

## Transitivity Analysis: Activity Delineation in Short Story “Harry Potter Prequel” by J.K. Rowling

Yessi Ratna Sari

AMIK Mitra Gama, Jl. Kayangan No.99, Duri, Riau

\*[yessiratnasari91@gmail.com](mailto:yessiratnasari91@gmail.com)

### Abstract

*It is transitivity that every word has its function and reflect different experience. Transitivity system consists of participant, process, and circumstance. The transitivity system is applied in the short story by J.K Rowling. The purpose of writing this article is to find out the implementation of transitivity system accompanied by functions in each process found in each clause, so that the correct meaning can be obtained. Therefore, this research uses the Functional Grammar theory proposed by Halliday which discusses the function of the clause. The results show that there are 6 types of processes, namely material process, mental process, relational process, behavioral process, verbal process, and existential process, 14 types of participants, namely actor, target, goal, range, carrier, senser, attribute, token, value, phenomenon, behavior, sayer, subject, and existent, and 5 types of circumstances, namely circumstance of time, circumstance of place, circumstance of manner, circumstance of accommodation, and circumstance of cause. Based on the research results, the writer concludes that the author tends to use a material process that emphasizes the many activities carried out by participants. The activities carried out by participants are also supported by other processes. The processes contributed to the creation of a tense atmosphere among the two police officers and the two boys in reaction to the boys' actions. Other thing that supports the occurrence of these processes is the existence of circumstance.*

*Keywords: transitivity, participant, process, and circumstance.*

### Abstrak

Sistem transitivitas terdiri dari partisipan, proses, dan situasi. Sistem transitivitas diaplikasikan dalam cerita pendek karya J.K Rowling. Tujuan penulisan artikel ini ialah untuk mengetahui implementasi sistem transitivitas yang disertai dengan fungsi dalam setiap proses yang ditemukan dalam tiap klausa sehingga dapat diperoleh makna yang tepat serta menggambarkan pengalaman yang berbeda. Oleh sebab itu, penelitian ini menggunakan teori *Functional Grammar* yang dikemukakan oleh Halliday yang membahas tentang fungsi klausa. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 6 (enam) tipe proses, yaitu proses melakukan tindakan (*material process*), proses merasakan;berpikir (*mental process*), proses menjadi sesuatu (*relational process*), proses yang berkaitan dengan psikologis (*behavioural process*), proses mengatakan (*verbal process*), dan sesuatu yang ada (*existential process*), 14 (empat belas) tipe partisipan yaitu *actor, target, goal, range, carrier, senser, attribute, token, value, phenomenon, behavior, sayer, subject, dan existent*, and 5 (lima) tipe situasi yaitu *circumstance of time, circumstance of place, circumstance of manner, circumstance of accompaniment, and circumstance of cause*. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa pengarang cenderung menggunakan *material process* yang menekankan banyaknya aktivitas yang dilakukan oleh partisipan. Aktivitas yang dilakukan oleh partisipan juga didukung dengan proses-proses lainnya. Proses tersebut mendukung terciptanya suasana yang menegangkan antara dua orang polisi dan dua orang anak laki-laki sebagai reaksi terhadap aksi yang dilakukan oleh anak laki-laki tersebut.

*Kata kunci: sistem transitivitas, partisipan, proses, dan situasi.*

### 1. Introduction

Literature text is a part of literature. The true meaning of literature is the written works in different forms, such as, novels, poetry, stories, plays, fiction etc. It may also consist of texts based on information as well as imagination (Akhter, 2020). Literary texts are influenced by the history, culture and circumstances relevant to the individuals who produce them. The one of literary work

was chosen in this research is fiction. There are some elements in fiction: 1. Plot; 2. Characters; 3. Narrative perspective; and, 4. Setting (Klarer, 2013). Those terms are realized through Systemic Functional Grammar.

