

**Title : the transitivity system****Subject** The transitivity system review

As we knew from our last lecture and assignment that according to Halliday language is structured to make three types of meanings or meta function, ideational , interpersonal and textual function.

Ideational would be in our focus in this summarized review. The Ideational function is the way through which we represent our experience in language, Ideational function is divided into two subtype functions a-experiential function b- logical function, experiential function is concerned with content and ideas , while the logical function is concerned with the relationship between those ideas.

The experiential function is realized in language by the transitivity system, this system enables us to express who does what to whom where and how . According to Halliday (1985) transitivity system specifies the different types of processes that can be recognized in language, and these types indicate to the way that meaning encode and present in language. The transitivity system in discourse analysis shows how language users are encoding in language their mental pictures of reality and their experience in the world around them. According to Halliday (1994, p. 107), each situation type is made up of three components: “the process itself, participants in the process, and the circumstances associated with the process.” The process is realized by a verb and it is the central part of the situation. Participants are realized by a nominal group and circumstances are realized by adverbial groups or prepositional phrases.

Halliday distinguishes six different types of processes:

**1- material process**

Also known as processes of doing and happening, this type of processes includes clauses of doing and happening. The two main participants associated with this process are: the Actor (the doer of the process) and the Goal (the entity affected by the process).

Actor	Process: material	Goal
They	built	a house.
The mayor	dissolved	the committee.

She	Talks	to him	about her childhood.
Sayer	Pro: Verbal	Receiver	Verbiage

The revolution                    overthrew  
The Actor                         The process  
The doer                         Participant #1.

the Tsar  
The Goal  
The effected  
Participant #2

قتل اللص المرأة بالسكين

The thief killed the woman with a knife

The thief : the doer of the process participant #1  
Kill : the process ( material )  
The woman : the Goal , affected participant #2  
The knife : the instrument used by the doer.

She gave her son the last dollar she had

She : the doer participant #1  
Gave : the process ( material)  
Her son : the recipient participant #2  
The last dollar: the goal participant #3

## 2- Mental Processes

Mental processes can also called sensing process which encode meaning of thinking or feeling (Eggins, 1994 on Emilia, 2014). According to Halliday, Mental processes can be classified into three classes: Cognition (processes of thinking, knowing, understanding), Affection (Processes of like, dislike ,fearing, love , hate etc.), and Perception (Verbs of seeing and hearing , feel, taste etc.). Mental processes must always have two participants, they are a Senser (Human or conscious participant), and a Phenomenon (a nominal group or embedded clause summing up what is thought, wanted, perceived, or liked/disliked).

He	loved	his wife	at first sight.
Actor	Pro: mental	Phenomenon	Circumstance

The officer saw enemy soldier hiding behind the bushes

The officer : the Senser , the participant who saw

Saw : the mental process of perception  
Enemy solider .... : what is seen by the officer

Jean Paul Sartre believes in personal freedom

Jean Paul Sartre: Senser  
Believes. : mental process ( cognition process)  
In personal freedom : the phenomenon

Taha Hussein could not see ...  
Taha Hussein: Senser  
Couldn't see : process of sensing( perception )

### 3- verbal process

A verbal process is the process of saying. 'Saying' conveys any kind of symbolic exchange of meaning. The verbal process exists on the borderline between mental and relational processes. It manifest the consciousness of human in the form of language, like saying and meaning, etc. (Thompson, 2000). It also include all modes of expressing and indicating. They can be either explicit when verbs such as to say, to tell, to utter, to inform, to express, to complain and so on are used or implicit when verbs such as to show, to indicate, etc.

There is always one participant labeled as the Sayer including both human and anything that owns the ability of exchanging information and meaning. Three others participants, namely Receiver, Verbiage, and Target is involved in the verbal clause. The Verbiage is interpreted as the content of what is said and the name of the saying. The Receiver represents the addressee to whom the saying is directed, whereas the Target is the entity targeted by the process of saying. Here are some examples of verbal process:

Sayer	Process: verbal	Target	Receiver	Verbiage
He	told		me	the truth.
The report	says			that there is an accident.
She	praised	him.		

She              Talks              to him              about her childhood.  
Sayer              Pro: Verbal              Receiver              Verbiage

The prime minister Haider Al - Abadi announces to the Iraqi people the victory on ISIS

- The prime minister Haider Al - Abadi : the sayer
- Announces : verbal process
- To Iraqi people : addressee ( receiver )
- The victory on ISIS : the verbiage

صرح مسؤول خلية الأزمة للصحفيين بأن إيقاف الدوام في الجامعات والمدارس جاء بهدف الحفاظ على سلامة الطلبة والأساتذة والموظفين من خطر عدو فيروس كورونا ....

Crisis Cell official told reporters that the suspension of working hours in universities and schools was aimed at preserving the safety of students, professors, and employees from the risk of coronavirus infection ....

