The Ideational Meaning in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”

Isti Kristiani, Djoko Sutopo, Warsono

Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia

Abstract

Literary language is the link between fellow members of society in social and cultural activities, but the style of language in literature is different from the language in daily conversation. This study focused on reporting the analysis of ideational meaning realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”. Therefore, this study aimed to explain the realization of processes of transitivity realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet” and the realization of circumstance of transitivity realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”. This study was chosen because the language in the poetry is different from language in the daily conversation. Interpreting meaning of poetry use transitivity to explain how a meaning is represented in a sentence. This study was a qualitative which the data taken from the internet and chosen the collection of poetry in Khalil Gibran’s work. The data were gathered through observation sheet and analysed using the theory of transitivity. The result of this study showed that all processes of transitivity were realised in Khalil Gibran’s work, material processes was the highest frequency with total 609, and material processes were dominated among processes. The study also showed that only five circumstances of transitivity were realized in Khalil Gibran’s work. The circumstance of location was the highest frequency with total 170. By learning the ideational meaning, teacher and student will be able to interpret every meaning in poetry. For the next future research, it can be reference to analyses kinds of literature by using transitivity.

© 2018 Universitas Negeri Semarang

Correspondence Address:
Kampus Pascasarjana Unnes, Jl. Kelud Utara III Semarang
5023 Indonesia
E-mail: arput.haryanti@gmail.com
INTRODUCTION

A Literary work is a way to express the feelings of an author. One of the unique literary works is poetry. Poetry is the art of expressing. It is a literary form and expression of the poet’s feeling with unique language. Elements of poetry are line, imagery, figure of speech, rhythm, rhyme, and stanza. Poetry is composition of lyrics, full of meaning, feeling imaginatively and composed by concentrating the power of language. Aji (2018) in his research stated literature is able to present various phenomena and always presents different nuances than other papers. Various phenomena that occur cannot be separated from the intellectuals of the authors (writers) in presenting it. Patterns of poetry are imagination, reality, and experience in the creation of quality literary work could be enjoyed by audiences or readers.

Ollila & Joe, (2016, p. 1) Poetry is a kind of verbal or written language that structured rhythmically and tell a story, express any kind of emotion, idea, or state of being. Poetry is used to achieve this artistic expression in several ways. Poetry is a literary work has a distinct language and words, different from drama and prose, although there are some prose and drama that use poetry language in its application. The language in poetry is representative of the writer’s feelings. Poetry is a form of literature and it uses beautiful words. The beauty of poetry is caused by the diction, figure of speech, rhyme, and rhythm contained in the literary work. Study of language has become imperative because it is very important to interpret the meaning of language, as Halliday (1985, p.14) states “a language is interpreted as a system of meanings, accompanied by forms through which the meanings can be realized and answer the question” and “how are these meanings expressed?”. We should understand the meaning of language by interpreting a system of meaning. System Functional Linguistic is a theory of language which socially oriented. According to Halliday (1985a), there are three major functions of language, namely ideational, interpersonal, and textual meaning. According to Thompson (1996:78) transitivity refers to a system for describing the whole clauses, rather than just the verb and its object. Halliday (1994:106) language enables human beings to build a mental picture of reality. It is to make sense of what goes on around them and inside them. According to Kress (1976, p. 169) transitivity is representation in language processes. Halliday states that there are three components of transitivity process, namely:

a. The process itself,
b. Participants in the process,
c. Circumstances associated with the process.

Transitivity structure in the texts is explained how the field of the situation being constructed. It is a semantic system specifying different types of processes which form separate semantic categories on the basis of which experience is reflected language. The transitivity system of language is to analyse the language of speakers and writers. Transitivity is the study of the structures of sentences, which is represented by processes, the participants involved in these processes, and there are six types of processes, material, mental, behavioral, relational, verbal, and existential.

Meanwhile, there are nine types of circumstances, extent, location, manner, cause, contingency, accompaniment, role, matter, and angle. Anggraeni, et al. (2015) stated that participants are the people, ideas, or things that participate in the processes. The participants carry out the processes under circumstances. The participant’s roles are realized by the nominal groups. There are twenty types of participants in realizing the experiential meanings. Processes are the physical activities, mental and verbal activities, state of being and having are referred to as processes. Processes are realized by the verbal group of the clause. Circumstances are the conditions in which processes are occurring.

