

TRANSITIVITY ANALYSIS ON THE HEADLINES NEWS ABOUT COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN JAKARTA POST AND CHANNEL NEWS ASIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to find the ideational Meaning of Headlines new in two mass media in Jakarta Post and Channel News Asia. This research has been done using a transitivity analysis of the Systemic Functional Linguistics theory by Halliday to find the ideational meaning. The data in this research are the text taken from the selected news in Jakarta Post and Channel News Asia. The data is collected through a library method, using reading and note taking techniques. Data were analyzed using a qualitative descriptive approach. This study found material, attributive relational, verbal and mental behavior process in the headline news of Jakarta Post. While, there are only material and verbal process in the headline news of Channel News Asia. Material process in both media represents how the authorities solved the problem Covid-19. Verbal process represents the stakeholders also took the roles in delivering information about the spread of virus to the societies. The presence of attributive relational process and mental behavior process in Jakarta Post news describe the conditions of the employees and the authorities had thought carefully in taking decision to solve the problem.

Keywords: *transitivity, covid-19, Jakarta Post, Channel News Asia*

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INTRODUCTION

People communicate using language that is constructed by morphemes, words, sentence or utterance whether in spoken or written form. Wiratno (2018) said that language is always as a text. Language reflects an attitude, opinion, value and ideology represented in its meaning. People achieve certain goals in communication by conveying something using certain texts. The text must contain linguistic forms to deliver the goals of communication. Those forms are called linguistic system in the text. One of the means to examine text is Systemic Functional Language approach (SFL).

Halliday & Hassan, (1989) explained that SFL studies language functionally. SFL is used to analyze the text in various levels, from lexicogrammatical to the structure of texts. So that discourse semantic can be revealed overall. Halliday & Martin (1993) added that SFL concerned with text rather than sentences as the basic unit in which meaning is negotiated. While text

means an instance of process and product of social meaning in a particular context of situation. Further, in creating the meaning of the text can be represented in metafunctions: ideational (field), interpersonal (tenor), and textual (mode) (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004).

One of Halliday metafunctions theory is ideational meaning. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) stated that ideational meanings deal with construing a model of experience. Ideational meaning intends to relate to the participant, event, phenomenon, action, circumstance, etc. This metafunction could be used to analyze the text in order to see how the texts and meaning are produced. Realization of ideational meaning in clause level is revealed by transitivity (participant, process and circumstance).

Some transitivity studies have been conducted on several research objects, such as research on the shift process in transitivity system on Obama's and Trump's inauguration speech (Hidayat et al., 2019). They focused on *process*. They did not discuss the realization of meaning through the participants and the circumstance.

Furthermore, Nguyen (2021) examined the function of language using Transitivity Theory in "Heroic Mother" work. This research found that the mental and verbal processes proved that the main character does keep her concerns inside her heart and does nothing. To conclude, this research only focused on the utterance of the main character.

Similarly, Isti'anah (2014) examined the transitivity process on four opinions about the governor of Jakarta's election. This research found material, relational, verbal process in the article. This study also proves that the language use in the opinion columns influences how the readers perceive the message. Then, the material processes prove that language users have the freedom to convey their ideas in different styles of wordings.

Meanwhile, from the same researcher, Isti'anah (2014), mental and relational processes were used by the students in understanding the material in grammar learning taught by Journal Media. On the other hand, the material process is used when the students express their experience, practice, and purpose of learning grammar. Students who are aware of the importance of grammar practice, their understanding of the materials can improve.

