

# Transitivity Process Analysis of Joko Widodo's Speech at the APEC CEO Summit

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## Abstract

*This article investigates the application of Halliday's theory of Transitivity System in constructing speech power. The aims of this research are (1) to discover the transitivity process used by Joko Widodo in his speech, (2) to find out the most found transitivity process in Joko Widodo's speech. (3) to discover how does the transitivity process reveal the ideological construction of Joko Widodo's Speech. The researcher uses Systematic Functional Grammar approach. The data collecting technique is documentation and tabulation. The research results are (1) all of transitivity processes appeared in the speech, (2) the most found transitivity process in the speech is relational process which is 30 of 78 (38,5%), (3) relational process reveals that Joko Widodo constructs his speech by showing and telling what Indonesian has and what he was. Besides, Joko Widodo also tried to reinforce the CEOs to invest in Indonesia by using relational processes.*

**Keywords:** Systemic Functional Grammar, Transitivity Process, Joko Widodo's Speech

## 1. Introduction

Powerful speeches are always delivered by powerful people. The number of researches have been done by some researchers related to the powerful speech given by the great people analyzed by using Systemic Functional Grammar concerned on transitivity process proposed by Halliday, such as Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton conducted by Zhang (2017), Donald Trump by Zhu and Li (2018), and Barack Obama conducted by Wang (2010). Halliday (1967) mentioned that language has three meta-functions: ideational, interpersonal and textual. Based on Halliday (1967), transitivity is realized in ideational function. It is through this function that the speaker or writer embodies in language his experience of the phenomena of the real world; and this includes his experience of the internal world of his own consciousness: his reactions, cognitions, and perceptions, and also his linguistic acts of speaking and understanding (Halliday, 1967). In line with the previous statements, Wang (2010) claims that this function is to convey new information, to communicate a content that is unknown to the hearer. Zhang (2017), states that the ideational function is realized by transitivity and transitivity is expressed by more concrete semantics components.

Since transitivity appears in the speaker's reactions, cognitions, and perceptions when he/she produces speech, so it is quite interesting to have this analysis to examine speech by another powerful person to know what the speaker actually has and want to convey. The previous researchers found two dominant

processes are material and relational process. However, the new couple is not possible to discover in another powerful person. So that, as Indonesian, the researcher is interested in examining the recently most powerful person in Indonesia, that is President Joko Widodo. The chosen speech is delivered on the APEC CEO summit on November 4th, 2014 in Beijing, China which is Joko Widodo's first English speech when becoming president of Indonesia. The speech basically talks about investment and business that are offered by Joko Widodo as the new president of Indonesia to the attending audience that is all CEO in the world. This research is aimed to discover kinds of transitivity process distribution in Joko Widodo's speech, to find out the most frequently transitivity process used by Joko Widodo, and to reveal how transitivity process construes the ideological construction of the speaker when delivering the speech.

## 2. Review of Literature

Systematic Functional Grammar (SFG) is the semantics-functional approach and developed by M.A.K. Halliday. It discusses about two things; those are how person uses language in different situation and how language is used as semiotic system. It sees clause as representation. Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), put forward by Halliday (Halliday 1994), also pays great attention to how the speakers generate utterances and texts to convey their intended meanings. Anggarini (2018), states that this theory claims that language is functional. The function is known as meta-function: the ideational function, including logical and experiential; the interpersonal function; and the textual function (Halliday & Webster, 2009: 5).

In ideational function, Halliday proposes transitivity system. Based on Halliday (2014:334) state that:

*The transitive model is based on the configuration of Actor + Process. The Actor is construed as bringing about unfolding of the Process through time; and this unfolding is either confined in its outcome to the Actor or extended to another participant, the Goal. The Goal is construed as being impacted by the Actor's performance of the process.*

Besides, Kress (1976:169) states that transitivity is representation in language processes, while Simpson (1993:88) asserts that transitivity refers generally to how meaning is represented in the clause. Song (2013) defines transitivity is a grammatical system and it deals with different types of process which can be found in the language and the structures. In addition, Nguyen (2012) claims that 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.

According to Beard (2000:30), "transitivity involves looking at the language used to describe:

- what happens
- who the participants are (both those who do something and those affected by what is done)
- what the circumstances are."

