TRANSITIVITY IN BBC NEWS INDONESIA "MAY 1998 RIOTS" DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses transitivity in three news discourse texts from the BBC News Indonesia online news website titled "May 1998 Riots." Transitivity is analyzed using a qualitative approach focusing on the types of processes and circumstances present in the texts. Material processes, indicating physical activities, dominate in all texts, and location circumstances are the most frequently occurring. Despite variations in the types of processes and circumstances, their distribution is uneven across the three news discourse texts, indicating diversity in the use of linguistic elements in the news context. In these news texts, material processes have the highest percentage of occurrence, approximately 41.74%, emphasizing the emphasis on physical activities in presenting information. Location circumstances have the highest percentage of occurrence, around 42.07%, highlighting a strong focus on the event's location. Transitivity analysis provides a deeper understanding of information structure in news texts, with material processes and location circumstances being the main focus. This research offers additional insights into the use of transitivities in news discourse texts, emphasizing the dominant role of material processes and location circumstances in conveying information to readers. The diversity in the use of linguistic elements illustrates the complexity and dynamics of news text composition.

Keywords: *Transitivity, Processes, Circumstances, Text*

INTRODUCTION

Human existence involves various social dynamics that influence and are influenced by language, creating diversity in social experiences reflected in various linguistic experiences (Bucholtz, M., & Hall, 2016). Texts are products of discourse processes, where values, ideologies, emotions, interests, and other elements are involved in the process (Holmes, 2019). This includes news discourse texts, a written communication form that presents information about a recent event or incident (Caple, 2019). News discourse is usually written in a clear, objective, and informative style to provide readers with a good understanding of facts related to an event (Richardson, 2017). Here are some key characteristics of news discourse texts:

1. Important and Timely: News covers current events considered important or relevant to society at that time. The presented information must be current and timely (Bednarek, M., & Caple, 2017).

2. Objective: News discourse should be written with an objective attitude, meaning the writer should not take sides or include personal opinions that can influence readers' interpretation (Tuchman, 2018).

3. Inverted Pyramid: The writing style of news generally follows an inverted pyramid structure, where the most important and relevant information is placed at the beginning of the text, followed by increasingly detailed information (Schudson, 2017).

4. Who, What, When, Where, Why, How (5W+1H): News should answer basic questions such as who is involved, what happened, when the event occurred, where the incident took place, why it happened, and how the event occurred.

5. Source of Information: News should be supported by reliable sources of information, such as interviews with witnesses, official statements, or relevant statistical data.

The data source in this article is three news discourse texts from the BBC News Indonesia online news website released on May 16, 2018, by Sri Lestari with the title "May 1998 Riots." The researcher chose this news text due to its relevance

to the current issue related to the candidacy of Mr. Presidential Candidate Prabowo Subianto, associated with the "May 1998 Riots." Therefore, this article can attract readers' interest regarding linguistic transitivitas needs.

In this article, the researcher delves into the activity of transitivitas as a grammatical unit, namely Processes and Circumstances contained in the news discourse text "May 1998 Riots." Transitivitas can indicate how living beings describe experiences based on the reality that occurs around them or within them (Thompson, 2014).

In the transitivitas clause study, there are 6 Processes: Material, Mental, Verbal, Behavioral, Relational, and Existence. Meanwhile, in Circumstances, there are 9 types: Time, Place/Location, Manner, Cause, Environment (In what situation), Accompaniment (With whom), Role (As what), Issue (About what), and Perspective (According to whom) (Halliday, M. A. K., & Matthiessen, 2014). The definitions of the 6 processes are:

1. Material: Process involving physical action or material change. The objects involved are usually objects or substances.

2. Mental: Process involving mental activities, such as thinking, feeling, or believing. Objects can be ideas, concepts, or feelings.

3. Verbal: Process involving expression with words or spoken language. The object is information or a message.

4. Behavioral: Process involving someone's actions or behavior. The object is an observable action.

5. Relational: Process involving judgment or consideration of something. The object can be an assessment, opinion, or comparison.

6. Existence: Process involving the creation or existence of something identifiable.

Based on the background description and the scope of the above research, the problem of this research is formulated as follows: What Processes and Circumstances of Transitivities are present in the 3 news discourse texts from the BBC News Indonesia website released on May 16, 2018, by Sri Lestari with the title "May 1998 Riots"?