Bloor & Bloor (1995:110) cited in Alfiana, (2012) states processes are central to transitivity. The process canters on part of the clause and it is
realized by the verbal group, but it can also regarded as what ‘goings-on’ are represented in the whole clause. Furthermore, circumstance is a kind of contingent fact or subsidiary situation which is associated with the process or the main situation.

Several previous studies have become the background for this study. Hariswari (2013), Suyastrawan (2013), Isti’anah, (2018) conducted the research using theory of transitivity. The aim of their study was classified type of processes in transitivity. There were processes of transitivity found and some of processes were dominated in their research. Furthermore, Nguyen (2012) in her research stated that transitivity analysis gives more detailed and it provides linguistic evidence to support the interpretation. Qasim, et al. (2018) also stated that transitivity system is a reliable tool for understanding literary works, and ideational system from Systemic Functional Grammar was applied for understanding the meanings of a literary text. In order to deal with the condition and situation mentioned above, the use of transitivity in literary work especially in poetry need to be investigating. This study would focus on processes and circumstance of transitivity. The results of this study are expected to give a contribution of theory ideational meaning and learning parts of transitivity will help to understanding in making meaning, especially in poetry analyses. In addition, this study will help in teaching and learning process, by using transitivity to increase the understanding of literary enthusiast.

METHOD

This study was a qualitative study which the data were taken from Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”. It has 28 poems and written in English. After the data collected in observation sheet, the writer continued to analyze the data. There are some steps as follow: (1) Identifying, the writer identified the data after read all the poetry in the book. The writer identified the data which is indicated or categorized of component transitivity based on the theory of transitivity. (2) Classifying, the writer continued with classifying or classify into types of components transitivity. In this study, there are two components of transitivity, the first is processes and the second is circumstances. In the processes itself, there are six parts; material, behavioral, mental, verbal, relational, and existential. In the circumstances itself, there are nine parts: extent, location, manner, cause, contingency, accompaniment, matter, role, and angle. (3) Reducing, after the data classified, the writer continued to reduce or simplify the data in order to make the reader easy to understand the data. In this step, the writer only collected and described the data only about processes, circumstances. (4) Interpreting, the writer interpreted the data based on research problem. (5)Inferring, the writer continued to last steps in analyzing data which is inferring. In this part, the writer made conclusion about all findings and discussion in the previous chapter of this study. To avoid subjectivity, the writer used expert’s judgment from the person who is considered an expert in the field of this research. According to Burns (1999:169) triangulation is one of the most common techniques of checking for validity. The goal of triangulation is gather multiple perspectives on the situation being studied. After the data were analysed by the writer, the data were validated by two expert’s judgment.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The writer presented the findings to answer the research questions; there were two main research questions with sub-research questions. The realization of processes transitivity realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”, and the realization of circumstances of transitivity realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet. The findings consist of the distribution of processes, circumstances, and also examples. There are also discussions about the findings in this part in order to make the reader understand the information easily.
Results
The realization of processes transitivity realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”

The first objective of this study was to explain the realization of processes of transitivity in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”, there were 28 poems. Here, the examples of each processes of transitivity in poetry.

Material processes of transitivity realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”.

Halliday (1994: 110), states material processes express the notion that some entity physically does something which may be done to some other entity.
Example:

(When) you kill a beast say to him in your heart

The word “when you” as actor, “kill” as material and “a beast” as goal and it indicated the author used process of doing something physically, bodily, and materially.

Behavioural processes of transitivity realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”

Behavioral processes are processes physiological and psychological like breathing, dreaming, snoring, smiling, looking, watching, and listening. Behavioral processes have only one participant, who is behaving labeled behaver. Behaver is also conscious being like a senser, it is not sensing but the process is one of doing. There is also range as the scope of the process.
Example:

the myrtle breathes its fragrance into space

The word “the myrtle” as behaver, “breathes” as behavioural processes, and “its fragrance into space” as range. It indicated the author used process behaving (physiologically and psychologically).

