THE MEANING OF –ING FORM AS CLASSIFIER IN NOMINAL GROUP: SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTICS PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to describe and to classify the meaning of –ing form in nominal group structure based on systemic functional linguistics perspective. To understand the meanings of –ing form, it is necessary to know its function in the structure. The existence of –ing form in nominal group structure can be functioning as Epithet, Classifier, Thing, and Qualifier. This study is done to describe and to classify the meaning of –ing form functioning as Classifier. This study deserves doing since Classifier has wide range of semantic relations, and the broad meaning needs to be identified, and then to be described and classified based on the characteristics. The results find that the –ing form describe status and process when it is represented by the word class of verb plus –ing, then categorized as present participle functioning as verb, but when present participle functioning as adjective, the –ing form describes restriction related to time and sequence; the –ing form describes purpose and function, and scope when it is represented by the word class of noun plus –ing, then categorized as verbal noun functioning as noun; the –ing form describes restriction associated with science when it is represented by the word class of noun plus –ing, then categorized as pseudo-participial adjective functioning as noun.

Keywords: *nominal group, classifier, -ing form*

INTRODUCTION

To get comprehensive understanding of information given in a text, it is necessary to know the function and the meaning of every single word forming it. Nominal group as one of the groups structuring a text has essential role in conveying meaning. Nominal group can stand alone as one word or several words. To understand the meaning of each word forming a nominal group, we have to identify its function and then we can describe the meaning. In nominal group structure, we can notice that there are a word being modified and words modifying. The modified word is labelled as Head or Thing, and the modifying words are labelled modifiers. Modifiers can precede the Head called premodifier, and follow the Head called postmodifiers. Premodifiers consists of some elements which are Deictic, Numerative, Epithet, and Classifier. Postmodifier has one element which is Qualifier. Each element of the modifiers has function and meaning in contributing the understanding of the group. There is one element labelled Classifier, it is interested to study as it can be represented by several word classes and describe some meanings. Classifier has function to put the Thing into its subclass or to classify it, so that we can contrast one Thing with other Things.

Commonly Classifier is represented by a noun, for example: ***passenger*** *train*, train as Thing is classified into its subclass using Classifier *passenger*, thus becomes *passenger train* contrasting with *freight train* and other kinds of trains.

However, we can find in spoken and written English Classifiers in –ing forms which have broad range of semantic relations, for instances, *a **developing** country*, ***cooking*** *oil*, *and **engineering** text*. Those –ing forms have different word representations, categories, word functions, and meanings. To understand the meanings of the –ing forms comprehensively, we need to analyse them. Therefore, this study is done to identify the word representations, word functions, and the categories of the –ing forms, and then to describe and to classify their meanings.

METHOD

A. Methodology

The method applied in this study is qualitative. It means that the study is descriptive. This study is done as there is one phenomenon about the existence of –ing form as Classifier in nominal group structure. By analyzing the data based on the theories of Systemic Functional Linguistics, the meanings of –ing form as Classifier can be described and classified. To describe and classify the meanings of –ing form as Classifier, some steps are conducted to collect data:

1. Collecting clauses which have nominal group structures with –ing forms as modifiers
2. Identifying the function of the –ing forms as Classifiers
3. Describing the meanings of the –ing forms
4. Classifying the meanings of the –ing forms based on their categories

B. Theories

Nominal group is a group of words consisting of a noun as a word being talked called Head and other words describing the Head. Gerot and Wignell (1994: 141) define that a nominal group is a group of words which has a noun (a word which names a person, place or thing) as its head word and includes all additional information related to that noun. It is affirmed by Eggins (2004: 68) that we call nominal group, it is a group of words where the main word is a noun. To analyse the structure of nominal group, we refer to explanation from Halliday and Matthiessen (2004: 309), there are two structures of nominal group: logical structure and experiential structure. Based on logical structure, nominal group is a group of words that consist of Head and Modifiers. Head is a word which is modified, and Modifiers are words which have function to modify the Head. Modifiers preceding the Head are called Premodifier, and Modifier following the Head is called Postmodifier. Based on experiential structure, nominal group concerns how meaning is expressed in the group as the organization of experiences. Nominal group has functional elements which have functions and express meaningful senses. As stated by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004:312-325) experiential structure of the nominal group: Deictic, Numerative, Epithet, Classifier, Thing, and Qualifier. Thing is as the element which is being discussed, or called Head, and other functional elements, such as Deictic, Numerative, Epithet, Classifier, and Qualifier are words which give information about the Thing, or called modifiers. Each element has function and meaning. As this study focuses on one of the element that is Classifier, so the writer will only explain about Classifier.

