

## A TRANSITIVITY ANALYSIS OF THE FINAL 2020 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE DONALD TRUMP AND JOE BIDEN

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Received: 10/10/2022; Revised: 04/02/2023; Accepted: 27/04/2023; Published: 30/06/2023

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### ABSTRACT

This study is aimed to determine the ideological content implied in the debate speeches of Donald Trump and Joe Biden by using the transitivity theory of Halliday. The method used is descriptive qualitative. From the data found, the highest frequency of process types is found in Donald Trump with a total of 63 (100%), while Joe Biden with 32 times (51%). From this study, it can be concluded that the Transitivity analysis that most often occurs in the Donald Trump and Joe Biden debate is the Material Process. This process is the process of doing something. In this case, Donald Trump and Joe Biden took action in dealing with coronavirus cases in America. Donald Trump and Joe Biden's ideological stance is to show that he cares about the coronavirus cases in America. This is done by both candidates due to show how they have struggled to handle the pandemic very well in order to get sympathy from ten audiences.

**Keywords:** Ideology, Debate, Transitivity analysis.

### ABSTRAK

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui muatan ideologis yang tersirat dalam pidato debat Donald Trump dan Joe Biden dengan menggunakan teori transitivitas Halliday. Metode yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Dari data yang ditemukan, frekuensi jenis proses tertinggi terdapat pada Donald Trump dengan jumlah 63 (100%), sedangkan Joe Biden dengan 32 kali (51%). Dari penelitian ini dapat disimpulkan bahwa analisis Transitivity yang paling sering terjadi dalam debat Donald Trump dan Joe Biden adalah Material Process. Proses ini adalah proses melakukan sesuatu. Dalam hal ini, Donald Trump dan Joe Biden mengambil tindakan dalam menangani kasus virus corona di Amerika. Sikap ideologis Donald Trump dan Joe Biden adalah untuk menunjukkan bahwa dia peduli dengan kasus virus corona di Amerika. Hal ini dilakukan oleh kedua kandidat karena menunjukkan bagaimana mereka telah berjuang menangani pandemi dengan sangat baik untuk mendapatkan simpati dari sepuluh penonton.*

**Kata kunci:** Ideologi, Debat, Analisis Transitivitas,

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How to cite: Suswanto, I. M., Nurhaliza, H. (2023). A Transitivity Analisis of The Final 2020 Presidential Debate Donald Trump and Joe Biden. Jurnal Cahaya Pendidikan, 9(1), 10-16  
<https://doi.org/10.33373/chypend.v9i1.4585>

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## INTRODUCTION

Debate becomes interesting if conducted by famous people, such as President, politicians and artists. It will give great impact to the huge people. Therefore, the debate speeches of Donald Trump and Joe Biden is very interesting. The presidential debate is useful for the nation, for instance United States of America. So, speech is very useful for the president to give big influence. Since, the speech is an oral text used by a person to convey ideas, desires, thoughts, and others. According to Sinaga and Elia (2013), speech consists of three important parts, beginning, middle and end. The first part is speech introduction. The middle part, like the body of the speech, explains the essence of the speech. The speaker talks about each point in detail. And the last part is the closing of the speech, the part of the speech in summarizing the main points of the topic. It is very interesting to study about speech. By using language is transferred to the audiences. Thus, language is very important for human being to fulfill their needs since it is a communication system (Ningsih & Megah, 2021).

Further, speech can be defined as “a verbal chain consisting of coherent speech acts uttered on special occasions addressed to a less specific audience” (Schmitz, 2005, p.698). Apart from the differences in linguistic and paralinguistic cues, speech in general differs in terms of speaker, listener, time, place, tone, function, and level of readiness. Moreover, Wodak and Koller (2008, p.243-252) state that therefore, deviation from pre-written transcripts by the entire writing team including spin-doctors, ghostwriters, and political advisers is extremely rare. Kuhn (1992) state that regarding historical developments, speech has become increasingly important because of its wide distribution in the media. This also causes the problem of misperceptions as politicians need to deal with several publics at the same time.