Systemic Functional Grammar is an approach to linguistic description which aims to provide a comprehensive account of how language is used in context for communication. This approach deals with language as a source that is mainly shaped by the uses the people make of it (Sameer & Al Dilaimy, 2020). Systemic Functional Grammar is a way of describing lexical and grammatical choices from the systems of wording so that we are always aware of how language is being used to realize meaning (Butt, 2000). In functional grammar there are three ways of labeling the clause that known as three lines of meaning the clause, those are clause as message, clause as exchange, and clause as representation (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

Transitivity system was chosen in this analysis which exists in the third aspect of the meaning of the clause that is clause as representation and it refers to when people talk about what a word or sentence “means”. It is a kind of meaning they have in mind, in the sense, and relates with the experiential function. Transitivity as the impression of experience it consists of ‘goings-on, happening, doing, sensing, meaning, and being and becoming which sorted out in the grammar of the clause (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

The transitivity system construes the world of experience into a manageable set of process types (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). This system explains the world of experience with the set of process types. The system deals with processes, participants and circumstances. The process refers to the verbal group as action, speech, etc., the participant refers to the nominal group as actor, goal, target, etc., and the circumstance refers to the adverbial/ prepositional phrase such as location, time, cause, etc. In Halliday’s book (2014) these three concepts are known as semantic categories which explain in the most general way how the phenomena of the real world are represented as linguistic structures.

This system consists with three main types of process in the English transitivity system; material process, mental process, and relational process. Other three boundaries types of process; behavioural process, verbal process, and existential process. Types of elements are usually realized by:

- (a) Process : the group of verbs
- (b) Participant : the group of nouns
- (c) Circumstance : the group of adverbials or prepositional phrases

Harry Potter Prequel was chosen for this study. This short story is written by the famous author J.K. Rowling which published in 2008 as a part of the charity auction event. Rowling is a British novelist who had known as the author of the Harry Potter fantasy series that has got a lot of awards and gained worldwide attention. Harry Potter Prequel was different from the series, it's because the characters and the storyline that formed it. These differences are then analyzed by using transitivity to see who is the participant, process and circumstance that supports it.

## 2. Methodology

In this research the writer collects the data from an internet. The writer took in a website [harrypotter.wikia.com](http://harrypotter.wikia.com) with the original writing of Rowling and also downloaded the short story. This one is a work of fantasy literature by J.K. Rowling’s who known as a novelist of Harry Potter series. A qualitative descriptive are used as the research method. Qualitative descriptive is a term used in qualitative research for a descriptive study. The qualitative method commonly emphasizes deeper understanding aspects by using data interpretation and analysis (Sari & Gempita, 2020).

This research is interpretative research, with the inquirer typically involved in a sustained and intensive experience with participants (Creswell, 2009).

Starting with the knowing of the famous author J.K. Rowling, the writer analyzes her work based on the theory the writer used. In analyzing the data the writer uses referential method refers to the theory I used. This study are analyzed by Systemic Functional Grammar by focused on the structure of clause as representation which is called transitivity system.

In presenting the result, the writer describes the process which is found in this work based on the theory in written form by using table to support the occurrence of the processes that will be found in the short story.

Research on transitivity analysis has been conducted by Syed A. et al that applied to Analysis short story “The Boarding House” by James Joyce. The researcher has found two female characters respectively. One female character is found as a mother while the other one is a daughter. Researcher has found the material process as mostly used process (Syed, Nazir, Hafiz, & Shahbaz, 2021). Additionally, research using transitivity on short story has been conducted by Kurnia and Halima. Material process is the dominant process occurred in the short story. Material process is process that show doings and happenings. It is related to physiological behavior. The material process is used as a dominant process in narrative text to build the plot story by telling reader what is happening and how the actor of the story faced the problem (Kurnia, 2018). From 72 samples containing 95 transitivity system expressing the themes, the writer found that the most frequent type of process used in the short story is material process. It develops and describes the theme of denial. It is also used to develop themes of illusive love and child neglect. Mrs. Whipple’s denial that her son is suffering from mental illness, her illusive love toward her son and her treatments of neglecting her son are expressed through the actions or physical movements of the characters (Halima, 2019).