METHOD

The method applied is a qualitative method with the choice of a qualitative descriptive format. The decision to use a qualitative approach was made because this research produces descriptive data derived from writing, clauses, and phrases in reliable documents as the examined source of information. The Data was taken from the BBC News Indonesia online website titled "May 1998 Riots". Transitivity is analyzed using a qualitative approach focusing on the types of processes and circumstances present in the texts. Material processes, indicating physical activities, dominate in all texts, and location circumstances are the most frequently occurring.

Qualitative descriptive format is chosen to elucidate and explain the meaning behind various social reality phenomena by revealing characteristics, features, traits, models, signs, or descriptions of specific conditions, situations, or phenomena (Flick, 2018). Therefore, a reliable data mining approach is required to achieve the desired level of understanding.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Transitivity in News Discourse Texts from the BBC News Indonesia Online News Website Released on May 16, 2018, by Sri Lestari with the Title "May 1998 Riots"

Transitivity in this research data is described deductively with details on the number of processes and circumstances found in the three news discourse texts from the BBC News Indonesia online news website released on May 16, 2018, by Sri Lestari with the title "May 1998 Riots." Subsequently, the dominance of processes and circumstances used in these three news discourse texts is examined. This dominance is also marked by the percentage of each process and circumstance. The following is an example of the transitivity analysis in the three news discourse texts from the BBC News Indonesia online news website released on May 16, 2018, by Sri Lestari with the title "May 1998 Riots."

Example of Transitivity Analysis: T1 (Text 1 News Discourse BBC News Indonesia)

Tak jauh dari Plaza Glodok	yang 20 tahun lalu	tengah mengerjakan	hari terakhir	ketika mendengar	teriakan	pertokoan glodok	dibakar
Cir: Location	Cir: Time	Pro: material	Cir: Time	Pro: mental	Pro: behavioral	Cir: Location	Pro: material

The example above is an illustrative instance of sample data, Text 1, exhibiting the experiential function manifested in the form of transitivity found within the news discourse text from the BBC News Indonesia online news website released on May 16, 2018, by Sri Lestari, with the title "May 1998 Riots." This example depicts an elucidation that there exists a transitivity element, such as material processes in the clause "tengah mengerjakan" and in the word "dibakar", mental processes in the clause "ketika mendengar", behavioral processes in the word "teriakan" and the presence of location circumstances in the clauses "Tak jauh dari Plaza Godok" and "pertokoan Glodok", as well as time circumstances in the clauses "yang 20 tahun lalu" and "hari terakhir".

Example of Transitivity Analysis: T2 (Text 2 News Discourse BBC News Indonesia)

Christianto	yang menyadari	situasi akan kacau	meminta	anaknya berserta keluarganya	untuk sementara	mengungsi	ke rumahnya di kawasan Jakarta Pusat.
	Pro: mental	Cir: Environment	Pro: behavioral			Pro: material	Cir: Location

The example above serves as a sample data illustration of News Discourse Text 2, depicting the experiential function manifested in the form of transitivity found within the news discourse text from the BBC News Indonesia online news website released on May 16, 2018, by Sri Lestari, under the title "May 1998 Riots." This example provides elucidation that there exists a transitivity element, namely material processes in the word "mengungsi", mental processes in the clause "yang menyadari", behavioral processes in the word "meminta", as well as the presence of location circumstances in the clause "ke rumahnya di kawasan Jakarta Pusat", and environmental circumstances in the clause "situasi kacau".

Example of Transitivity Analysis: T3 (Text 3 News Discourse BBC News Indonesia)

Paniling	tak menyangka	akan terjadi kerusuhan,	pagi itu	Dia	pergi bekerja	dari rumahnya di Solo	ke Boyolali	seperti biasa.
	Pro: mental		Cir: Time		Pro: material	Cir: Location	Cir: Location	

The above example serves as a sample data illustration of News Discourse Text 3, portraying the experiential function manifested in the form of transitivity found within the news discourse text from the BBC News Indonesia online news website released on May 16, 2018, by Sri Lestari, under the title "May 1998 Riots." This example provides elucidation that there exists a transitivity element, such as material processes in the clause "pergi bekerja" (went to work) and mental processes in the clause "tak menyangka", as well as the presence of location circumstances in the clauses "dari rumahnya di Solo", "ke Boyolali", and time circumstances in the clause "pagi itu".

Based on the transitivity analysis of all three news discourse texts from BBC News Indonesia, the distribution of the count (J) and percentage (P) is known, as presented in the following table.

