

**ANALYSIS OF NEWS ITEM TEXT  
FOUND IN "THE JAKARTA POST" ENTITLED;  
*"Boat People May Be Allowed to Pass RI Waters"***

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**ABSTRACT**

*The questions of this study are what types of Processes found in newspaper reports, why the dominant Process used to develop the genre and what genre is used to realize the discourse. The object of this study is news taken from the Jakarta Post online entitled Boat People May Be Allowed to Pass RI Waters published on Monday, November 25, 2013, 1:15 PM. In this study, the writer concerned on functional grammar, mainly on ideational meaning. In order to get the objective of this study, the writer used some theories related to the literature, discourse, genre, grammar and ideational meaning itself. In the Process type analysis, there were four types of processes found in the news and the most process appeared was material process. The Material Process expressed in past tense. It means the text is retelling about a sequence of happening or informing something. The writer also found that there was news item genre, instead of recount, which dominate the text entitled Boat People May Be Allowed to Pass RI Waters published on Monday, November 25, 2013, 1:15 PM . Finally, the writer found that Material Processes which expressed in past tense used to reconstruct news item text that developed Boat People May Be Allowed to Pass RI Waters.*

**Keywords:** Genre, Text Analysis, News Paper

**ABSTRAK**

*Pertanyaan penelitian ini adalah apa jenis proses yang ditemukan dalam laporan surat kabar, mengapa proses dominan digunakan untuk mengembangkan genre, dan apa genre yang digunakan untuk mewujudkan wacana tersebut. Objek penelitian ini adalah berita yang diambil dari Jakarta Post secara online berjudul "Boat People May Be Allowed to Pass RI Waters" diterbitkan pada Senin 25 November, 2013, 01:15. Dalam penelitian ini, penulis bersangkutan pada tata bahasa fungsional, terutama pada makna ideasional. Dalam rangka untuk mendapatkan tujuan penelitian ini, penulis menggunakan*

*beberapa teori yang berkaitan dengan sastra, wacana, genre, tata bahasa dan makna ideasional itu sendiri. Dalam analisis tipe proses, ada empat jenis proses yang ditemukan dalam berita dan proses yang paling muncul adalah proses material. Proses Material dinyatakan dalam past tense. Arti teks tersebut adalah menceritakan kembali tentang urutan terjadi atau menginformasikan sesuatu. Penulis juga menemukan bahwa ada berita genre; recount, yang mendominasi teks berjudul "Boat People May Be Allowed to Pass RI Waters" diterbitkan pada Senin 25 November, 2013, 01:15. Akhirnya, penulis menemukan bahwa Proses Material yang disajikan dalam past tense digunakan untuk merekonstruksi berita teks yang dikembangkan "Boat People May Be Allowed to Pass RI Waters".*

**Kata-kata Kunci :** Genre, Analisis Teks, Koran

## I. Introduction.

Transitivity analysis has been widely used to understand the language of speakers and writers. It examines the structure of sentences which are represented by processes, the participants involved in these processes, and the circumstances in which processes and participants are involved. Using transitivity analysis, researchers have tried to reveal that language structures can produce certain meanings and ideology which are not always explicit for readers. In other words, the task of functional analysis, particularly transitivity analysis, is to discover the relation between meanings and wordings that accounts for the organization of linguistic features in a text. Therefore, the concept of transitivity has been used by a number of linguists to shed more light on the use of language in a literary text.

Halliday points out how understanding grammar, especially transitivity, can help interpret the meaning in a literary text. According to Halliday's theory, patterns of transitivity, including processes, participants, and the circumstances, occur in the clauses and sentences of a text. He claims that "transitivity is the set of options whereby the speaker encodes his experience and Transitivity is really the cornerstone of the semantic organization of experience" (p. 81). Transitivity analyses are just a few among many, but they are fundamental examples of how language patterns, particularly transitivity, can convey the meaning and ideology of a literary text. They also add further dimensions that have proved useful in stylistic analysis. The functional grammar analysis of English helps readers understand human interactions in social contexts and can be used to uncover ideological meanings within them.