These three studies focused with personality of the main character that realize with our realities while the writer analysis is using transitivity process to analyze the activity of how and what other transitivity processes that will be found in fantasy literary *Harry Potter Prequel* by J.K. Rowling. By applying this system, the readers may understand the text easily. The similarity is; that all researches used the same framework as the writer’s to analyze a literary work from linguistics orientation with using transitivity process by Halliday.

### 3. Finding and Discussion

#### 3.1 Material Process

Datum 1a

The speeding motorcycle took the sharp corner so fast in the darkness.

Table 1. Transitivity Process

<b>The speeding motorcycle</b>	<b>took</b>	<b>the sharp corner</b>	<b>so fast</b>	<b>in the darkness</b>
Part : Actor	Proc: Material	Part: Goal	Circ: Manner	Circ: Time (Location)

The transitivity process that occurs in this clause is material process, process of doing. It is indicated by the word *took* while *the speeding motorcycle* functions as the actor who is doing an action that also known as target. The motorcycle who was rider by the motorist headed *on the sharp corner*, it functions as the goal of the action taken by actor. This situation is called as actor’s goal that was reached the sharp corner and took directly by the motorist. This action looks suspicious with the circumstances that occurs in this clause. If this is done in the usual way it will be said fair when you're driving, however the motorist who was riding the motorcycle was so fast. *So fast* that occurred in this clause functions as circumstance of manner that tells how the rider drives

motorcycle. Another thing that makes it more suspicious is this incident occurred *in the darkness* which functions as circumstance of time, describes when the action happened. The action occurred in this circumstance leads to break the rule.

Transitivity process that occurs in this clause is seen as an unusual action. When somebody is driving, it is normal to drive at predetermined speed limit, in good conditions and obey the driving rule but it looks suspicious because of driving motorcycle in very fast speed and in the darkness of night. It can't be seen clearly of what he does. So it causes suspicions to someone who directly saw it and leads another process to occur.

### 3.2. Mental Process

Datum 13

They seemed to be in their late teens.

Table 2. Transitivity Process

<b>They</b>	<b>seemed</b>	<b>to be in their late teens</b>
Part: Target	Proc: Mental	Circ: Phenomenon

Mental process are concerned with our experience of the world of our own consciousness. (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). This process relates to our senses such as feel, think, want or perceive and in this clause shows the existence of a mental process. Here, *They* refers to the motorists and functions as target because of this situation describes about something that is seen by Fisher. Fisher is one of the officers.

The previous clause describes the officers who stopped the motorists who was driving so fast in the darkness. This situation of this clause relates to the process. The process is indicated by a word *seemed*. *Seemed* is called as mental process because it is a perception process which refers to the sense of sight of Fisher, and *to be in their late teens* functions as phenomenon which describes about the boys through Fisher's perception and it is perceived by himself.

### 3.3. Relational Process

Datum 27a

They were suddenly as alert as gundogs.

Table 3. Transitivity Process

<b>They</b>	<b>were</b>	<b>suddenly</b>	<b>as alert as gundogs</b>
Part: Carrier	Proc: Attributive (Relational)	Circ: Manner	Attribute

It is process of being and having. The previous clause describes about the motorists, James and Sirius. *They* functions as carrier who will be described. The process occurs in this clause is called as attributive process stated by *were* since it describes *they/participant*. In the 'attributive' mode, an entity has some class ascribed or attributed to it. Structurally, we label this class the Attribute, and the entity to which it is ascribed is the Carrier – the 'carrier' of the 'attribute' (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). To describe about the process, here a circumstance of manner, which is indicated by *suddenly*. *Suddenly* occurs to describe if the process occurs with a sudden action. It tells about how the action has done. Another function that occurs in this clause is the attribute of this process. It is indicated by *as alert as gundogs*, which means the way how the boys are trying to do something to avoid themselves enter into a more difficult situation.

### 3.4. Behavioral Process

Datum 27b

staring past Fisher and Anderson, over the roof of the police car, at the dark mouth of the alley.

