

Characterization of Ellen Adams and Bashir Shah in State of Terror: A Stylo-transitivity Study

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Abstract

The current research is concerned with the analysis of two characters who were the access points in State of Terror (2021) written by the former United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and the Canadian mystery novelist Louise Penny. Characterization is an area in literature where writers do their own best to create their own characters creatively. The current research is an attempt to shed light on an important character created by Hillary and Louise. A systemic functional analysis SFL is applied as a framework to analyze the characters. Concentration was on the role of transitivity in showing the hidden ideologies in the Ellen Adams the fictional US secretary of State and the Pakistani nuclear physicist Bashir Shah. A quantitative research methodology was used to stand on the levels of transitivity in which the basic unit is the clause. The corpus linguistic tool used in this research is the UAM software. The ideology that the research tries to show is Islamophobia, terrorism, and patriotism. The research aims to show how linguistics has helped to an extent in literary text analysis.

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توصيف إلين آدمز وبشير شاه في رواية حالة الإرهاب: دراسة نمطية انتقالية

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المستخلص

يعرض البحث الذي بين يدينا تحليل شخصيتين كان لهما تأثير كبير بعدهما محوري الرواية حالة الإرهاب (2021) التي كتبت بقلم وزيرة خارجية الولايات المتحدة السابقة هيلاري رودهام كلينتون والروائية الكندية المختصة بكتابة الروايات الغامضة لويز

* طالب دكتوراه / قسم اللغة الانكليزية/كلية الاداب / جامعة الموصل.

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بيني. التوصيف مجال في الأدب يبذل فيه الكتاب قسارى جهدهم لخلق شخصياتهم الخاصة بشكل إبداعي. ويلقي هذا البحث الضوء على شخصيتين مهمتين أنشأتها هيلاري ولويز. يتم تحليل الشخصية تحليلًا لغويًا باستخدام النحو الوظيفي كإطار عمل. وسيكون التركيز على إظهار الأيديولوجيات المخفية في إين آدمز ، وزير الخارجية الأمريكية المتخيل والفيزيائي النووي الباكستاني بشير شاه. استعمل الباحث المنهجية الكمية في هذا لبحث ، يتم استخدام منهجية البحث الكمي للوقوف على مستويات أنواع العمليات إذ إن الوحدة الأساسية المعتمدة هي الجملة وليست الجملة. وكان البرنامج المستعمل في التحليل هو UAM الذي تمكن الباحث من خلاله اظهار الأيديولوجيات مثل الكراهية للمسلمين والإرهاب والوطنية. يهدف البحث إلى توضيح كيف أن اللسانيات ساعدت إلى حد ما في تحليل النص الأدبي. إن البحث ذو قيمة للباحثين المهتمين بمراعاة اللغويات في تحليلهم الأدبي ولطلاب أدب الحياة.

الكلمات المفتاحية : النحو الوظيفي ، الأيديولوجيا، الاحضار اللغوي

Research Questions

- What are the common process types that appear in dialogues Ellen Adams and Bashir Shah in *Sate of Terror* ?
- Does transitivity help the internal and external world experiences of individuals?

Methodology

The present study adopted a corpus-based approach. It shows language use and variation. Corpora can be used both qualitatively and quantitatively as far as analysis is concerned (McEnery & Hardie, 2011). So, it is in terms of frequency and statistics.

Corpus

The Corpus of this study includes the dialogues between the immigration officers at Heathrow Airport and Isma Pasha in Kamila Shamsie *Home Fire*. The purpose is to identify the empirical meaning of the dialogues.

Research Tool

The UAM Corpus Tool (version 3.3) was used for text annotation and segmentation. It provides various features such as text encoding, tagging schemes, text processing, and text analysis.

Background

Research on systematic functional grammar has gained wide popularity, especially among Western/Indo-European scholars. The work of Halliday (1971) is considered one of the most important stylistic studies implemented under the SFL. Halliday analyzes William Golding's *The Heirs* (1955), examining, among other things, the linguistic patterns that encode the different Neanderthal 'thinking styles' that inhabit the narrative (Simpson, 2004).