Thus, through the review of previous studies, researchers want to complete previous studies by comparing how the transitivity works in two mass media: Channel News Asia and Jakarta Post about Covid-19. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been many information from various media such as radio, television, newspaper, and online media. Mass media, both printed and online, is one factor that influences public anxieties. Therefore, this study aims to examine the participant, process, and circumstance found texts related to the Covid-19 outbreak in the two news media, so how the transitivity works can be described.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Wodak (2001) states that discourse analysis is about how texts work or function in socio-cultural practices. Meanwhile, according to Darma (2009), critical discourse analysis (CDA) is an attempt or process of deciphering to explain a text (social reality) which get specific purpose what is desired. In other words, critical discourse analysis is generally applied to criticize and reveal the relationship between language and socio-political news. Furthermore, critical discourse analysis

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is how language and discourse are used to achieve social goals, including to build social cohesion or social changes. Based on the description above, it means that critical social research is research to analyze a text to criticize and reveal the relationship between language and socio-politic news. The object of critical discourse analysis uses all of the documents such as the result of discussion, parliamentary debates, speeches, cartoons, photo films, newspapers, advertisements or procedures (Haryatmoko, 2017). Therefore, in this study, the researchers try to reveal the social reality of the text in the online news published by the Jakarta Post and Channel News Asia about the relationship between text and social conditions in society.

One of the means used for critical discourse analysis is transitivity found in Halliday's theory of systemic functional linguistics. (Hasan, 2005) had mentioned principles of SFL. One of them is that language is as a resource of meaning than a system of rules. Moreover, SFL is oriented to the meaning produced by the speakers. SFL also emphasizes relation of text and context. In addition, analysis text using SFL approach does not only focus on one linguistic level (for instance phrase and clause), however it also focuses on all levels that support the meaning of the text. Moreover, Some linguists agreed that it is a systematic way to analyze how language works or functions in communication.

Halliday, M. A. K., and Matthiessen (2004) argue that creating meaning in grammar can be represented in metafunctions: ideational (field), interpersonal (tenor), and textual (mode). This research tries to reveal the ideational meaning associated with the experimental meaning and with various types of processes within the framework of a linguistic system called transitivity. Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) explain the ideational meaning associated with the experimental meaning and various types of processes in the framework of a linguistic system called transitivity. The experience consists of three constituents, namely participant, process, and circumstance. The verb group realizes the process, the participant is realized by the noun group and the circumstance is realized by the adverbial or preposition group. Besides that, (Gerot, L., & Wignell, 1994) also argued that ideational meaning is the meaning of phenomena - about things, about goings on (what the things are or do) and the circumstances surrounding happenings and doings. Through those explanations, to see the meaning of the text's phenomena and circumstance needs to examine the transitivity system. There are six types of processes in transitivity: material, mental, verbal, verbal behavior, relational and existential processes.

Halliday, M. A. K., & Matthiessen (2014) also explained that the material process is a process of work that shows an action (process of doing) or an event (process of happening). Material processes are realized by verbs that show physical activities. In the material process, there are participants who do something called *actor*, and other participants who are addressed by the process, namely *goal*.

Meanwhile, verbal process is a process that represents process of saying (for example: stating, asking, notifying, telling and telling). In the verbal process, there are participants such as *sayer*, *verbiage* and *receiver*.

Relational process is process that relates a participant to its identity and description. There are two kinds of relational process. They are attributive and identifying relational process. Attributive relational process is the process of being. In the attributive relational process, there are participants who are called *carriers*

and *attribute*. While, identifying relational process is a process of giving a value to a thing. The participants of this process are *token* and *value*.

Moreover, the mental behaviour process is a process that shows both physical and psychological behaviour. This process is also called process of sensing (perception, cognition, and affection). This participants of this process are senser and phenomenon. Then, there are 3 types of phenomena. They are micro (thing), macro (thing with embedded process), meta (an idea).

In addition, Behavior process is process of behaving. There are two type of behavior process. There are verbal behavior and mental behavior. Mental behavior usually uses the verbs such as *look at, watch, listen to, experience, survey, smile, laugh, cry, memorize, concentrate, mediate*, etc. While, verbal behavior uses the verb such as *talk, chat, converse, speak, call, discuss, abuse, flatter*, etc. *The participants: behaver, receiver, verbiage*. The participants of mental behavior process include *behaver*, and *phenomenon*. Then, *Behaver, receiver*, and *verbiage* are the participants of verbal behavior process.