## II. Theoretical Bases

The systemic functional linguistics approach to discourse analysis is based on the model of "language as a social semiotic" outlined in the works of Halliday. Language is used functionally, what is said depends on what one needs to accomplish. In Halliday's theory, language expresses three main kinds of meanings simultaneously: *ideational*, *interpersonal*, and *textual* meanings (1985). Among them, the *ideational* meaning (the clause as representation) serves for the expression of "content" in language, that is, our experience of the real world, including the experience of our inner world. When we use language we often use it to speak of

something or someone doing something. That is why the *ideational* meaning can be referred to as experiential meaning coming from the clause as representation.

In constructing experiential meaning, there is one major system of grammatical choice involved: the system of transitivity or process type. I have chosen transitivity because of all the grammatical aspects analysed, it produces the fruitful data on the text. In his *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*, Halliday identifies transitivity as follows:

A fundamental property of language is that it enables human beings to build a mental picture of reality, to make sense of their experience of what goes on around them and inside them. ...Our most powerful conception of reality is that it consists of "goings-on": of doing, happening, feeling, being. These goings-on are sorted out in the semantic system of language, and expressed through the grammar of the clause... This... is the system of TRANSITIVITY. Transitivity specifies the different types of processes that are recognised in the language and the structures by which they are expressed (1985, p. 101) The theoretical framework of transitivity was established and developed by Halliday. Transitivity generally refers to how meaning is represented in clauses; transitivity patterns can reveal the certain worldview "framed by the authorial ideology" in a literary text (Fowler, 1986, p. 138). Clauses represent events and processes of various kinds, and transitivity aims to make clear how the action is performed, by whom and on what. Transitivity is an important and powerful semantic concept in Halliday. It is part of the ideational function of language, therefore, an essential tool in the analysis of representation. Implicitly and crucially, different social structures and values require different patterns of transitivity. Transitivity is representation in language processes. It refers generally to how meaning is represented in the clause

Hasan claims that transitivity: ... is concerned with a coding of the goings on: who does what in relation to whom/what, where, when, how, and why. Thus the analysis is in terms of some **process**, its **participants**, and the **circumstances** pertinent to the process – participant configuration. (1988, p. 63) In other words, transitivity can show how speakers/writers encode in language their mental reflection of the world and how they account for their experience of the world around them.

Halliday's theory that transitivity is measurable will be used to study the clausal structure which is based on the main verb of the sentence. According to this

theory, in transitivity different processes are distinguished according to whether they represent actions, speech, states of mind or states of being. Those are identified, classified and known as Material processes, Relational processes, Mental processes, Verbal processes and Behavioral processes

### III. Research Question.

- 1) What types of processes are found in the Jakarta Post news entitled *Boat People May Be Allowed To Pass RI Waters* published on Monday, November 25, 2013, 1:15 PM
- 2) What is the dominant process type found in the news?
- 3) Why is the dominant process type used to develop the news?

### IV. Objective of the Study

- 1) To describe the types of processes through analyzing and identifying clauses found in Jakarta Post news entitled *Boat People May Be Allowed To Pass RI Waters* published on Monday, November 25 2013, 1:15 PM
- 2) To classify the clauses according to the types of processes: material, mental, behavioral, verbal, relational, existential and meteorological processes.
- 3) To analyze the dominant process in the news.

### V. Text Analysis

*Boat People May Be Allowed To Pass RI Waters*

*Yuliasri Perdani, The Jakarta Post, Jakarta | World | Mon, November 25 2013, 1:15 PM*

#### **World News**

*Boat People May be Allowed to Pass RI Waters* hereon will be called BOAT PEOPLE TEXT, in this article is analyzed in the perspective of linguistic studies using the systemic functional linguistic theory.

There are six sub discussions as far as this study is concerned. They are analysis of mood structure, analysis of transitivity, analysis of theme-rheme, analysis of logical relationship and analysis of ideology.