Halliday analyzes two of his sentences. One from Lok's point of view and the other from Tribal's point of view. He notes that the narrator (Lok) portrays the tribe's actions as sporadic and aimless. Physical influences rarely affect nearby objects. Ideally, Lok's language is always characterized by material processes that realize actors, but not goals. From a transitive perspective, these aimless processes make the behavior appear spontaneous, even though it is clear from the narrative context that the behavior was caused by external factors.

Halliday says that Lok's language creates an atmosphere of inefficient activity when people move, but only those who move are affected and nothing else changes. Halliday analyzes the pattern of transitivity in the tribal passage and notes this. Half of the investigated nodes are transitive material nodes in which human actors act for specific external goals.

Halliday argues that the variations in transitivity mirror a discrepancy with the cognitive

capabilities of Neanderthals and their invaders. Although Halliday does not examine power directly, his work shows how transitivity can display dominant ideologies via word selection.

In his study of Plath's novel, *The Bell Jar* Burton (1982) recognized the different representations of the participants. For example, all the processes of a doctor and a nurse are transitive material processes that depict them as performing actions in the physical world. This means that three participants control the ongoing processes. The Narrator discards the doctor, the nurse, and the electricity as a helpless Goal, which affects not only her, but also other entities around.

Moreover, since the present research is within ideologies, it is of much importance to shed light on CDA. A study by Wang (2010) shows how power and ideology are embedded in Obama's CDA. The analysis is carried out by the researcher shows that Obama changed his own ideology depending on the timing of his speeches before the presidential election or after he took office.

Holliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL)

Halliday' Systemic Functional Linguistics(SFL) is concerned with the social context and takes into consideration the functional role of language in communication. The roots of this developed grammar came back to the anthropologist Malinowski. Also, this grammar considered language as the source of meaning-making

Ideational Meta-function

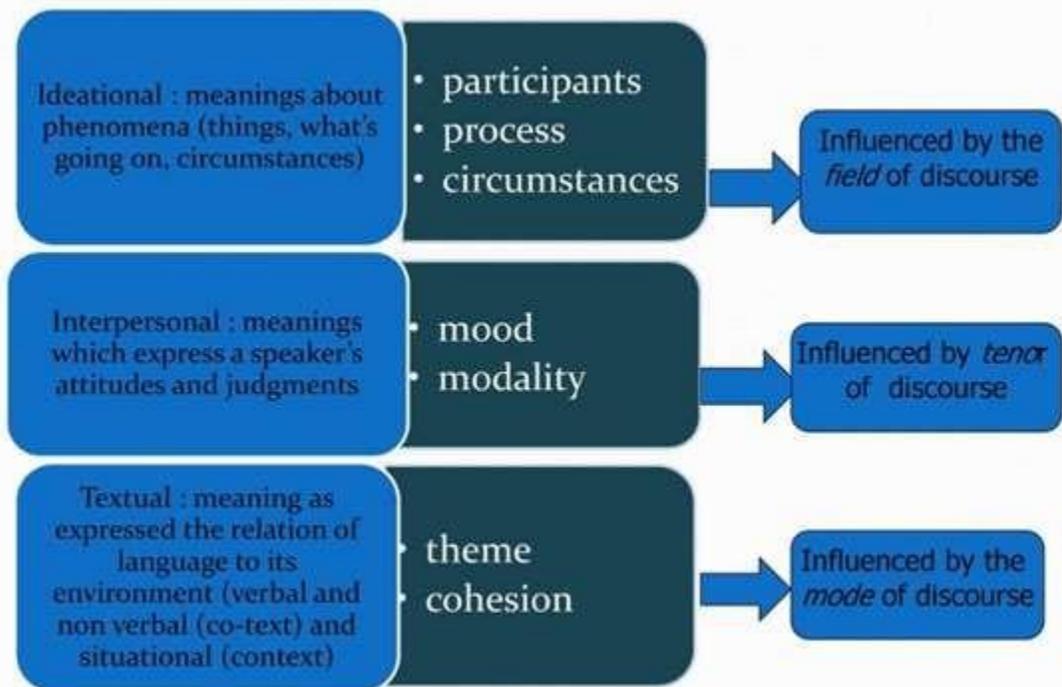


Figure: based on Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014

An ideal metafunction uses field resources to build ideas and experiences. These resources require you to choose a specific kind of verb called process, and different kinds of verbs form different kinds of nouns or groups of nouns called participants. This means that each participant can play different roles depending on which verb the sentence refers to. Furthermore, different kinds of adverbs and