The last process is a process of projecting that something exists. There is only a participant in this process. It is existent. Here is the example of this process "There is (*process*) a book (*existent*) on the table (*circumstance*).

Gerot, L., & Wignell (1994) said that circumstances of manner refers to several sub-categories, such as means, quality and comparison. Forth, circumstances of cause is to inform the reason and to answer question "why". There are 8 types of circumstances. They are circumstance of angle, extent, location, manner, cause, accompaniment, matter, and role

RESEARCH METHOD

This research applies Critical Discourse Analysis. Discourse research is commonly qualitative because it attempts or deciphers to explain a text (social reality) that get specific purpose what is desired (Dharma, 2009). It seems with SFL that concerns about text, the context of situation, meaning the ideational, interpersonal, and textual function.

The data in this research were the two texts of headlines news deals with the news of Covid-19. Those texts were taken from online mass media namely Jakarta Post and Channel News Asia. After that, those news are analyzed based on ideational meaning through its focuses on transitivity analysis which consists of participants, process and circumstances Halliday & Matthiessen (2004)

The 2 news text deal with Covid-19 outbreak from online newspapers were selected based on some criteria concerning the data sources. Firstly, it consists of a text issued in the online mass media in the term of Covid-19 outbreak. Secondly, the content of texts should be the consistency of issuing the problem. Thirdly, the news should consists of 8 - 15 sentences. Meanwhile, the data consists of two news which were retrieved from the Jakarta Post and Channel News Asia.

The researchers broke the news texts from JP and CNA into clauses. The utilized 2 articles labeled into JP and CNA. The analysis examines every clause in 2 texts. Every clause of JP was labeled by JP.1 and soon. Then, every clause from CNA was labeled CNA.1 and soon. As an example, clause JP.1 means clause

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number one from article in Jakarta Post. The analysis steps analyze the clauses by transitivity, counting the participants, process, and circumstance into a percentage, presenting the findings, discussing the findings, and drawing a conclusion.

FINDING

The process found in Jakarta Post I (JP 1) news texts are 57.14% material process, 28.60% verbal process, 7.14% attributive relational processes, and 7.14% mental behavior process. The material process found dominantly in the text analyzed from Jakarta Post. Mental behavior and attributive relational process appear with the same amount.

The finding of material process of the Jakarta Post news are dominant. There 8 clauses which realized material process. Three of them are as follow:

(JP.1) AEON Mall BSD City (*actor*) closes (*material process*).

(JP.3) AEON Mall BSD City (*goal*) in Tangerang, Banten, (*cir.loc; place*) will be closed (*material process*) for the next seven days (*cir, loc; time*).

(JP.5) Authorities (*actor*) will sterilize (*material process*) the facility (*goal*)

Data JP.1 shows material process. There are three elements which are participant and process. The participant is only actor which acts the process "closes". The word "closes" here expresses the happening material process because there is absence of goal. Through this clauses, the writer shows that the actor took an action after knowing that their employees became ill with the disease caused by Covid-19.

Data JP.3 is also established as a material process. The process expresses a doing material process because the goal is present in that clause. That process in that clause is "will be closed". However, the actor in the clause is not exit. Besides participant and process, it has been also found circumstances of location which realize time and place. The prepositional phrase "in Tangerang, Banten" realizes the place where the actor is exist. Then, "for the next seven days" realizes the time of the process happened. In the term of ideational meaning, although the actor is present in the data, explicitly the actor is the authorities. The authorities took a decision to close the AEON Mall BSD City as the goal for a while (7 days).

Data JP.5 consist of two elements. They are participant and process. The participant is *actor* and *goal*. *Actor* is realized by the word "authorities", while the goal is "the facility. The *actor* acted or did the material process which realized by the word "will sterilize". This clause shows that the actor took a further action to prevent the spread of Corona virus in the *goal* "AEON Mall BSD City" after the authorities closed that Mall.

