Ministry of Higher Education
And Scientific Research
University of Al-Qadissiyah
College of Education
Department of English

Transitivity

Submitted by

Mariam Saad   **Nawras Safa**

Supervised by

Asst. Prof. Saleema Abdul Zahraa

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

(عِلْمًا زِدْنِي رَبِّ وَقُلْ وَحْيُهُ إِلَيْكَ يُقْضَى أَنْ قَبْلِ مِنْ بِالْقُرْآنِ تَعْجَلْ وَلَا الْحَقُّ الْمَلِكُ اللَّهُ فَتَعَالَى)

(صدق الله العظيم العلي)

(الآية 11:سورة طه)

Dedication

To our parents with love

Acknowelgements

Contents

Dedication   ii

Acknowelgements   iii

Contents   iv

1. Introduction

Kroger and Wood (2000: 4) believe that language is taken to be not just an instrument for portrayal and a medium of correspondence, but as a social practice and a method for getting things done. The investigation of language is important to the point that utilizing language is the most widely recognized type of social conduct .One depends on language in his open and private cooperation, deciding his associations with different people and the social foundations one possesses. Fairclough (2001: 73) claims that language is a material type of belief system, and language is contributed by philosophy. Social language or talk isn't just authentic however it mediates in social change since "talk adds to the creation and diversion of the relations, subjects… and questions which populate the social world". In other words, talks are material impacts of belief system which likewise strongly affect molding our feeling of reality.

It is generally trusted that people who study and utilize a language are keen on how they can get things done with language, how they can influence implications to develop and be comprehended through selections of words and syntactic assets. When people utilize language, their language demonstrations deliver meaning (Bloor and Bloor :2004:2).

For Halliday (1985: xiv), a language is translated as an arrangement of implications, joined by frames through which the implications can be acknowledged and how these implications are communicated.This puts the types of a language in an alternate point of view: as unfortunate obligation, as opposed to as an end in themselves. It is starting here of perspective of language that fundamental practical phonetics was created by Halliday and his partners amid the 1960s.

Also, Fowler (1986:42) interfaces amongst talk and belief system unmistakably when he characterizes talk as "socially and institutionally beginning

philosophy, encoded in language". Investigation has been generally used to comprehend the language of speakers and essayists. It looks at the structure of sentences which are spoken to by forms, the members associated with these procedures, and the conditions in which procedures and members are included. Utilizing transitivity examination, specialists have attempted to uncover that language structures can create certain implications and belief system which are not generally unequivocal for perusers. Transitivity investigation is to find the connection amongst implications and wordings. As a pioneer and researcher in transitivity investigation, Halliday's investigation of William Golding's The Inheritors is a persuasive case. In this examination, Halliday calls attention to how understanding syntax, particularly transitivity, can help translate the importance in a scholarly content. The metafunctional theory is part of the ``functional'' side of Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), but it is also important in the ``systemic'' side of SFG. The first is about the natural world in the broadest sense, including consciousness. The second one is about the social world, specifically the relationship between speaker and hearer. The third is about the verbal world, particularly the flow of information in a text. Each metafunction has a principal system in the networks for clauses, verbal groups and nominal groups. For example the TRANSITIVITY system is the principal system for the ideational metafunction in the clause network. ([Matthiessen & Bateman 1991](#)). The present study deals with this system.

As for Halliday's hypothesis (1985: 81) examples of transitivity, including procedures, members, and the conditions, happen in the provisions and sentences of a content, he asserts that "transitivity is the arrangement of alternatives whereby the speaker encodes his experience and transitivity is extremely the foundation of the semantic association of experience"

2. Definition of Transitivity

Transitivity is principal to the structure of real condition writes. It is best characterized as a kind of linguistic relationship encoding the uniqueness of members in a circumstance depicted by the condition. It applies to a specific syntactic design in a given language, and to a bunch of semantic properties ('semantic transitivity') which is normally found to be related with this syntactic arrangement. Real provision writes are comprehended here to comprise of a predicate and a variable number of predicate contentions; this avoids minor condition composes including two thing phrases, either with or without a copula (Eggins,2000:7).