prepositional phrases constitute different kinds of situations (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

process Types

In Systemic Functional Linguistics (SF) the processes are represented by verbs of doing, happening, and being. Gerot and Wignell (1995) state that both participants and circumstances represent the essence of the process types. It can be said that different participants' roles can occur differently expressing different issues depending on the writer and what ideas or themes he likes to convey in different situations. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) talk about six process types namely material, behavioral, mental, verbal, relational, and existential.

Table: 1 Major Process types, their meanings and characteristic participants adopted from Halliday & Matthiessen (2014: 311)

Process type	Category meaning	Participants, directly involved	Participants, obliquely involved
Material: Action Event	'doing' 'doing' 'happening'	Actor, Goal	Recipient, Client; Scope; Initiator; Attribute
Behavioural	'behaving'	Behaver	Behaviour
Mental: Perception Cognition Desideration Emotion	'sensing' 'seeing' 'thinking' 'wanting' 'feeling'	Senser, Phenomenon	Inducer
Verbal	'saying'	Sayer, Target	Receiver; Verbiage
Relational: Attribution Identification	'being' 'attributing' 'identifying'	Carrier, Attribute Identified, Identifier; Token, Value	Attributor, Beneficiary Assigner
Existential	'existing'	Existent	

a. Material processes

Halliday and Matthiessen (2014:226) argue that Material processes are used to depict actions and events (doings and happenings). The material process types include actions, activities, and events. In addition, there is an involvement of the participants. These participants include the Actor, a person or an object, and the Goal, animate or inanimate, which may or may not be involved in the process:

Table2 : Material Process Type

Participant 1	Process	Participant 2	Circumstance
She	Dusts	The ash dirt	Over her face
Actor	Material	Goal	Location
Young girls whose breasts are just emerging	Smear	Shea butter	On their bodies
Actor	Material	Goal	Location
Ocol	Condemns	Diviner-priests and Acoli herbalists	/
Actor	Material	Goal	/
He	Gave	it to the people to drink!	/
Actor	Material	Goal	/

b. Mental processes

For Halliday and Matthiessen (2004: 197-9) Mental Processes are processes of sensing. They are concerned with what is experienced consciously. The processes are of feeling, thinking, and, seeing. The participants are two: Sensor and Phenomenon is shown in Table 3 below.

Table3: Mental Process Type

Participant 1	Process	Participant 2	Circumstance
I	Cry	Over my husband	whose head is lost
Senser	Mental	Phenomenon	Manner
Husband, you	Despise	Me	now
Senser	Mental	Phenomenon	Time
I	Do not know	The rules of health	/
Senser	Mental	Phenomenon	/
I	Do not understand	The way of foreigners	/
Senser	Mental	Phenomenon	/

c. Behavioral processes

Behavioral processes express physiological and psychological behavior. They are on the borderline between mental and material processes (Halliday 1994:107). They represent both activities of doing and sensing. Consider Table 4 below .

Table 4: Behavioral Process Type

Participant 1	Process	Participant 2	Circumstance
They	Dance	/	Silently/ like wizards
Behaver	Behavioral	/	Manner/ comparison
You	Dance and you sing	Provocative songs	With confidence
Behaver	Behavioral	Range (complement)	Manner

Table 5: Relational Process Type

Participant 1	Process	Participant 2	Circumstance
He	Is	Clever	like white man
Carrier	Relational	Attribute	Comparison
Ignorance	Stands	Like an elephant	There
Carrier	Relational	Attribute	Location
They	Are	all wizards	/
Identified	Relational	Identifier	/
time	Is not	(stupidly) split up into seconds and minutes	In the wisdom of the Acoli / stupidly
Identified	Relational	Identifier	Location/ Manner
The stomach	Seems to be	A powerful force	For joining political parties
Identified	Relational	Identifier	Cause

Verbal process Type

Halliday (2004: 252-253) asserts that verbal process means saying process. It occurs within the mental and relational processes Participants within the verbal process are Sayer and what is said is called Verbiage respectively the addressee to whom the Verbiage is directed is a Receiver or Target. In terms of agency, the Sayer is more powerful since his Verbiage can affect the life of the Receiver.

