

JEEEL

JOURNAL OF ENGLISH EDUCATION, LINGUISTICS AND LITERATURE



STKIP PGRI
J O M B A N G



Volume 3, No. 2 Februari 2017

ISSN 2356-5446



9 772356 544002



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PUBLISHED BY

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF STKIP PGRI JOMBANG

CONTACT DETAILS:

Prodi. Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris

Jl. Pattimura 20/III Jombang

Telp. (0321) 861319 Fax. (0321) 854319

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TRANSITIVITY SYSTEM AS THE REPRESENTATION OF FIELD IN BARRACK OBAMA'S INAUGURAL SPEECH

Muhammad Saibani Wiyanto
English Department
STKIP PGRI Jombang

Abstrak: Memahami bagaimana kata-kata dan pilihan tata bahasa dalam situasi konteks diperlukan pemahaman tentang wacana. Satu elemen dari konteks situasi lapangan (topik yang dibicarakan) diwujudkan melalui sistem transitivitas. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menggambarkan tiga aspek sistem transitivitas; proses, peserta dan keadaan yang terkait dengan proses, dan menjelaskan analisa pidato Pelantikan Barrack Obama berdasarkan sistem transitivitas. Penelitian ini adalah kualitatif. Sistemik Linguistik Fungsional adalah sebuah teori yang digunakan untuk menganalisis data. Data itu berisi ucapan-ucapan kata atau frasa mengacu pada sistem transitivitas yang diambil dari transkrip pidato Pelantikan Barrack Obama pada 20 Januari 2009. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa proses yang ditemukan adalah proses material, proses relasional, proses mental, proses lisan, proses perilaku, dan proses eksistensial. Kata sebagian besar yang ditemukan dalam data adalah *kita, bangsa kita, kami, Anda, saya, semua atau Amerika*. Keadaan yang kebanyakan terjadi dalam data adalah keadaan lokasi, cara, sebab dan iringan. Kemudian, pidato Barrack Obama ditujukan kepada semua orang yang melihat atau mendengarkan pidatonya di dunia, terutama orang-orang Amerika untuk melakukan beberapa tindakan untuk membuat Amerika lebih baik.

Kata Kunci: *Analisis wacana, sistem transitivity*

Abstract: Understanding how words and grammatical choices are realized the context of situation is needed to understand a discourse. One of context of situation elements is field (topic which is talked about) that realized through transitivity system. The objective of this study were to describe the three aspects of transitivity system; process, participants and circumstances that associated with the process, and explain the field of Barrack Obama's Inaugural speech based on transitivity system analysis. This study was qualitative study. Systemic Functional Linguistics was a theory that used to analyze the data. The data was the utterances which contains of words or phrases referring to transitivity system that taken from the transcript of Barrack Obama's Inaugural speech on January 20, 2009. The findings showed that the processes that found were material process, relational process, mental process, verbal process, behavioral process, and existential process. The participants were mostly *we, our nation, us, you, I, all or America*. Circumstances that mostly occur in the data were circumstance of location, manner, cause and accompaniment. Then, the field was Barrack Obama addressed all of the people watching or listening his speech in the world, especially American people to do some actions in making America better.

Key Words: *Discourse analysis, transitivity system*

INTRODUCTION

Language varies according to the situation in which it is used. If we examine a text, we can make guesses about the situation. As stated by Fairclough (1989: 23) that whenever people speak and listen or

write and read, it will be socially determined and it has social effect. Then it called by linguistics phenomena.

Language is investigated through naturally occurring texts functioning in its

context. When someone speak or write, it is important to design what he/she has to say to fit the situation in which he/she is communicating. In daily life, we use language to many functions, chat to other people, read the newspaper, speech in the front of audience, tell the story, do interview, etc. To do those activities, we need language and should know its context of language that used at that time.

Moreover, when people analyze text and language that used to communicate in daily life, it reflects to discourse analysis. As stated by Brown and George Yule (1983:1), the analysis of discourse is the analysis of language in use. Discourse analysis investigates language functions along with its forms. The scope of discourse analysis is wide because discourse analyzes units of languages. Discourse analysis has been used to understand a wide range of texts including conversation, professional documentation, interview, newspapers, magazines, broadcast media, speech, etc.

A speech has a vary language based on the situation in which the people deliver it. Every speech has different context based on the situation and the speakers. The speech will be also seen as an interesting and powerful speech, when it is seen from the speaker itself. In this case Barrack Obama is one of the important person in the world. Everybody in this world will knows him since he is the president of America which is a powerful country.

Inaugural speech is the speech given by the president with his intentions of what he will do as a leader. Barrack Obama's first inaugural speech is unlike any other in American Politics. It marks the first time an African-American took office as the President of the United States. The speech is inspirational, telling the nation that even though the country is probably in its darkest days at that time, there is hope. There are very high expectations for Barrack Obama's speech. As an orator, Obama has the duty of delivering an important address to the nation.