Paragraph 1

National Police chief Gen. Sutarmanto (Sayer) said (*Verbal Process*) the force may let boat people pass through Indonesia's waters as they attempt to reach Australia, following the suspension of people-smuggling cooperation between both countries (*Verbiage*).

Paragraph 2

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (Actor) has ordered (*Material Process*) the suspension following revelations that Australian spies had attempted to tap his cell phone conversations with members of his inner circle in 2009 (*Goal*).

Paragraph 3

Speaking after an event on Monday, Sutarmanto (Sayer) said (*Verbal Process*) that in regards to the President's order (*Verbiage*) . The police (Actor) would not prevent (*Material Process*) boat people from reaching Christmas Island in Australia (*Goal*).

Paragraph 4

"We (Actor) must crackdown (*Material Process*) on any law violations in the country (*Goal*). But if a person (Carrier) has (*Relational Process*) a purpose to go there [Christmas Island] (*Attributive*) , it (Actor) does not come (*Material Process*) under our authority (*Goal*). We (Carrier) no longer have (*Relational Process*) cooperation [on boat people],"(*Attributive*) He (Sayer) said (*Verbal Process*) at National Police headquarters in South Jakarta (*circumstance of place*).

Paragraph 5

Indonesia's coastal areas, particularly those of North Sumatra and West Java (*Token*), have become (*Relational Process*) popular transit points for Middle Eastern and African boat people to reach Australia (*Value*).

Paragraph 6

On many occasions, local fishermen (Actor) have assisted (*Material Process*) illegal activities by selling their boats to people smugglers and migrants (*Goal*).

Paragraph 7

In the last five years, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) ( *Senser*) has seen (*Mental Process*) the number of refugees and asylum seekers in Indonesia seeking UNHCR assistance increase from 385 in 2008 to 7,218 last year (*Phenomenon*)..

**TRANSITIVITY IN THE TEXT**

Material	Mental	Relational	Verbal	Behavioral	Existential	Total
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Process	Process	Process	Process	Process	Process	Number
5	1	3	3	-	-	12
41,7 %	8,3 %	25 %	25 %			100 %

### 5.1. Analysis of Mood Structure

Modality refers to a speaker's attitudes towards or opinion about the truth of a proposition expressed by a sentence. It also extends to their attitude towards the situation or event described by a sentence.

News item is usually applied in newspaper and it includes main events, elaboration and comments from the Participants take part in the sequence of happenings. The purpose of news item text is to give information to the readers/viewers about events of the day, which are considered newsworthy or important, in this case, it is about the attitude of the government of Indonesia (the President) , following the revelation that Australian spies had attempted to tap the president's cell phone conversations with members of his inner circle in 2009.

The analysis of mood in particular refers to the mood system. It was found that the mood structure in BOAT PEOPLE TEXT is made up of MOOD and RESIDUE. The elements of mood are subject (S) and predicate (P), and the elements of residue is made up of complement or object and circumstance. As far as the modality system is concerned, it has been found that BOAT PEOPLE TEXT only has one type of modality, that is, Indicative Mood. Based on the mood analysis, it has been systematically found that the mood system of BOAT PEOPLE TEXT is made up of only declarative mood. So, The declarative mood is most dominantly used in BOAT PEOPLE TEXT

### 5.2. Analysis of transitivity

The analysis of transitivity found that BOAT PEOPLE TEXT employs four types of processes within the structure of transitivity with the sequence starting from the highest to the lowest as follows: the material process (5); the verbal process (3); the relational process (3), and the mental process (1)

### 5.3. Analysis of text structure (Theme-Rheme)

The textual function refers to the fact that language has mechanisms to make any stretch of spoken or written discourse into a coherent and unified text and make a living passage different from a random list of sentences.

The text begins with the recount of the newsworthy event in summary form, by retelling the statement of National Police Chief regarding what actions the police will take following the order given by the President of RI to suspend the cooperation between Indonesian and Australian Government on people smuggling.

