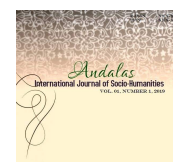




Available online at : <http://aijosh.lppm.unand.ac.id/index.php/aijosh/>

Andalas International Journal of Socio-Humanities

| ISSN 2715-601X (Online) |



Article

The Process Type and Participant Function of Jiah Khan's, Kevin Carter's, and Virginia Woolf's Suicide Discourses

Nurul Huda Ridhwani¹, Sawirman²

^{1,2} Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Andalas, Indonesia

ARTICLE INFORMATION

Received: June 02, 2020

Revised: July 05, 2020

Available online: July 27, 2020

KEYWORDS

Suicide Letters, Discourse, Transitivity, Process, Participants Function, Circumstance

CORRESPONDENCE

E-mail: sawirman@hum.unand.ac.id

A B S T R A C T

In this article, the process type and participant function of Jiah Khan's, Kevin Carter's, and Virginia Woolf's suicide notes are analyzed. This article actually is a continuation of the article entitled Experiences around the Clauses: A Transitivity Analysis of Four Famous People's Suicide Notes published by Vivid: Journal of Language and Literature (see Sawirman and Ridhwani, 2020) about the transitivity system, including process types, participant functions, and circumstantial elements, used in these suicide notes. Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory is applied. Not only qualitative approach but also descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data. Existing documents are one of the instruments to collect the data. Four suicide letters namely a suicide note written by Jiah Khan in 2016, a suicide letter written by Kevin Carter and published by TIME in 2001 entitles The Life and Death of Kevin Carter, and two Virginia Woolf's suicide discourse published by Quentin Bell entitle Virginia Woolf: A Biography: 1912-1941 (1972) and an autobiography entitles The Journey Not the Arrival Matters: an Autobiography of the Years 1939 to 1970.

INTRODUCTION

Two years later, WHO reported 1.4% of all deaths in the world caused by suicide (World Health Organization, 2018). Three famous people such as Jiah Khan, Kevin Carter, and Virginia Woolf are ones of them. Jiah Khan is a promising actress who debuted in Bollywood with Ram Gopal Verma's film entitled Nishabd in 2007. She was nominated for Best Female Debut in the Filmfare Award. Jiah's career was moving fine with her two other films, Ghajini and Housefull. In June 2013 she was found hanging from a ceiling fan in her bedroom of her family's residence in Mumbai. The second famous person is Kevin Carter. He was a South African photojournalist. In April 1994, his photograph of a starving Sudanese child being eyed by a vulture won the

Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography. Two months after receiving his Pulitzer, he died by suicide at the age of 33. The last is Virginia Woolf. She was an English novelist, essayist, diarist and letter writer. Her reputation was at its greatest during the 1930s but then in March 1941, she drowned herself by filling her overcoat pockets with stones and walking into the River. She left two suicide notes for her husband and her sister (see also Sawirman and Ridhwani, 2020).

However, there are certain messages and linguistic signs left behind before people die or intend to die by suicide (Sawirman and Ridhwani, 2020). Four suicide notes written by Jiah Khan, Kevin Carter, and Virginia Woolf particularly the process type and participant function are analyzed. These practices involves the process of textual analysis. To identify the function of the transitivity system in helping the writers of the suicide notes to convey their intentions is the purpose of this article. It is expected that the function of the process types, participant functions, and circumstantial elements to convey the intentions of the suicides notes' writers could be described.

Recently, researchers have shown an increased interest in suicide discourse. Nazhirin (2013) focuses his research on the transitivity system of genres in the tenth grades of senior high school textbook. Salsabil (2014) also has discussed the process types, participant functions, and circumstantial elements of transitivity analysis that characterize in an English textbook. Her study aims to describe and explain the linguistic competence revealed in the textbook.

Ong'onda (2016) found the material process and relational process dominate the other processes that reveal the whole process of terrorism is concerned with actions and events. Zhang (2017) also investigates recently the transitivity analysis of Hillary Clinton's and Donald Trump's first television debate. The focus of this work is to find not just the process used in Hillary Clinton's and Donald Trump's debate, but also to find what is the reason for the different processes they used. Sudjana and Fitri (2013) have identified the genuineness of Kurt Cobain's suicide note and figure out his motives for why he committed suicide. They have identified authorship profiling based on the lexical elements. In different suicide letter cases, Sawirman (2007) and Sawirman, Hadi and Yusdi (2015) also have analyzed linguistic finger print and authorship analysis on Azahari's letter as one of the suicide bombers and Zodiac Killer's letters.