Speech has certain goal that can persuade many people to follow the speaker.

To understand the content of the speech, we should know the meaning from the context of situation. Context plays a very important role in discourse analysis (Song: 2010). A discourse and its context are in close relationship. The discourse elaborates its context and the context helps interpret the meaning of utterances in the discourse. The knowledge of context is a basis of the analysis of a discourse. When we study and analyze a discourse, we should not neglect the related context of a discourse.

One of the linguistics studies that learn language in terms of the ways in which the language of the texts functions, and the ways in which the functions relate to context, is Systemic Functional Linguistics introduced by Halliday. Based on this theory, the analysis does not concern in what language is, but why language is. It is not just what language means, but how language means. Language is learnt through how language works if we consider the way it is used in particular contexts, both cultural and situational. (Halliday:1978 in Teich: 1999:8)

Moreover, to discover the relation between meanings and wordings that accounts for the organization of linguistic features in a text is the functions of transitivity system analysis. Transitivity is a grammatical system of experiential function that helps to express the outside physical world as well as human spiritual field (Kies, Daniel: 2012). Halliday (2004: 170) stated that the transitivity system interprets the world of experience into a convenient set of process types. Depending on different types of verbs, there are six processes according to Systemic Functional Linguistics, namely material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioral and existential process. (Halliday and Matthiessen: 2004: 171)

Material processes of transitivity are processes of doing, usually physical and tangible actions. Two essential participants usually appear in material process are the Actor and the Goal (Ibid:178). Furthermore, Halliday (2004: 197) explains mental process is the process of feeling, thinking and perceiving. Mental processes have two participants: the Senser and the Phenomenon.

Relational processes construe the relationships of being and having between two participants. There are two types of Relational processes; Identifying Relational which serves the purpose of defining and the participants involved are Token and Value. Attributive Relational which serves to describe and participants associated with it are the Carrier and the Attribute (Ibid: 210-215).

Verbal processes are those of exchanging information. Commonly used verbs are say, tell, talk, praise, boast, describe, etc. In these processes the main participants are Sayer, Receiver and Verbiage (Ibid: 252).

Behavioral processes refer to physiological and psychological behavior such as breathing, coughing, smiling, laughing, crying, staring, and dreaming, etc. Generally there is only one participant, Behavior, which is often a human. (Ibid: 248) The other process is existential process. Existential processes represent that something exists or happens (Ibid: 256).

Transitivity system includes choices of those process types and the configuration of possible participants and circumstances which can be associated with a particular process type (Graber: 2001: 14). Participants mean the entities involved in the process which is either human or even animate or inanimate and realized by nominal groups (Ibid). Moreover, circumstances are concerned with temporal and spatial settings which are linguistically expressed with adverbial groups or prepositional phrases. (Ibid: 260)

Systemic Functional Linguistics is also focused on text analysis in social context. Context of situation is specified with respect to field, tenor and mode. (Neale: 2002: 75) The nature of the activity field is a determinant in the selection of options from experiential systems, including choices related to transitivity structure, or process, participant, circumstance. (Haratyan: 2011) Field refers to the role of language or topic which is talked about.

Therefore, the objective of this study were to describe the three aspects of

transitivity system; they are processes, participants and circumstances that occur in Barack Obama's Inaugural Speech on January 20, 2009 and to explain field of the speech based on transitivity system analysis. Hence, this analysis focuses on the lexicogrammar and social context.

METHOD

This research was qualitative research. Dornyei (2007: 38) states that qualitative research is concerned with subjective opinions and feeling of individuals and it is fundamentally interpretive which means that the outcome of the research is the product of researcher's subjective interpretation of the data. Moreover, according to Bogdan (1992: 30) in qualitative research, the data collection is in the form of words. As well as in this research, the data collected are in form of words rather than numbers. The researcher did not use statistical procedures in analyzing the data.

The source of data was taken from the transcript of the inaugural speech of Barack Obama in Washington on January 20, 2009. Furthermore, in this research, the data was the utterances containing words or phrases referring to transitivity system based on Systemic Functional Linguistics that taken from the transcript of the inaugural speech of Barack Obama in Washington on January 20, 2009.

In this research, human was the main instrument. Ary (2010: 424) explains that in qualitative studies, the primary instrument for the gathering and analyzing of data is human investigator. In this research, the researcher spent a great deal of time to observe and analyze the data that taken from the transcript of Barack Obama's inaugural speech. Here, this research did not involve the informant or respondent.