Table 4. Transitivity Process

<b>staring past</b>	<b>Fisher and Anderson</b>	<b>over the roof of the police car</b>	<b>at the dark mouth of the alley</b>
Proc: Behavioral	Part: Target	Circ: Place	Circ: Place

The process that occurs in this clause is behavioral process. This is a process of (typically human) physiological and psychological behavior (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). It is found in the *staring past*, which verb *staring* functions as its process since it relates to someone’s behavior relates to the boys. The boys’ targets are referring to *Fisher and Anderson*, who stop the action of the boys and make them in bad situation. This relates to the previous clause. The process is completed by two circumstances, those are *over the roof of the police car*, and *at the dark mouth of the alley* which functions as circumstance of place, where the processes and situations happened. These are given and seen through the boys’ situations like people who are predicting what they will do.

### 3.5. Verbal Process

Datum 1b

that both policemen in the pursuing car shouted “Whoa!”

Table 5. Transitivity Process

<b>that</b>	<b>both policemen</b>	<b>in the pursuing car</b>	<b>shouted</b>	<b>“Whoa!”</b>
	Part: Sayer	Circ: Place	Proc: Verbal	Verbiage

In the first clause (1a), the speeding motorcycle functions as the actor who’s doing an action and as the target of the policemen. The action doing by the first participant under those circumstances triggers the other participants to do the second process, which means the second process depends on the first process. Each circumstance that occurs within two clauses in datum 1a and datum 1b describe the situation happened among the motorists and the policemen where there is an action and reaction.

*Both policemen* here functions as sayer due to the process that will be said to respond the process in the first clause (1a) as their reaction after seeing those situations. As we know police is responsible to supervise and control citizens’ activities and be responsible for keeping public order. The police have a role in maintaining public security and order, enforcing the law, and providing protection, and service to the community (Anshar & Setiyono, 2020). So when there is a situation that they assume suspicious, policemen have the authority to commit an action.

As the sayer, the participant of the process does the process *shouted* which functions as verbal process, process of saying something towards their target. It is James and Sirius. This process is done *in the pursuing car* as a tool for the policemen, and functions as circumstance of place where the process has done. A word spoken by sayer to stop the action is “*Whoa!*”, and it means *stop* also functions as verbiage, so that there is a situation where the policemen try to stop the action that is considered out of control.

### 3.6. Existential Process

Datum 40

There was an earth-shaking crash.

Table 6. Transitivity Process

<b>There</b>	<b>was</b>	<b>an earth-shaking crash</b>
Part: Subject	Proc: Existential	Part: Existent

In datum 40 tells about the impacts happened to the policemen. The previous clause describes James and Sirius whom successfully carry out their actions and change the situation by taking the drumstick from their pocket and saying the magic word. They both are wizard. For a witch this is a common thing which is called as magic. But, for ordinary people who don't know about that will think that it is impossible thing. That's why the genre of this story called as fantasy literature which filled with magic and impossible things that won't happen in the real world.

The clause *There was an earth-shaking crash* appears to describe about there is something exists after the incident, which *there* functions as subject that exists. The process for something exists is stated by *was*, which is called as process existential. The one that exists in this clause is indicated by *an earth-shaking crash* functions as existent to describe something happens relate to the previous situation.

### 4. Conclusion

This function portrays experiences represented by verbs describing a process. Those experiences describe an action, event, feeling, behavior, statement, or existence of entities performed by the participant.

Table 7. The Summary of Transitivity Analysis

<b>No.</b>	<b>Process</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage %</b>
1	Material	32	40 %
2	Mental	13	16 %
3	Relational	10	13 %
4	Behavioral	6	7.5 %
5	Verbal	14	17.5 %
6	Existential	5	6 %

After analyzing the data, the writer found some types of transitivity in the short story *Harry Potter Prequel*. The study of transitivity realized through the analysis of the processes show that the policemen are the doer of more practical actions than the boys. The material processes show that the policemen do the actions to prove his capacity as supervise and control citizens' activities who be responsible to catch the boys due to their actions for keeping public order. While, the boys as target realized through verbal processes to declare a self-defense in order to avoid problems.

### 5. Suggestion

Further research is needed in transitivity analysis, especially literary texts. Literary texts are influenced by the history, culture and circumstances relevant to the individuals who produce them. This study needs more analysis of transitivity to reflect different and more experiences that picture our reality.

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