It is very great to analyze the American presidencies of Donald Trump and Joe Biden have long piqued the interest of social scientists, as well as researchers and the news media. Donald Trump's ideology in his political speech has an impact on the wider community. By using a language, a political leader such as president, prime ministers, kings, and sultans may apply it to transfer their ideologies (Novrian & Megah, 2022).

The ideological impact of Donald Trump is Moslem, immigrant, non-immigrant, and global. Klein (1996) states that as a result, politicians use the principle of calculated ambivalence to hide contradictory arguments by making use of ambivalent formulations, paraphrases, and euphemisms. This problem is also seen in the use of pronouns, to speak more to a direct audience, politicians prefer to use the plural form (without specifying who is addressed). Herget (2005, p.762-763) states that the problem of multiple addressing, has shifted to a simpler style and over the last decade to facilitate understanding. This creates problems for less educated or more disparate listeners to follow political discourse in the public area.

To know the background presidential candidates is useful. Thus, Donald Trump is a successful businessman and great at negotiating and often makes controversial statements. In June 2015, Donald Trump officially announced his candidacy at Trump Tower as one of the candidates for President of the United States in the 2016 election. While, Joe Biden is the United States presidential candidate from the Democratic Party, finally winning the 2020 United States presidential selection. Biden's presence, which was warmly welcomed by the world, is expected to restore multilateralism and the United States' constructive role in responding to issues at the global and regional levels, including the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthening economic cooperation, climate change, and handling conflicts in various regions, including the Palestinian issue etc.

### **Systemic Functional Linguistics Theory**

M.A.K Halliday introduced a theory to link language and its social functions using Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is a theory of language which focusing on function of the language itself. He said that that grammar and its social function are inseparable, since “... it is demands posed by the series of these function which have molded the shape of language and fixed the course of its evolution” (Halliday 1978). Further, Halliday and Matthiesen, (2014) SFL germinate from the foundation that

language is an instrument of social interaction, which has evolved to meet our communicative needs in society.

The theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is aimed to identify the word systemic that refer to the chosen system, that as paradigmatic, the use of language has in a few form (Novrian & Megah, 2022). For example in communication, the language is used by its user to choose a few chosen clauses, is it declarative or indicative and is it active or passive. And for the functional has meaning that is in the context of its usage, and these forms of language carry function. . Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) deals with texts rather than sentences as the basis on which meaning is negotiated. He treats grammar as a realization of discourse, naturally related to the semantics of the text. This can allow us to reason grammatically about the semantic organization of the text.

### **Metafunctions**

It is a meaning used in SFL, it divides into three metafunctions, such as, ideational metafunction realized in Transitivity analysis, Interpersonal metafunction which is realized Appraisal. And, textual metafunction is used to combines ideational and interpersonal metafunctions. From Halliday, (1978) that there are a few components meaning that's are called metafunction such as ideational metafunction or Transitivity, interpersonal metafunction or Appraisal, and textual metafunction.

### **Ideational Metafunction**

As quoted by in Novrian and Megah (2022) that "Ideational Metafunction or Transitivity is meaning created as a result of the realization of lexico-grammatical elements to understand the natural surroundings and to organize the speaker's or writer's experience of the real/fictional world". This is used in the scope of ideonic meaning, these lexicogrammatical elements function to describe that people, events, events, actions, circumstances, and so on. Logically, ideational meaning is manifested by using lingual elements which are linked "parts and parts" in all interdependent structures. Experientially, ideational meaning is realize by lexico-grammatical elements that relate "part and whole" to constituent structures (Martin, 1992: 10-21).

Therefore, Transitivity or Ideational metafunction is about what is happening, what will happen, what has happened (Halliday, 1978). Ideational function was analyzed used clause as representation in experiential function. Clause as a unit of experience is represented in three elements; such as participants, process, and circumstances. A participant is subject traditionally, process is verb, and circumstance is adverb traditionally. In each aspect there are divided into a few more pieces such as process that have 6 categories of process 1. Material, 2. Process, 3. Verbal, 4. Relational, 5. Behavioural, 6. Existential. For Participant also have its own Category such as People, Things, actors, Sayer, and Sayer. And the last one is Circumstances that can be identified with questions such as when, where, why, how, how much and as what (Novrian & Megah, 2022).

