miles
Location	Temporal	When?	In January

			Before tea
	Spatial	Where?	In the market
			In Jakarta
Manner		How?	Quickly
			As soon as possible
Cause		Why?	Because of you
			For better result
Contingency		In what circumstance	In the event of rain
			In the absence of proof
Accompaniment		Together with	With (out) his friends
			Instead of them
Role		What as	As a concerned parent
			(smashed) into pieces
Matter		What about	About this
			With reference to that
Angel		Says who	According to shorter Oxford

Transitivity In Barrack Obama's Speeches

Barrack Obama is a well-known man for his style and his talent in delivering speech as well as in leading an organization or group. It can be seen from his political background that enabled him to be a president in United State. Obama became the 44th president of the United States—and the first African-American to hold this office.

Spoken language was the first form of communication between human beings. It came long before written language, and writing is a transcript of speech, not vice versa. (Christopher Turk, 1985: 9). A speech is an activity of addressing, talking in front of public or orating to express opinion, or giving point of view on one event or something else.

Methodology

Research Design

The research uses descriptive quantitative method in completing it because the research is to describe realization of transitivity in Barrack Obama's speech. In other words, this study

did not concern with a new theory, but it was concerned with theory of systemic functional linguistics to describe the transitivity in terms of metafunction Barrack Obama's speeches. Mahsun (2005: 247) states that descriptive method is a method, which contains the appropriate explanations, are only done if there is the appropriate description as well. Based on the explanation, this research was conducted in using descriptive quantitative method.

Source of Data

This research focuses on finding the use of transitivity in Barrack Obama's speeches which are chosen as the representative for the whole speeches, they are: "Election Night Victory Speech" (November 4th, 2008) in Grant Park, Chicago, Illionis and "Obama Inaugural Address" (January 20th, 2009) in Washington DC. The sentences in the script speech will be divided into clauses. Then they will be analyzed to find out the transitivity.

The Technique of Collecting Data

The research is carried out through the activities reading materials collected from books related to this study and conducted in using documentary data. The researcher conducts it in two ways in collecting the data. First, the data are listed descriptively based on the types and the characteristics of the data; secondly the data are all described in terms of processes, in which they are selected already.

The Technique of Analyzing Data

The data are classified and analyzed by applying a documentary technique. The procedures for analyzing the data are identifying the transitivity system in Barrack Obama's speech, classifying the processes, participants, and circumstances in the speech based on the theory used, finding out the dominant process, participant and circumstance in Barrack

Obama's speech by counting the percentage of the result and making the conclusion of using the finding process, particpant and circumstance dominantly.

Research Findings

After analyzing those clauses in Barrack Obama's speeches, the findings of transitivity those speeches can be represented as follows :

The Total Numbers of Processes in Barrack Obama's Speeches

No.	Speeches	Types of Process						Total
		Mat	Men	Rel	Beh	Ver	Ext	
1.	Election Night Victory	121	35	57	8	16	9	246
2.	Obama Inaugural Address	166	27	63	3	17	3	279
	Total	287	62	120	11	33	12	525
		525						
	Total (%)	54,6	11,8	22,9	2,1	6,3	2,3	525
		100						

Note: Material   : **Mat**

Mental   : **Men**

Relational   : **Rel**

Behavioural : **Beh**

Verbal   : **Ver**

Existential   : **Ext**

The Total Numbers of Participants in Barrack Obama's Speeches

No.	speech	Participant														Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1.	I	77	58	29	13	46	31	5	1	3	2	6	7	8	8	296

No.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
2.	II	115	80	22	8	50	22	5	4	0	0	2	3	8	3	322
	Total	192	138	51	21	96	53	10	5	3	2	8	12	16	11	
	Total (%)	31.1	22.3	8.3	3.4	15.5	8.6	1.6	0.8	0.5	0.3	1.3	1.9	2.6	1.8	618
		100%														

Note:

I : Election Night Victory

II : Obama Inaugural Address

1 : Actor	8 : Attribute
2 : Goal	9 : Possessor
3 : Senser	10 : Possessed
4 : Phenomenon	11 : Behavior
5 : Token	12 : Sayer
6 : Value	13 : Verbiage
7 : Carrier	14 : Existent

