

**AN ANALYSIS OF IDEATIONAL  
IN THE SPEECH OF  
LAUREN SINGER**

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**ABSTRAK**

Penelitian ini mengkaji analisis ideasional pidato Lauren Singer dengan menggunakan teori Linguistik Fungsional Sistemik (SFL) sebagaimana dikemukakan oleh Halliday dan Matthiessen (2014). Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis proses ideasional yang terdapat dalam pidato Lauren Singer, menentukan proses ideasional yang paling dominan, serta mendeskripsikan alasan mengapa proses dominan tersebut muncul lebih sering dalam pidato tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Data penelitian diperoleh dari kalimat-kalimat yang telah diuraikan menjadi klausa-klausa yang membahas gaya hidup tanpa limbah. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat enam jenis proses, dengan total 373 contoh yang ditemukan dalam pidato Lauren Singer. Proses yang paling dominan adalah proses material, yang terdiri dari 179 klausa (48,0%), yang menunjukkan bahwa pidato tersebut sering menggambarkan tindakan atau aktivitas konkret. Hal ini diikuti oleh proses relasional, yang terdiri dari 115 klausa (30,8%), dan proses mental, yang terdiri dari 67 klausa (18,0%). Sementara itu, proses verbal ditemukan dalam 8 klausa (2,1%), sedangkan proses perilaku dan eksistensial masing-masing ditemukan dalam 2 klausa (0,5%). Analisis pidato Lauren Singer menunjukkan bahwa proses material merupakan proses yang dominan, menunjukkan bahwa pembicara menekankan hal-hal yang dapat dilakukan oleh audiens untuk menerapkan gaya hidup nol limbah. Hal ini bertujuan untuk memberikan pemahaman dan mendorong audiens untuk mengubah perilaku mereka dalam kehidupan sehari-hari guna mengurangi limbah dan melindungi lingkungan. Alasan mengapa proses material menjadi proses yang dominan adalah sebagai berikut: pertama, pidato ini berfokus pada tindakan konkret; kedua, tujuan pidato ini adalah untuk meyakinkan atau mempengaruhi; ketiga, pidato ini didukung oleh hasil data kuantitatif.

***Kata Kunci: Linguistik Fungsional Sistemik, Ideasional, Sistem Transitivitas, Analisis Pidato, Lauren Singer***

## ABSTRACT

This study examines the ideational analysis of Lauren Singer's speech using Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory as proposed by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014). The objectives of this study are to identify the types of ideational processes found in Lauren Singer's speech, determine the most dominant ideational process, and describe the reasons why this dominant process appears more frequently in the speech. This study employs a qualitative descriptive research method. The research data were obtained from sentences that had been broken down into clauses discussing a zero-waste lifestyle. The results indicate that there are six types of processes, with a total of 373 instances found in Lauren Singer's speech. The most dominant process is the material process, comprising 179 clauses (48.0%), indicating that the speech frequently describes concrete actions or activities. This was followed by relational processes, comprising 115 clauses (30.8%), and mental processes, comprising 67 clauses (18.0%). Meanwhile, verbal processes were found in 8 clauses (2.1%), while behavioral and existential processes were each found in 2 clauses (0.5%). An analysis of Lauren Singer's speech shows that the material process is the dominant process, indicating that the speaker emphasizes actions the audience can take to adopt a zero-waste lifestyle. The purpose of this is to provide insight and encourage the audience to change their behavior in daily life in order to reduce waste and protect the environment. The reasons why the material process is the dominant process are as follows: first, this speech focuses on concrete actions; second, the purpose of this speech is to persuade or influence; third, this speech is supported by quantitative data

**Keywords:** *Systemic Functional Linguistics, Ideational, Transitivity System, Speech Analysis, Lauren Singer*

## 1. PENDAHULUAN

### The Background of the Study

To carry out various activities such as negotiations, buying and selling, teaching, discussions, meetings, deliberations, dialogues, speeches, debates, conversations, and other activities, humans need a tool to convey ideas, opinions, thoughts, feelings, hopes, and desires that can be understood by everyone. In conveying communication and carrying out these activities, a primary tool is needed, namely, language.

