

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

There are five subchapters essential in this chapter. First is the background of the study. Second is research questions. Third is the objectives of the study. Fourth is the significance of the study. Fifth is the scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a tool to communicate in interpersonal communication. According to Verderber (1999, p. 52) language is the body of words and the system for their use in communicating that are common to the people of the same community or nation, the same geographical area, or the same cultural tradition. Indeed, a language is the tool to communicate, express opinions, and describe a culture to each other. According to Julia (2008, p. 24) studying communication prepares you for a wide array of careers. As we have seen, communication skills are essential to success in most fields. Thus, communication is also one of important things to pursue our goal. There are several forms of communication and one of them is a speech. Also, there is a specific branch of linguistic which discuss about construing functional of language named Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL).

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) is a theory of language which focus on discuss the function of a language. Grammar is a basic comprehending on this theory to construct the clause or sentence. According to Li (2019, p. 2) systems not as rules, on the basis that every grammatical structure involves a choice from a describable set of options. So that, Halliday and Matthiessen do not make the grammar itself as a system of rules but options. SFL delivers the constructions of meaning of language which focus on discuss the function of language by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004). In SFL, language uses a concept called transitivity to describe how actions and events are expressed. It requires figuring out how the subject, verb, and object of a sentence are related to produce a coherent message. In order to successfully and clearly express meaning, the transitivity system must be applied in speech.

There is a function of language term in SFL named metafunction. Metafunction has a purpose to construct of meanings of different kinds. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) divided metafunction as three such as Interpersonal, Textual, and Ideational. Even so, the transitivity only exist in ideational metafunction.

Ideational metafunction conveys the clause as represent experience of dealing with what is going on and happening. There is a term named logical system and transitivity system inside the ideational metafunction. Logical is a function regarding the logical relationship between a clause and another. The logical system is belong to logical metafunction and transitivity system is belong to experiential metafunction. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, p. 170) the transitivity system construes the world of experience into a manageable set of process types. Six branch processes are divided such as material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal, and existential. So that, transitivity is construing a domain of experience particularly. Since the main objective of this study is the experiential metafunction, the writer will discuss whole data based on six processes in experiential metafunction.

The six branch processes are divided inside experiential metafunction. Material process defines about the happening activity of the meaning of a clause. It is physical feature. Mental process explains the mind things and mental reactions of a person. It is mental feature. Behavioral process represents the doing process of consciousness so it can be a response of an action with consciousness. This process is a hybrid of material process and mental process. Relational process deals with the being and has two subprocess such as identifying and attributive. Identifying is similar like a paraphrasing and attributive is the opposite (means that cannot be paraphrased or abstract). Verbal process or known also as symbolic process explains that lexical verb is one of saying. Last but not least, existential process defines the *be* in the clause. There are the existences or not.

Commencement speech is an one-sided conversation. The commencement speech mostly used for a graduation ceremony at college. Commencement speeches often include anecdotes from personal experience, wisecracks, and prodding to the

graduates to follow their passions, take calculated chances, and leave a positive mark on the world. This kind of speech has a purpose to inspire the listeners or audiences. They are the people surrounds such as students, lecturer, and those with educational concerns. The actor or the speaker of this kind of speech is known as commencement speaker who claims a notable figure, such as a successful artist, entrepreneur, politician, or scholar. The commencement speakers are mostly giving their opinions, feelings, thoughts, expressions, and opinions about particular experiences or issues. They deliver those in a small podium of a graduation ceremony.

Graduation itself is the time to ceremony of students' struggles. According to Wilt (2016, p. 1) with the close of university life also come new beginnings and challenges associated with taking on a more adult role in society. Hence, even though the college era ended, they prepare to begin a new chapter of adult role on a graduation. Also, they receive insertion about what is really essential in life and in everyone's career. Not only were the students, but also every person that heard or read the speech felt inspired.

Many previous studies did by other researchers regarding the transitivity system in a several forms such as speech, brochures, novel, short stories, and movie. These previous studies analyze with the same topic transitivity by Halliday and Matthiessen but different year ranged (2004) and (2014). The gap that makes this study different is because this analyzes transitivity system on Taylor Swift's commencement speech. This speech is kind of new source of data so that few researchers analyze this speech. Based on that, this study will provide new findings regarding transitivity systems. Hence, the writer of this study would like to investigate and conduct a study entitled A Study of Transitivity on Taylor Swift's Commencement Speech in New York University Class of 2022.

1.2 Research Questions

This study is based on two questions which can be formulated as follow:

1. What are types of transitivity processes in *Taylor Swift's Commencement Speech*?
2. What are the transitivity components in *Taylor Swift's Commencement Speech* categorized as effective components?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This research is attempted to pursue the following:

1. To find out the types of transitivity process in *Taylor Swift's Commencement Speech*.
2. To explain the effectiveness of transitivity components in *Taylor Swift's Commencement Speech*

1.4 Significance of the Study

The success of this study has great importance to the two following benefits, theoretically and practically. Both of them are important for the writer to grants to the students and future researchers.

Theoretically, this study will help students to enrich and comprehend the Systemic Functional Linguistics especially regarding transitivity. This may improve the grades of the SFL course and particular linguistic course such as grammar and semantic. Also, this study can be as a reference to analyze and research regarding the same on theory and data for thesis.

Practically, this study provides the benefits to the researcher who find out the transitivity ideas with the intention of references to fulfil the expected case study properly.

1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Study

The scope of this study is focused on transitivity on *Taylor Swift's Commencement Speech in New York University Class of 2022*. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) is the theory about Systemic Functional Linguistic in his study that limits Taylor Swift's utterances which contains types of transitivity process. Also, Hopper and Thompson (1980) is the theory about transitivity which embedded in grammar and discourse where the effectiveness of transitivity components is explained. Furthermore, the textual transcript and other information to support the research such as articles, books and other documents.

The limitation of the study is the speech entitled on *Taylor Swift's Commencement Speech in New York University Class of 2022* in the YouTube link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBG50aoUwII> as the source of data which discusses the ideas before and that would be happened after the graduation in a campus. Those ideas construct the meanings based on the experience of the speaker which the speaker in the study is Taylor Swift. The sub source of data is its transcript that exist in the billboard.com entitled *Taylor Swift's NYU Commencement Speech: Read the Full Transcript* which provided in the link <https://www.billboard.com/music/music-news/taylor-swift-nyu-commencement-speech-full-transcript-1235072824/>. The writer analyzed data with the theory of Halliday and Matthiessen (2004)'s SFL to find out types of transitivity process in Taylor Swift's commencement speech which gives an answer to the first research question. Also, the theory by Hooper and Thompson (1980)'s transitivity to explain the transitivity components in Taylor Swift's commencement speech which gives an answer to the second research question.