In other researches, Halliday (2014:107) states that a unit of perfect experience which is realized in clause consists of process, participant, and circumstance. Process refers to the activity happens in a clause which is called as verb. Participant is the one or thing in a process. Circumstance is the environment where, when, why or how a process happens and the participant is inside. For the main experiment is a process, so in clause level, process decides the amount and the category of the participant. Besides, process decides the circumstance indirectly as well.

Fowler (1991) assumes that a central insight of Halliday's model is that transitivity is the foundation of representation: it is the way the clause is used to analyze events and situations as being of certain types. Halliday (2014) has categorized process into six kinds, three main processes: material process, mental process, relational process, and three complement processes: behavioural process, verbal process and existential process.

'Material' processes are clauses of doing-&-happening: a 'material' clause construes a quantum of change in the flow of events as taking place through some input of energy. Halliday (2008) adds that they express the notion that some entity does something, which may be done to the other entity. According to Halliday (2014:224), in material process, there is always only one participant that is the Actor. If there is another participant, that is not participant, yet the Goal. In line with Halliday, Thompson (2004) states that any material process has the participant of Actor which functions as the doer of the process. And it may have the participant of Goal which is impacted by the process. The goal implies "directed at" in a clause as the impact of the Process. E.g. *Zoey is eating banana now*.

Halliday (2014:245) states that 'Mental' clauses are concerned with our experience of the world of our own consciousness. Mental processes express such mental phenomena as "perception" (see, look), "reaction" (like, please) and "cognition" (know, believe, convince). Zhao (2018) adds that mental clause involves phenomenon described as state of mind or psychological events. It expresses affection, cognition and perception. A mental process involves two participants, senser and phenomenon. E.g. *Christ sees the rainbow*.

Thompson (2000) gives four criteria for distinguishing between material and mental processes. First, mental processes always involve at least one human participant. Second, criterion is that the kind of entity which can fill the relevance of the other participant in a mental process is less restricted than the entities which can act as participants in a material process. The third reason is tense. The fourth is that mental processes are reversible.

Halliday (2014:259) states "Relational clauses serve to characterize and to identify." Here, the participants are called as carrier and attributive in e.g. *The weather is humid*. The participants are called as token (thing which is defined) and value (the definition) in e.g. *Joey is a boy; The boy is Joey*.

Verbal processes are those of exchanging information. In other words, verbal process is a process which shows the activity related to information. Chen (2007: 39) states that the verbal process is used to achieve the effect of making the Sayer seem authoritative. While Saragih (2010:8) states that verbal processes show activities related to information. Commonly used verbs are *command, explain, ask, say, tell, talk, praise, boast, describe*, etc. In this process, there are three further participants in addition to the Sayer: (1) Receiver, (2) Verbiage, (3) Target. E.g. *She commands Suzan to go*.

Halliday (2014:301) states that behavioral processes are almost always middle: the most typical pattern is a clause consisting of Behavior and Process only, like *Don't breathe!, He's always gambling*. Behavior is the participant in a behavioural process. If there is another participant in this process, it is called as phenomenon. Besides, Gerot and Wignell (1994:60) says that behavioral processes are processes of physiological and psychological behavior, like breathing, dreaming, snoring, smiling, hiccupping, looking, watching, listening, and pondering.

Existential processes represent that something exists or happens in life. Hancock (2005:240), existential process is a clause that presents an entity as existing without predicating anything additional about it. It is marked by "there" as the subject in position. In every single existential process, there is an Existent. E.g. *There hangs a painting*.

This transitivity analysis examines a public speech delivered by the President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo. Lucas (2000) defines public speech as the process of speaking to a group of people in a structured, deliberate manner intended to inform, influence, or entertain the listeners. In addition, Priyana (2008) has stated a concept of speech, "A speech is a formal talk given usually to large number of people on a special occasion." To deliver a speech, the speaker starts by greeting the audience, then addressing the audience, explaining the point, making some wishes, and finally closes the speech.

### 3. Methodology

The object is speech remark of Joko Widodo's speech at the APEC CEO summit on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 which has purpose to invite the CEOs to invest in Indonesia. This research belongs to qualitative research. The researcher uses SFL approach from Halliday in analyzing the speech. In Wang (2010), Halliday thinks the procedure of stylistic analysis can be divided into three logically ordered phrases: Analysis, Interpretation and Evaluation. The researcher uses complex tabulation for making the analysis process easier. The researcher analyzes about the context chosen about the transitivity system used by Joko Widodo in the speech. In this research, the researcher uses several steps to get the data. Those steps are watching the video of the speech, getting the remark of Joko Widodo's speech in the internet as the documentation, coding and marking, counting the percentage, and making tabulation. After analyzing, the researcher then interprets and evaluates the data.