Table 6 : Verbal Process Type

Existential Process

Participant 1	Process	Participant 2	Verbiage	Circumstance
He	Says	/	Terrible things about my mother	/
Sayer	Verbal	/	Verbiage	/
He	Says	/	Rubbish	/
Sayer	Verbal	/	Verbiage	/
We	Recited	The prayers	/	For saying yes and the prayer of love, the prayer of trust
Sayer	Verbal	Target	/	Cause

Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) and (Simpson 2004: 25) state that existential processes involve the word **There** is only one participant in this type of process: The Existent. It represents anything that exists whether an animate or inanimate entity.

Table 7 Existential

Process Types

Process	Participant	Circumstance
There is	Something wrong	With his brother's head
Existential	Existent	Location
There is	No brain	In it
Existential	Existent	Location

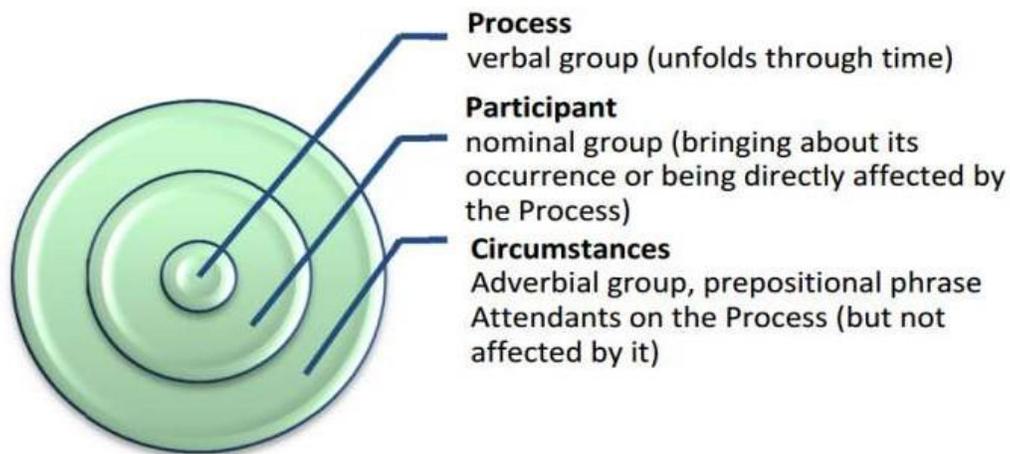


Figure 1: Elements in the structure of the clause, based on Halliday and Matthiessen (2014, p. 222).

5 Participant

According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), a participant is an entity involved in a process type. Participants can be people, places, or objects. you're getting closer to the center They are either directly involved in the process or influenced by the process. Each type of process has numerous participants realized by noun groups and pronouns. Participants in the material process are the actor, goal, and recipient. An actor is someone who performs an action, a goal is someone who is affected by the action, and a recipient is someone who receives something. Participants in mental processes are Sensor and phenomena, while those in verbal processes are Sayer and Verbiage. The Sayer is the one who communicates and the Verbiage is what is said. Additionally, the roles of participants in each clause may vary depending on the nature of the process.