The Total Numbers of Circumstances in Barrack Obama's Speeches

No.	Speeches	Types of Circumstances									Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1.	Election Night Victory	14	44	5	6	4	14	3	5	0	95
2.	Obama Inaugural Address	13	50	5	7	9	16	3	6	0	109
	Total	27	94	10	13	13	30	6	11	0	204
		204									
	Total (%)	13,2	46,1	4,9	6,4	6,4	14,7	2,9	5,4	0	
		100									

Note :

1. Extent   5. Contingency   9. Angel

2	Location	6. Accompaniment
3	Manner	7. Role
4	Cause	8. Matter

As shown on the tables above, there were three main results appeared from each table, the findings of the process, participant, and circumstance in transivity system in Barrack Obama's Speeches can be represented as follows :

1) Transitivity in Barrack Obama's speeches was analyzed to get the types of procces, participant and circumtance used in the speeches. The types of process were Material Process was 287 (54,6%), Mental Process was 62 (11,8%), Relational Process was 120 (22,9%), Behavioral Process was 11 (2,1%), Verbal Process was 33 (6,3%), and Existential Process was 12 (2,3%). The nine types of participants that used in Barrack Obama speeches with the total numbers of participants were 618 participants, they were Actor was 192 (31,1%), Goal was 138 (22,3%), Senser was 51 (8,3%), Phenomenon was 21 (3,4%), Token was 96 (15,5%), Value was 53 (8,6%), Carrier was 10 (1,6%), Attribute was 5 (0.8%), Possessor was 3 (0,5%), Possessed was 2 (0,3%), Behavior was 8 (1,3%), Sayer was 12 (1,9%), Verbiage was 16 (2,6%), and Existent was 11 (1,8%). The types of circumstances that found in Barrack Obama speeches with the total numbers of circumstances were Extent was 27 (13,2%), Location was 94 (46,1%), Manner was 10 (4,9%), Cause was 13 (6,4%), Contingency was 13 (6,4%), Accompaniment was 30 (14,7%), Role was 6 (2,9%), and Matter was 11 (5,4%).

2) Transitivity in Barrack Obama's speeches was analyzed to get the most dominant with highest percentage consisting of process, participant and circumstance. The result showed that the most dominant process in Barrack Obama's speeches was Material Process with the total number was 287 (54,6%). In Participant, since there is interconnecting relation between process and participant the analysis obviously showed that the most dominant participant was Actor with the total number was 192 (31,1%). The last, for the circumstance which was separated from those two divisions before, the analysis showed that the most dominant circumstance went to Location with the total number was 94 (46,1%).

3) Material Process is the most dominant one because it indicates action, activity, things that were done or happened physically in the outside world of human beings. In the two speeches, as the representatives of Barrack Obama's speeches, Obama told about many activities and things that he would like to do after his winning in the election of the President of The United States because he would like to make all people trusted him if Obama and the society can make America better together. So, the physical or action verbs are mostly used as the representation of the physical experience of human beings. The actor was the dominant participant because it was one of participants in material process which was obviously influences the participant involved since the participant named depends on the process. Location came out as the most dominant one in circumstance since Barrack Obama in his speeches mentioned so many places he experienced or visited as a comparison compared to the audiences

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion

After analyzing the transitivity involving process, participant, and circumstance in Barack Obama's Speeches which were representative by two speeches namely "Election Night Victory Speech" and "Obama Inaugural Address", the research can be concluded as follows:

1) The six types of process were found in the speechess of Barrack Obama, they are Material Process, Mental Process, Relational Process, Behavioral Process, Verbal Process, and Existential Process. The nine types of participants that were used in Barrack Obama's speeches were Actor, Goal, Senser, Phenomenon, Token, Value, Carrier, Attribute, Possessor, Possessed, Behavior, Sayer, Verbiage, and Existent. The

types of circumstances that were found in Barrack Obama's speeches were Extent, Location, Manner, Cause, Contingency, Accompanimen, Role, and Matter

2) The most dominant process which was used in Barrack Obama's speeches was Material Process with the total numbers and percentage are 287 (54,6%). The most dominant participant was Actor which was 192 (31,1%). The last, the most dominant circumstance found in this analysis is Location which was 94 (46,1%).

