



CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Political speeches are one way for political leaders to convey their ideas and influence the public through the use of language. Beard (2000) defines political speeches as a form of discourse used by politicians to convince listeners and maintain power through language. This definition shows that political speeches are highly persuasive and have strategic objectives. In line with Beard's statement, Dijk (1997) explains that political speeches not only serve to convey messages but also as a means to legitimize power and shape public understanding of current political events. In other words, political speeches are not just a conveyance of information but also a political act carried out through language. Political speeches have the power to shape public opinion and construct social meaning. One approach that can be used to examine this is the systemic functional linguistic (SFL), which views language as a tool for constructing meaning in a social context.

Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) explain that Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is a theory that views language as a social semiotic system, in which meaning is formed through choices in grammatical structures that are influenced by the context of their use. Every word produced in a speech is not only a linguistic form, but also the result of considerations of function and communication purpose. Halliday (1994) states that metafunction is the basic function of language in constructing meaning contextually. There are three metafunctions namely, textual, interpersonal, and ideational, which represent how language is used to convey information, build social relationships, and represent experiences. These metafunctions play a role in the overall meaning-making process.

This study will analyze the transitivity process which is included in the ideational metafunction. According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2004), transitivity

is a grammatical system that regulates grammatical structures that are reflections of reality that can be written through clause structures in a text or writing. Clauses in a text can be analyzed using the transitivity process, Halliday and Matthiessen (2004) divide transitivity into six types of processes, each representing different kinds of experiences: material process expresses physical action, mental process involves sensing or feeling, relational process describes being or having, behavioral process relates to physiological behavior, verbal process represents acts of saying, and existential process indicates the existence of something. Through the process of transitivity, a clause will be able to represent various aspects of reality by detailing the type of process. Thompson (2014) stated that Transitivity in Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is a framework that identifies verbs with objects but analyzes the whole clause to describe how it processes, participates and functions. This framework helps to distinguish different types of processes in transitivity.

Halliday (1994) explain that transitivity process consists of three components: the process, the participants, and the circumstances. The type of transitivity process can affect the participant roles that can describe the type of process. The transitivity process is associated with different participant roles: actor, senser, sayer, extent, and carrier. Circumstance refers to the environment, nature, and location of grammar-related processes or detail information about time or manner. Eggins (2004) stated circumstance is one of the transitivity system processes described by prepositional phrases. Thus, circumstance applies to all processes. Transitivity analysis is used to identify the participants involved, the processes that occur, and the circumstances. According to Sihura (2019) the type of transitivity process can be observed in speech, song lyrics, novels, and films.

This study uses political speech text as the subject of research because speech is a form of communication that includes various processes, actions, and events described through clause structures. According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), the clause is central in transitivity analysis because it serves as the key for



representing experience, structuring processes, participants, and circumstances to construct meaning in language.

The political speech text was taken from the official website of the President of Ukraine. (<https://www.president.gov.ua/en> accessed on 1 November 2024). This website is an official page that presents reliable information that uploads all presidential speeches, presidential activities, news, photos and videos that are divided into several columns. The speech text that will be used in this study is taken from the “speeches” column where this speech was held at the UN meeting with many other heads of state watching. On this website, the topic of the Ukraine and Russian war will be analyzed.

The political speech delivered by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the 2024 UN General Assembly was chosen because it directly discusses the real phenomenon occurring in Ukraine, namely the war between Ukraine and Russia. This speech reflects the emergency situation faced by the Ukrainian people, where Russian military aggression threatens not only the country's sovereignty, but also the safety, welfare, and future of its citizens. In the speech, President Zelenskyy specifically highlighted the serious threat to Ukraine's nuclear infrastructure, which has been attacked by Russia. This threat not only affects Ukraine, but also has the potential to endanger various surrounding countries and cause global instability. Through the process of transitivity in the war between Ukraine and Russia in the speech, readers are expected to gain a deeper understanding of how actions, events, and participants are represented in the speech text.

The example of data from second sentences of the first paragraph:

Example of Data

I	Received	one of the most terrifying reports
Actor	Material process	Phenomenon

The example above is a clause that can be classified as a material process. A material process is a type of process that indicates a concrete action or physical



event involving an actor and a result. In this clause, the President of Ukraine receives a message, which is a concrete and observable action. The use of material processes in speeches serves to emphasize concrete actions or the direct impact of an event. The word “receives” reflects that the President is experiencing an actual action.