Language is an important means of communication for humans because, through language, individuals can fulfill various needs and sustain life. This statement is supported by Apriyanto (2020), who said that language is a tool or

means for humans to communicate with one another. Every country has an official language that has been recognized by UNESCO. In addition, there are several languages that are widely used throughout the world as international languages, such as English, Mandarin, and Spanish. In general, English is a global language used by many countries for education, scientific research, business, technology, tourism, conferences, and diplomacy. Therefore, many countries, including Indonesia, have made English a compulsory subject and a requirement for admission to higher education. On the other hand, the science that studies language in a systematic, scientific, and structured manner is called linguistics.

Linguistics is the field that studies

language; thus, linguistics occupies a higher-level position than language itself. Without linguistics, language is just a natural phenomenon. But with linguistics, language can be studied scientifically, systematically, and in an organized manner. Based on the level of language analysis and focus of study, linguistics is divided into several main branches, namely microlinguistics and macrolinguistics (Amori, 2021). Macrolinguistics is a field that studies how language is used in everyday life. One of the main branches of macrolinguistics is Systematic Functional Linguistics (SFL).

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is a linguistic theory developed by Halliday, the founder and developer of SFL theory from the 1960s to the 2000s. Halliday views language as a system of resources for meaning formation. This theory emphasizes that language is not only a structure (grammar), but a social tool used by humans to carry out various functions in life. Halliday explains that language has three metafunctions to meet communication needs, namely Interpersonal, Textual, and Ideational.

Ideational is one of the theories in SFL that views language as a tool for expressing human experiences of the real world, both internal experiences, such as thoughts and feelings, and external experiences, such as actions and events. Language speakers always use sentences or clauses to describe experiences in everyday communication, such as speeches, news, advertisements, social media content, or seminars. However, most speakers are unaware of how clause structure shapes the

meaning of these experiences. This occurs due to a lack of understanding of systemic functional linguistics. In general, English language learning in educational institutions, courses, and tests focuses on traditional grammar, which covers consistent language structures and forms. On the other hand, ideational is used by linguistics students, researchers, and discourse analysts to analyze the function of language through the transitivity system.

The system that explains how a clause describes a process, what happens, who is involved, and in what conditions is the transitivity system. According to Halliday (2004), transitivity consists of three main components: process, participants, and circumstances. SFL considers each clause to be a representation of human experience, and the transitivity system regulates how that experience is displayed. To determine the type of process in a sentence or clause, the verbs in the clause must first be analyzed. Once the type of process is known, the participants and circumstances can be easily analyzed. However, analyzing the type of process is not easy because it requires a deeper understanding of the transitivity system.

Based on observations made during the fourth semester, several learning difficulties related to ideas were identified. Although students had been introduced to the concept of transitivity in the metafunction course, many of them still had difficulty analyzing clauses. Only a few students demonstrated an adequate understanding of transitivity analysis, especially in identifying processes, participants, and circumstances in clauses.

In addition, the most prominent difficulty was determining the type of process in clauses in the transitivity system, which is a fundamental aspect of ideational analysis. This condition indicates a gap between students' understanding of SFL theory focused on ideational, thus highlighting the need for further investigation or explanation of ideational as realized through the transitivity system.

## **2. KAJIAN TEORI**

### **Linguistics**

Linguistics is the study of language, both oral and written, with the aim of understanding how language affects human life. According to Halliday (2007:27), linguistics views language as a system for constructing meaning. Linguistics not only studies the structure of language but also its social function in actual language use. Linguistics is an empirical, systematic, and objective science because its analysis focuses on real language data and attempts to describe language as it is without examining its formal qualities. This field has many branches, including phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and SFL.

For this study, the researcher uses Halliday's main theoretical framework. Halliday's work has evolved and changed from edition to edition. The author chooses to refer to the theory discussed in the 2014 editions of Halliday's work with Matthiessen. The theory used centers on Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), with a focus on the aspect of transitivity.

### **Systemic Functional Linguistics SFL**

English linguist J. R. Firth (1890–1960) rose to popularity in the British Linguistic Tradition. He was Halliday's intellectual mentor. J. R. Firth disapproved of American structural linguistics, which concentrated solely on form and structure (Bloomfield). Instead, he stressed the role of language in social interactions. He claimed that context is crucial for understanding language use. Meaning is not only derived from grammatical structure, but also from practical use.

