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TRANSITIVITY ANALYSIS ON TAYLOR SWIFT'S GRADUATION SPEECH 2022: A SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTICS ANALYSIS PERSPECTIVE

Muhammad Fiqri Assidiqi SP[1], Setyo Prasiyanto Cahyono[2]

[12]English Department, Universitas Dian Nuswantoro

311202002236@mhs.dinus.ac.id, setyo.cahyono@dsn.dinus.ac.id

Abstract

Systemic Functional Linguistics, herewith, SFL is an approach to linguistics, among functional linguistics, that considers language as social semiotic system. (Halliday, 2014). This study examines transitivity analysis on Taylor Swift's graduation speech in her college, New York University 2022. This study employs qualitative method, and the source of the data was taken from New York University's official YouTube channel purposively. Furthermore, the transcript of the speech was obtained from Rolling Stone music website. Meanwhile, in analyzing the data, the researchers use systemic functional linguistics specifically the use of transitivity to analyze the data. The result of this study shows that the American-singer used material process at most. There are 172 (44.3%) material processes existed in the data out of 388 processes found in the speech. Then, it is followed by relationalprocess with 90 processes (23,1%) and mental process with 81 processes (20,9%). However, she did notuse meteorological at all. This number indicates that Taylor informs the audience about what to do afterthey finished their study. Besides that, she also states in her speech about how to start a career after graduation.

Keywords: Graduation, SFL, Speech, Transitivity.

Introduction

Language is such an everlasting legacy which is solely human property to communicate, making it to be communicate device for a human to another. It makes humankind capable to demonstrate their experiences, to express their thoughts, to point out their desires as well as flaws, to understand each other's ideas, and to occur the conceptualization of knowledge (Zeng, 2018); (Abdurrahman, 2019). Language has existed since thousands of years ago in the world. There are so much debates by researchers about when was the first existence of language discovered scientifically, there has just been the speculations. Providentially, in this day we live in the world where language has always evolved to communicate by the nick of time, which leads people to research it. (Brown, 2022) and (Buck & VanLaear, 2009) states that the communication for human divides into two techniques, which are Verbal and Non-Verbal. Verbal and non-verbal communication are considered streams of spontaneous and symbolic communication in interaction and are presented as "pseudo-spontaneous" displays. Verbal communication utilizes discourse or spoken utterance to trade data, feelings, and contemplations. While on another hand, non-verbal communication is communication by body language. Therefore, to practice communication, a language must contain a systemic ruleof its own.

Systemic Functional Linguistics, herewith, SFL is an approach to linguistics, among functional linguistics, that considers language as social semiotic system (Halliday, 2014). SFL is a general theory of language natively developed by Michael Halliday, and it has been increased with a great number for the last two decades through the works of many scholars by the whole world. As claimed by Halliday, the term 'social' advocates a couple things simultaneously. One is 'social' used in the sense of the social system, which is synonymous on the tradition culture. On the other hand, "social" is used to describes that SFL is dealing specially with the relationships between language and social structure, considering the social structure as one aspect of the social system. (Emilia, 2005)

This study analyzes the transitivity, which is a part of SFL. Transitivity system provides the lexicogrammatical for quantification. Three semantic taxonomic systems are explained in extensive technique on how the certain occurrences be elected by linguistics structures, which

are circumstances, processes, and participants. (Gerot & Wignell, 1994). The process is the center elements in transitivity assuring the researchers to analyzed it. Each process type forms a separate model or schema for interpreting a particular domain of experience as characterizing a particular type. There are seven processes in total stated by Halliday. First the process types are divided into two processes, i.e. non-relational processes: process of doing, which are material process, mental process, behavioral process, and verbal process, on another side there are relational processes: process of being and having, which are relational process, existential process, and meteorological process.

In this study, there is a previous research bringing the similar topic, Transitivity System from (Saputra, Fatmawati, Ngongo, Herman, & Thao, 2022) entitled: Transitivity Analysis on Sri Mulyani's Speech at Singapore Summit: A Systemic Functional Linguistics Perspective. It delivered in Indonesia, August 25, 2022. The purpose is to find out the transitivity process in Sri Mulyani's speech also to recognize the way of transitivity process to express her experience. The different between this previous research and the current research is that in the previous research the researchers used documentation as the research instrument, while this research does not use documentation in collecting the data. Another different path is the previous research used the types of component of transitivity process that contain of six types processes whilst this research uses the seven types of processes based on. According to the explanation above, the researchers took a chance to research on the transitivity process to figure the seven transitivity processes out in the data source.

The data source of this research is based on the speech of Taylor Swift's graduation in her college, New York Univeristy. Speech is described as the expression of ideas, concepts, and opinions in the formation of words that are communicated to indiviuals or discussion that are prepared to be declared in front of the audience. Fundamentally, the objectives of the speech are to communicate, to persuade, and to impact states of mind the audiences, as well as to engage them in them in the topic. The case is, a speech contains endeavors to empower, to convince, and to welcome the listeners to do something. The speech process is delivered by the speaker which the effectiveness of the delivery is determined by their level of preparation, credibility, and knowledge of the topic (Soerjowardhana, 2022).