## 4. Findings

### Result of Marking and Coding the Data

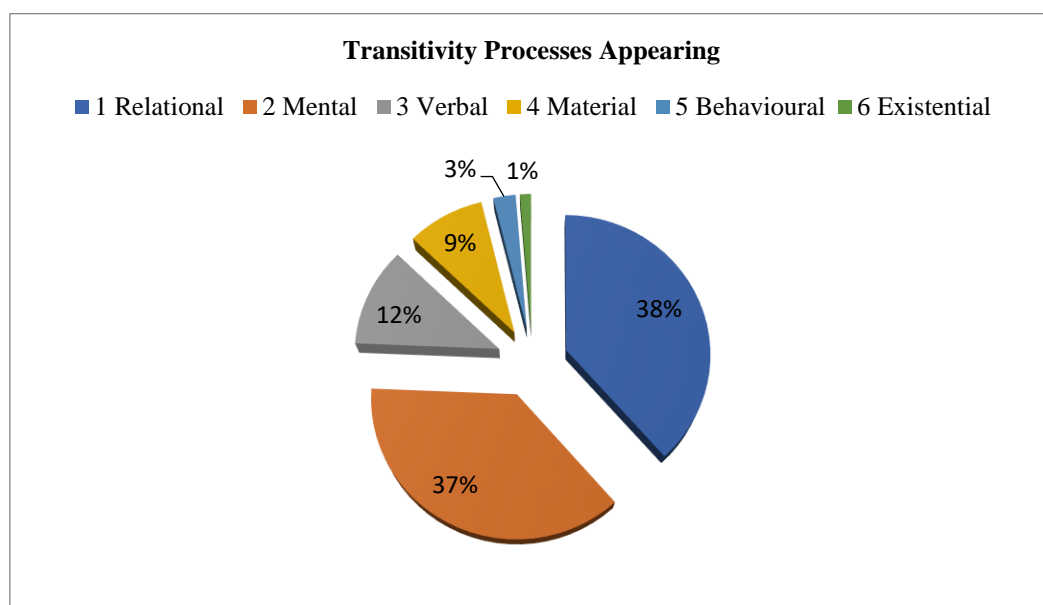
The researcher found 61 main sentences. There are some main sentences that have to be separated into two or three sentences or clauses. The separating sentences happened because those sentences consist of more than one clause. He researcher got 78 clauses after all.

#### 4.1 Categorizing the Data

The researcher categorized the data based on the characteristics found in those sentences that is gotten from the marking and coding table to know how many process appear for each process in the sentences of speech remark of Joko Widodo's speech at the APEC CEO summit. The researcher knows that there are 9 codes found as Mental process, 30 codes found as Relational process, 29 codes appeared as Material process, 7 codes found as Verbal process, 1 code found as Existential process, and 2 sentences in the speech remark are included as Behavioural process. From those found codes, the researcher had 78 codes to analyze.

#### 4.2 The Percentage of the Appeared Data

Graphic 1. The Percentage of the Appeared Data for Each Process



From the data above, the researcher gets the most dominant process appeared is Relational processes. It is in the first rank with 38,5%. Then in the second rank is Mental process with 37,2%. In the third rank, there is Verbal process with 11,5%. The fourth process appeared is Material process with 9%. In the fifth rank, Behavioural process gets 2,5%, while in the last rank is Existential process with only 1,3%.

### 4.3 Analysing the Gotten Data

The analysis is started from the frequently appearing process.

#### 4.3.1 Relational Process

Relational process is a process of being and having. It can be divided into two types; attributive relational and identification relational. Attributive relational means what properties and object possesses or what category it can be put in. While identification relational means that an entity and another is uniform. It is used to describe people or objects.

Here are the examples of relational processes found in the speech!