Syntactic transitivity alludes to the number and kind of center contentions which show up in the condition and which are dictated by the predicate's head. Most as often as possible, the predicate is going by a verb, however in a few languages an intransitive predicate might be going by a thing or a pronoun. Two provision composes might be recognized an intransitive statement - with an intransitive predicate and a solitary center contention which is in an intransitive subject capacity (S); and a transitive proviso - with a transitive predicate and two center contentions which are in a transitive subject capacity (An) and a transitive question work (O). In a few languages a further contention has uncommon, non-fringe status (Ibid:79).

Transitivity portrays the provision as far as the quantity of fundamental constituents (for the most part thing phrase supplements) that are required to make the proviso syntactic. The verb decides the transitivity of the condition (Ibid.).

3. Hypothesis of Transitivity

The fundamental useful phonetics way to deal with talk examination depends on the model of "language as a social semiotic" sketched out in progress of Halliday. Language is utilized practically, what is said relies upon what one needs to achieve. In Halliday's hypothesis, language communicates three principle sorts of implications all the while: ideational, relational, and printed implications (Gee,1999:5).

Among them, the ideational importance serves for the outflow of "content" in language, that is, our experience of this present reality, including the experience of our internal world. When we use language we frequently use it to discuss something or somebody accomplishing something. That is the reason the ideational importance can be alluded to as experiential significance originating from the proviso as portrayal. The relational significance builds up and keep up social relations; the individual is recognized and strengthened in this angle by empowering him/her to associate with others by articulation of their own singularity (Ibid.)

The literary importance makes interfaces between the content with components regarding the circumstances; it alludes to the way in which a content is sorted out. The literary significance originates from the proviso as message. The proviso gets its importance/message from its topical structure (Ibid.)

Halliday and Matthiesen (1976: 64) characterizes the topic of condition as a "beginning stage of the message: it is the thing that the proviso will be about". With that, the subject serves to find and orientate the provision inside the unique circumstance. The other piece of the message that expands and expounds the subject is the rheme. In this way, a provision comprises of both a subject and a rheme. Halliday likewise asserts that the three kinds of implications displayed in language are not unplanned but rather are essentially set up in light of the fact that one requires them to perform works in social life. In developing experiential

importance, there is one noteworthy arrangement of syntactic decision included: the arrangement of transitivity or process write. In his An Introduction to Functional Grammar, Halliday recognizes transitivity as follows: A central property of language is that it enables individuals to manufacture a psychological picture of reality, and to comprehend their experience of what goes ahead around them and inside them." Most capable origination of the truth is that it comprises of 'goings-on': of doing, happening, feeling, being". These are dealt with in the semantic arrangement of language, and communicated through the sentence structure of the statement, this is the arrangement of transitivity (Ibid).

Transitivity indicates the distinctive kinds of procedures that are known in the language and the structures by which they are communicated. Statements speak of different occasions and procedures, and transitivity intends to clarify how the activity is performed, by whom and on what. Transitivity is an imperative and intense semantic idea in Halliday. It is a piece of the ideational capacity of language, consequently, a basic device in the investigation of representation(Toe,2000:8).

Certainly, extraordinary social structures and qualities require diverse examples of transitivity. As such, transitivity can indicate how speakers/essayists encode in language their psychological impression of the world and how they represent their experience of their general surroundings. Halliday's hypothesis that transitivity is quantifiable will be utilized to think about the clausal structure which depends on the primary verb of the sentence. As indicated by this hypothesis, there are distinctive procedures in transitivity known as Material procedures, Relational procedures, and Mental procedures (Ibid.).