Classifier as the closest functional element to the Thing has function to put the Thing into its subclass, or subclassify the Thing. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014: 377) Classifier indicates a particular subclass of the Thing in question, e.g.: *electric train*, *passenger train*, *toy train*. Classifier can also tell us the answer of the question 'what kind' or 'what type'. As written by Gerot and Wignell (1994: 144) that the function of the Classifier is to tell us

'what type' or 'what kind', for example: 'what kind of train?' **passenger** *train* contrasting with toy train, freight train, electric train, and others. Classifier is more often represented by noun, but it can also represented by other word classes. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004: 320-321) explain that Classifier has some word classes that are noun, adjective and verb in participle forms. Types of Classifier:

(1) Noun as Classifier

Classifiers are often represented by noun, especially common noun or verbal noun. Downing and Locked (2002: 453) say it is natural that the great majority of Classifiers are also realized by nouns. Common nouns are noun which can be countable and uncountable. Bloor and Bloor (2004: 282) define that gerund is a 'verbal noun': morphologically a verb participle (-ing form) but functionally a noun, realizing Head of a nominal group (*His shouting is offensive*) or Classifier (*a typing class*). In nominal group, noun or verbal noun can be a Thing or modifier. When noun or verbal noun is a Thing, it becomes the matter which is being talked about, and the position is after premodifier, for examples, *car **machine**, waiting **room***. As the examples given the two nouns join together, this structure is difficult to distinguish with compound noun. Lock (1996: 52) states that there is a very fuzzy borderline between classifier + Thing structure and what are usually called compound nouns. Then explained by Downing and Locke (2006: 441) that when the adjective and noun are written as one word, as in *software*, *hardware*, they are compound, referring to a single class referent, not to a subtype of class. When the combination is written as separate words, it is likely to be a noun with a noun modifier (head waiter), it is not noun compound, but if written as a single word it is more likely to be a noun compound (*headache, headrest*). A noun or verbal noun as Classifier functions delimited the Thing according to membership or classifying the Thing into its subclass, (*ham sandwich*, *bacon sandwich*).

(2) Adjectives as Classifier

When adjectives as Classifier it has different characteristics from Epithet, the adjectives here cannot be predicative, cannot be graded, and cannot be intensified. The function is not to indicate features or characteristics of the Thing but it is to put the Thing into a subset of the type. According to Downing and Locke (2002: 456) that the Epithet qualitative and often gradable while the Classifier is taxonomic, for example *sick leave*, we cannot say **leave is sick; *sicker leave; *very sick leave.*

As Classifier, the adjective expresses restriction classifying the Thing by restricting the Thing in relation to another Thing. As stated by Downing and Locke (2006:480) that there are three types of Classifiers:

- restrictive: they restrict the referent of a noun in relation to another referent. The restriction are related to norms, sequences, sizes, ratings, time, place: *average, additional, chief, complete, entire, final, following, initial, main, only, particular, primary, public, single, standard.*
- relating to group such as nationalities, religions, politics: *Brazilian, Christian, Muslim.*
- category-specific meanings associated with culture, technology, science, and so on: *a nuclear plant, a medical student, parliamentary debates.*

(3) Participles as Classifier

Classifier also has words of the class *verb* which formed in participles. There are present participles with adding –ing to the base form of verbs and past participles with adding –ed/d to the base form of regular verbs and changing verbs of irregular verbs. Halliday ans Matthiessen (2004: 321) explain when functioning as Classifier, they typically have the sense of a simple present, active or passive: present (= active) 'which … s', past (= passive) 'which is … ed'.

(i) a *stopping* train ('a train which stops')
(ii) *spoken* language ('language which is spoken')

Downing and Locke (2002: 454) describe that Classifiers are also realized by present and past participles expressing processes, for examples: *coming events*, *leading article, fallen leaves.*

Classifier realized in the –ing form refers to present participle, noun verbal, or pseudo participial adjective.