In 2016, Malini and Tan published a paper in which they described the genuineness of Virginia Woolf's suicide notes. They have revealed the intention behind her suicide notes and also to investigate the real motive of her suicide with a program named Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC) and semantic forensic analysis in forensic linguistics perspective. The result of this analysis supports the statements of another psychologist that her suicide was triggered by bipolar disorder. The things that makes those researches or articles above are different from this article is that we are going to analyze four suicide notes by three famous people who decided to commit suicide when their reputation was at its great. To find out the functions of the transitivity system in order to convey the intentions of the suicide notes' writer in form of patterns of the distribution of transitivity system from the three suicide letters are our main focuses.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The section begins with the process types and participant functions found in the four suicide discourses. The second part will explain the circumstantial elements and the last part will explain how the transitivity system helping the writers of the suicide discourses to convey their

intentions according to the function of each process type, participant function, and circumstantial elements.

Fontaine (2013) mentions that things relating to the representation of experience (experiential meaning) are organized in a system called the transitivity system (p.73). Transitivity is a very important concept that is often used as a basis for every analysis in the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework. Fontaine also mentioned that Halliday bases his views of transitivity on verbs but he broadens his scope includes the grammar of processes, its participants and the elements of circumstances. The types of process types, participant functions, and circumstantial elements are in the table below:

Table 1. Process types, meanings, and participants (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, p. 331)

Process Types	Category Meaning	Participant, directly involved	Participant, obliquely involved
Material: action event	doing 'doing' 'happening'	Actor, Goal	Recipient, Client, Scope, Attribute
Behavioral	behaving	Behaver	Behavior
Mental: perception cognition desideration emotion	sensing 'seeing' 'thinking' 'desiring' 'liking'	Senser, Phenomenon	
Verbal	saying	Sayer, Target	Receiver, Verbiage
Relational: attribution identification	being 'attributing' 'identifying'	Carrier, Attribute, Identified, Identifier,	Token, Value
Existential	existing	Existent	

According to this theory, the process in transitivity analysis divided into six processes and each process has its own category of meaning and its own participant. The processes and participants are distinguished according to whether they represent actions, speech, states of mind, or even states of being.

a. Material process

The material process is the process of doing and happening. Mainly, the material process involves the actor and the goal as the directly involved participants. But, there are also other participants which obliquely involved like the recipient, the client, the attribute, and the scope. Some of the material processes found in the four suicide notes are:

if	you	're reading	this
	Participant	Process	Participant
	Actor	Material	Goal

Datum SN1/004

but	you	shattered	my dreams
	Participant	Process	Participant
	Actor	Material	Goal

Datum SN1/015

<i>how many</i>	<i>gift</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>gave</i>	<i>you</i>
-----------------	-------------	----------	-------------	------------

Circumstance	Participant	Participant	Process	Participant
Manner degree	-	Goal	Material	Recipient

Datum SN1/021

<i>and</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>will help</i>	<i>him</i>
	Participant	Process	Participant
	Actor	Material	Client

Datum SN3/015

<i>So</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>am doing</i>	<i>what seems the best thing to do</i>
	Participant	Process	Participant
	Actor	Material	Scope

Datum SN4/007

The words *read*, *shatter*, *give*, *help*, and *do*, refer to the activity done by the subject *you* and *I* that are usually called the actor in the material process. In the first and fifth examples (*'re reading* and *am doing*), the clauses show the form of the verb ending in *-ing*, which used in forming continuous tenses. On the second and the third example (*shattered* and *gave*), the clauses show the action that happened in the past. The fourth example (*will help*) shows the activity that will be done in the future.

The examples above show the Operative Transitive Material clauses which the process' representation is in the active form. Another form of the process' representation is Receptive Transitive Material clause which the process realized by the passive verbal group, in the example below:

<i>I</i>	<i>am haunted</i>	<i>by the vivid memories of killings and corpses and anger and pain, of starving or wounded children, of trigger-happy madmen, often police, of killer executioners</i>
Participant	Process	Participant
Goal	Material	Actor

Datum SN2/004

b. Mental process

The mental process refers to the process of thinking, perceiving, liking and wanting. It has the senser and the phenomenon as its participants. The mental process concerns with our experience of the world of our own consciousness. This process of sensing may be construed as a form of a person's consciousness, but it is not construed as a material act. Some findings are as follows.