### **Ideology**

Ideology is a trust of people maintained in society. According to Novrian and Megah (2022) that "ideology is hardly more vague than similar Big Terms in the social sciences and the humanities". Ideology is considered as 'society', 'group', 'action', 'power', 'discourse', 'mind' and 'knowledge', among many others (van Dijk, 1998). Or to be simple Ideology is a set of beliefs that have been put in a person or a few people, or groups of people. It is usually a set of ideas that an economic or political system is based on the situational condition (Novrian & Megah, 2022).

## **METHODS**

In this research, the researchers used descriptive qualitative method to analyze data. The researchers applied qualitative method because the researchers attempted to analyze the descriptive data based on the transitivity analysis of inaugural speech. According to (Sugiyono, 2010, p.15), qualitative research is a research method based on the philosophy of post positivism, used to examine the condition of natural objects, as opposed to experiments where the researcher is the instrument, the data collection technique is done by triangulation (combined), the data analysis is inductive/qualitative, and the quality research results are more meaningful than generalizations. Qualitative data is data

expressed in the form of words, sentences and pictures. In this study, researchers examined the phenomenon in the use of video calls as a communication technology.

It is based the above explanation, in the specific case of some information from different national contexts. Since the material is expressed as strings of words, it is classified as qualitative rather than quantitative research. It depends on how the data is analyzed by the researcher to find certain ideological stances of Putin. The objectives of this study are to analyze ideological stance by using transitivity analysis in the Trump and Biden in the Presidential debatet.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Results

Ideological content in the presidential debate of the President Donald Trump and Joe Biden can be analyzed use transitivity analysis. In this study, the transitivity analysis can be limited only the process and the participants analysis. It is more detailed can be shown as in following tables.

Table 1: The comparison of transitivity process types in the Debateof Donald Trump and Joe Biden

Types of Process	Donald Trump		Joe Biden	
	Frequencies	Percentages	Frequencies	Percentages
Material	32	51%	21	47%
Relational	5	8%	10	22%
Mental	18	29%	4	9%
Verbal	6	9%	9	20%
Behavioral	0	0%	0	0%
Existential	2	3%	1	2%
Total	63	100%	45	100%

As can be seen in the table 1, the process types most frequency used In the Debate of Donald Trump is 63(100%). The first place isMaterial process with 51(%). The second place is Mental Process with 29(%). The third place is Verbal Process with 9(%). The Fourth place is Relational Process with 8(%). The Fifth place is Existential Process with 3(%). The last place Behavioral Process is with 0(%), in the Debate of Joe Biden appears the process types most frequency used in the Debate of Joe Biden with total 45(100%). The first place is Material process with 47(%). The second place is Relational Process with 22(%). The third place is Verbal Process with 20(%). The Fourth place is Mental Process with 9(%). The Fifth place is Existential Process with 2(%). The last place Behavioral Process is with 0(0%).

The next is table 2 which shows the participants of transitivity process that will be limited of the active actors which consist of Actor, Carrier, Sensor, Sayer, and Behaver The clauses found in the Debate will be displayed below:

Table 2: The comparison of transitivity participants' types in the Debate of Donald Trump and Joe Biden

No	Participants	Donald Trump		Joe Biden	
		Frequencies	Percentages	Frequencies	Percentages
1.	Actor	32	52%	21	48%
2.	Carrier	5	8%	10	23%
3.	Senser	18	30%	4	9%
4.	Sayer	6	10%	9	20%
5.	Behaver	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>		61	100%	44	100%

As can be seen in the table 2, the most frequency of the participant types in the Debate of Donald Trump is 61(100%). The first place is Actor with 52%. The second place is Senser with 30%. The third place is Sayer with 10%. The Fourth place is Carrier with 8%. The last place is Behaver with 0(0%). In the Debate of Joe Biden, it appears the participants types most frequency used in the Debate of Joe Biden with total 44(100%). The first place is Actor with 48%. The second place is Carrier with 23%. The third place is Sayer with 20%. The Fourth place is Senser with 9%. The last place is Behaver with 0(0%).