Mental processes of transitivity realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”

Mental processes are processes indicating perception of verbs refers to “seeing”, and “feeling”, “desiring”, “thinking” and emotion “liking”. There are four types: affective or reactive (feeling), cognitive (thinking), inclination, and perceptive (perceiving through five senses). Senser and phenomenon is participant in mental processes. The senser is a conscious being, and the phenomenon is that which is sensed, felt, thought or seen.
Example:

He loves the arrow

The word “he” as senser, “loves” as mental (affect) processes, “the arrow” as phenomenon, it indicated the author used process of sensing.

Verbal processes of transitivity realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”

Verbal processes are processes indicating perception of verbs refers to “seeing”, and “feeling”. It processes of saying, and symbolically signalling. There are two distinct clauses, the projecting clause encodes a signal source “sayer”, signalling “verbal process” and the other “projected clauses. The participants are sayer, target, receiver, and verbiage. Sayer is the signal source, target is the one acted upon verbally, receiver is the one to whom the verbalization is addressed, and verbiage is a name for the verbalization.
Example:

(And) the priests and the priestesses said unto him

The sentence “and the priests and the priestesses” as sayer, “said” as verbal processes, “unto him” as receiver, it indicated that the author used processes of communication.

Relational processes realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”
Relational processes are processes of being and having. It can classify to assign a quality or identify something. There are two modes in relational processes. First, attribute is processes which assign a quality. Carrier and attributive are the participants in relational processes. Meanwhile, the second mode is identifying processes which establish an identity, the participant roles are Token and Value. Attributive relational and identifying relational are two modes in relational processes.

Example:

**You are the bows**

The word “you” as carrier, and “are” as attributive, and “the bows” as attributive, it indicated the author used expressing, possession, equivalence and attributes.

*Existential processes realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”*

Existential processes are processes represent something exist or happened; it can be said processes about the existence. The processes are expressed by verbs of existing, such as be, exist, arise and it is signalled by ‘there’. The participant of this process called existent.

Example:

**(When) there is knowledge**

The word “there” as existential and “knowledge” as existent, it indicated the author used process or represent that something exists or happen.

*The Realization of Circumstance of Extent Transitivity Realized in Khalil Gibran’s Work “The Prophet”*

Extent construes the extent of the unfolding of the process in space-time: the distance in space over which the purpose unfolds or the duration in time during which the process unfolds.

Example:

1) Duration

Then a hermit, who visited the city **once a year**, came forth and said,

The sentence “once a year” showed duration of circumstance.

*The Realization of Circumstance of Location Transitivity Realized in Khalil Gibran’s Work “The Prophet”*

Location describes the location of the unfolding of the process in space time. The source, path, and destination of movement are include of place not only location.

Examples:

1) Place

Then a hermit, who visited the **city** once a year, came forth and said

The word “the city” showed place of circumstance.

2) Time

*And in the autumn*, when you gather the grapes of your vineyards for the winepress, say in your heart

The word “in the autumn” showed time of circumstance.

*The Realization of Circumstance of Manner Transitivity Realized in Khalil Gibran’s Work “The Prophet”*

Manner describes the way of process is actualized. Manner comprises three subcategories: Means, Quality, and Comparison. Here, the examples but the result

You are the bows

The word “you” as carrier, and “are” as attributive, and “the bows “as attributive, it indicated the author used expressing, possession, equivalence and attributes.

Then a hermit, who visited the city **once a year**, came forth and said,

The sentence “once a year” showed duration of circumstance.

Then a hermit, who visited the **city** once a year, came forth and said

The word “the city” showed place of circumstance.

*And in the autumn*, when you gather the grapes of your vineyards for the winepress, say in your heart

The word “in the autumn” showed time of circumstance.
of these analyses showed means and comparison of circumstance only. In quality of circumstance was not realized in the poetry.

1) Means

**These are the believers in life and the bounty of life, and their coffer is never empty**

The sentence “these are the believers in life and the bounty of life” showed means of circumstance.

2) Comparison

**And to the open handed the search for one who shall receive is joy greater than giving**

The sentence “and to the open handed the search for one who shall receive is joy greater than giving” showed comparison of circumstance.

The realization of circumstance of Accompaniment Transitivity Realized in Khalil Gibran’s Work “The Prophet

Accompaniment tells about *with* or *without who* or *what* and is can be probed by *who* or *what else*. There are two types of Accompaniment. They are Comitative and Additive. Comitative represents the process as a single instance of a process. Additive represents the process as two instances. Here, the examples but the result of the analyses showed reason of circumstance only. In additive of circumstance was not realized in the poetry.

