

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the scientific reason for this research and it becomes the basic foundation in conducting this study. It provides background of research, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, definition of key term and organization of writing.

1.1. Background of Research

A language, whatever it is, is built from smaller units starting from phoneme to the bigger one called text. Among them, there is one meaningful unit named clause. Clause performs crucial roles to reveal meaning of written and spoken language. In Systemic Functional Linguistics or Systemic Functional Grammar, clause is analyzed as it exhibits every single hidden function. “Systemic Functional grammar, on the other hand, labels elements of the clause in terms of the function each is playing in that clause rather than by word class (Gerot&Wignell, 1995: 6).” Clause as representation discusses transitivity system including participant, processes, and circumstance as its units. Particularly in process, it will finally be broken down to mental process. Moreover, clause is categorized by focusing on mental process in this research.

Analyzing a written text certainly needs exact instruments to reveal all of the meaning appointing purpose of the text. Systemic Functional Linguistics as one of the tools has different perspective than traditional grammar. It can be simplified that language structures selected by sender can be revealed by receiver through this theory. The problems revealed are the categories and the functions contained in mental process as the research questions. This becomes the crucial one to structurally understand how the clause works to convey important messages in communication.

Systemic Functional Grammar has differences from traditional grammar which is known by learners commonly. In traditional grammar, it focuses on rules for producing the correct sentences and this perspective is prescriptive. The pattern of sentences has to be comprehended and the functions such as; subject, verb, object, complement, and adverb have to be understood. In functional grammar, the clauses are analyzed not only with the structure, the context is seen as well. This perspective does not talk about rules but this one categorizes clauses producing meaning.

If the clauses are analyzed by functional grammar, it will be served a proper tool by this perspective. Transitivity system from this perspective is used by the researcher to analyze the clauses. This system divides the semantic roles, namely; participant, process, and circumstance. All of the semantic roles define a general way how phenomena of the real world are represented as linguistics structure.

More specific theory as framework chosen is mental process which focuses on feeling, thinking, and sensing. It seems uncovering human consciousness in the back of notion. This kind of process theory is certainly a part of transitivity system. As Halliday (2014: 245) remarks that “mental clauses are concerned with our experience of the world of consciousness. They are clauses of sensing: a ‘mental’ clause construes a quantum of change in the flow of events taking place in our own consciousness. This process of sensing may be construed either as flowing from a person’s consciousness or as impinging on it; but it is not construed as a material act.” Mental process itself has four different categories introduced by Halliday, namely; perceptive, emotive, cognitive, and desiderative mental process as well. If we find this kind of verbs in a clause, for instance; think, remember, memorize, feel, fear, see, and other mental verbs, it must be included in mental process category.

The researcher focuses on mental process because of its unique characteristics than the other process. Material and behavioural process represent

concrete activity which can be seen empirically. Material process is concrete act controlled such as writing, but the behavioral one is concrete natural act such as coughing. Mental process is clearly different because it represents almost abstract activity such as thinking, memorizing, and believing. It contains the world of consciousness of human when someone has a choice before he acts. Choice as the product of human consciousness emerges firstly before acts started.

This research takes movie script as an object. Written texts were gained from *300* movie produced by Mark Canton and written by Zack Snyder in 2006. It contains hundreds of clauses but the researcher restricts only to utterances of Leonidas that contain mental process. It is the reason of the researcher to choose that character being data. The mental process clauses certainly have their own function in communication. The researcher supposes that understanding the category and knowing the function build huge comprehension for us in analyzing the communication.

Movie script certainly has different characteristics from the other object such as; news report and speech because this object uses written language transformed from spoken language. Many structures in movie script do not refer to grammar rules and this spoke language has informal dictions as well. Spoken language is often used in daily activities and it becomes the superiority than written language. Most of people speak to convey the messages because it is simpler than writing.

The researcher also has reason to choose *300* movie script than the others. This movie script is appropriate one for transitivity study because of its compact clauses. It is clearly different from the other movie scripts that have been read by the researcher. *The A Team* movie script, for instance, has a lot of brief expression such as : yeah, okay, nope, which makes the clause is short. It can be interpreted like that because in the movie, there are many actions than the words. *Taken 3* movie script is also similar with the previous one. It has no many various verbs which can make the analysis various as well.

There are some previous studies that focus on the analysis of mental process in various texts. The first one is research by Samelia (2016) that investigates category of the mental process clause that has 20 data of cognitive mental process and 20 data of affective mental process in the result. The second one, a journal has mental process as well by Tuckyta (2012) focusing on sub-types of sensing process. The last study is by Zakiyuddin (2012) probing the kind and the meaning that has 30 data in different kind of mental process.

The previous researchs above become the basis foundation in arranging this research by the same tool and similar efforts but this research does offer different contents. The researcher analyzes the clauses by using transitivity system to seek mental process, for instance, the clause *I think* has the functions of subject for *I* and predicate for *think* but functional grammar adopts the different terminologies, namely senser for *I* and mental process for *think*.

1.2 Statement of Problems

The researcher discovers that *300* movie script represents different mental clause including the category and the function. The problems formulated can be remarked as follows:

1. What kinds of mental process are used by Leonidas in his utterances in *300* movie script?
2. What are the frequency of mental process out of total processes in his utterances in *300* movie script and what does it indicate?

1.3 Research Objective

This research has aims that underlie the research question. “The purpose of research is to discover answers to questions through the application of scientific procedures. The main aim of research is to find out the truth which is hidden and which has not been discovered as yet (Kohtari, 1985: 2).”

Based on the research questions conceived in previous section, this research aims:

1. To investigate the kind of mental process used by Leonidas in his utterances in *300* movie script.
2. To analyze the frequency of mental process out of total processes in his utterances in *300* movie script.

1.4 Research Significance

This study theoretically can extend the comprehension of the mental process in transitivity system. The result of research can contribute to language learner in understanding SFL.

The result of this research practically can become reference for other researcher in developing SFL study. This study can become model in analyzing the texts for anyone interested in transitivity system also.

1.5 Definition of Key Term

There are several key terms that is often used in order to avoid misconception and misunderstanding. They emphasize the meaning of terms in linguistics. They are:

- 1) Systemic Functional Grammar / Linguistics : theory for analyzing clauses related with text and its contex.
- 2) Transitivity : a kind of system in SFL to reveal the ideational meaning..
- 3) Mental Process : one of sub types of process specifying the process happening.
- 4) *300* : an epic war movie produced by Mark Canton and written by Zack Snyder in 2006.
- 5) Leonidas : a character of *300* movie or a Sparta king in the movie.
- 6) Movie script : a text which is transformed from spoken language in a movie.

1. 6 Organization of Writing

This paper is organized into five chapters. Each chapter contains different topics. Understanding the content will be easier with the following organization. Chapter 1 discusses the introduction of research that opens. it contains; background of the study, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, definition of key term, and organization of writing. Chapter 2 serves the basic foundation for investigating the problem. It explains the theories used for analyzing data. The theories are systemic functional linguistics, transitivity, and mental process. Chapter 3 is research method. It involves research design, data, source of data, techniques of collecting data, and techniques of analyzing data. Chapter 4 discusses the data analysis. It presents the finding in transitivity system and its mental process particularly. Chapter 5 is conclusion and suggestion. This chapter consists of conclusion and suggestion for the study after conducting the analysis. It presents the suggestion for further research as well.