Circumstantial

Simply put, Gerot and Wignell (1995), Circumstance is concerned with answering when, where, why, how, how many, and what questions. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), circumstantial evidence is classified into nine elements: **extent, location, cause, contingency, accompaniment, role, matter, and angle.**

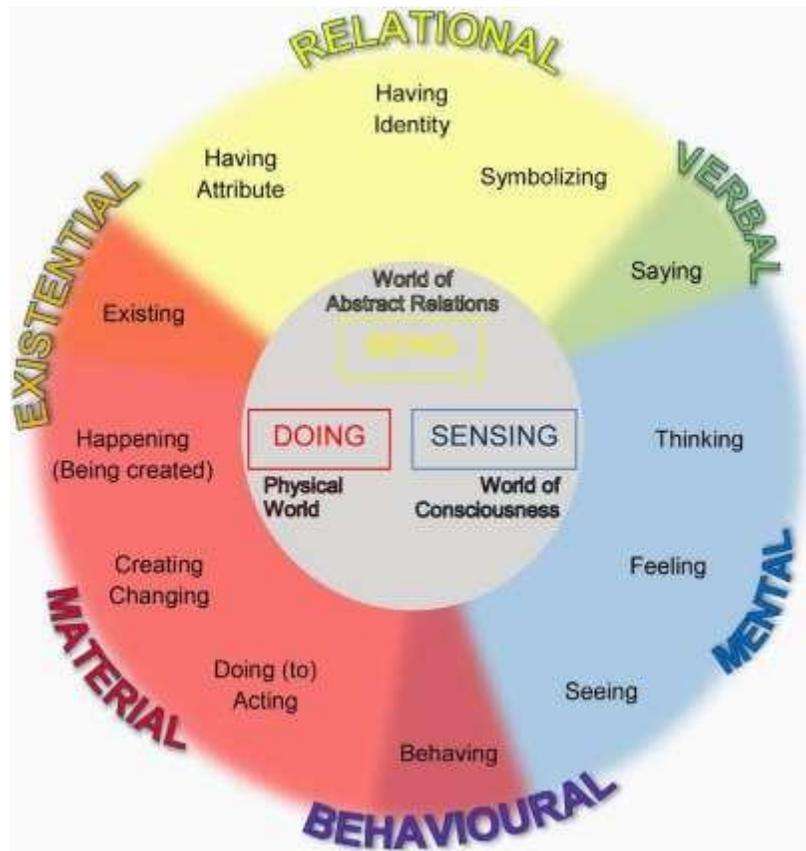


Figure2: The Overlap of Process Types (based on Halliday)

a. Interpersonal Meta-function

According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, 2014), interpersonal metafunctions enable us to interact with people to form relationships with others and express opinions about situations and events. The most basic purpose of any exchange is to give or solicit "commodities ", which are either information, goods, or services. The labels used are traditional: statement, question, offer, and order. Statements and questions involve exchanges of information, known as propositions while offers and commands represent exchanges of goods and services, known as proposals. These semantic categories are realized through grammatical moods and modalities.

b. Textual Meta-function

Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, 2014) describe textual metafunctions in detail. They state that every phrase contains a message. One element is highlighted in each sentence and is called *Theme* the remaining elements are called *Rheme*. The Theme is placed in the first position. So, as it has been seen.

You	Are required to be familiar with this new place.
Theme	Rheme

One of the fairies	had to be left out
Theme	Rheme

None of the guests	was saddened by this
Theme	Rheme

Ellen Adams

Ellen Adams, a widow in her late 50s and a mother of two children is the former head of a global media company just similar to CNN. She has recently been appointed as secretary of state by the newly elected President Williams. Both Adams and Williams have been enemies for many years, so her appointment was a surprise. As the new administration seeks to repair the damage caused by the previous President, Eric Dunn, Ellen returns from a catastrophic trip to Korea with her friend and counselor Betsy Jameson, and her Chief of Staff Charles Boynton. Amid the fallout of the trip, Ellen suspects that President Williams has set her up to fail.

The **U.S.** president-elect is no more surprised when he names her as his nominee for Secretary of State. It's all a strategy— accepting the nomination means that Adams will no longer be able to publicly criticize him.

In her early weeks as a Secretary of State, a series of terrorist attacks throws the global order into disarray, and the secretary is tasked with assembling a team to unravel the deadly conspiracy, a scheme carefully designed to take advantage of an American government dangerously out of touch and out of power in the places where it counts the most.