<i>and</i>	<i>(I)</i>	<i>miss</i>	<i>you</i>
	Participant	Process	Participant
	Senser	Mental: emotion	Phenomenon

Datum SN1/047

<i>I</i>	<i>always wished</i>	<i>the best</i>	<i>for you</i>
Participant	Process	Participant	Circumstance
Senser	Mental: desideration	Phenomenon	Cause - behalf

Datum SN1/086

<i>I</i>	<i>am always hearing</i>	<i>voices</i>
----------	--------------------------	---------------

Participant	Process	Participant
Senser	Mental: perception	Phenomenon

Datum SN3/006

<i>and</i>	<i>you will</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>know</i>
	Participant	Participant	Process
	Phenomenon	Senser	Mental: cognition

Datum SN4/015

The word *miss* refers to the mental process of emotion which construes emotion while *wish* (*wished*) refers to the mental process of desideration. Different from two previous words, the word *hear* refers to the mental process of perception and *know* refers to the mental process of cognition.

c. Relational process

The relational process is the process of being and having where something or an entity is said to be something else. They can be classified according to whether they are being used to identify something or they are used to assign a quality to something. There are two forms of the relational process, the first one is the relational attributive process and another form is the relational identifying process. There are four carriers and attributes as the participants.

<i>I</i>	<i>am</i>	<i>broken</i>	<i>inside</i>
Participant	Process	Participant	Circumstance
Carrier	Relational: attributive	Attribute	Location - place

Datum SN1/006

<i>I</i>	<i>am</i>	<i>nothing</i>
Participant	Process	Participant
Carrier	Relational: attributive	Attribute

Datum SN1/114

<i>I</i>	<i>am</i>	<i>depressed</i>	<i>without phone, money for rent, money for child support, money for debts, money</i>
Participant	Process	Participant	Circumstance
Carrier	Relational: attributive	Attribute	Accompaniment comitative -

Datum SN2/003

Here are the example of relational processes of identifying found in the suicide notes.

<i>Mine</i>	<i>was</i>	<i>you and my work</i>
Participant	Process	Participant
Identified	Relational: identifying	Identifier

Datum SN1/044

<i>The Goa trip</i>	<i>was</i>	<i>my birthday present</i>
Participant	Process	Participant

Identified	Relational: identifying	Identifier
-------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------

Datum SN1/094

In the relational attributive process, the process assigns a quality ‘*a is an attribute of x*’ and in the relational identifying process, ‘*a is the identity of x*’. The examples given bring out an important difference between the ‘attributive’ and ‘identifying’ mode. The relational ‘attributive’ ones are not reversible. There is no form of *nothing am I* which is systemically related to *I am nothing* (datum SN1/114). On the other hand, the relational ‘identifying’ ones are reversible, so that the *a* and *x* can be switched around; *my birthday present was The Goa trip* is systemically related to *The Goa trip was my birthday present*.

d. Behavioral process

The behavioral process is a process of physiological and psychological behavior. It has the behavior and behavior as its participants. The behavioral process only occurs in the first suicide discourse. It occurs 5 times and only has behavior as the participant. Here are the example of behavioral processes found in the suicide notes.

<i>I</i>	<i>dreamt</i>	<i>of our future</i>
Participant	Process	Circumstance
Behaver	Behavioral	Matter

Datum SN1/110

<i>I</i>	<i>dreamt</i>	<i>of our success</i>
Participant	Process	Circumstance
Behaver	Behavioral	Matter

Datum SN1/111

e. Verbal process

The verbal process is a process of saying. As the main participant which directly involved, it usually has the sayer and the target. The other participants which obliquely involved in the verbal process are the receiver and the verbiage. The example of verbal processes found in the suicide notes are as follows.

<i>All</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>want to say</i>	<i>is that Leonardo has been so astonishingly good</i>	<i>everyday</i>	<i>always</i>
	Participant	Process		Circumstance	
	Sayer	Verbal		Location - time	
Participant					
Verbiage					

Datum SN3/008

<i>I</i>	<i>want to say</i>	<i>that everybody knows it</i>
Participant	Process	Participant
Sayer	Verbal	Verbiage

Datum SN4/020

Say is the member of verbs serving as the process in the ‘verbal’ clause, but it also includes other common verbs such as *told* and *talk*. There are also verbs that representing the features of dialogic exchange like *reply* and *counter*. ‘Saying’ has to be interpreted in a rather broad sense because it covers any kind of meaning. In some cases, there are verbs that closer to the relational process than the verbal process but are still serving as the process in the verbal clauses. There are innumerable other discourse uses for ‘verbal’ clauses that making it possible to quote, state, ask, command, report or offer, for example:

<i>You</i>	<i>promised</i>	<i>me</i>	<i>once we made it to one year we would get engaged</i>
Participant	Process	Participant	Participant
Sayer	Verbal	Receiver	Verbiage

Datum SN1/101

<i>Will</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>assure</i>	<i>him</i>	<i>of this</i>
	Participant		Participant	Participant
	Sayer			
Process				
Verbal		Receiver	Verbiage	

Datum SN3/011

f. Existential process

The existential process is a process of existing. Basically, there are many types of phenomena that can be construed as 'things' that 'exist' like a person, object, or even any action or event. The existential process only has one participant which directly involved named the existent which is an entity that is being said to exist. From the whole data, the existential process only occurs once in the first source of the data and it takes 0.59% from the total 170 frequency of occurrences. The example of existential processes found in the suicide notes as follows.