Material procedures of transitivity are procedures of doing, normally physical and unmistakable activities. Halliday calls them activity conditions

communicating the way that something or somebody embraces some activity or some element "does" something which might be done to some other substance. These procedures can be examined by asking what did x do? Two basic members normally show up in material process are the Actor (the practitioner of the procedure) and the Goal (the individual or element influenced by the procedure) (Hodge and Kress,1993:34).

Mental procedures are the mental responses, for example, discernment, musings and sentiments. Mental procedures give an understanding into people's realization and how they sense the experience of the truth. These can be examined by asking what do you think/feel/think about x? Mental procedures have two members: the Senser (the cognizant being who is associated with a Mental procedure) and the Phenomenon which is felt, thought, or seen by the cognizant Senser (Martin and Rose,2003:23).

Tsunoda (1999:373) states that Relational procedures understand the connections of being and having between two members. There are two distinct kinds of Relational procedures; one is called Identifying Relational which fills the need of characterizing and the members included are Token and Value. In this way the Value serves to characterize the personality of the Token. The other kind of Relational process is the attributive Relational which serves to portray. The members related with it are the Carrier and the Attribute and we can state that "the x (acknowledged via Carrier) is an individual from the tasteful (acknowledged by Attribute)" (Ibid.).

To sum up, according to Halliday there are three fundamental procedures of transitivity: Material procedures, Mental procedures, and Relational procedures.

However, there are additionally three auxiliary process writes. Amongst Material and Mental procedures lie Behavioral procedures that describe the external

articulation of inward working and reflect physiological and mental practices, for example, breathing, chuckling, sniffling. Behavioral procedures more often than not have one member who is normally a cognizant one, called the Behaver. Amongst Mental and Relational procedures are Verbal procedures, which speak to the craft of saying and its equivalent words. Generally three members are associated with Verbal procedures: the Sayer is in charge of verbal process; the Receiver is the individual at whom the verbal procedure is coordinated; and the Verbiage is the nominalised proclamation of the verbal procedure (Chalker,1994:163).

What's more, amongst Relational and Material procedures are Existential procedures which demonstrate conditions of being, existing, and happening. Existential procedures commonly utilize the verb be or its equivalent words, for example, exist, emerge, happen. The main member in this procedure is Existent which takes after the there is/are successions (Ibid.). Thus, the addition auxiliary procedures are three: Behavioral procedures, Verbal procedures, and Existential procedures.

It can be concluded that Halliday clarifies the procedures communicated through language speak to our origination of the world. Transitivity determines the distinctive types of procedures that are perceived in the language and the structures by which they are communicated. In the transitivity framework, the focal member parts are performing artist and objective, and the intrigue is on regardless of whether the procedure is coordinated by the performer towards an objective. Transitivity structure can be portrayed as operator + process + objective design that speaks to the capacity of language communicating the speaker's involvement of the outer world or his own inside world. Besides, these three segments are indicated through decisions in the transitivity framework, which understands the universe of experience into a reasonable arrangement of process composes. Each procedure

write gives its own model or diagram for translating a specific space of understanding (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004:54).

The language structure sets up an intermittence between the external and internal encounters: it recognizes rather obviously between external experience, the procedures of the outside world, and inward experience, the procedures of cognizance. The linguistic classes are those of material process statements and mental process provisions, as delineated by (I'm having a shower and I don't need a shower). For example, you deliver so much cash is a 'material' condition, translating the external experience of the formation of a ware, however I was intrigued by it is a 'psychological' one, interpreting the inward experience of a feeling. Or on the other hand, to develop a contrastive combine, the machine is creating (arranging, decimating) cash is 'material', though people love (abhor, need) cash is 'mental'   (Langacker ,2004:68).

Although material and mental procedures are the external and inward parts of our experience, a third segment must be provided, before this can turn into a reasonable hypothesis of experience (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004:56). Material, mental and social procedures are the primary sorts of process in the English transitivity framework. We additionally find encourage classes situated at the three limits; not so obviously set apart, but rather by and by unmistakable in the sentence structure as middle. Amongst 'material' and 'mental' are the behavioral procedures: those that speak to the external appearances of internal workings, the carrying on of procedures of awareness (e.g. people are snickering) and physiological states (e.g. they were dozing) (Arnett,2007:25).

