

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Systemic Functional Linguistics is an approach to understanding meaning in context. According to Halliday (2004) language can be as texts, as systems, as sounds, as writings, as wordings, as structure-configurations of parts, and as resource-choices among alternatives. Those forms are some of the different forms a language takes when we start to explore its grammar functionally, that is; from the point of view of how it creates and expresses meaning. He formulates the term metafunctions as the three main communication functions of language: ideational, interpersonal, and textual.

Halliday (2004) states that ideational metafunction is used to represent things that are related to us. These metafunction represents activities, objects, relationships, and feelings. Ideational metafunction is a clause as representation. It distinguishes into two components, the experiential and the logical. It can be used by individuals to communicate ideas, descriptions, narratives, facts, and information in language. Ideational meaning has some types of processes called transitivity processes.

While transitivity is a language system that interprets clauses through process elements. The transitivity system interprets experiences into process types that have their own schema or model. Halliday (2004) also adds that the process is divided into 6 processes namely material process, mental process, relational process, behavioural process, verbal process, and existential process. Process of transitivity can be found in the utterances used by the Joker in "The Dark Knight" movie.

"The Dark Knight" is a superhero movie that was released in 2008. The movie is directed, produced, and co-written by Christopher Nolan. "The Dark Knight" movie based on the DC Comic character Batman. The movie is the second sequel to Nolan's *The Dark Knight Trilogy* and the sequel to "Batman Begins" in 2005. In this movie there are 2 very influential characters, namely Batman or Bruce Wayne (as main character) played by Christian Bale and Joker

(as main villain) played by Heath Ledger. Batman or Bruce Wayne is an intelligent human being and a martial arts expert. He is a superhero based in the Gotham City. Batman takes down criminals with the help of advanced technology that he develops with his partner Fox (played by Morgan Freeman). The Joker is a crazed psychopath who dresses up as a clown. He likes to do destruction to the Gotham City to play with Batman.

"The Dark Knight" movie tells the story of the fight between Batman and Joker. In the beginning, Batman along with Judge Harvey Dent (played by Aaron Eckhart) and Lieutenant James Gordon (played by Gary Oldman) can fight the rampant crime in Gotham City. The situation gets more complex when the Joker arrives. The Joker comes up with crazy plans to put Batman in trouble and wreak destruction on the Gotham City. In an effort to stop the Joker, Batman must make difficult moral choices. Harvey Dent, who was originally the hope to clean up the criminality in Gotham City, was plunged into darkness after his girlfriend was killed by the Joker and turned him into Two-Face. The Joker is finally captured but the evil Harvey Dent is still spreading terror in Gotham City. Batman and Lt. James Gordon try to stop him. Harvey Dent took Lt. James Gordon's family hostage in an old building. Batman and Lt. James Gordon soon arrived and there was a fight between the three of them. Harvey Dent falls from a height and is killed after being shot by Lt. James Gordon, because Harvey Dent still has a positive image in Gotham City, his death is very unfortunate by the people of Gotham. The police are hunting the killer of Harvey Dent, because Batman does not want to remove the positive image of Harvey Dent or create a negative image of Lieutenant James Gordon, Batman is voluntarily scapegoated and hunted by the police.

This study focuses on analysing ideational meaning, examining ideational meaning in the movie "The Dark Knight" (2008) provides deep insight into how language constructs characters, themes, and narratives in movies. This analysis helps understand the thoughts, motivations, and emotions of characters like Batman and the Joker through the process of transitivity they expressed. Through ideational meaning analysis, we gain insight into the perspective of the culture towards crime and heroism. The character of Joker, with various

transitivity processes in his dialog, reflects his manipulative and sadistic characteristics. "The Dark Knight" movie itself is part of Christopher Nolan's Batman Trilogy which has in-depth character and plot development.

"The Dark Knight" movie is the most awarded in Christopher Nolan's Batman Trilogy. Some of these awards are *Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role* (Oscar, 2009), *Best Action/Adventure/Thriller Film* (Saturn Award, 2009), and *Best Director of the Year* (Golden Schmoes, 2008). This movie is also an adaptation of one of the famous comic series from DC Comics, namely Batman.

Based on the explanation of ideational meaning provided above, here is an example from "The Dark Knight" movie.

Datum 1

Joker: "A little fight in you. **I like that.**"

I	<i>like</i>	that
Sensor	Mental Process: Affection	Phenomenon

Batman: "Then you're going to love me."

Time: 00:51:53 – 00:52:01

Context: Bruce Wayne had a party attended by Harvey Dent and Rachel. In the middle of the party, the Joker and his gang came to crash the party in search of Harvey Dent. Fortunately, Harvey Dent was secured first by Bruce Wayne. Rachel, who was still in the middle of the party, was interrogated by the Joker. But Rachel just stood there and fought back. The Joker liked Rachel's resistance. After that, Batman came directly to beat Joker and his gang.