The graduation speech is one of special speeches in which to be given by someone in the graduation field whether it is the graduates or the professors. The speech contains uplifting motivation and deals with education, wisdom, future, and what the graduates have accomplished.

The American singer-songwriter acquired the Honorary Doctorate Degree in New York University in 2022. New York University has university policies explaining how the honorary degrees works. The award is discerning the basis to differentiate the candidates who have outstanding apperception for remarkable achievement or authority in such an affair dealing with the purpose of the university. She, fortunately, in 2022 received an honorary degree asDoctorate of Fine Arts for being an amazing trailblazing and a great influential advocate for artists' rights, as well as one of the most prolific and famous musicians of her time.

The data for this study was taken from New York University's official YouTube account. As she wore the essential purple and black, she gave a 23 minutes and 5 seconds long speech. The most phenomenon quote goes:

"The scary news is: You're on your own now. But the cool news is: You're on your own now."

Those two sentences point out that the speech consists of words of encouragement to the NYU students while also reflecting on the highs and lows of her career. Nevertheless, the speaker puts in some jokes on purpose in her speech. Which distinct the researchers' interest to investigate the transitivity process in the entire speech.

Method

The method researchers employed in this study is qualitative research. Qualitative research focuses in understanding a research inquire about inquiry as a humanistic or realistic approach concerned with the patterns and forms of variables (Anas, 2022); (Cropley, 2015). The method is applicable for the research because of the data source, a speech.

The data used in this research is a recorded video of Taylor Swift's graduation speech in New York University Graduation class of 2022. The original video is nearly half an hour long, which reduced by the researchers to the main speech by the speaker causing the length to be 23 minutes and 5 seconds only. The video entitled: NYU's 2022 Commencement Speaker Taylor Swift (https://youtu.be/OBG50aoUwlI), could be found on New York University's official YouTube account, @newyorkuniversity. Furthermore, the researchers obtained the transcript of the speech from Rolling Stone music website called Read Taylor Swift's Inspiring Speech for NYU's Class of '22 (https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-news/taylor-swift-nyu-speech-1355121/). The data consists of monologue speech about motivation, how life is going to be after college, and life hacks of how to handle it. The speech was given joyfully, in spite of that it can influence the audiences. The reseachers choose this data because of the speaker's diction in the speech, enjoyable yet motivated. The words the speaker selected in the speech are similar to when a friend talks to another, but somehow it delivers a deep message.

The first thing the researchers did when analyzing the data was watching the entire video on YouTube to understand the context of the speech. At the same time the researchers read the transcript speech on Rolling Stone music website. The researchers checked each sentence in the text form while listening to the spoken speech, to make sure the transcript is totally correct. From there on, the researchers observed the written speech into clauses. After find the clauses, every clause would be classified into one of seven type processes in transitivity. Following by made the result and discussion. In the discussion the researchers would underline every main process in the utterances, which would help to figure the name of the process. The researchers would check three times in the analysis to guarantee the validity. At last, the researchers determine the conclusion.

Findings and Discussions
Findings

The result has shown that after observing each sentence into clauses, the whole speech has 388 clauses. The details of the classification are in the table below:

Table 1. The Data Result of Transitivity Process in Taylor Swift's NYU Speech

Process Type	Meanings	Recurrence	Percentage (%)
Material	Doing	172	44,3%
Mental	Sensing	81	20,9%
Behavioral	Behaving	15	3,8%
Verbal	Saying	23	6,0%
Relational	Being	90	23,1%
Existential	Existing	7	1,9%
Meteorological	Weathering	0	0%
Total		388	100%

This table points out the speech speaker mostly using material process with 172 (44,3%) utterances. This proves that the speech speaker gave the information about what to do and how to do something after college. Mental process and relational process almost have similar number 81(20,9%) and 90(23,1%). Both are the second and third highest in the table. And then verbal

process with 23(6,0%) utterances. Followed by behavioral process which is 15(3,8%) utterances. For the last one, there is existential process type, it has 7(1,9%) utterances. On the contrary, the meteorological does not seem to be appeared in the table at all.