1) Present participle is formed form a verb added –ing. It has sense of simple present in active voice, mentioned by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014: 380), example given *revolving door* ('door which revolves) contrasting with *rolling door*, *sliding door*.

2) Verbal noun is formed from a verb added –ing. Verbal noun is a noun, so it acts like a noun. As said by Bloor and Bloor (2004: 282) gerund is a 'verbal noun': morphologically a verb participle (-ing form) but functionally a noun, example: *meeting room* ('room which is for meeting) contrasting with *waiting room*, *sleeping room*. Downing and Lock (2006: 479) mention that in examples such as *sleeping bag*, *sleeping pill*, the word *sleeping* is neither as adjective nor as verb but as noun modifier (a bag / pill for sleeping).

3) Pseudo participial adjective is derived from a noun added with –ing. Downing and Lock (2006: 479) these –ing form are not derived from a verb added with –ing, but derived from a noun. For example, *enterprising, neighboring, appetizing*.

Based on the explanation described by the linguists above, to understand the meanings of the three types of –ing forms, the writer refers to the description that is written by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014: 377) the range of semantic relations that may be embodied in a set of items functioning as Classifier is very broad; it includes material, scale and scope, purpose and function, status and rank, origin, mode of operation.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The analyses below describe the meanings of –ing forms which have been identified the word representations of the –ing form, the categories of the –ing form, and the –ing form word function. The –ing forms describe status, process, restriction related to time and sequence, purpose and function, scope and restriction associated with science. The meanings are identified based the characteristics as follows:

1. The –ing Forms Categorized as Present Participles

The –ing forms are represented by the word class of verb added –ing, and then they are categorized as present participles, and function as verb and adjective.

1.1 As Verbs Describing Status

The –ing forms are as verbs, and describe status. Status means the social or professional position of somebody or something in relation to others.

(1) My first job is *a **managing** director* was in Tokyo in 1999.

(2) It can help overcome nausea so that the nutrients needed by the baby and its mother can still can be fulfilled", said PT Fonterra Brands, ***marketing manager*** Dr. Muliaman Mansyur.

Analysis:

The data above have nominal group with –ing form as Classifier: (1) *a managing director*: *a* is Deictic as it tells a non-specific director, *managing* is Classifier, and *director* is Thing as it is the word being discussed, (2) *marketing manager: marketing* is Classifier, and *manager* is Thing as it is the word being discussed. To test *managing* and *marketing* as Classifiers, we can ask with question: (1) what kind of director? 'Managing director', *managing* puts *director* into its subclass that is *managing director* contrasting with *executive director*, and other kind of directors, (2) what kind of manager? 'Marketing manager', *marketing* puts *manager* into its subclass *marketing manager* contrasting with *finance manager*, and other kind of managers. *Managing* and *marketing* have –ing forms, they are represented by the word class of verb added –ing, then categorized as present participles: (1) verb

manage plus *–ing* becomes *managing*, (2) verb *market* plus *–ing* becomes *marketing*. *Managing* and *marketing* have word function as verb since they have sense of active simple present tense and describe status: (1) *managing director* means director who manages; *managing director* is a kind of director who has professional position in a company and is in charge of managing or running the company business, (2) *marketing manager* means manager who markets; *marketing manager* is a kind of manager who has professional position and in charge of a marketing department or campaign.

1.2 As Verb Describing Process
The –ing forms are as verbs, and describe process. Process means a series of action or stages.

(3) Capital flows to **developing** *countries* dropped US$140 billion last year, as aid form major donors dropped for the first time in 14 years, down over $3 billion.
(4) Repercussions from the crisis have been compounded by the economic slowdown that has hit **emerging** *markets*.