Table 1.1 Number of Processes in BBC News Indonesia News Texts "May 1998 Riots"

No.	Process Type	Count and Percentage of Processes					
		Text News 1		Text News 2		Text News 3	
		J	P	J	P	J	P
1.	Material	26	41.93	7	22.58	17	60.71
2.	Mental	20	32.26	8	25.80	3	10.71
3.	Verbal	11	17.74	5	16.13	3	10.71
4.	Behavioral	2	3.23	9	29.03	3	10.71
5.	Relational	1	1.61	1	3.23	1	3.58
6.	Existential	2	3.23	1	3.23	1	3.58
	Total	**62**	**100**	**31**	**100**	**28**	**100**

Based on Table 1.1, the identified process types in the three news discourse texts in this study include material, mental, verbal, behavioral, relational, and existential processes. Of these six process types, the most frequently occurring process in all texts is the material process. In contrast, mental, verbal, behavioral, relational, and existential processes have a lower distribution in the three news discourse texts compared to the material process. Thus, it can be explained that the number of occurrences of processes in the three news discourse texts is uneven in the context of this study.

In these three news discourse texts, the material process reaches the highest level, approximately 41.74%. The high use of material processes in the news discourse texts of BBC News Indonesia "May 1998 Riots" can be interpreted as an indication

that these texts often depict physical activities. The researcher intends to convey to the readers that activities related to physical actions are highly significant in the context of news discourse.

Table 1.2 Number of Circumstances in BBC News Indonesia News Texts "May 1998 Riots"

No.	Circumstance Type	Count and Percentage of Circumstances					
		Text News 1		Text News 2		Text News 3	
		J	P	J	P	J	P
1.	Time	9	25.0	10	31.25	4	23.53
2.	Place/Location	15	41.66	12	37.50	8	47.06
3.	Manner	0	0	1	3.13	0	0
4.	Cause	2	5.56	1	3.13	0	0
5.	Environment	8	22.22	5	15.62	5	29.41
6.	Accompaniment	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Role	0	0	1	3.13	0	0
8.	Issue	2	5.56	2	6.24	0	0
9.	Perspective	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	**36**	**100**	**32**	**100**	**17**	**100**

Based on the data in Table 1.2, 9 categories of circumstances are identified in the three news discourse texts from BBC News Indonesia "May 1998 Riots." These nine circumstance categories include time, place, manner, cause, environment, accompaniment, role, issue, and perspective. However, the distribution of these nine circumstance categories is uneven in the three news discourse texts. From the three news discourse texts, one circumstance category that frequently appears in all texts is the place/location circumstance. In contrast, the frequency of occurrence of time, manner, cause, environment, accompaniment, role, issue, and perspective circumstances is not as much as the place/location circumstance in all texts. In fact, accompaniment and perspective circumstances do not appear in all texts in this study.

In these three news discourse texts, the place/location circumstance reaches the highest level, approximately 42.07%. The high use of the place/location circumstance in the news discourse texts of BBC News Indonesia "May 1998 Riots" can be interpreted as an indication that these news discourse texts often indicate the place/location of events. The researcher intends to convey to the readers that circumstances indicating the place/location of events are highly significant in the context of news discourse.

CONCLUSION

This article undertook an investigation into the transitivitas within three news discourse texts from BBC News Indonesia, titled "May 1998 Riots." The analysis of transitivitas employed a qualitative approach with a focus on processes and circumstances. The dominant process type identified in these news texts is the material process, signifying a prevalence of physical activities portrayed within the news discourse texts. The circumstance type that most frequently appears in all texts is the place/location circumstance, emphasizing information related to the location of events.

The material process exhibits the highest percentage of occurrence in all texts, reaching approximately 41.74%, indicating the dominance of physical activities in the context of these news texts. The place/location circumstance records the highest percentage of occurrence, approximately 42.07%, highlighting a strong focus on information related to the location of events. Despite variations in process types and circumstances, their distribution is not uniform across the three news discourse texts, suggesting diversity in the use of linguistic elements in the news context.

Transitivitas analysis provides a deeper understanding of how information is structured and presented in news texts. Material processes and place/location circumstances emerge as the primary focus in delivering information to readers. Therefore, this research offers additional insights into how transitivitas is utilized in the news discourse texts of BBC News Indonesia's "May 1998 Riots," emphasizing the dominant roles of material processes and place/location circumstances in presenting information to the readers.

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