There are several previous studies that related to this research. The first previous study was conducted by Octavia Chandra Dewi & Mahdi (2020) entitled *Material Processes in the Singaporean Online News on Forest Fires Issue*. The study was focused on analyzed material process. The second previous study was conducted by Ani Afifah et al. (2021) entitled *The Transitivity Of Lewis Capaldi's Songs Lyrics In Divinely Uninspired To A Hellish Extent Album*. This study analyzed all the type of transitivity process and use Lewis Capaldi's song as the subject of the research. The third previous study was conducted by Meriyanti et al. (2023) entitled *Mental Process Found in Donald Trump's Speech on Covid 19: Systemic Functional Linguistic Approach*. The study was focused on analyzed mental process. The last previous study was conducted by Puspita et al. (2024) entitled *An Analysis of Mood and Modality in Emma Watson's Speech at the HeForShe Campaign*. This study analyzed about Mood and Modality that include in interpersonal metafunction by Halliday.

Although previous studies have similarities, there are some differences with this study that create a research gap. This study focuses on all types of transitivity processes according to Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) in a speech delivered by the President of Ukraine at the UN General Assembly in 25 September 2024. Meanwhile, the research by Octavia Chandra Dewi & Mahdi (2020) focused to analyzed material processes. Another study conducted by Ani Afifah et al. (2021) focused on analyzing transitivity process using song as a data source. While, research by Meriyanti et al. (2023) focused to analyzed mental processes and research by Puspita et al. (2024) analyzed mood and modality that belong to interpersonal metafunction. A significant difference is this study explores all the types of transitivity processes and the functions of transitivity in



the speech texts. In other words, this is a relevant research gap to be further explored.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

1. What are the types of transitivity processes found on President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's political speech text at UN general assembly 2024?
2. How are the functions of transitivity processes used by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in his political speech text at UN general assembly 2024?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To identify the types of transitivity processes are found on President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's political speech text at UN general assembly 2024.
2. To explain the function of transitivity processes that used by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in his political speech text at UN general assembly 2024.

1.4 Significances of the Study

1.4.1 Theoretical significances

This research will provide explore knowledge and better understanding in Systematic Function Linguistics (SFL) about language by the use of transitivity, especially in speech. The results of this research can be used as information about the transitivity process and expected to be useful and contribute to readers in increasing better understanding through Halliday theory about "transitivity process".

1.4.2 Practical Significances

This research has several practical significances. This research has several practical benefits. First, this research helps readers understand how political issues, especially the Russia-Ukraine war, are represented through grammatical choices used by speakers in political speeches. Second, this



research provides insight for students or language learners to see how the transitivity process, which consists of material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal, and existential processes, is used as a tool in building political messages and influencing readers. Third, this study can be a useful reference for speechwriters or public speakers to understand how language structures, especially the six types of transitivity processes, can be used strategically to strengthen political messages and convince readers.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is about the Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL) theory by Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) which focuses on the transitivity process. Whereas, the limitation of this research is a speech text by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2024 about the war between Ukraine and Russia. Therefore, the speech script is uploaded on speeches column in the official website president of Ukraine.

(<https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/ne-mozhe-buti-spravedlivogo-miru-bez-ukrayini-vistup-prezide-93493>)

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

1. **Systematic Function Linguistics (SFL):** SFL is a functional theory of language, which describes how people use language to make meanings in context. Halliday & Matthiessen (2004)
2. **Transitivity Process:** Transitivity is a method that includes experiential function. This function places the clause as a representation. So, this method is used to analyze the clause. It consists of six types of the process; those are material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal and existential. Halliday & Matthiessen (2004)
3. **Political Speech:** Political speech is a way politicians use language to act, influence people, show power, and help others understand political events Dijk (1997).



4. **Russia-Ukraine War:** The war between Ukraine and Russia since 2014 until now began as a political and territorial conflict and escalated into a major military offensive in 2022. Walker (2023)
5. **Clause:** Clause is a part of a sentence which contains a subject and a verb. Swan (2005)

1.7 Thesis Organization

Chapter I: Introduction

It presents the background of study, statements of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, definition of key terms and thesis organization.

Chapter II: Review of related literature

It consists about systemic function linguistics (SFL), transitivity process and its type, Volodymyr Zelenskyy speech, previous studies.

Chapter III: Research methodology

It explains the research design, data and source of data, steps of collecting data and steps of analyzing data.

Chapter IV: Findings and discussion

It shows the findings of the research. In this chapter, the research results from the data analysis are presented clearly and in accordance with the applied theory.

Chapter V: Conclusion and suggestion

It contain about conclusion and suggestion.