Michael Alexander Kirkwood Halliday, better known as Halliday, was a British linguist born in 1925 in Yorkshire. He studied at the University of London and became a student of J.R. Firth, a leading figure in the London School of Linguistics. Halliday's views on language were influenced by Firth's thinking on language as a system and situational context. After graduating, Halliday taught in several countries, including England and China. This experience gave him a deep understanding of the diverse uses of language in social contexts. Since then, Halliday has written several books on SFL. These books have been revised in line with developments in theory, improvements in concepts, additions to data, and updates to analysis based on the most recent functional linguistic research. In linguistics, language is classified into two main branches: microlinguistics and macrolinguistics.

Microlinguistics is the study of language that focuses on the internal structure of language. This means that microlinguistics examines the elements of

language and the rules that govern word formation, not the social context or use of language in society. Microlinguistics has several branches, including: Phonetics. (language sounds), Phonology (sound systems), Morphology (word formation), Syntax (sentence structure), and Semantics (word/sentence meaning). Macro linguistics is a field of language study that focuses on the function and use of language in social and cultural contexts. This field has many branches, including sociolinguistics, pragmatics, psycholinguistics, anthropology, applied linguistics, and SFL. In this thesis, the writer will describe one branch of macro linguistics, namely SFL.

According to Halliday (1994 : 17), SFL views language as a social sign system whose main function is to create meaning in a social context. This approach emphasizes the function of language (functional), not just grammatical structure and sentence form. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), states that SFL is a functional approach to language, emphasizing how language is used for social purposes and how meaning is formed in texts. One of the editors of an important book on SFL Fontaine, (2013) states that SFL language is a social semiotic system. She considers SFL not only as a theory of grammar, but also as a theory of semiotics and social science.

Language is a resource for making meaning, meaning that speakers can select particular linguistic forms based on their communication goals. Thus, rather than being a strict, independent structure, grammar in SFL is viewed as a network of

connected semantic and lexical-grammatical decisions. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), language is a social system that creates meaning in a social context, not just a system of grammatical rules. The function of language can be analyzed through the concept of metafunction. Simply put, metafunction can be defined as the function of language in producing meaning in various communication contexts. Halliday divides metafunction into three main aspects, namely, interpersonal, textual, and ideational. The interpersonal conveys the speaker's social relationships or attitudes toward others. The textual organizes language to create coherence and cohesion. The ideational conveys experiences or content from the real and mental worlds. The following presents a classification in linguistics, with SFL as one of its branches which is used to analyze language functions.

### **Ideational**

One of the three primary metafunctions in Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory is the ideational metafunction. According to Halliday Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), language as a reflection of experience, means that the function of language can be seen from the ideational aspect. Ideational is used to describe human experience of the world, both internal experience (thoughts, feelings) and external experience (events, actions, circumstances). In the fourth edition of their book Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), state that SFL is a resource for understanding human

experience. They expand on SFL by describing the ideational as a source of language for structuring, shaping, and organizing experience. In her book Fontaine (2013) states that SFL “deals with the representation of experience.” She views SFL as a way for language to represent what happens. She also supports Halliday’s view that the ideational consists of logical meaning and experiential meaning.

Based on the two opinions above, it can be concluded that ideational is a way of describing human experiences or events in concrete and abstract forms. Language not only describes experiences but also connects them. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), when humans experience something, such as seeing, thinking, running, or saying something, it is represented in the meaning of experience. However, when humans connect experiences, such as cause and effect, time, conditions, comparisons, choices, and consequences, it is represented in logical meaning. Halliday then developed ideational theory and decided that ideational consists of two elements, namely logical meaning and experiential meaning.

### **Experimental Meaning**

The meaning of experience is part of the ideational meaning (SFL) that explains how language represents experience, which includes events, actions, mental processes, states, and relationships between entities in a clause. In short, it answers questions at the clause level, such as “what happened?”,

“who was involved?”, and “under what conditions?”.

According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), a clause is a picture of experience. It represents material, mental, relational, and other processes involving participants and circumstances. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014:213), experiential meaning centers on how language creates representations of the world through a system of transitivity that encompasses types of processes, participants, and circumstances. In discourse analysis, experiential meaning is used to show how texts represent reality, ideology, or power relations through their clause structures.