In addition, the verbal process is also found in the research finding. Verbal processes are found in 4 clauses. They can be seen below:

(JP.12) Tangerang COVID-19 task force spokesperson Hendra Tarmizi (*sayer*) said (*verbal process*) the cases were revealed after one of the infected employees visited a local hospital after experiencing symptoms (*verbiage*).

(JP.13) "He was suffering from a cold and a headache (*verbiage*), his swab test result showed he had contracted COVID-19 (*verbiage*), Hendra (*sayer*) said (*verbal process*).

Data JP.12 and JP.13 expresses the verbal process. There are 3 elements in these data. They are *sayer*, *verbal process*, and *verbiage*. In JP.2, *sayer* is Hendra Tarmizi as task force spokesperson. He delivered the message to the reporters about “the cases were revealed after one of the infected employees visited a local hospital after experiencing symptoms (*verbiage*”. So that, this message is called by “the verbiage”. Verbiage means the content of what is said or name of the saying (Halliday, 2004). Then, the verbal process in this data realized by the word “said”. This data shows that the information about why the employees of AEON Mall BSD City who infected Corona virus is gotten by the *sayer* “Hendra Tarmizi as task force spokesperson”.

Meanwhile, in the JP.13, there are two verbiages “he was suffering from a cold and a headache” and “his swab test result showed he had contracted COVID-19”. These verbiages or message are informed by Hendra Tarmizi. Thus, Hendra is the *sayer*. The verbal process is also realized by the word “said”. This clause expresses that Hendra also informed about the symptoms that suffered by the employee after he infected the Covid-19.

There are found 2 participants in attributive relational process. They are carrier and attribute. In Jakarta Post, It is only found 1 clause that uses relational process, as seen below:

(JP.4) Two of its employees (*carrier*) tested (*attributive relational process*) positive for COVID-19 (*attributive*).

Data JP.4 has a transitivity expresses relational attributive process. In clause “Two of its employees tested positive for COVID-19” has two elements: participant, and. The participant is established by the word “two of its employees” assigns a *carrier*, and the process in this data is established by the verb “are”. In the term of ideational meaning, the employees of AEON Mall BSD city suffer Covid-19 after they have been test medically.

The last process that found in the news of Jakarta Post is mental behavior process. It is only found 1 data. It can be seen below:

(JP.9) Authorities (*behave*) have decided to disinfect (*mental behavior*) all parts of the four-story building (*phenomenon*), inside and outside, including the parking area (*cir; accompaniment*). Thus, this process shows the authorities solved the problem by disinfecting all places which is affected by the virus.

Furthermore, in Channel News Asia, there are only found 2 processes. They are material and verbal process. Material process is found in 70% and 30% for verbal process. The findings of ideational meaning in Channel News Asia are as follows:

(CNA.1) A medical worker (*actor*) checks (*material process*) the doors (*goal*) inside the Mobile Clinic Module outside Korea Cancer Centre Hospital in Seoul, South Korea (*cir.loc; place*) Jan 8, 2021 (*cir.loc; time*).

(CNA.5) South Korea (*actor*) stopped (*material process*) short of a complete lockdown or stay-at-home order (*goal*).

The data CNA.1 is material process. There are 3 components of this data. They are actor, process and circumstance. The noun phrase “a medical worker” is as *actor*. While, the process is “check”. There are also 2 kind of circumstances. The

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first is circumstance of place realized by the prepositional phrase “inside the Mobile Clinic Module outside Korea Cancer Centre Hospital in Seoul, South Korea” and the second is circumstance of time realized by the prepositional phrase “Jan 8, 2021”. This data shows that a medical worker took in action to checking the doors of Mobile Clinic Module outside Korea Cancer Center Hospital to examine the patients who suffer Covid-19. Mobile Clinic Module here means an inflatable ward for isolating and treating patient with infectious Covid-19. The circumstance of time realized when the process happened.