Discussions
Non-Relational Processes
Non-relational processes is process of doing something (verb).
Material Process
Material process, a process of material doing, expresses something does something physically. The process is developed by actor as participant, material as process, and goal as circumstance. This process is the most used one by the speaker with 172 (44,3%) utterances as she explained how she started her career and how the audiences what to do so they will face less failure than she did.
Excerpt 1 (line 3)
I was dancing in heels
Excerpt 2 (line 11)
They improve our world with their work.
Excerpt 3 (line 22)
Those who showed us empathy and kindness.
The excerpt 1-3 contain "I", "they", and "those who" as for the actors. The underlined words are the materials, the main process, that explain what the actor is doing. All the excerpts showed that the actor mostly placed before the material. As in the excerpt 1, the actor refers to the speech speaker, Taylor Swift, which she explained that she was in the stadium before for another occasion doing dance in heels.
Mental Process
Mental process used in the verb which is about senses i.e. feeling, thinking, and perceiving. The process is developed by senser as participant, mental as process, and phenomenon as circumstance. This process has 81(20,9%) utterances, making it to be the third highest in the table.
Excerpt 4 (line 9)
I feel so proud to share this day with my fellow honorees Susan Hockfield and Felix Matos Rodriguez.
Excerpt 5 (line 16)
I am elated to be here with you today
Excerpt 6 (line 64)
As a kid, I always thought I would go away to college.
The excerpts above showed that the speaker used "I" for senser many times to express her feelings. The underlinewords are what the speaker sense for the phenomenon. The speech speaker used this process to express how she felt during the event at the beginning of the speech. Later, she used it again to encourage the audiences about their feelings.
Behavioral Process
Behavioral process is process to use when something is related to pshycology or does phsycology behaviour, such as snoring, breathing, and smiling. The process contains behaver as participant and behavioural as process. Sometimes 'range' is placed after process to specify the range of it. The researchers found 15(3,8%) utterences in the speech.
Excerpt 7 (line 84)
Everyone in college during normal times stresses.
Excerpt 8 (line 113-117)
You've worked and struggled and sacrificed and studied and dreamed your way here today.
Excerpt 9 (line 146)

Secondly, <u>learn</u> to live alongside cringe.

The utterances above proved that for this process, the speech speaker did not use "I" for the participant. Despite of that, she used either "you" and "everyone" as behaver. As in excerpt 8, there are found three behavioral in a sentence. Struggled, sacrificed, and dreamed. The words to clarify the "you" which refers to the graduates, that they have been through those difficult times. Somehow, they can accomplish to be the graduates.

Verbal Process

Verbal process is process when a verb is related to observable. Usually it is used in direct or indirect speech. The clause is made from sayer as participant which is the signal source and verbal as the process that is the signalling. Most of the time, verbal process is completed by other process grasps what is being signalling. The speech speaker only used this process for 23(6%) utterances.

Excerpt 10 (line 15-16)

And let me just <u>say,</u> I am elated to be here with you today.

Excerpt 11 (line 25-26)

Those who <u>told</u> us we could do it when there was absolutely no proof of that.

Excerpt 12 (line 122-123)

So I won't <u>tell</u> you what to do because no one likes that.

The speech speaker represents as the sayer in her speech accasionally. In spite of that, once in a while she used it to represent other people who showed supports for the graduates. This process only helps the speaker before or after informing the main thing.

Relational Process

Process of being and having. Relational process is process related to identify something, as well as to acknowledge about ownership (attributive). For 'identifying' process, token is the participant and value is circumstance, meanwhile for 'attributive' process carrier is participant and attribute as circumstance. This relational process is being used by the speaker many than the others. There are 90 (23,1%) utterances.

Excerpt 13 (line 5)

This outfit <u>is</u> much more comfortable.

Excerpt 14 (line 19-20)

We <u>are</u> each a patchwork quilt of those who have loved us.

Excerpt 15 (line 130)

Life <u>can be</u> heavy.

The underlined words in excerpt 13 and 15 are the identifications. The underlined word in excerpt 14 is the attribuive. The process assists the reader to acknowledge what the main participant is.

Existential Process

Existential process is process to point out something is exist. This process must contain an existent, an object that is exist. It has existential as the process, which mostly is auxialiry verb to inform what is exist. This process appeared 7(1,9%) times only.

Excerpt 16 (line 25-26)

Those who told us we could do it when there <u>was</u> absolutely no proof of that.

Excerpt 17 (line 143)

So there<u>'s</u> more room for them.

Excerpt 18 (line 208-209)

There<u>'s</u> a reason they call it a hook.

As it can be seen in the excerpts 16-19, all of the existential process ofen times helped

by "there" which placed before the verb to identofy the existent.
Meteorological Process

Meteorological process is process where the participant included within the earth's weather condition and its changes, utilized for estimating climate. The process can be used to indicate time as well. The speech in this research did not use this process at all. Proving the speech speaker focusses on the other things.

Conclusion

All things considered, Taylor Swift as the speech speaker expressed 388 utterances in total in her graduation speech. She persisted to inform the graduates about what they better to do after graduate, because the researchers found a great number of the material processes far from the other processes, 172 utterances as she explained the life hacks and what to do. There are 90 for relational process and 81 for mental process. She used relational process to describe somethings when people tend to start a career and used mental process to show her feeling as well as to help her to say her speech in formal and polite way. Verbal process appeared 23 times. The behavioral process is being used for 15 utterances, to speculate what the graduates might have been felt during the college in pandemic. The lowest is existential process, there are only 7 utterances. The seventh process, which the researchers attempted to find is meteorological process. In spite of that, the researchers did not find any utterance using this process. This suggests to the next studies if the researcher desire to have seven processes of transitivity analysis, they can seek other data source such as movie, theatre, and news. The other data source that might be able to be analyzed are memes, advertisements, or slangs. Another thing that the researchers would like to suggest is to analyzed the data in transitivity more than the process. The researchers might analyze the participant and the circumstance as well to explore more in the transitivity.

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