1) Comitative

**In your aloneness you have watched with our days and in your wakefulness**

The word “with” showed comitative of circumstance.

**The Realization of Circumstance of Cause Transitivity Realized In Khalil Gibran’s Work “The Prophet**

Cause is something that tells about *why*. There are three types of cause, which construes the cause why the process is actualized. Reason tells what causes the Process, Purpose tells the purpose, and Behalf tells for whose sake. Here, the examples but the result of the analyses showed reason of circumstance only. In purpose and behalf of circumstance were not realized in the poetry.

1) Reason

**There are those who give little of the much which they have and they give it for recognition and their hidden desire makes their gifts unwholesome**

The sentence “for recognition and their hidden desire makes their gifts unwholesome” showed reason of circumstance.

Discussions

**The realization of processes of transitivity realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “the prophet**

Based on the findings presented in the previous section, it can be identified there were 6 kinds of processes realized. Transitivity system is the experiences life and consist of ‘goings-on’ happening, doing, sensing, meaning, being and becoming (Halliday, 1995:106). Halliday also state in the transitivity, the verbs can be classified into six processes, material, mental, behavioral, verbal, relational, and existential processes. Transitivity specifies the different types of process which is recognized in the language and the structures (1985b: 101).

The result showed material processes had the highest frequency with total 609 or 37%, followed by mental processes with total 516 or 32%, relational processes with total 234 or 14%, verbal processes with total 199 or 12%, behavioural processes with total 59 or 4% and the last was existential processes with total 19 or 1%. Material processes were dominated among processes. It indicated the author presented the
poetry process related to doing something physically, bodily, or materially. The entity who or which does something is the actor. Mental processes were the second of the highest frequency, which processes involves states of sensing, the process of emotionally, intellectually, and sensory. The third processes with the highest frequency were relational; it indicated the author presented processes expressing possession, equivalence, attributes. The fourth processes with the highest frequency were verbal processes; it indicated the author presented the process of communication. Behavioural processes were the fifth of the highest frequency, it indicated author presented of process behaving (physiologically and psychologically). The last was existential which involves the process or represent something exists or happen.

Material Processes Realized in Khalil Gibran’s Work “The Prophet”

The findings of material processes of transitivity realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet” showed there were 609 frequencies of material processes, and material processes were dominated. It indicated the author wrote a process related to doing something physically, bodily, or materially. Based on the findings above, material processes of transitivity were realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”.

Behavioural Processes Realized in Khalil Gibran’s Work “The Prophet”

The findings of behavioural processes of transitivity realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “the prophet” showed there were 59 frequencies. It indicated the author wrote a process related to physiologically and psychologically. Based on the findings above, behavioural processes of transitivity were realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”.

Mental Processes Realized in Khalil Gibran’s Work “The Prophet”

The findings of mental processes of transitivity realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “the prophet” showed there were 516 frequencies. It indicated the author wrote a process related to physiologically and psychologically. Based on the findings above, mental processes of transitivity were realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”.

Verbal Processes Realized in Khalil Gibran’s Work “The Prophet”

The findings of verbal processes of transitivity realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “the prophet” showed there were 199 frequencies. It indicated the author wrote a process related to process of saying. Based on the findings above, verbal processes of transitivity were realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”.

Relational Processes Realized in Khalil Gibran’s Work “The Prophet”

The findings of relational processes of transitivity realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “the prophet” showed there were 234 frequencies. It indicated the author wrote a process related to expressing, possession, equivalence and attributes. Based on the findings above, relational processes of transitivity were realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”.

Existential Processes Realized in Khalil Gibran’s Work “The Prophet”

The findings of existential processes of transitivity realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “the prophet” showed there were 19 frequencies. It indicated the author wrote a process or represent that something exists or happen. Based on the findings above, existential processes of transitivity were realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”.

The realization of circumstance of transitivity realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”

The finding showed that some circumstances were realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”. Circumstance of location was the highest frequency with total 170 or 85%.
It indicated the author used circumstance of location to construe the location of the unfolding of the process in space-time, followed by circumstance of manner with total 20 or 10%, circumstance of accompaniment 13 or 6%, circumstance of extent 10 or 5%, and the last circumstance of cause 5 or 1%. The writer found there were no frequency in the circumstance of contingency, role, matter, and angle. Halliday (2004: 261-276) differentiates Circumstances into four types based on their purpose in a clause. There are enhancing (Extent, Location, Manner, Cause, and Contingency), extending (Accompaniment), elaborating (Role), and projection (Matter, Angle).