### **3. METODOLOGI PENELITIAN**

#### **Research Design**

Qualitative research is a type of research that emphasizes understanding social phenomena as experienced naturally, rather than through experiments or manipulation of variables. According to Sugiyono (2020), outlines several branches of qualitative research, one of which is the qualitative descriptive approach. According to Creswell (2010), states that qualitative descriptive is a qualitative research approach that emphasizes comprehensive and accurate explanations of phenomena from the point of view of a participant. Based on data obtain from words, speech transcripts, documents, or observations, the goal of the researcher is to provide an honest and detail description of experiences, behaviors, or social situations. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method because this method explains and

describes phenomena from the researcher's perspective in detail and accurately. The data obtain will be analyze and present in the form of text transcripts, so that every word, expression, and interaction relate to the topic can be record contextually and systematically. This method allows researchers to capture the meanings, experiences, and behavior patterns of participants comprehensively and complexly.

The purpose of this study is to analyze and identify the types of processes and the dominant processes and factors that influence these processes using qualitative descriptive research methods. The object of this study is speech, because the analysis focuses on speech texts delivered orally by a speaker, which is in line with the study's objective of understanding language use in its original context.

### **Data and Source Data**

Data is information or evidence collect to answer research questions. In qualitative research, data is descriptive, narrative, and contextual. According to Creswell (2010), emphasizes that qualitative data generally consists of first, words taken from interviews, conversations, speeches, or documents. Second, images or visual representations such as relevant photos, diagrams, or illustrations. Third, objects or artifacts relate to the observe phenomenon. Data is collect naturally to show that the researcher is trying to obtain information from the original situation or context of the phenomenon, not from something that has been manipulate or falsify.

In this study the research data refers to Lauren Singer as the speech speaker who is the main source in the presentation of linguistic data. The speech Lauren Singer was chosen because her speech describes ideas, experiences, and semantic meanings that are relevant to the analysis of ideational in the framework of SFL. This is in line with Creswell (2010), opinion that the data is a person who provides data through speech or text. This is also in line with Sugiyono (2020) opinion that the research subject is the main source of data who obtains information through speech or documents. Therefore, these speech transcripts is select as the research data to determine the types of processes, participants, and circumstances that arise in the transitivity system.

A data source is the origin or entity from which data is obtain. According to Creswell (2010), a data source can be an individual, group, document, or artifact containing information relate to the phenomenon being study. The data source use in this study comes from videos of speeches found on the YouTube channel TEDx Talks. These videos provide verbal and non-verbal information, including ideas that emerge during interactions between the speaker and the audience.

Written documents called speech transcripts, record all of the speaker's words, making it easier to identify processes, participants, and circumstances for the analysis of ideas. Based on data sources from YouTube videos and text transcripts, SFL-based theory focuses on the contextual and systematic representation of ideas from experiences,

actions, and social relationships in Lauren Singer's speeches.

#### Tehchiques of Collecting Data

According to Creswell (2010), data collection techniques in qualitative research refer to the methods used by researchers to systematically collect information from data sources. Creswell states that data collection methods in qualitative research are adaptive, inductive, and contextual, and include observation, documents, interviews, and digital media. This is the role of research in the techniques data collection process:

1. Accessed and downloaded  
Lauren Singer's speech video

The researcher accesses and downloads Lauren Singer's speech video via YouTube on the official TEDx channel. The TEDx channel is chosen to ensure the authenticity and credibility of the data source. The video is downloaded using media devices such as laptops or smartphones.

2. Watched the Video

The researcher watched the speech video from beginning to end without conducting linguistic analysis. The purpose of this stage was to understand the general context of the speech, the topics discussed, the flow of ideas, and the speaker's objectives in delivering the speech. Understanding the context was very important so that the researcher did not interpret the data separately from the situation in which the speech was delivered.

3. Transcribing the Speech into Text Form (Raw Data)

The researcher transcribes Lauren Singer's entire speech into written text. The transcription includes all sentences, pauses, and speech boundaries related to the

structure of spoken language. This process produces raw textual data. The transcription is conducted without paraphrasing in order to preserve the speaker's original language as authentic linguistic data.