The word "Like" means to enjoy or approve of something or someone. The ideational meaning that occurs is that Joker uses the word "Like" to express his feeling about a little fight from Rachel. Joker feels that Rachel's small fight makes him happy. It can be concluded that Joker's utterance is included in the process of transitivity type of mental process because there is a feeling activity in the utterance as proved by the word "Like".

There are some previous studies related to this research. The first previous study is "*The Features of Ideational and Interpersonal Meaning in Garnier*

Skincare Advertisements for Women” was conducted by Anita Tutut Budianti (2018) from the Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University. The first previous study and this study is that both examine ideational meaning. The difference is that the first previous study also examined interpersonal meaning, used Halliday's (1991 & 2004) and Gerot & Wignell's (1994) theories, and used Garnier brand skin care advertisements as research objects. Whereas, this study only uses Halliday's theory (2004) and uses "The Dark Knight" movie as the research object.

The second previous study is “*Exploring the Ideational Meaning in Selena Gomez’s Rare Album*” was conducted by Muhammad Khamaduddin (2021) from the Faculty of Humanities, Maulana Malik Ibrahim Islamic University. The second previous study and this study is that they both examine ideational meaning and use Halliday's theory. The difference is that the second previous study uses Selena Gomez's Rare Album (song) as the research object while this study uses "The Dark Knight" movie as the research object.

The third previous study is “*Investigating Ideational Meaning of Narrative Texts in Senior High School Textbooks*” was conducted by Nurul Aulia Dewi Amri (2021) from the Faculty of Language and Literature Education, Pendidikan Indonesia University. The third previous study and this study is that both examine ideational meaning. The difference is that the third previous study uses narrative texts in senior high school textbooks as the research object, while this study uses “The Dark Knight” movie as the research object.

1.2 Statements of The Problem

1. What types of transitivity processes are found in Joker’s utterances?
2. How does ideational meaning appear in the Joker's utterances?

1.3 Objectives of The Problem

1. To identify types of transitivity processes in Joker’s utterances
2. To explain ideational meaning of Joker’s utterances

1.4 Significance of The Study

1. Theoretical Significances

The study used Halliday's (2004) systemic functional linguistics theory. The study examined the ideational meaning of the transitivity

process in Joker's utterances in "The Dark Knight" movie. With this study, readers could know the ideational meaning that appeared in Joker's utterances. The study could help readers in understanding Halliday's (2004) systemic functional linguistics theory. Readers could learn the analysis of ideational meaning as shown by the transitivity process. With this research, readers could find out the types of transitivity processes. This research could be used as a reference for future research with different research objects.

2. Practical Significances

Hopefully, after reading this study and understanding ideational meaning, readers could improve the way they communicated information or constructed messages and communicated ideas or messages effectively and clearly. Understanding the transitivity process helped readers choose verbs and sentence structures that supported the representation of participants and processes effectively and made the message or information communicated stronger and easier to understand.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The study explained the ideational meaning in The Dark Knight (2008) movie through the view of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). This study analyzed by using all types of Transitivity Process to explain ideational meaning. According to Halliday (2004), there were 6 types of transitivity processes: material, mental, relational, behavioural, verbal, and existential processes. This research used one of the movies in "The Dark Knight Trilogy", namely "The Dark Knight" movie as the object of research. In "The Dark Knight" movie, the analysis was limited to the Joker character. Joker's utterances were used as research data. The theory used to analyze was Halliday's theory (2004).

1.6 Definition of The Key Terms

1. **Systemic Functional Linguistics:** Systemic functional linguistics is an approach to understanding meaning through context. The meaning of an utterance will be known after understanding the context in which it occurs.

Linguistic system can be used as an approach by understanding what it means and why (Halliday, 2004).

2. **Transitivity:** Transitivity is a process to understand ideational meaning at the clause level. According to Halliday (2004) there are 6 types of transitivity; material process, mental process, relational process, behavioural process, verbal process, and existential process.

3. **Ideational Meaning:** Clause as representation (Halliday, 2004). Ideational meaning is a representation of activities, objects, relationships, and feelings. This meaning comes after understanding the context of an utterance.

4. **The Dark Knight Movie:** Superhero movie released in 2008 and directed by Christopher Nolan. The movie tells the story of a superhero named Batman who fights against a villain named Joker.

1.7 Thesis Organization

Chapter 1 : The first chapter consists of the background of the study, statements of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitations, definition of the key terms, and thesis organization.

Chapter 2 : The second chapter discusses about the theory of systemic functional linguistics, ideational meaning, and transitivity by Halliday (2004). This chapter also explains about "The dark Knight" movie and related studies.

Chapter 3 : The third chapter consists of the research design, source of data and data, steps of collecting data, and steps of analyzing data.

Chapter 4 : The fourth chapter discusses the transitivity process and ideational meanings that appears in the Joker's utterances in "The dark Knight" movie.

Chapter 5 : The fifth chapter consists of the conclusion and suggestions.