

## **TRANSITIVITY ANALYSIS OF SEXUAL-RELATED LANGUAGE IN EKA KURNIAWAN'S CANTIK ITU LUKA AND ITS ENGLISH VERSION**

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### **Abstract**

The objective of the study is to analyze the transitivity system of sexual-related language in Eka Kurniawan's *Cantik itu Luka* and its English version. This study employs a qualitative method. There are 430 data in a total of sexual related-language found in Indonesian and its English version. Each version consists of 215. Data were collected by reading *Cantik itu Luka* and its English translation, identifying the terms, selecting and categorizing the data, listing data, analysing and comparing, and drawing the conclusion. The collected data were analysed by using transitivity analysis proposed by Halliday. From 215 data of each version, the writer analysed 213 data for each since there were two incomplete clauses found in Indonesian and English data so they could not be taken as a sample of data to be analysed. From transitivity analysis, it was found that the dominant process was material process both in Indonesian and English version.

**Keywords** transitivity, sexual-related language, *Cantik itu Luka*, Beauty is A Wound

### **INTRODUCTION**

There has been a good attentiveness regarding the description of the language in general and language typology in particular in which many researchers tend to be more interested in one of the linguistic theories. It is systemic functional linguistic (SFL). According to Halliday (1985), this theory's point of view considers language as the resource of social semiotic. Besides, it is also utilized to achieve their goal by expressing meanings in a context. Furthermore, nowadays SFL theory is not only used to analyze pure linguistics but also used to analyzed other science background which still related to linguistics, such as education, literature, and translation.

In SFL theory, transitivity is one of its branches to analyze clauses. As maintained by Halliday (1985), transitivity is still related to the experiential meaning of a language. It is relevant to the meaning representation in the clause. There are six main processes. Each clause has at least one process as long as it is a complete clause, that there is subject and

predicate (verb). To decide which process occurred in each clause, the verb of the clause must be analyzed first according to transitivity theory. Furthermore, processes are the centre of this analysis, which realized by the predicate (verb) of the clause (Gerot and Wignel, 1994). The processes that occurred in SL and TL are analyzed to see which ones are equivalent and which are not. Then, the inequivalent are categorized as shift. The transitivity process is an interesting matter to analyze since the transitivity system occurred in the source text (Indonesian) and target text (English) require the determination of a process type of each related clause, how the participants are presented (as actor, goal, sensor, etc), and the circumstances in which the process takes place is still lacking to study particularly analyzing two languages in one study as underlined by Halliday (1971) that transitivity as the alternative way of the speaker or writer expresses their experience process in the external world.

Regarding the equivalence issue in translation, something needed is a new form of linguistic approach that can be applied to

translation studies. The approach is expected to afford for the textual integration, contextual from, generic, semiotic, and cultural aspects of the process of translation. In the case of literary translation quality assessment, concerning the language has become something necessary when the basis of appreciation has to be made explicitly. Therefore, Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL) can be considered as one of the appropriate tools to analyze the equivalence of SL and TL, in this case, Indonesian and English through transitivity analysis.

There are some previous studies done by applying this theory as a tool for analyzing the data. They are Salsabil (2014), Michael (2020), and Arba (2019). There are still many researchers who have done studies such as this. However, almost all of them just focus on one language. They only analyzed one point of view. The present study involves two languages since this study is still related to the translation study; how to relate translation and linguistic and how one of linguistic analysis is used to analyze the equivalence of ST to TT.

The story of *Cantik itu Luka* and its translation, *Beauty is A Wound*, contains taboo words. Taboo words or taboo language is a kind of language that consisted of terms that are inappropriate or not allowable according to the culture, context of situation and condition, language acceptance, and the circumstance where they are uttered. All these denominations have been categorized as term of offensive and taboo language. The term taboo has been referred to as the words which are inappropriate in society. This kind of words or terms is often utilized to show a social violation, disgusting things, sexual-related terms and something annoyance. Based on the theory of Allan and Burridge (2006) about taboo, they pointed out that it is a kind of prohibition of behaviour that brings effects to the people in their life. Hence, Allan and Burridge consider taboos as follows; bodies and their effluvia (sweat, snot, feces, menstrual fluid, etc), the organs and acts of sex; disease, death and killing (including hunting and fishing); naming, addressing, touching and viewing persons and sacred beings, objects and

places; food gathering, preparation, consumption. However, in this case, the researcher only focuses on the taboo language that is related to sexual activities and body parts.

The following are the examples of types of transitivity in Indonesian texts that are taken from the novel *Cantik itu Luka* and its English translation.

### Example 1

ST: Ia *telanjang* di kursi putar milik sekolah (CIL)

TT: She *found herself naked* on the principal's swiveling office chair (BIA)

Some questions might be raised from the example above, such as (1) does the process type in ST denote the same process type in the TL? That question is one of the reasons why it is interesting and important to analyze the transitivity system of sexual-related language in Eka Kurniawan's *Cantik itu Luka* and its English version.