Analysis:
The data above have nominal group with –ing form as Classifier: (3) *developing country*: *developing* is Classifier, and *countries* is Thing as it is the word being discussed; (4) *emerging markets: emerging* is Classifier, and *markets* is Thing as it is the word being discussed. To test *developing* and *emerging* as Classifiers, we can ask with question: (3) what kind of countries? '*Developing countries*', *developing* puts *countries* into its subclass *developing countries* contrasting with *developed countries* or other kinds of countries, (4) what kind of markets? '*Emerging markets*, *emerging* puts *markets* into its subclass *emerging markets* contrasting with *traditional market*, and other kind of markets. *Developing* and *emerging* have –ing forms as they are represented by the word class of verb added -ing, then categorized as present

participles: (3) verb *develop* plus *–ing* becomes *developing*, (4) verb *emerge* plus *–ing* becomes *emerging*. *Developing* and *emerging* have word function as verb since they have sense of active simple present tense and describe process: (3) *developing countries* mean countries which develop; *developing countries* are kind of countries that are in the process from poor country to developed country, (4) *emerging markets* mean markets which emerge; *emerging markets* are kind of markets that are in the process from traditional markets to developed markets.

1.3 As Adjective Describing Restriction Related to Time and Sequence
The –ing forms are as adjectives, and describe time and sequence. Time and sequence mean particular order of time which come one after another.

(1) only five fires were detected in Sumatra, seven of which were in Riau. *The following days*, the number had increased to80-44 of which were in Riau.
(2) In *the **coming** years*, ASEAN nations will face new challenges that include how to deal with the rising demand and expectations of better educated youth, urbanization, distribution of equity, ensuring social security and others.

Analysis:
The data above have nominal group with –ing form as Classifier: (5) *the following days*: *the* is Deictic as it indicates specific days, *following* is Classifier, and *days* is Thing as it is the word being discussed; (6) *the coming years: the* is Deictic as it indicates specific years, *coming* is Classifier, and *years* is Thing as it is the word being discussed. To test *following* and *coming* as Classifiers, we can ask with question: (5) what kind of days? '*Following days*', *following* puts *days* into its subclass *following days* contrasting with *coming days, today*, and other kind of days, (6) what kind of years? '*Coming years*, *coming* puts *years* into its subclass *coming*

years contrasting with *following years*, *last years*, and other kind of years. *Following* and *coming* have –ing forms as they are represented by the word class of verb added –ing, then categorized as present participles: (5) verb *follow* plus –*ing* becomes *following*, (6) verb *come* plus –ing becomes *coming*. *Following* and *coming* have word function as adjectives and describe restriction related to time and sequence: (5) *following days* mean particular days that follow or come after the days when the fire was detected in Sumatra and Riau, (6) *coming years* mean particular years that will come or happen soon.

2. The –ing Form Categorized as Verbal Noun

The –ing forms are represented by the word class of verb, added –ing, and then they are categorized as verbal noun, and function as noun. The –ing forms describe purpose and function, and scope.

2.1 Describing Purpose and Function

The –ing forms describe purpose and function. Purpose and function mean the useful thing that people do or are intended to do.

(5) He added that *Chinese **fishing** boats in the area* were heading back to port because of bad weather, …

(6) Some of those at the kitchen were sprinkled with *hot **cooking** oil*. Others fell to the ground and were hit by falling debris from the house.

Analysis:
The data above have nominal group with –ing form as Classifier: (7) *Chinese fishing boats*: *Chinese* is Classifier represented by adjective as it classifies boats into its subclass that is *Chinese boats* means boats which are from China, *fishing* is Classifier, and *boats* is Thing as it is the word being discussed (8) *hot cooking oil: hot* is Epithet as it indicates the quality of oil, *cooking* is Classifier, and *oil* is Thing as it is the word being discussed. To test *fishing* and *cooking* as Classifiers, we can ask with question: (7) what kind of boats? '*Fishing boats*', *fishing* puts *boats* into its subclass *fishing boats* contrasting with

passenger boats, *patrol boats*, and other kind of boats, (8) what kind of oil? '*Cooking oil*', *cooking* puts *oil* into its subclass *cooking oil* contrasting with *motor oil*, *car oil*, and other kind of oil. *Fishing* and *cooking* have –ing forms as they are represented by the word class of verb added –ing, then categorized as verbal nouns: (7) verb *fish* plus –*ing* becomes *fishing*, (8) verb *cook* plus –ing becomes *cooking*. *Fishing* and *cooking* have word function as noun which can be restructured using preposition *for*: (7) *fishing boats* becomes boats for fishing, (8) *cooking oil* becomes oil for cooking. The –ing forms in *fishing* and *cooking* describe purpose and function: (7) *fishing boat* is a kind of boat that is for catching fish, (8) *cooking oil* is a kind of oil that is for cooking food.