<i>There</i>	<i>was</i>	<i>a time</i>
	Process	Participant
	Existential	Existent

Datum SN1/012

In the existential process, the word *there* has no experiential meaning. It is there because the clause needs a subject. Halliday (2004:56) usually called this as a grammatical subject. The word *there* is a subject placed before the predicate but it does not indicate as the agent of a process or an entity that expresses what happen, what is done, what become, what is said, and what is thought.

CONCLUSIONS

Some findings were found based on the analysis of process type and participant function of Jiah Khan’s, Kevin Carter’s, and Virginia Woolf’s suicide notes. In Jiah Khan’s suicide note as the first source of the data, the most dominant process type is the material process and the lowest number of occurrences is the existential process. In Kevin Carter’s suicide note, there are only material process and mental process with the same number of occurrences. In both Virginia Woolf’s suicide notes, there is no behavioral and existential Process. In Virginia Woolf’s first suicide note, the mental process is the highest occurrence and the verbal process is the lowest

occurrence. Meanwhile, in Virginia Woolf's second suicide note, the material process is the dominant process and the verbal process is still the lowest process that occurs.

Furthermore, Jiah Khan's suicide note as the first source of the data shows how the material process as the most dominant process describes the unpleasant behavior she experienced, which then leads to betrayal, sacrifice, self-destruction, loss, and loneliness. Then, those negative emotions are supported by place as the most dominant circumstantial element. Those words that are used to indicate places refer to herself and places which are related to the things she experienced. Meanwhile, in Kevin Carter's suicide note, the relational process as the most dominant process shows regret, pressure, and despair. There is no dominant circumstantial element in this suicide note. Then the mental process as the most dominant process in Virginia Woolf's first suicide note shows how she blamed herself for what happened and how she tried to make sure that her sister knew everyone around her had done their best. The circumstantial element of time-location as the dominant circumstantial element indicates when the process takes place. Virginia Woolf's second suicide note as the last source of the data also shows the same thing although it has a different dominant process. By using material process, she felt guilty for what happened and how she tried to make sure her husband knew he had done his best. There is no dominant circumstantial element in this suicide note.

REFERENCES

- Fontaine, L. (2013). *Analysing English Grammar: A Systemic Functional Introduction*. Unites States: Cambridge University.
- Halliday, M. A. K. & Matthiessen, C. M.I.M. (2014). *Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar*. (4th ed.). London: Routledge.
- Malini, N. L. & Tan, V. (2016). Forensic Linguistics Analysis of Virginia Woolf's Suicide Notes. *International Journal of Education*, 52-57
- Nazhirin, M. K. (2013). *A Transitivity Analysis of Genres in the Tenth Grade Senior High School Textbook Developing English Competences*. Yogyakarta: Unpublished.
- Ong'onda, D. N. (2016). Transitivity Analysis of Newspaper headlines on Terrorism Attack in Kenya: A case Study of Westgate Mall, Nairobi. *International Journal of Humanities and Science*, 77-85.
- Salsabil, S. (2014). *A Transitivity Analysis of English Text in Bahasa Inggris When English Rings the Bell*. Yogyakarta: Unpublished.
- Sawirman. (2007). Surat Cinta Dr. Azahari dan Stereotipe Wacana Terorisme. *Linguistika Kultura*, 01,02, 202-207.
- Sawirman dan Ridhwani. (2020). Experiences Around the Clauses: A Transitivity Analysis of Four Famous People's Suicide Notes. *Vivid: Journal of Language and Literature*, 9,1:12-17.
- Sawirman, Hadi, N. and Yusdi, M. (2015). *Linguistik Forensik (Volume 2)*. Padang: Pusat Studi Ketahanan Nasional Universitas Andalas.
- Sudjana, E. T., & Fitri, N. (2013). Kurt Cobain's Suicide Note Case: Forensic Linguistic Profiling Analysis. *International Journal of Criminology and Sociology Theory*, 217-227.
- World Health Organization. (2018, August 24). *Suicide*. Retrieved November 2018, from World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/suicide>
- Zhang, Y. (2017). Transitivity Analysis of Hillary Clinton's and Donald Trump's First Television Debate. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics and English Literature*, 65-72.