

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, which explains the main issue and reason for conducting the research. It also includes the research questions and the objectives of the study that guide the research process. In addition, this chapter describes the significance of the study, which shows the benefits of the research. Finally, it explains the scope and limitations of the study to clarify the focus and boundaries of the research.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a system that primarily functions as a means of communication between individuals in human life. Through language, individuals can convey information, ideas, and knowledge in a structured manner so that others can understand them. This process enables the effective exchange of messages in everyday social interactions. Thus, language serves as the primary means of connecting individuals through communication (Fedorenko et al., 2024)

Communication is a process in which information, ideas, thoughts, or emotions are conveyed between individuals or groups through verbal and nonverbal means, with the aim of achieving mutual understanding and influencing actions, as stated by (Bavelas, 2021). Good communication means that both parties understand each other clearly, even if they come from different backgrounds. It helps us express ourselves, solve problems, and build relationships in our everyday life.

There are various types of communication that shape how people interact in different contexts. Types of communication include verbal, nonverbal, intrapersonal, and interpersonal communication. Verbal communication uses words that can be written, such as letters, messages, or emails, or unwritten, meaning spoken words in conversations or speeches. Nonverbal communication uses body language, such as facial expressions, gestures, eye contact, and posture to send messages without words. Intrapersonal communication is a dialogue within one's own mind, when someone thinks, reflects, or talks to themselves internally. Interpersonal communication is communication between two people, where they share ideas, feelings, or information through direct interaction, group, formal,

informal, one-way, or two-way communication, which are often influenced by technology and cultural context (Knapp et al., 2020). The formal communication is also known as formal communication. This type of communication occurs through established channels. Formal communication is an essential part of one's work life. To implement this type of communication effectively, several aspects must be considered (Gómez & Dailey, 2017). These aspects include the purpose of the communication, following a predetermined format to understand the audience, maintaining a professional and open tone, paying attention to the timeframe, and thanking the audience for listening. When giving a presentation or speaking in public, it is important to express gratitude to the audience. This act of thanking the audience is part of how speakers use language to build a positive relationship and show respect to listeners. In this context, language is not only used to deliver information but also to create social meaning in communication. This idea is explained in Systemic Functional Linguistics.

Systemic Functional Linguistics is a theory that conceptualizes language as a system of choices for making social meaning Halliday & Matthiesen (2014). Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) views language as a system of choices used to create social meaning Halliday & Matthiessen (2014). Language is perhaps the only sign system that is structured metafunctionally. That is, it has several functions that work simultaneously within a single system. Language develops as a means of understanding human experience in representing reality (ideational), building and maintaining social relationships (interpersonal), and organizing messages to be harmonious and meaningful in a particular context (textual). These three functions complement each other and can be observed in the grammatical structure of a language, thus showing that language functions not only as a means of communication, but also as a complex system in the formation of social meaning. Halliday & Matthiessen (2004).

Based on Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory, ideational meaning is used to convey new information things that the listener or reader does not already know. According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) this function allows the speaker or writer to describe their experiences and the events of the real world through their

choice of words and grammar. Ideational meaning can be classified into two subfunctions: the experiential and the logical. The experiential meaning consists of the processes, participant and circumstance. Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) by means of this function, language allows people to construct a mental representation of reality and understand what happens both around them and within themselves. This experiential meaning is expressed through the transitivity system. Transitivity is a semantic notion and the transitivity system serves as a framework for analyzing the clause as a whole. The clause is the key grammatical unit in the transitivity system. It conveys actions, events, experiences, and states of being, among other meanings (Hopper & Thompson, 1980). According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), logical meaning is realized through logical relations between clauses, including coordination, subordination, temporal sequence, and causal relations. Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) state that circumstantial elements are generally optional additions to a clause, not required parts. In contrast, participants are essential to the process, meaning that a clause must contain at least one participant. Such linguistic features are often realized in authentic communication contexts, particularly in spoken discourse

Digital platforms, especially YouTube have now become one of the main tools of public communication, combining language, expression, and social interaction (Demirtas & Alici, 2024). This study uses YouTube as the data source because it provides authentic and easily accessible spoken interactions that reflect real-life communication. The *Q W Tom Power* YouTube channel is selected because it features in-depth interviews that encourage guests to share their experiences, thoughts, and feelings in a natural way. Adele is chosen as the subject of this study because she is a well-known public figure with an expressive and personal communication style, making her speech rich in meaning and suitable for analysis. This study focuses on ideational meaning within the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics because it helps explain how language is used to represent experiences, events, and reality, especially in spoken discourse such as podcasts. In this case, podcasts it functions as a medium for speakers to convey messages, share experiences, and establish relationships with listeners in a more personal and

natural way. An example of this can be seen in the interview between Adele and Tom Power, which shows an interesting interaction, where the choice of words, intonation, and manner of speaking reveal the processes, participants and circumstances between them. This phenomenon illustrates that language not only serves to convey information, but also to express some processes such as material, mental, behavioral, verbal, relational and existential. Therefore, this study aims to analyze how ideational meaning is manifested in the conversation between Adele and Tom Power, and how these linguistic elements reflect their experiences and roles within the context of communication in modern digital media.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the above research background, the researcher conduct an investigation to answer the following questions:

1. What types of transitivity processes are used in the *Q W Tom Power's* podcast with Adele?
2. What do the transitivity processes reveal about Adele's experiences in the *Q W Tom Power's* podcast?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the existing issues, there are two relevant research objects that can be determined as follows:

1. To identify the types of transitivity processes used in the *Q with Tom Power* podcast episode featuring Adele on YouTube.
2. To analyze what the transitivity processes reveal about Adele's experiences in the *Q W Tom Power's* podcast.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research has significances explain below:

1. Theoretical Significance

This study contributes to the development of Systemic Functional Linguistics studies, especially in the analysis of ideational meaning through the transitivity system. The findings of this study enrich references related to discourse analysis in spoken media, particularly podcast interviews.

2. Practical significance

This study is expected to be useful for students, lecturers, and future researchers interested in Systemic Functional Linguistics, especially transitivity analysis. It can serve as a reference for understanding how transitivity processes are identified and analyzed in spoken discourse. In addition, this study may help readers better understand how linguistic choices reveal a speaker's experiences, thoughts, emotions, and perspectives in podcast interviews. Future researchers may also use this study as a reference for conducting similar analyses using different speakers, media, or discourse genres.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is Systemic Functional Linguistic focuses on ideational meaning. This study specifically examines the transitivity system within the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), particularly the transitivity processes proposed by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014).

This study is limited to the analysis of ideational meaning by applying Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) transitivity system. To answer the first research question, the study identifies and classifies the types of transitivity processes found in Adele's clauses. To answer the second research question, the study examines what the transitivity processes reveal about Adele's experiences in the *Q with Tom Power* podcast. The analysis is limited to interpreting the experiential meanings reflected through the transitivity processes, participants, and circumstances in Adele's clauses. Therefore, this study does not investigate other metafunctions of Systemic Functional Linguistics, such as the

interpersonal and textual metafunctions, nor does it analyze other podcast episodes or interviews involving Adele.