### METHOD

There are 430 data of sexual related-language found in *Eka Kurniawans' Cantik itu Luka* and its English version. Each version consists of 215. In analysing data using transitivity analysis by Halliday, the writer only analyses 213 data for each version since there are two clauses from each version that are incomplete clause and untranslated so it cannot be taken as a sample of data in transitivity analysis.

This study applies the qualitative method since it relies on a variety of understanding and corresponding types of validity in the process of describing, interpreting, and explaining phenomena of interest (Yassi, 2020). This is as Maxwell (2005) has stated about qualitative research. In addition, another point of view has been emphasized by Jonker and Pennink (2009) that the essence of a qualitative study is to identify the characteristics and structures of events that are examined in their natural context.

The data were chosen purposively, which only choose the suitable data for specific purposes. In collecting the data, the writer conducts the following steps: Reading the Indonesian novel; *Cantik itu Luka* and its translation, *Beauty is A Wound*. *Cantik itu Luka* consists of 537 pages and its English version is 470 pages. It aimed at knowing the original and the translation version closely. The writer only focused on the sexual-related language since the novel is closely related to the vulgar expression of its main characters. According to Newmark (1981), comprehending a text to find a core message does not only need a general reading but also a close reading. Next, identifying the clauses which contained sexual-related language in the novel. The writer identified and observed both versions of the novel. Then, selecting the sample one by one by putting them in the table provided. After identifying, the writer selected the phrases or the sentences that could be analyzed according to the transitivity theory of Halliday. After that, the data were analysed and compared. In analyzing the data, the writer used transitivity theory as a tool of analysis. This study was done in some steps Firstly, after finding the data and classifying it according to transitivity analysis theory, the writer compared the clauses in both source text and target texts; Indonesian and English. The writer focused on the clause which contained sexual-related language. Then, the writer categorized the process of each clause both Indonesian and English and compared it.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The main finding in this study is the identification of transitivity categories found in the sexual-related language in Eka Kurniawan's *Cantik itu Luka* and its English translation. These categorizations are based on Halliday's theory.

In transitivity analysis, verb or predicate is an essential element in the process found in the clauses. Some verbs are not doing words at all, but rather express states of being or having. Moreover, there are different of doing and being. For example, to write a funny story, the

word *write* is a verb and belongs to the material process. This verb orders of doing. Another example is "*my brother is a pilot*", the word is a verb that belongs to relational process and it states of being. Below is the result of the analysis process typically found in the sexual-related language of Eka Kurniawan's *Cantik itu Luka* and its English translation.

After categorizing the clause that related to sexual language, the writer found from 215 data of sexual-related language, there are only 213 clauses in Eka Kurniawan's *Cantik itu Luka* and 213 clauses in *Beauty is A Wound* that could be analyzed based on transitivity analysis since there were two data were incomplete based on clause structure.

Based on the data analyzed, the writer has obtained that the dominant process from both versions is a material process. In the Indonesian version, there are 82 clauses or 38.50% and in the English version are 97 clauses or 45.54%. Furthermore, the same positions in both versions are placed by mental and relational processes, in which there are 43 clauses or 20.19% and 41 clauses or 19.25% in the Indonesian version. While in the English version, the position is also the same, in which mental and relational are in the second and third position. There are 38 clauses or 17.84% which refers to mental and there are 37 clauses or 17.37% refers to relational. Less dominant in both versions are placed by behavioural and verbal process, in which in Indonesian version, there are 23 clauses or 10.80% refers to a behavioural process and 24 clauses or 11.27% for the verbal process. The existential process was not found at all. In the English version, the behavioural and verbal process have the same number of clauses. They are 20 clauses or 9.39%. It was different from the Indonesian version; the existential process was found in the English version even though it was only one or 0.47%. As seen in the following table.

**Table 1.** Indonesian version

| No    | Types of Process | Sum of Clause | %     |
|-------|------------------|---------------|-------|
| 1     | Material         | 82            | 38.50 |
| 2     | Mental           | 43            | 20.19 |
| 3     | Relational       | 41            | 19.25 |
| 4     | Behavioral       | 23            | 10.80 |
| 5     | Existential      | 0             | 0     |
| 6     | verbal           | 24            | 11.27 |
| Total |                  | 213           | 100   |

**Table 2.** English version

| No    | Types of Process | Sum of Clause | %     |
|-------|------------------|---------------|-------|
| 1     | Material         | 97            | 45.54 |
| 2     | Mental           | 38            | 17.84 |
| 3     | Relational       | 37            | 17.37 |
| 4     | Behavioral       | 20            | 9.39  |
| 5     | Existential      | 1             | 0.47  |
| 6     | verbal           | 20            | 9.39  |
| Total |                  | 213           | 100   |

### Material Process

The material process is a process about doing and action. The action involves actors or nominal groups that realize participants. It can be made an important distinction between the numbers of participants involved in the material process. There are two participants involved in this process. The first participant is called 'actor' and the second is called 'goal', but sometimes it takes only one participant involved, it is only the 'actor. Below is an example of the material process from the sexual-related language in Indonesian and English versions.

