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Discourse Analysis

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Transitivity system

Language is used to represent/make sense of the world, and in order to achieve that, we need to know how to use grammatical resources of language. Halliday has divided the functions of language into three meta-function: ideational, interpersonal and textual.

Ideational meta-function is divided into: lexical choice and Transitivity. Transitivity is the main focus of this essay, in which it will be presented a long with examples and translations by which we can test its accuracy.

Transitivity is "the set of opinions relating to cognitive content, the linguistic representation of extralinguistic experience, whether of the phenomena of the external world or of feelings, thoughts and perceptions" Halliday (1976). In short, Transitivity is identified by three elements: participants (people or things involved in the process), process (actions involved in the sentence-verbs), circumstances (who, what, when, where, how, why the process occurred). In transitivity, a number of processes can be identified as to whether they represent an event, action, saying, behaviour, state of mind, state of being or state of existing.With this in mind, these processes can be classified into a number of processes, such as a material process, a verbal process, a behavioural process, a mental process, a relational process and an existential process.

1. **Mental process:** concerned with experiences of the material world. It is the processes of doing and happening. There are three roles in this process:

1. Obligatory role of the actor filled by the doer of process.

2. Optional role of the goal filled by entity affected by the processes.

3. Optional role of recipient or client that construes a benefactive role.

For example:

<div dir="rtl">

قتل اللص المرأة بالسكين

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Where the thief is the Actor of the process, that is, the doer of the act of killing, the woman is the Goal of the process, that is, the affected participant, and, the knife is the instrument used by the Actor to commit the act of killing.

2. Mental Process:

also known as processes of senses, expresses a state of mind or psychological events; therefore, they have to do with feelings, thinking, perceiving and wanting. It is classified by Halliday (1994) into four types:

• Emotion : she <u>hates</u> chocolate.

• Perceptive: to do with senses, e.g, smell, hearing, sight..etc.

Ross <u>saw</u> his childhood friend yesterday.

• Cognitive : To do with the mind

Leonard <u>knew</u> the answer.

• Disideration: he <u>intended</u> to buy a car

Mental process has two participants:

1. Obligatory role of sensor filled by entity that feels, thinks, perceive.

2. An optional role of phenomenon filled by entity that is felt, thought, or perceived by the sensor.

سمعته ينشق نشقات متتالية سريعة كمن يبحث عن مصدر رائحة ما! أدركت أنه اكتشف رائحة جديدة.

she [Senser] heard [process of sensing] him sniffing – fast, repetitive sniffs – like someone trying to ascertain the source of a particular smell. She [Senser] realized [process of sensing] that
he [Senser] had discovered [process of sensing] a new smell.

3. Verbal processes:

also known as processes of saying, they can be explicit (to say, to tell, to utter...etc) or implicit (to show , to indicate...etc). In verbal processes, there are four roles filled by participants:

1. An obligatory role of the sayer filled by the addresser.

<u>Adam</u> said that she liked soccer

2. Optional role of receiver filled by the addressee.

Susan told <u>Lisa</u> the good news

3. An optional role of the target filled by entity targeted by the verbal process:

Tim praised Lily for her work.

4. The role of verbiage filled by the content of what is said or the name of saying:

قال [process of saying] أحد المارة [Sayer] وهو يرفع رأسه [circumstance
ـ الصحف ويقرأون الشاي يشربون فوقنا إنهم [Verbiage

4. Behavioural Process

also know as processes of behaving which reflects physiological and psychological behaviours. They can be divided into:

1. Processes manifesting physiological behavours:

John kept coughing all night.

2. Processes representing bodily postures and pastimes:

She sang her heart out at the concert.

3. Physiological processes manifesting states of consciousness:

Jane frowned once she heard the news.

4. Material process functioning as behavioural process:

He was watching the match.

Behavioural processes usually have one participant labelled behavior:

ازدادت رائحة البخور وتكاثفت، وراحت عزيزة تتنفس بصوت مسموع. وهتف الشيخ سعيد فجأة:

((تعالوا تعالوا يا مباركين تعالوا))

The smell of incense grew much stronger.Aziza started to breathe loudly.

Sheikh Said shouted:"Come, blessed ones, come!"

5. Relational processes:

It is realized in English by the verb "to be" or some of the same class: to see, to grow, to feel, to remain...etc. This function is to model experiences in terms of being or having and it is divided into:

1. Relational process (identifying) , as the value absolutely tells us who/what the token is.

2. Relational process (attributive), as linked to carrier, many entities can have the same attribute.

Tony is the tallest boy in the class.

Tony= token

Is= identifying

Tallest...= value.

6. Existential processes

also known as processes of existing) are typically realized by the verb to be or some other related verbs, such as to exist, to remain, to arise, to occur, to happen, to take place, to come about and the like, as in:

There + verb to be or some other related verbs (is/was/are/were/will be/ have been)

there's something specifically important in this particular story which is being overlooked as a result of all the lazy journalism around it.

كشيٌءآخرمهم جدأَفي هذه القصة التي يجري التغاضي عنها نتيجةكسل وتهاون الصحافة عنه

three main components should be given serious consideration.They are:

1 the process itself normally expressed by a verbal group,

2 the participants determined in advance by the writer/speaker which are typically realized by a nominal group, with the exception of some processes of being (see above),

3 the circumstances associated with the process typically expressed by an adverb or a prepositional phrase.

7. Circumstances:

It is the extra information given by language user (speaker or writer) to provide their readers/hearers information about the :time, place, manner and reason of the process.

it can be classified into:

1. Extent circumstances:

Temporal= how long?/ he has been gone <u>for four hours</u>.

Spatial= when?/ He has been walking for 10 kilometers.

Location (temporal)= when? Jane left <u>three months ago</u>

Location (spatial) = where? / Jane left to <u>France</u>.

Manner (means)= by what means/ Jane left by train

Manner (Quality)= how? Jimmy trudged home wearily.

Manner (comparison)= like what? / She runs like a jogger.