The next paragraphs explain the background of the events, by elaborating **what happened** (*Australian spies had attempted to tap the phone conversation*), **to whom** (*to the president's cell phone conversation with his inner circle*) and **in what circumstances** (*in 2009*).

In the other parts of the text, the comments were given by the Police Chief, Gen Sutarman, by saying that the Police would not prevent boat people from reaching Christmas Island in Australia. Further he said that if a person had a purpose to go there (Christmas Island), it did not come under their authority. He also said that they no longer had cooperation on boat people.

In the last part of the text, UNHCR gave a comment that in the last five years the number of refugees and asylum seekers in Indonesia seeking UNHCR assistance increased from 385 in 2008 to 7,218 last year.

As far as the analysis of text as the media of communication and information, it has been identified that the participants always treat the essential things as the theme of the structure. Therefore, three types of clausal themes can be formulated as follows: **interpersonal theme**, that is, the theme of the mood structure, **ideational/topical theme**, that is, the theme in the transitivity structure and **textual theme**, that is, the theme in the text structure.

The dominant types of theme in BOAT PEOPLE TEXT is **ideational**, that is Unmarked Topical Theme. The other type theme found in BOAT PEOPLE TEXT is **Textual Theme**, that is the usage of conjunction in the sentences. While Interpersonal Theme i.e, the usage of modal adjunct and vocative, is not found in the BOAT PEOPLE TEXT

#### 5.4. Analysis of Logical Relationship

The analysis of logical relationship of BOAT PEOPLE TEXT is a unity of forms and meanings which is constructed by the neat composition of relationship. There is one syntactical logical relationships establishing in BOAT PEOPLE TEXT, that is, Hypotaxis relationship, that refers to subordinative relationship, and two semantic relationship, those are ; 1) **Projection (locution)** relationship in the clause ; “



*Speaking after an event on Monday, Sutarman said that in regards to the President's order, the police would not prevent boat people from reaching Christmas Island in Australia"* and 2) **Expansion relationship (enhancement)** in the clause ; *"But if a person has a purpose to go there [Christmas Island] , it does not come under our authority"*

### 5.5. Analysis of Ideology

The BOAT PEOPLE TEXT is text which is bound to ideology. In other words, in addition to being bound to situational and cultural context, it is also bound to ideological context. The ideology of BOAT PEOPLE TEXT is featured by the field, the participants and the mode. They are related to each other in such a way that they are unified. The most dominant is the role of National Police Chief, General Sutarman. It happens because the field of the text is about political affair and law enforcement in Indonesia. It is about the security of the country and nation. Thus it is the domain of the police who has the responsibility to guard the law enforcement and the stability of security and political situation in this country. The text is also talking about the conflict of ideology between Indonesia and Australia. Indonesian government culturally regards that tapping SBY's cell phone conversations with members of his inner circle is morally and culturally wrong and bad behavior. But in the other hand Australian government regards that there is nothing wrong with what Australian spies had done to SBY. That 's why the prime minister of Australia said that it was unnecessary to say sorry to the government of Indonesia, because there is nothing wrong to apologize. What was done by the spies was something normal and right from the point of view of the Australian Government.

Another conflict of ideology is about the Boat People. Indonesian Government regard that it does not come under the Indonesian Government authority if there is person who has a purpose to go Christmas Island. The police would not prevent boat people from reaching Christmas Island in Australia. The force may let boat people pass through Indonesia's waters as they attempt to reach Australia. While Australian Govt. regards that Indonesia has very strategies role to stop and prevent Boat People from going to Christmas Island, because Indonesia's coastal areas, particularly those of North Sumatra and West Java, have become popular transit points for Middle Eastern and African boat people to reach Australia.