As the findings that the Material process, therefore, the findings will show the ideological stance of the speaker or President Donald Trump and Joe Biden. As such, Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden tend to use the Materials process over other processes. Material participants (actor) exceed other process participants. The explanation is more detailed as discussion follows.

### Discussion

Based the findings that Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is a theory of language that places an intense pressure on transitivity analysis. Based on Donald Trump's and Joe Biden data, it shows that the material process occurs most often and the existential process occurs the least, this section will discuss sequentially as follows.

#### a). Material process

A process is the material process. Material is the act of accomplishing something. One or more participants are contained in a phrase in the material process. It can be seen as in data below:

Datum 1

"We closed up the greatest economy in the world"

As can be seen in the datum 1 above, the process in the clause is "closed up", it constitutes the features of the material process which Donald Trump and government to take action of closing their economy to avoid increasing to pandemic cases. The used participant of 'We' refers to the actor, the participant of 'We' refers to the Donald Trump and his government staff, the phrase 'the greatest economy in the world' refers to the goal

#### b). Relational process

Relational process relevant to existence. The three relational clause types used in English are intense, possessive, and circumstantial. Each of these stages can be categorized based on whether it is used to establish the identity of something or assign quality to it (attributive) (identifying). The responsibilities of players in the attribution process are (carrier) and (attribute). It can be seen as in data below:

Datum 2

"The mortality rate is down"

As can be seen in the datum 2 above, the process in the clause is "is", which is the attributive relational process that indicates the speaker which shows that the level of the mortality value in America is lower. The used participant of 'The mortality' refers to the carrier means that the moral value has in America people, the word of 'down' refers to the attribute.

#### c). Mental process

Mental Process is encoding the meaning of ideas and emotions is a mental process. The distinction between mental and physical processes can be made by the fact that mental processes are related to mental reactions rather than asking "to take action or action" that is actual or (concrete). Halliday, 2004, p.197, state that categorized mental processes into three groups: cognition, affection, and perception. It can be seen as in data below.

Datum 3

"You see the spikes"

As can be seen in the datum 3 above, the process in the clause is "see", it constitutes as the perception in mental process that Donald Trump expresses his thought. The used participant of 'You' refers to the sayer, the participant of 'You' refers to the audience hearing the content, the phrase 'the spikes' refers to the phenomenon.

#### **d). Verbal process**

Verbal process is the process of saying something. In this process, there are 3 participants involve, namely Sayer, receiver and verbiage. It can be seen as in data below:

Datum 4

"I can tell you "

As can be seen in the datum 4 above, the process in the clause is "can", it indicates the speaker or the in Sayer shows that Donald Trump explains his self-health to the audience. The used participant of 'I' refers to the Sayer, the participant of 'I' refers to the Donald Trump, the word 'you' refers to the target.

#### **e). Existential process**

Existential process is a process that shows the existence of something. In English, this process is shown through a clause structure with a grammatical subject "there is/are". Participants in this process only have one participant, namely the existent or something that is raised. It can be seen as in data below.

Datum 5

"It's ready"

As can be seen in the datum 5 above, the process in the clause is "is", the existential process is indicated by 'is'. So, the 'is' is aimed to indicate the existence of the Vaccine. The used participant of 'It' refers to the vaccine availability.

## **CONCLUSION**

This research can be concluded based on the Findings that Donald Trump mostly used the material process by the final 2020. The data findings show that the Material Process places the highest level of the data findings with 32(51%). The second place is Mental Process with 18(29%). The third place is Verbal Process with 6(9%). The Fourth place is Relational Process with 5(8%). The Fifth place is Existential Process with 2(3%). The last place, Behavioral Process, is with 0(0%), and as can be seen from the data above it can be concluded that Donald Trump is a hard-working kind of person that wants to build and makes its country for a better one.

And for Joe Biden as can be seen in the Debate that was analyzed by transitivity analysis in the Debate of Joe Biden by the final 2020. The data findings show that the Material Process places the highest level of the data findings with 21(47%). The second place is Relational process with 10(22%). The third place is Verbal Process with 9(20%). The fourth place is Mental Process with 4(9%). The fifth place is Existential Process with 1(2%). The last place is Behavioral Process with 0(0%), Biden inserted his ideological intention is to show to his audiences that he is a hard -working president.

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