Between the 'mental' and 'social' is the class of verbal procedures: representative connections developed in human cognizance and sanctioned as

language, such as saying and importance (e.g. the 'verbal' proviso we say, presenting a report of information disclosed: that each fourth African is a Nigerian). Also, on the fringe between the 'social' and the 'material' are the procedures worried about presence, the existential, by which marvels of numerous sorts are just perceived to 'be' to exist, or to happen (e.g. today there's Christianity in the south) (Ibid.).

4 .The Status of Transitivity as A Feature

In the same way, transitivity is dictated by semantics. In any case, notwithstanding the way that each significant provision write encodes a specific number of center members in its syntactic structure, sentence structure does not have to think about the transitivity esteem chose for the proviso once its decision has been made at the level of lexical semantics. The lexical things (the verb and the ostensible expressions) which are chosen go into the proper design of the fundamental statement structure without carrying a 'transitivity' include with them (Arnett,2007:25).

The case-checking encodes the connection between the predicate and its contentions after the syntactic transitivity outline for the declaration of the circumstance has just been dictated by the semantics, assessing the properties of the chose lexical things. There is no compelling reason to set a morphosyntactic highlight of transitivity ([+/ - transitive]) in light of the fact that it isn't required by the punctuation either with the end goal of understanding or government in any of the languages that one is aware of (Ibid.).

In those languages where transitivity is mandatorily checked, we view it as a morphosemantic highlight, rather like the component of tense. In the vast majority of Oceanic, where it is guaranteed that all or most verbs are ambitransitive as opposed to simply intransitive in light of the fact that a large number of them are

clearly semantically transitive), all verbs are unspecified for semantic transitivity, and the estimation of transitivity should be chosen for the verb before it goes into a syntactic setup. This is like the decision of the estimation of characteristic sex for a multi-gendered thing, for example, the English child. In those situations where verbs have a settled an incentive for transitivity, they resemble things with a settled an incentive for sex. Intrinsic sexual orientation as found on things is morphosemantic, yet relevant sex (as found on focuses of assention) is morphosyntactic (Ibid:26).

5. Literature Review

This section is about some studies that have dealt with transitivity to show how researchers have made use of transitivity in their studies.

Gonzaga's(2011) study takes into account both branches of the ideational metafunction: the experiential and the logical line of meaning in order to see in which way the grammar of the Brazilian Portuguese (BP)language can be used to construe meaning. In the experiential metafunction the focus is on transitivity. In the logical metafunction, the intention is to supply the necessary foundation for a better understanding of segmentation of clauses in BP.

Bilal's(2012) study shows that the researcher stylistically has analyzed the short story "Thank You Mam" by applying the three Metafunctions of Halliday and he has found out that this analysis helps in better understanding of the text. Moreover, the study has concluded that learners can benefit from using discourse analysis to achieve communicative goals in different contexts. Abdul Kareem(2014) explains the relationship between linguistic structures and socially constructed meaning in a narrative text by employing Halliday's systematic functional grammar. She attempts to reveal the ideology and power relations that underpin a literary text from a semantico -grammatical attitude by the application

of the transitivity theory to the literary text (expanding Carters' analysis). The analysis has shown that by the use of certain process types and participants functions, patterns can be identified in a text offering a linguistic foundation for understanding the written text and how the stylistic analysis of a text can be used to clarify features and meanings in any text (conventional or non- conventional patterns).

Almurashi(2016) in his study deals with Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), which has been employed in the literature on linguistics and applied linguistics and compares SFL to the transformational generative linguistics represented by Noam Chomsky and Bloomfield's structural tradition. This research also explains the benefits associated with working with SFL as a communicative motivation in learning a language.