### 5.6. Analysis of Context of Situation and Culture

BOAT PEOPLE TEXT, as a text under a particular context of situation, has a macro structure whose elements are ***the field***, that is, the element which refers to what is happening; that is, the situational context of disappointment feeling of the government of Indonesia, responding what had been done by Australian spies by having attempted to tap SBY's cell phone conversations with members of his inner circle in 2009. ***the participants (tenor)***, that is, the element which refers to those who are directly and indirectly involved in the text; , those are 1) the president of Indonesia, 2) National Police Chief, 3) Boat People, and 4) UNHCR. and ***the mode*** , that is, the language elements used as the communication media, the text is delivered in the written form.

In the context of culture, the BOAT PEOPLE TEXT is categorized as News item text, which is usually applied in newspaper and it includes main events, elaboration and comments from the participants take part in the sequence of happenings. The purpose of news item text is to give information to the readers/viewers about events of the day, which are considered newsworthy or important, in this case, it is about the attitude of the government of Indonesia (the President) , following the revelation that Australian spies had attempted to tap the president's cell phone conversations with members of his inner circle in 2009.

Lexicogrammatical features of the News Item text includes short, telegraphic information are captured in headline (Gerot and Wignell 1994:200). Hopefully, by reading the headlines the readers will know the content of the news. It also uses material processes to retell the events and projects verbal processes in sources states. In addition, news item focuses on circumstances. While the language feature of news item is past tense.

From the text we know how the mode – the language used as communication media by the participants ( SBY as the president and Gen. Sutarman as the Chief of National Police). They are in different level in the system of Indonesian Government. Look at the example of the sentence used by the president, as reported by the Jakarta Post reporter “President Susilo Bambang Yudoyono has ordered.....”, while Gen. Sutarman said .....that in regards to the President's order, the police .....” From the example we know how the power relation takes place in the communication between the participants.

## VI. Conclusions



The analysis of BOAT PEOPLE TEXT based on the SFL theory comprehensively analyzes mood structure, analysis of transitivity, analysis of theme-rheme, analysis of logical relationship and analysis of ideology and context of situation and culture analysis.

Based on the results of the data analysis, from the mood point of view, BOAT PEOPLE TEXT, has the structure of MOOD and *RESIDUE*. The mood is made up of subject (S) and predicate (P) with the structure S P and the residue is made up of complement or object and circumstance. In addition, among the mood forms used in BOAT PEOPLE TEXT, the declarative sentence is the most dominant. It has also been found that, as far as its modality category is concerned, it only has indicative mood type.

From the analysis of macro transitivity, it can be concluded that the processes taking place in it can be formulated from the highest to the lowest such as the material process (5); the verbal process (3); the relational process (3), and the mental process (1)

Then, as far as the theme analysis is concerned, there are two types found in BOAT PEOPLE TEXT, those are ; ideational, that is Unmarked Topical Theme. The other type of theme found in is Textual Theme, that is the usage of conjunction in the sentences. While Interpersonal Theme i.e, the usage of modal adjunct and vocative, is not found in the BOAT PEOPLE.

The reason why such themes appear is that the participants have considered them essential things in communicative context so that the message submitted is clearly acceptable to the addressee.

Intra clausal, which determines logical relationship, is also found in BOAT PEOPLE TEXT as well as theme relationship. The intra clausal relationship emphasizes new and given information. There are two types of relationships. They are syntactical and semantic relationships. The syntactical logical relationship found in this text is hypotaxis relationships; in contrast, in semantic logic relationship there are two types of relationship, those are, 1) Projection (locution) and 2) expansion relationship

From the ideological analysis of the text, it can be concluded that BOAT PEOPLE TEXT has ideological meaning whose features can be found in the field with one or more form(s) of mood as its variant(s), in the tenor referred to, in the field

and in the mode representing the ideological meaning both in the field in the tenor. The most concrete ideological feature is the conflict of ideology between the Govt. of Indonesia and Australia, relating with the action of tapping SBY's cell phone conversation done by Australian spies, and the conflict about Boat People.

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Hanh Thu Nguyen<sup>1</sup>: *Transitivity Analysis of "Heroic Mother" by Hoa Pham* in International Journal of English Linguistics; Vol. 2, No. 4; 2012, Published by Canadian Center of Science and Education