In this research, the researcher also used *Pedoman Dokumen* (Documentation guide) as the instrument. Arikunto (2006: 150) stated that *Pedoman Dokumen* (Documentation guide) is one of the instruments that used in documentation method. In this case, the researcher used the instrument to support in collecting the data

since the data was collected by using documentation method where the data was taken from the transcript of Inaugural speech of Barack Obama in Washington on January 20, 2009.

In collecting the data, the researcher used the documentation method since the data was taken from the transcript of Barack Obama's Inaugural speech in Washington on January 20, 2009. Firstly, the researcher searched the video of Barack Obama's Inaugural speech on January 20, 2013. Watching the video carefully was important to gain the understanding of the speech. Finding the transcript of the speech by finding the book entitled "*President Barack Obama in His Own Word*" in the internet: <http://www.america.gov> was the next step in collecting the data. Then, to understand the data, the following procedure was reading and understanding the transcript of the speech of Barack Obama's Inaugural speech in Washington on January 20, 2009.

After the data were collected, the next step was analyzing them. In analyzing the data the researcher divided the complex sentences in the text into simple clauses which contain the utterances consist of words or phrases referring to transitivity system including participant, process and circumstance, and classified the clauses in the table. The simple clauses that have been classified were given the ordinal number.

To find the type of processes based on Halliday that occur in the speech, the researcher rewrote and labeled the parts of each clause (word or phrase) in terms of process. After the types of processes were found in each clause, the next step was classifying the clauses based on the processes that occur in each speech. Analyzing participant and circumstantial element that occur in every clause based on the process was the next step.

When the three aspects of transitivity system (processes, participants and circumstances) that occur in the speech had been known, the researcher interpreted the representation of the processes, participants and circumstances that occur in the speech. All of the analysis was then used to

describe the field of Barack Obama's inaugural speech based on the analysis of the transitivity system.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In analyzing the transitivity system of Barack Obama's Inaugural speech, the types of processes, the participants involved in the process and circumstances associated with the process were analyzed. Transitivity system is a basic semantic system, which construes the world of experience into a manageable set of process types. The Inaugural speech of Barack Obama is relatively long, consisting of 185 clauses.

In the Inaugural speech of Barack Obama in Washington on January 20, 2009, the six processes were found. These processes were material process, mental process, relational process, behavioral process, verbal process and existential process. These processes are used to construct human experience, either of inner experiences or outer experience.

After analyzing the data, it was known that the most dominant process was material process. Most of the clauses in the speech used material process. Relational process ranks the second then it was followed by mental process and verbal process. Behavioral and existential processes were also found in the speech although they were rarely used. Each process had the representation in the speech.

In the Inaugural speech of Barack Obama, the dominant process that found was material process. It had the highest frequency. Material process is usually indicated by a verb expressing an action, either concrete or abstract, since it is a process of "doing" or "happening". There are two participants in the process: Actor and Goal.

As the most frequent process, the material process had the role that was either to explain the condition of America or to insist the action that would be done to achieve the prosperity. The domination of material process in the Inaugural speech represented that Barack Obama as a new president wanted to do more actions to

achieve the target of prosperity. He wanted to assert his leadership. He called for new direction and leadership and he needed to reach into the American people's hearts at a time when the economy, confidence, and morale of the people were at a low point.

Material process, as a process of doing and happening, was a good choice in the address to demonstrate what the government had achieved, what they were doing and what they would do in different aspects of affairs, home or abroad. It could also motivate the American people's confidence toward the president and his government and to get their support in policies or measures in the following four years, for example in clause "*We will begin to leave Iraq to its people and forge a hard-earned peace in Afghanistan*"

The second dominant process was relational process. Relational process, as a process of being, was used to explain the complex relationships between some abstract items because it sounds definite. It could be seen in these clauses, *greatness is never a given* (Clause 27b) Here, Obama wanted to relate the two things that abstract *greatness* and *a given*. He elaborated the abstract thing with his ideals or beliefs.

Mental process is a process relating to mental reaction. Processes relate to feelings, thought, or perceptions. The examples were in clause 20a, in *But know this America*, the participant was *you* that means America, since it was an imperative clause. The verb in this clause was *know*. This verb construes cognition. Therefore, this clause was a mental clause of cognition. Likewise in the clause 81c, in *believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass*, In this clause the *senser* was "you". It had an explicit participant since this clause was imperative. In this example Obama asked his nation to believe that with the peaceful, America would be a great country.

In this way, the audience's emotion of encouragement and willingness to devotion was aroused and strengthened. Barack Obama tried to arouse and strengthen his nation's emotion and ask American people to

believe in their selves that they together can solve the problem faced by America.