3) Material Process is the most dominant process because it indicates activities that happen in the outside world of human beings. Furthermore, the speeches of Barrack Obama told about many activities that can be done to make America better. So, the physical or action verbs are mostly used as the representation of the physical experience of human beings as the implication of the most dominant process. As the process controls the participant so the most dominant participant which appeared in the analysis was Actor which was 192 (31,1%). And the last, the most dominant circumstance appeared in this analysis was Location with the numbers of percentage was 94 (46,1%). It was caused Obama mentioned more both place and time in his speeches as the implication of the most dominant participant and circumstance.

Suggestions

Based on the conclusion above, the suggestions are as follows:

1) It is suggested that the students of English department should understand how to analyze transitivity (process, participant and circumstance) in such kind of research either in spoken or written, such as: speech, song, magazine, newspaper, novel, poetry, etc.

2) It is suggested that the teachers can use Barrack Obama's speeches as one of the objects used in analyzing the transitivity system because it is a valuable source of teaching material.

3) It is suggested that the readers can use the result of the research as the useful information to have a better understanding about transitivity.

4) It is advised for other researchers who are concerned to this study to conduct in depth-research to get better knowledge in this theory and application.

References

Benesty, Jacob., Sondhi, M. Mohan., & Huang, Yiteng. 2008. *Springer Handbook of Speech Processing.* Berlin: Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg.

Bloor, T., and Bloor, M. 19995. *The Functional Analysis of English*. *A Hallidayan Approach*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Downing, A., and Philip, L. 2002. *English Grammar*. New York: Prentice Hall International (UK).

Dupuis, Martin & Boeckelman, Keith. 2008. *Barack Obama, the New Face of American Politics. London*: Praeger Publishers.

Gerot, Linda and Wignell, Peter. 2001. *Making Sense of Functional Grammar*. Sydney: AEE Publishing

Greener, Sue. 2008. *Business Research Methods*: Dr. Sue Greener and Ventus Publishing Aps.

Halliday, M.A.K. 1985*. An Introduction to Functional Grammar.* London: Edward Arnold.

Halliday, M.A.K. 1994. *An Introduction to Functional Grammar (Second Edition).* London: Edward Arnold.

Kothari, C.R. 2004. *Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques.* Jaipur: New Age International (P) Ltd., Publishers.

Martin, J.R. 1997. Working with Functional Grammar. London: J.W. Arrowsmith.

M. S, Mahsun. 2005. *Metode Penelitian Bahasa.* Jakarta: PT. Raja Grafindo Persada.

Pease, Allan. 1981. *Body Language*. North Sydney: Camel Publishing Company.

Price, Joann F.2008.*Barack Obama: A Biography*. Westport: An imprint of Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc.

Saragih, A. 2006. *Bahasa dalam Konteks Sosial*. Medan: FBS. UNIMED.

Saragih, A. 2004. *Introducing Systemic Functional Grammar.* Medan: FBS. UNIMED.

Searle, John R. 2006. *What Is Language: Some Preliminary Remarks*. Berlin.

Silvana, Tengku, Sinar. 2002. *An Introduction to a Systemic Functional Linguistics Oriented Discourse Analysis*. Singapore: DeeZed Consult Singapore.

Silvana, Tengku, Sinar. 2007. *Phasal and Experiential Realizations in Lecture Discourse: A Systemic Functional Analysis. Sumut-NAD. Koordinasi*

*Perguruan Tinggi Swasta Wilayah-I NAD-Sumu*t.

Trask, R.L. 1997. *A Student's Dictionary of Language and Linguistics*. New York: Edward Arnold.

Turk, Christopher. 1985. *Effective Speaking: Communicating in Speech*. British: E & FN Spon, an imprint of Chapman & Hall.