Data CNA.5 also expresses a material process. The elements are *actor*, *process* and *goal*. The actor is South Korea. It means the authorities of South Korea. Then, the process is “stopped” and “short of a complete lockdown or stay-at-home order” is as a goal. In the term of the ideational meaning, the data shows that the authorities of South Korea took an action to stop the policy concerning with short of a complete lockdown or stay-at-home order that had been determined in the previous decision.

Moreover, the verbal process is also found in the news of Channel News Asia. There are 3 data found. Here are the explanation of those findings:

(CNA.2) South Korea (*sayer*) reported (*verbal process*) fewer than 500 new coronavirus infections (*verbiage*) on Monday (Jan 11) for the first time since record high daily case numbers over the Christmas holiday period (*cir.loc;time*).

(CNA.3) The country (*sayer*) reported (*verbal process*) a record 1,241 (*verbiage*) cases in one day during the Christmas holiday (*cir.loc;time*) the peak of the country's largest wave of infections yet (*Cir. condition*).

Data CNA.2 and CNA.3 are established as verbal process. Data CNA.2 consists of 4 elements which are *sayer*, *process*, *verbiage* and *circumstance*. The *sayer* is South Korea which means the authorities of South Korea. Then, the *sayer* delivered the information about the new case of Corona virus. There are around 500 who are infected that virus. The verbal process realized by the verb “reported”. Then, the circumstance of time realized the information of new case deals with Covid-19 happened.

Meanwhile, Data CNA.3 only has 4 elements. They are *sayer*, *process* and *verbiage* and *circumstance*. The actor is the country or the authorities of the country. Afterward, the *verbiage* is about the cases happened in one day. This conditions is the largest wave of infection. So that, the information is called by *verbiage*. The circumstances found are circumstance of time “one day realized the time when the case appeared and circumstance of condition realized the condition caused by the case. It means, the data expresses that the country has experienced in increasing the case of Covid-19 only in one day.

Therefore, through the findings, the ideational meanings of the news deals with Covid-19 in Jakarta Post and Channel News Asia can be seen as follows:

The News of Jakarta Post

- 1) Material process represents that AEON Mall BSD City had been infected of Covid-19. It is realized by the process of happening material through the verb

“close”. Then, the material process also represents how the authorities had taken some actions to prevent the spread of that virus. It was realized by the process *will be closed, will sterilize, conduct, work, will reopen and complete*. All of the actions were done by the actors. they are the authorities of AEON Mall BSD City. The dominance of the actors found are *AEON Mall BSD City*. It means that the authorities of that Mall. While, the affected participants (goal) are *covid-19, the facilities, rapid test, and sterilization process*.

- 2) Verbal process represents the stakeholders also played their roles in delivering the information about the spread of the virus. It is realized by the sayer “Maesal (Tangerang Regency Secretary) and Hendra Tarmizi (Tangerang COVID-19 task force spokesperson)”. They delivered the information to the societies concerning the cause of the spread of Covid-19 in AEON Mall BSD City and how to solve that problems done by the authorities of AEON Mall BSD City.
- 3) Attributive relational process represents the number of the infected employees in AEON BSD City.
- 4) Mental behavior process represents that the authorities of AEON BSD City Mall had took a decision in solve their problem.
- 5) Circumstances emphasizes where and when the case happened.

The News of Channel News Asia

- 1) Material process represents how the authorities of South Korea in solving the problem about increasing of Covid-19 in their country. It was realized by the actors “a medical worker, South Korea, and the country”, the processes “check, stop, has imposed, order to close, can only offer, employs, and threatens to overwhelm” and goal “door, short of a complete lockdown, unprecedented restriction, a number of high-risk business, take a way service, aggressive tracing and that system”.
- 2) Verbal process represents that the authorities also had reported to the societies about increasing of Covid-19 spread.