2.2 Describing Scope

The –ing forms describe scope. Scope means the range of things that a subject, an organization, an activity, etc. deal with.

(7) If you are an American adult, the odds are that it knows things like your age, race, sex, weight, height, marital status, education level, politics, ***buying*** habits, household health worries, vacation, dreams, and on and on.

(8) It's *a **drinking** culture*. It really is in Scotland, and also Ireland and the UK in general.

Analysis:
The data above have nominal group with –ing form as Classifier: (9) *buying habits*: *buying* is Classifier, and *writing* is Thing as it is the word being discussed, (10) *a drinking culture: a* is Deictic as it indicates non-specific culture, *drinking* is Classifier, and *culture* is Thing as it is the word being discussed. To test *buying* and *drinking* as Classifiers, we can ask with question: (9) what kind of habit? '*Buying habits*', *buying* puts *habits* into its subclass *buying habits* contrasting with *eating habits*, *drinking habits*, and other kind of habits, (10) what kind of culture? '*Drinking culture*', *drinking* puts *culture* into its subclass *drinking culture*

contrasting with *eating culture*, *work culture*, and other kind of cultures. *Buying* and *drinking* have –ing forms as they are represented by verb added –ing, then categorized as verbal nouns: (9) verb *buy* plus –*ing* becomes *buying*, (10) verb *drink* plus –ing becomes *drinking*. *Buying* and *drinking* have word function as nouns which can be restructured using preposition *of*: (9) *buying habits* becomes habits of buying, (10) *drinking culture* becomes culture of drinking. The –ing forms in *buying* and *writing* describe scope: (9) *buying habit* is a kind of habit that deals with buying activity, (10) *drinking culture* is a kind of culture that deals with drinking activity.

3. The –ing Form Categorized as Pseudo Participial-Adjective

The –ing forms are represented by the word class of noun added –ing, then they are categorized as pseudo participial adjective, and function as noun. The –ing forms describe restriction associated with science.

(11) Using *the same **accounting principles***, some countries are already changing policy.

(12) Viewed as *a software **engineering text***, my Software Engineering and Computer Games is further towards the code-oriented end of the spectrum than the other software engineering books mentioned.

Analysis:

The data above have nominal group with –ing form as Classifier: (7) *the same accounting principles*: *the* is Deictic as it indicates specific principles, *same* is Epithet as indicates opinion about principles, *accounting* is Classifier, and *principles* is Thing as it is the word being discussed. (8) *a software engineering text: an* is Deictic as it indicates non-specific text, *software* is Classifier as it sub classifies text into software text, *engineering* is Classifier, and *text* is Thing as it is the word being discussed. To test *accounting* and *engineering* as

Classifiers, we can ask with question: (7) what kind of principles? '*Accounting principles*', *accounting* puts *principles* into its subclass *accounting principles* contrasting with *business principles*, *nature principles*, and other kind of principles, (8) what kind of text? '*Engineering text*', *engineering* puts *text* into its subclass *engineering text* contrasting with *accounting text*, *computer text*, and other kind of texts. *Accounting* and *engineering* have –ing forms as they are represented by the word class of noun added –ing, then categorized as pseudo participial adjectives: (7) noun *accounting* plus –*ing* becomes *accounting*, (8) noun *engineer* plus –ing becomes *engineering*. *Accounting* and *engineering* have word function as nouns which can be restructured using preposition *of*: (11) *accounting principles* becomes principles of accounting, (12*) engineering text* becomes text of engineering. The –ing forms in *accounting* and *engineering* describe restriction related to science: (11) *accounting principles* are kinds of principles that are related to accounting science, (12) *engineering text* is a kind of text that is related to engineering science.

CONCLUSION

We can conclude that the –ing forms as Classifiers have the following characteristics: The first, the –ing forms describe status and process when the –ing form are represented by the word class of verb added –ing, then categorized as present participles functioning as verb, but when functioning as adjective, the –ing forms describe restriction related to time and sequence. The second, the –ing forms describe purpose and function, and scope when the –ing forms are represented by the word class of verb added –ing, then categorized as verbal nouns functioning as noun. The last, the –ing forms describe restriction associated with science when the –ing forms are represented by the word class of noun added –ing, then categorized as pseudo participial adjectives functioning as noun.

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