Verbal process is a process that relates to the saying and done by consciousness. Some examples of verbal processes that taken from the data showed us, that the participant that mostly found was *we*, like in 86b, *we say we can no longer afford indifference to the suffering outside our borders, nor can we consume the world's resources without regard to effect.*

It means that Barack Obama involved all of American people to say that they would fight everything that prevent their action to bring America in better situation. It also explained that Barack Obama wanted to assert to his nation that they had to work together to face the challenges that would be not easily faced individually.

Behavioral processes relate to psychological done by conscious being. Behavioral process is included the action process, but the action is done with consciousness. Behavioral process was rarely used in the speech. This process shows a physiological activity, either it is concrete, means that it can be seen, like body movement, facial expression, or abstract physiological activity. Clause with behavioral process was for example "*They saw America as bigger than the sum of our individual ambitions*"

Existential process was rarely used in the speech. Existential process relates to existent of experience. In the clause *there is work to be done*, this existential process was used to explain the existent of some challenges that hard and would be not easy to be faced individually. Some works or action should be done by American people to face it.

Moreover, the participants that involved in the processes of Inaugural speech of Barack Obama in Washington on January 20, 2009 speech were both of animate and inanimate ones. As the participants that found in the speech, these participants are inherent in process. Therefore, the analysis of participants cannot be separated from the processes. From the analysis of participants involved in some processes, it can be known

that Barack Obama mostly used *we, our nation, us, you, I, all or America*. Here, Barack Obama wants to involve all of the participants that watching or listening his speech in the world.

He asks all of his nation, government and his self to start work in making America to be better. It shows relationship between Obama and the people, and they get the feeling that they are addressed directly and personally. Furthermore, it indicates to the audience that they have something in common, and that they are together about this mission of getting the America in better situation.

The last analysis of transitivity system elements was on circumstance elements. Circumstances are transitivity component, which typically less associated with the process, and are not inherent in it. They indirectly involve with the process. The circumstances that found were temporal or spatial location, extent in time and space (i.e., duration and distance), cause, reason, manner, and accompaniment.

The types of circumstances that often occur in the data were circumstance of location, manner, cause and accompaniment. The four types of circumstances that frequently occurred in the data showed that Barack Obama wanted to honor his ancestors who had fight to build America in the past and to all American people that must continue in making America better starting that moment.

Circumstances of location were time and place. The domination of circumstance of time showed that at that time America was faced on bad condition when they were in the midst of crisis and bad economy.

Circumstance of cause that found was reason, purpose and behalf. Barack Obama explained some reasons that make American people had to fight in making America in better condition. Moreover, circumstance of accompaniment showed *who with* or *and what with* that would change the condition of America.

Furthermore, in analyzing the transitivity system of Barack Obama's Inaugural speech, the processes that occur in

the speech were analyzed. Then, it had been found that there was a dominant occurrence of material process. This process described and explained deed or action that either had been done or would be done. When it was seen from the general participants that were involved, there were two kinds of participants. They were animate participant and inanimate participant. So participants here, had the description, the first was to whom the speech was given and the second, what did Barack Obama want to be done by the participants. Moreover, the circumstances that were found in the data described the condition of America, at the past and at that time.

In this speech, Obama addressed all of the participants in the speech, all of the nation, men and women, young and old, and the government to do some actions to achieve the goal that wanted to be achieved by Barack Obama and all of American people. Field of discourse in Barack Obama speech described what had been done, what was doing, and what would be done by American people. Barack Obama had conveyed his missions that wanted to be achieved, by using material processes to insist what will and must be done. All of the actions had to be done, not only to be thought or spoken.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, the six types of process were found. They were material process, mental process, behavioral process, relational process, verbal process and existential process. The participants involved in the speech were both of animate and inanimate. In all types of processes that occur in the speech, it was found that Barack Obama mostly used *we, our nation, us, you, I, all or America* as the participants. The circumstances that found were temporal or spatial location, extent in time and space, cause, reason, manner, and accompaniment. The types of circumstances that often occur in the data were circumstance of location, manner, cause and accompaniment.

After analyzing the transitivity system of the data, it could be known what is being talked in the text from the analysis of the

processes of the clauses. Furthermore, it could be known who were involved in the speech by analyzing the participants in every clause. Analyzing circumstances could also help knowing whether the location or time the processes occurred. Therefore, field of the speech was Obama addressed all of the participants in the speech, all of the nation, men and women, young and old, and the government to do some actions to achieve the goal that wants to be realized by Barack Obama and all of American people. Those were the representation that shows field of discourse of Barack Obama's inaugural speech through the transitivity system of the speech.

However, the result of this research did not cover all about the context of situation of discourse. In this research, the researcher only focused on analyzing transitivity system as the representation of one of context situation elements, it was field of discourse. Therefore for further research, the researcher hopes that the other researcher can analyze the other two context of situation by analyzing the lexicogrammar feature of the discourse. Tenor and mode are the two context of situation of discourse.

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