##### 4.3.1.1 Attributive Relational Process

*"I was a businessman years ago."*

The carrier is "I" which represents Joko Widodo. The attributive relational process is "was". It indicates that it is about the past of Joko Widodo. The attributive is "a businessman". The circumstance is "years ago" as the circumstance of time. The sentence tells that Joko Widodo told the audience about what he was in the past. Joko Widodo wanted the audience knew that he was a businessman for making the audience felt sure that Joko Widodo knew what he would say in the event that mainly talked about business.

##### 4.3.1.2 Identification Relational Process

*"The capacity is 3.6 million TEUs per year."*

"The capacity" is the token. "is" is the identification relational process. "3.6 million TEUs" is the value. "per year" is the circumstance of time. Joko Widodo mentioned the capacity of Tanjung Priok port is 3.6 million TEUs per year, and it is huge enough.

The domination of this process shows that Joko Widodo used a lot of sentences which show that the audience have to know what Indonesia is in and has. More than that, Joko Widodo also told the audience about what he was, and what he felt personally. Besides to give reinforcement to the audience to be sure in having investment in Indonesia to fulfil Indonesian needs. It makes the ideas are reasonable and acceptable to realize by the audience in order to make the dreams come true.

#### 4.3.2 Mental Process

People usually do not only talk about what they do, but also what they think or feel. In this case, the way how to prove whether the clause is mental or material is by questioning. Mental process have to answer this question *"what does X think about Y?"*.

The example from the speech is *"You know I was businessman years ago."* The sener is "You". "You" in this code means the audience. The mental process is "know" as the cognition of the sener. The phenomenon is "I was a businessman". The circumstance is "years ago" as the time of the phenomenon. In this sentence, Joko Widodo was sure that the audience had already known that Joko Widodo as "I" in the sentence was a businessman and he wanted to invite the CEOs to have business in Indonesia by giving infestation.

Mental process used by Joko Widodo shows that *we* as the representative of Indonesian have many things that they want to realize. Indonesia wants to have and make something. Moreover, by applying mental process, it can appeal the audience's heart to have contribution for making all expectations true in gentle way without forcing them. Joko Widodo invited the audience to have the same feeling with the Indonesian people by telling them the Indonesian government plans and wants to improve Indonesia become better country. Here, the audience willingness was strengthened. Besides, the audience had many choices to where they would invest their money.

#### 4.3.3 Verbal Process

Semantically, verbal process is a process which shows an activity among communicators in verbal communication just like information exchange.

The example: *"The picture shows you our map of Indonesia."*

The sayer is "The picture". As the explanation before, the sayer must not be always a human. The verbal process is "shows" for picture talks by showing. The receiver is "you". "you" in this case is the audience, all CEOs. "our map of Indonesia" is the circumstance of matter "what about". Joko Widodo wanted the audience to know about the regions in Indonesia which is so many and various. For that reason, Indonesia needed the CEOs to help improving Indonesia by having investment in Indonesia. Joko Widodo strengthened that the CEOs have opened opportunity to invest in Indonesia since Indonesia is not a small country. Verbal processes lead President Joko Widodo and the audience to have discussion about some important cases in the speech. This is for the audience consideration to have investment in Indonesia.

#### 4.3.4 Material Process

Material process is process of doing and happening. This process is marked by action verbs. In material process, there are two participants, those are actor and goal. Subject is the actor, and the object is the goal. Those two words are realized by noun phrase. The chosen verbs in Joko Widodo's speech are to show that Indonesia has many things to develop. Joko Widodo wanted the other countries to invest in Indonesia to get the goal of the development.

The sentence: *"I will push my minister, my governor, my mayor to have clearing this problem"*

It shows that “I” as the actor represents Joko Widodo as the president of Indonesia. “will push” is the material process. The goal is “my minister, my governor, my mayor”. In this code, Joko Widodo promises that he will get the minister, governor, and mayor to fix the problem related to income which is gotten from the agriculture.

Material process used by Joko Widodo in his speech shows that Joko Widodo will take actions that are needed to make the CEOs feel sure to invest in Indonesia. Besides, Joko Widodo applied material processes to tell the audience about what has been done to give the evidence that he is serious about the case.

#### 4.3.5 Behavioural Process

Behavioural process is the combination between material and mental process. It can be near material process or mental process. For those reasons, the meaning gotten from behavioural process is almost the same with the meaning of material and mental process.