- Crisis Cell official : the sayer
- Told : verbal process
- Reports : receivers
- that the suspension of working hours.... : verbiage

#### 4- Behavioral Process

Behavioral processes are processes of physiological and psychological behavior, like breathing, dreaming, smiling, looking, listening, snoring, coughing, overhearing and pondering. Behavioral processes are concerned with the outer reflection of our inward thoughts. They are partly material and partly mental (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). There is only one participant labeled as Behaver, which is typically a conscious being. In some clauses, there may be another participant: the Range, which is not a real participant but merely adds specification to the process. They can be divided also into (1) processes manifesting physiological, (2) processes representing bodily postures and pastimes, (3) physiological processes manifesting states of consciousness and (4) material processes functioning as behavioral rocesses.

Behaver	Process	Range
She	gave	a faint sign.
My sister	coughed.	

Behavioral processes usually have one participant labelled Behaver. It is a process where the Behaver, like the Senser, is a conscious being, and the process is more like one of doing.

I	am listening	to the radio.
Behaver	Pro: behavioral	behavioral circumstance
A successful newspaper	does not yawn	
The Behaver	Behaving process	
	Negative	

## 5- Relational process

Relational processes are typically realized by the verb ‘be’ or some verbs of the same class (known as copular verbs); for examples, seem, become, appear, etc, or sometime by verbs such as have, own, possess. Halliday (1994:119) states that relational process is divided into two modes: identifying relational process and attributive relational process.

a- In the identifying mode, something has an identity assigned to it. It means that one entity is being used to identify another: ‘X is identified by A’, or ‘A serves to define the identity of X’. The X-element is labeled as identified, which

is to be identified, and the A element is labeled as identifier, which serves an identity. This mode is realized by the verbs: ‘be’ (is, am, are, was, were...), become, etc.

b- Attributive relational processes are the processes which assign a quality. ‘A is an attribute of X’. In other words, in this mode an entity has some quality ascribed or attributed to it. This type is realized by the verbs: sound, look, play, cost, have, get, seem, etc.

In other words, these processes enable language users to characterize, describe, identify, define and classify some details of the picture conjured up in their minds. By doing so, they will be able to relate one fragment of experience to another. When the function of the relational process is to characterize or describe, then there are two participants, viz. Carrier and Attribute. However, when the relational process is to identify or classify, then there are two participants, namely Identified and Identifier. When the two participants (Identified and Identifier) are reversible, then the relational process is a process of identifying. However,

when the two participants (Carrier and Attribute) are not reversible, the relational process is attributive.

a- the process of being

Imam Ali	was	a just ruler
carrier	process of	
	Attributive	Attributer
Abraham Lincoln	was	very tall and thin.
Carrier	Pro: attributive	Attribute

b- the process of having

I	Have	Three naughty
boys		
Possessor	Pro. having	Possessed

## 6- Existential process

Between Relational and Material processes are Existential processes which prove states of being, existing, and happening. Existential processes typically employ the verb be or its synonyms such as exist, arise, occur. The only participant in this process is Existential which follows the there is /are sequences.

Once upon a time	there	was	a little girl.
Circumstance		Pro: existential	Existential

- In studying these different types of processes, 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.
- 3 the circumstances associated with the process typically expressed by an adverb or a prepositional phrase.

## Circumstances:

circumstances that may be employed by the language user to provide their readers/hearers with extra information on the time, place, manner and reason of the process. According to Halliday circumstances can be classified as follows:

### - location circumstances

- a- temporal    Last year I purchased a Swiss watch              When?  
b- spatial        I have lived in Mosul for five years              Where?

### - Extent circumstances

- a- Duration.    I have driven for six hours.              How long ?  
b- Distance.     I drove 400 kilometers last night.    How far ?  
c- Frequency     I visit Najaf four times a year    How many times?

### - Manner circumstances

- a- Quality      He threw the ball to his friend strongly.              How?/With what?  
b- Means        He opened the door with a tea spoon.              By what means?  
c- Comparison. Try to do your job as professionally as you can.              How?  
d- Degree # All his friends love him deeply.                      How much?

### - cause circumstances

- a- Reason.        I have left early as I have a lot of things. to do. Why?  
b- Purpose        I went to the mall to buy a new laptop. For what purpose?  
c- Behalf          He said sorry on behalf of his son. On whose behalf?

### - Contingency circumstances

- a- condition.    In case of emergency, the students can leave the exam room and go to the WC.  
b- Default.        In the absence of the teacher, the head of the department can ask any teacher to cover him/her.  
c- concession.    Despite his illness, he has managed to complete his studies.

### - Accompaniment circumstances

- a- Company        She goes to school with her dad. With whom?  
b- Lack of company    She can live in this city without him. Without whom?

### - Role circumstances

- a-Guise            I have worked as a translator for many years. What as?  
b- Product        She cut the cake into many small pieces. What into?

- matter circumstances

Focusing              Do not think about these silly issues if you want What about?  
to ease your mind.

- angle circumstances

a- Source              According to our teacher, we are not allowed According to whom? to use dictionaries.

b- Viewpoint              It seems to me she won't come to the party. What's your opinion?