ST : *mereka bertarung di atas tempat tidur* (hal.15)

TT : they wrestled on the bed (p.15)

### Mental Process

Halliday (1985:107) states that mental process usually encodes mental reactions such as perceptions, thoughts and feelings. Mental processes give an insight into people's

consciousness and sense the experience of reality. These can be probed by asking what do you think/ feel/know about x? The mental process has two participants: the sensor, the conscious being who is involved in a mental process and the phenomenon, which is felt, thought, or seen, by the conscious sense.

ST : *Ia mengaku tak merasakan apa pun kecuali sesuatu yang menggelikan di tengah selangkangannya.* (p.15)

TT : she didn't feel much, just a little tickle in the middle (p. 15)

### Relational Process

Halliday (1985) argues that relational processes are those of being; for example, Sarah is wise, Tom is the leader. The central meaning of clauses of this type is that something is. Every language accommodates, in its grammar, some distinct ways of being expressed as different types of relational process in the clause.

ST : *Dadanya mengembang padat berisi pula* (p.339)

TT : her breasts were developing perfectly (315)

### Behavioural Process

The behavioural process is the process of physiological and psychological behaviour, like breathing, dreaming, smiling, and coughing. Grammatically, they are intermediate between the material and mental process. The *behave*r is typically a conscious being, like the *sensor*; but the process functions more like 'doing'. The majority of behaviour process clauses have one participant only.

ST : *Gadis itu meringis sedikit kesakitan, setiap kali jarinya bergerak di selangkangan.* (p.54)

TT : The girl whimpered a little at the pain, and trembled every time her finger moved in between her legs. (p.53)

### Verbal Process

The verbal process is a process of saying, more accurately, symbolically signalling. Eggins (1994:235) states that a verbal process

typically contains three participants: sayer, receiver and verbiage. The sayer, the participant responsible for the verbal process, does not have to be a conscious participant (although it typically is), but anything capable of putting out a signal. The receiver is the one to whom the verbal process is directed; the beneficiary of a verbal message, occurring with or without a preposition depending on the position in the clause. The verbiage is a nominalized statement of the verbal process; a noun expressing some kind of verbal behaviour.

- ST : “*seperti seekor capung mencakar lubang udel.*” *Kata si pelacur*  
 TT : “it was like a dragonfly scrabbing at my belly button,” said the prostitute

#### *Existential Process*

The existential process is a process of existence. These represent that something exists or happens. These clauses typically have the verb be, or some other verbs expressing existence, such as exist, arise, followed by a nominal group functioning as existent (a thing which exists in the process). The existent may be a phenomenon of any kind, and is often, in fact, an event.

- ST : *dan di tengah selangkangannya, di balik rimbun rambutnya, sesuatu sedikit menggelembung seperti buah kelapa muda, namun pasti lembut.* (p.433)  
 TT : and in the middle of her crotch, behind the luxurious thicket of her hair, there was something slightly protuberant, like the fruit of a young coconut, but certainly soft. (p.398)

There have been many studies about transitivity analysis done by some researchers. Most of them just focus on one language. It has made something different with this study since this study elaborate more on two languages and based on the result, it can be seen there is a process that occurred in one language while another language is not. The writer carries out this language; Indonesian and English because

it is still related to the translation study and involving two languages to be analysed is such an avoidable thing.

#### **CONCLUSION**

In analysing data using transitivity analysis by Halliday, the writer only analyses 213 data for each version since there are two clauses from each version that are incomplete clause and untranslated so it cannot be taken as a sample of data in transitivity analysis. From transitivity analysis, it is found that the dominant process found is a material process both in Indonesian and English version, in which material process in Indonesian version are 82 clauses or 38.50% and 97 clauses in English version or 45.54%. The second one is a mental process, in which in the Indonesian version mental process are occurred in 43 clauses or 20.19 % and 38 clauses or 17.84 % in the English version. The third position is a relational process, in which there are 41 clauses or 19.25 % in the Indonesian version and there are 37 clauses or 17.37 % in the English version. The behavioural and verbal process is placed in the fifth and sixth position. There are 23 and 24 clauses of each processor 10.80 % and 11.27 % occurred in the Indonesian version. While there are 9.39 % or 20 clauses categorized into the behavioural process and 9.39 % or 20 clauses are categorized into the verbal process. the significant difference is from the existential process in which there is no existential process found in the Indonesian version, while there is 1 process found in the English version.

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