Bartley(2017) states that there are two transitivity systems available for the purposes of analysing linguistic data: the Sydney model (Halliday,1994; Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004, 2014) and the Cardiff model (Fawcett, 1987, 2000; Neale, 2002). The researcher clarifies that the former is the most renowned and widely used of the two. A substantial amount of CDA research using the Hallidayan transitivity system has been carried out in order to determine the ways in which, for instance, one's ethnicity. class, gender, religion or sexual orientation, nationality (van Dijk, 1995, p. 18) is represented across different text types (e.g. newspapers, literary texts, political speeches, educational books).

7.Conclusion

Three meta-functions of language are identified by M. A. K. Halliday in Systemic Functional Linguistics: the ideational function, the interpersonal function and the textual function. Basing on these functions, Halliday hypothesizes three fundamental procedures in transitivity: Material procedures, Relational procedures, and Mental procedures. Moreover, there are other three secondary procedures: Behavioral procedures, Verbal procedures, and Existential procedures. The analysis according to Halliday's theory of transitivity in most of the studies conducted by the researchers points out how understanding grammar can help interpret the meaning in a literary text.

Bibliography

Abdul-Kareem, Maysa' (2014). The Relationship Between Linguistic Structures and Literary Discourse Meaning Within Halliday's Transitivity Framework Department of English Language College of Arts & Letters / Chihan University Iraq / Erbil.

Almurashi, Wael Abdulrahman(2016). An Introduction to Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Department of Languages and Translations Faculty of Science and Arts, Taibah University.

Arnett, C. (2007). Transitivity parameters and auxiliary selection by L2 student of German. In R. Aranovich (Ed.), Split auxiliary systems: a cross-linguistic perspective (pp. 25-46). Amsterdam, New York: John Benjamins

Bartley, Leanne Victoria (2017). Transitivity, no stone left unturned: Introducing flexibility and granularity into the framework for the analysis of courtroom discourse (PhD thesis). University of Granada.

Bilal, Hafiz Ahmad (2012). Analysis of Thank You M'am: Halliday's Metafunctions. Pakistan, Department of English, University of Sargodha .

Bloor, Thomas & Bloor, Meriel (2004). *The Functional Analysis of English*. Second Edition. London: Hodder Education

Chalker, S. (1994) Pedagogical grammar: Principles and problems. In M. Bygate, A. Tonkyn and E. Williams (eds) *Grammar and the Language Teacher* (pp. 31–44). Hemel Hempstead: Prentice Hall.

Eggins, S. (2000). *An Introduction to Systemic-Functional Linguistics*. London: Continuum.

Fairclough, N. L. (2001). Discourse and Social Change. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Fowler, R. (1996). *Linguistic Criticism*. Oxford : Oxford University Press.

Gee, J. P. (1999). *An introduction to discourse analysis theory and method (2nd ed.)*. New York, NY: Routledge

Gonzaga, Jair João(2011). Intricate Cases in Clauses in SFG Concerning the Grammar of Brazilian Portuguese (phD thesis).

Halliday, M. A. K. (1976). *System and Function in Language*. Ed. G. Kress. London: Oxford University Press.

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

Halliday, M. A. K. & Matthiessen, C. (2004). *An introduction to Functional Grammar* (3rd ed.). London: Edward.
Arnold.

Hodge, Robert and Gunther Kress. 1993. *Social Semiotics*. London: Polity Press.

Langacker, R. W. (2004). Foundations of Cognitive Grammar, II. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Martin, J. , D. Rose (2003) Working with Discourse: Meaning beyond the Clause Continuum, London.

Toe, P. (2000) Racism in the news: A Critical Discourse Analysis of news reporting in two Australian newspapers Discourse & Society, Vol. 11 (1) .

Tsunoda, T. (2005). Transitivity. In: Brown, K. (ed.): The Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics. Oxford: Pergamon.