4. Removing Non-Linguistic Elements

After obtaining the transcription as raw data, the researcher edits the data by removing non-linguistic elements that are not relevant to grammatical analysis, such as:

- a. repetitive sounds (uh, um, er),
- b. unstructured spontaneous comments within clauses, and
- c. word fragments that do not have clear grammatical meaning

#### 4. HASIL DAN PEMBAHASAN

##### Discussions

This study analysis found six types of processes, namely material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioral, and existential processes. The material process was the most dominant, contributing 48% of the total 373 data points. The relational Process appeared in a significant number, namely 115 data points or 30.8%. The mental Process was found in 67 data points or 18.0%. On the other hand, verbal, behavioral, and existential processes appeared in very small numbers. Verbal processes were only found in 8 data points or 2.1%, while behavioral and existential processes were only found in 2 data points or 0.5% each. Overall, the results of this analysis show that the language structure in the speeches focused more on the concrete

actions and activities carried out by the actors, as reflected in the dominance of material processes compared to other types of processes. The reasons why material processes were more dominant were also found, namely because the speech focuses on concrete actions, the purpose of this speech is persuasive, and supported by quantitative data.

According to research (kurnia 2024) entitled "*Transitivity Analysis Of Prabowo Subianto's Speech At The 20th Shangri-La Dialogue*" shows that relational processes in Prabowo Subianto's speech reached around 37.83%. The dominance of these relational processes indicates that he places greater emphasis on relationships, conditions, and identities between various entities, such as inter- state relations, geopolitical forces, and global conditions. On the other hand, the analysis of the study shows different results: the material process dominates with 48.0% of the data, indicating that Lauren Singer's speech emphasizes actions, activities, and changes made by actors. In other words, both studies show that the type of Process that dominates in transitivity can vary depending on the context, purpose, and content of the speech being analyzed. The research conducted by Jing (2019), entitled "*Case Study of Trump's Victory Speech Transitivity Analysis,*" using a Systemic Functional Linguistics approach, specifically the Transitivity System. The results of the study show that the relational Process is the most dominant Process with 25 occurrences (35%), indicating that in the speech, the speaker explained the relationships, identities, and conditions

between various parties, such as the relationship between the government and the people, the condition of the country after the election, and the identity of America as a strong and united nation. This study shows different results, finding 373 process data, with the material process dominating with 179 data, or 48 percent of all data. The difference in the dominance of process types between the two studies shows that the context and purpose of the speech greatly influence the use of process types in the transitivity system. Regardless, the two studies complement each other because they both show how the transitivity system reveals the ideational meaning

## **5. KESIMPULAN DAN SARAN**

### **Conclusions**

Based on the analysis and findings of Lauren Singer's speech, which focused on the ideational aspect, especially the analysis of the types of processes in the transitivity system, this study reached the following conclusions

1. Lauren Singer's speech consists of six types of processes in the transitivity system: material process, mental process, relational process, verbal process, behavioural process, and existential process. These six processes are used to convey messages about environmentally friendly lifestyles and the zero-waste movement. Each type of process has a different function in describing actions, feelings, relationships, communication, behaviour, and the

2. The analysis shows that material processes are the most dominant aspect of Lauren Singer's speech, with 179 clauses (48.0%) out of a total of 373 data clauses. The dominance of material processes in this speech shows that Lauren Singer emphasizes concrete actions individuals can take, such as reducing waste and adopting an environmentally friendly lifestyle.
3. The dominance of material processes in Lauren Singer's speech is caused by several reasons namely: first, this speech focuses on concrete actions, Lauren Singer's speech discusses concrete actions such as reducing waste, reusing items, and changing waste consumption habits. Second, the purpose of this speech is persuasive, this speech aims to encourage the audience to make changes, namely to adopt a zero-waste lifestyle. Third, supported by quantitative data. Of the 373 data clauses, material processes appeared 179 clauses (48.0%).

### **Suggestions**

Based on the conclusions above, the researcher would like to provide several suggestions for students, english teachers or lectures, and future researchers.

#### **1. For Sudents**

Students are expected to conduct more in-depth research on transitivity analysis, looking not only at the type of process but also at other elements such as participants and circumstances. This will allow for a

more comprehensive analysis of speech texts. For English Teachers or Lecturers

Teachers who focus on linguistics and study SFL are expected to research the use of language in conveying social messages using various other types of texts, such as speeches, articles, or environmental campaigns.

#### **1. For Future Researcher**

Researchers are expected to understand that language in speeches not only serves to convey information or simply analyze structure and grammar, but also to influence the actions of the audience. In Lauren Singer's speech, the use of the material process shows a strong invitation to the public to take concrete action in protecting the environment.

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