DISCUSSION

Based on the finding which has been found, those finding strengthen the findings of Is'tianah (2014). Her research of *Transitivity Analysis in Four Selected Opinions about the Jakarta Governor Election* states that the opinions about the Jakarta governor election in the Jakarta Post have employed material, relational, verbal and mental process. This recent study also found processes in the Jakarta Post news, namely verbal, material and relational processes. However, there is one data which is a mental behavior process. These finding represents that authorities have thought carefully to determine the steps in overcoming Covid-19 outbreak.

Process verbal process shows that the stakeholders, authorities or the country delivered the information how the Covid-19 had spread and how Covid-19 increased rapidly. In contrast to the Nguyen's findings, Nguyen found that the main character's family and daughter take the role of Sayer in 3 Verbal processes (Nguyen, 2012. Those verbal process and mental process represent the character of the main characters. However, in the recent study did not find mental process. Anyhow, this study found a behaviour mental process in Jakarta Post News. The process found is the word *decided*. It showed a behavior took an action after thinking carefully and seriously about several possibilities

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Similarly, Suparto (2018) also found the material processes shows that the writers wants to describe what actually happened such as describing the situation of Ahok's case. In the meantime, the researchers found material process in this study. The process material process appears to represent the actions taken by actors, to overcome Covid-19 problem. In addition, the attributive relational process explains situations or events that occurred during the Covid-19 outbreak. Therefore, these findings are in line with Suprpto (2018), he explained material processes shows that the writers had described what actually happened.

Material process in both of Jakarta Post and Channel News Asia represents how the authorities solved the problem Covid-19. Moreover, verbal process represents the stakeholders also took the roles in delivering the information about the spread of the virus to societies. The presence of attributive relational process and mental behavior process in Jakarta Post news represent that the authorities also describe the conditions of the employees and how the authorities had thought carefully in taking decision to solve the problem. Contrastly, there are no attributive relational process and mental behavior process in the news of Channel News Asia.

Futher, participant is also important component. In this finding, *actor* and *goal* are dominant. The *sayer* and *verbiage* appeared the most after the presence of *actor* and *goal*. It shows that the sayers have an important role in transferring an information to the readers. They became the source of the news. While, actors took a role in solving the problem.

The last is circumstance. In this study, It is found circumstance of location (time and place) dominantly. *Location* is a circumstance provides information about when and where the process happens or in the other word, location shows the time and the place. Therefore, the information provided from circumstances of time and place location gives the readers clear descriptions about where and when the process happened.

CONCLUSION

Material and verbal processes are processes that inevitably appear in the news of Jakarta Post and Channel New Asia. The total of verbal processess show that the content of the news discusses information from *sayer* which are government, officials, stakeholders and authorities, both in reporting, explaining, giving suggestions, and announcing to solve the Covid-19 problem. The percentage of material processes in the news shows that the actors took physical actions during the Covid-19 epidemic as well as policy taken to overcome the increasing of Covid-19 case continuously. Thus, it means that online newspapers use material, attributive relational and verbal process dominantly.

Besides process, circumstance also has a role in realizing ideational meaning. From the two news, it is found the circumstances of time dominantly. This shows that the news emphasizes when events, actions or information happened. Circumstance is not exist in every clause. So, the most important thing in realizing ideational meaning in this research are the process and the participants.

Furthermore, from the samples of news in the Jakarta Post and Channel New Asia, there is no mental process. However, this study found a mental behavior process. It represents the thinking or cognitive of the authorities in solving COVID-19 problem. So, it means that the content of news in online mass media analyzed

does not contain meaning that influence the societies mentally. The other reason is because the processes found dominantly are material and verbal process. material process realizes physical action and a verbal process realizes the delivering information from certain sources/*sayer*. Then, attributive relational processes proves the information about the spread of Covid-19. However, to complete this conclusion, further research is needed using a larger sample and diverse sources to prove the findings of this study.

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