The Realization of Circumstance of Extent Transitivity Realized In Khalil Gibran’s Work “The Prophet”.

The findings of circumstance of extent of transitivity realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “the prophet” showed there were 10 frequencies. It construed the unfolding of the process in space-time: the distance in space over which the purpose unfolds or the duration in time during which the process unfolds. Moreover, circumstance of extent was realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”.

The Realization of Circumstance of Location Transitivity Realized in Khalil Gibran’s Work “The Prophet”.

The findings of circumstance of extent of transitivity realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “the prophet” showed there were 170 frequencies. It construed the location of the unfolding of the process in space-time: the place where it unfolds or the time when it unfolds. Moreover, circumstance of location was realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”.

The Realization of Circumstance of Manner Transitivity Realized In Khalil Gibran’s Work “The Prophet”.

The findings of circumstance of manner of transitivity realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet” showed there were 20 frequencies. It construed the way in which the process is actualized. Manner comprises four subcategories. Moreover, circumstance of location was realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”.

The Realization of Circumstance Contingency of Transitivity Realized in Khalil Gibran’s Work “The Prophet”.

The findings of circumstance of contingency of transitivity realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “the prophet” showed there were 5 frequencies. It construed the cause why the process is actualized. Moreover, circumstance of location was realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”.

The Realization of Circumstance Accompaniment of Transitivity Realized in Khalil Gibran’s Work “The Prophet”.

The findings of circumstance of accompaniment of transitivity realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “the prophet” showed there were 13 frequencies. Moreover, circumstance of accompaniment was realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”. It indicated there is represents the process as a single instance of a process and represents the process as two instances.

The Realization of Circumstance Role of Transitivity Realized in Khalil Gibran’s Work “The Prophet”.

The findings of circumstance of role of transitivity realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “the prophet” showed there is no frequency. Moreover, circumstance of role was not realized in poetry on giving in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”.
The Realization of Circumstance Matter of Transitivity Realized in Khalil Gibran’s Work “The Prophet”.

The findings of circumstance of matter of transitivity realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “the prophet” showed there is no frequency. Moreover, circumstance of matter was not realized in poetry on giving in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”.

The realization of circumstance angle of transitivity realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”.

The findings of circumstance of angle of transitivity realized in the Khalil Gibran’s work “the prophet” showed there is no frequency. Moreover, circumstance of angle was not realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”.

CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION

Conclusion

Based on the two research questions proposed in this study, there were two conclusions must be presented. The conclusion was elaborated to draw some more detailed conclusion.

In this study for the first research question, the realization of processes of transitivity realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “the prophet” found that material processes have the highest frequency and material processes were dominated among processes, followed by mental processes, relational processes, verbal processes, behavioural processes and the last was existential processes. Based on the result, the writer concluded that all processes of transitivity are realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”.

The finding of second research question, the realization of circumstance of transitivity realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet” showed that circumstance of location has the highest frequency, it meant location construes the location of the unfolding of the process in space-time: the place where it unfolds or the time when it unfolds, circumstance of location was dominated among circumstances, followed by circumstance of manner, circumstance of accompaniment, circumstance of extent and the last was circumstance of cause. The writer found that there were no frequency in circumstance of contingency, matter, role and angle. The writer concluded that only five circumstances that realized in Khalil Gibran’s work “The Prophet”.

Suggestion

In ideational meaning, language acts as a conveyor of ideas. By learning the ideational meaning, teacher and student will be able to interpret every meaning in poetry. Teaching literature is a process that is given intentionally through the design of lessons designed by the teacher must pay attention to the character of students so that learning outcomes can be obtained maximally. In poetry writing, there is a compaction of words with various forms of language power, so that for the teacher, based on explanation in the previous section that transitivity is the study of structure sentence, it can help to make meaning in analyzing of poetry. For the student, enjoying and learning poetry is to broaden horizons, refine manners, and improve knowledge and language experience.

REFERENCES