The sentence: *“We are waiting for you to come to Indonesia.”*

The sentence shows that “we” is the behavior. The behavior “we” represents Indonesian government and Indonesian people. While the behavioural process is shown by words “are waiting for”. The phenomenon is “you”. “to come to Indonesia” is the circumstance of “what for”. In this code, Joko Widodo said explicitly that Indonesian government and Indonesian people were in condition of waiting the CEOs to come to Indonesia.

In this case, the behavioural process is near mental process. It is from word “wait”. For waiting is more psychological behaviour, it cannot be seen. So, it is included as behavioural process. This behavioural process strengthened that Indonesia wanted the audience willingness to invest in Indonesia.

#### 4.3.6 Existential Process

This process is a process to express that something is exist. This process is marked by word *there*.

The sentence: *“There are 143 families do not accept with the compensation price.”*

The existence is *143 families*, *143 families* that do not accept the compensation. It means that the *143 families* really exist. The circumstance shows “reason”. In S51, the sign of the existential process is word “there”. The process is “are”. The existence thing is “143 families”. The circumstances are “because” as the circumstance of cause and “do not accept with the compensation price” as the circumstance of cause “what” completing the “because” circumstance.



To sum up, the researcher analyzes that Joko Widodo used the simple words and sentences in delivering his speech for making him and the audience in the close relationship, for making the audience understand what he said well and make the audience can receive his ideas easily.

As the result has been discovered that all process is found as well as in Zhang (2017), Zhu and Li (2018) and Wang (2010), it means that in producing speech, all transitivity process may appear even though there is always the dominant process among all. In this research, the domination process in Joko Widodo speech is relational process, while in Zhang is material process for both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. Wang's result shows that material process is the most frequently used process as well as Zhu and Li's. As relational process is the process of "being" and describing the attributes of something or identifying something. Relational process is often appear in the speech which means that Joko Widodo builds his speech by showing what situation is Indonesia in, what Indonesian has, what she was related to what he is talking, and to persuade the CEOs to invest in Indonesia. Unlike Zhang and Wang, mental process in Joko Widodo's speech is in the second rank, while material process is the fourth. As mental process is the process of "sensing" which expresses inner activities such as affection, cognition and perception of people. In many times, Joko Widodo persuades the CEOs to invest in Indonesia by giving them statements that Indonesia needs and wants to have infrastructure and plans to build infrastructure to help the economy of the citizen. Besides, Joko Widodo transmits Indonesian needs to the CEOs by using exclusive "we" in order to increase the CEOs' sympathy to invest in Indonesia that their role is crucially needed to make Indonesian economy better. Joko Widodo uses mental process strongly only about to exclaim that Indonesia really needs and wants infrastructures to revive and run the economy. Only a small number that Joko Widodo uses to explain what he has done and what he will do as the function of material process. Joko Widodo tends to use mental process to support his speech than material process. It is for Joko Widodo was new president at that time that he had not do much for Indonesia so he used to have mental approach to touch the onlookers' trust. As Zhu and Li (2018) mentioned that both material and relational processes are the best options for their political aims, because material and relational processes presented the reality from the perspective of onlookers. They seem more objective than other processes.

## **5. Conclusion**

This research investigates that six processes appear in Joko Widodo's speech which is dominated by relational process with 38,5%. It means that Joko Widodo prefers to show the situation of Indonesia, what Indonesia has, and what he felt personally and what he was that can strengthen his statement to persuade the audience to invest in Indonesia. Since mental processes are nearly in the same number with relational processes, it gives strength to the desire of Indonesian to have infrastructures. The different domination of transitivity process gives the different impression of the speech. Relational process followed by mental process construes that the speaker delivers the speech based on the truth condition with full of desire. Looking at the fact about infrastructure now in Joko Widodo's era, such as new roads (in Kalimantan, Papua until Nusa Tenggara Timur), the new tolls, the new dams, and the bridges, it proves that relational process followed by mental process can effectively attract the audience trust to invest Indonesia.

Here the researcher gives suggestion to the language teachers that they can construct their utterances by using relational and mental process to build up student's trust, confidence even motivation to learn. The next researcher who wants to take an analysis from a speech in term of transitivity system analysis, no matter the speech is delivered by the native speaker or not, do not forget to take only the appropriate clauses or sentences. As an option, the next researcher may give additional or omit the word in order to get the best sentences to analyse.

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