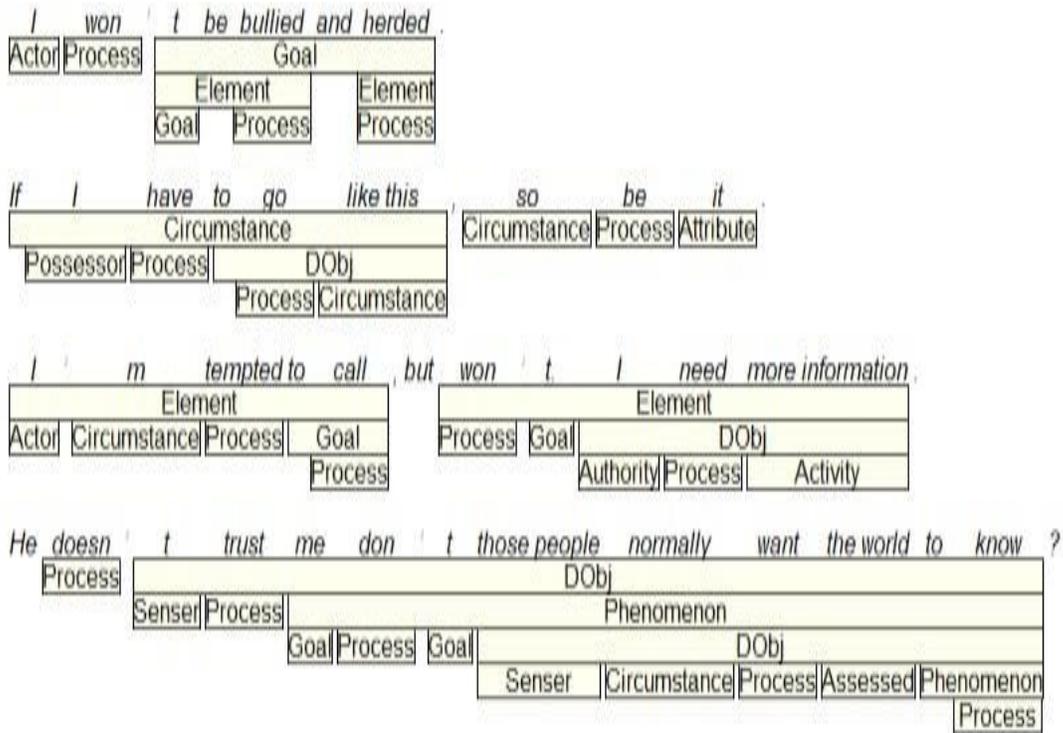
Table 8 Process-types attributed to Farooq in relation to other characters

CLAUSE-TYPE	Ellen Adams		Comparison			
	N	%	ChiSqu	P	Signif	Effect Size
- material	333	10.7	0.03	0.8743		0.007
- mental	176	5.6	2.98	0.0842	+	0.081
- verbal	41	1.3	3.34	0.0676	+	0.074
- relational	91	2.9	0.06	0.8016		0.011
- modal	0	0.0	0.00	1.0000		
- existential	20	0.6	0.86	0.3532		0.046
TOTAL:	661	21.2%				

Table 8 shows that Ellen Adams, the Secretary of State has accorded the following Process types respectively (Material 333 tokens), Mental Process type (176 tokens), Verbal Process type (41 tokens), and finally relational process type (91 tokens) and Existential (20 tokens). The number of the Material Process type refers that Ellen Adams a strong woman who has her own charismatic personality since she has been the owner of the biggest propaganda machine in the US. She was the main critic of the elected president who nominated her as a secretary of state to keep her away from him as a president and to be busy with her new job. Mental tokens were the second on the list. This means that she is prudent enough in taking her decisions. She studies everything well before stepping ahead. This appears clearly when she travels o several countries. Concerning verbal tokens, it seems that she does not report others and she listens to others most of the time. Dealing with the relational tokens (91), it seems that description is used a lot. She is a Sensor most of the time due to her status as a Secretary of State. The last process types are **the** existential process type where the expletive there is used a lot since its use expresses power. Examples related to the Secretary Ellen will be explained.

Table 8 above shows clearly the transitivity process types distribution with the Secretary of State Ellen Adams. Ma

Example:



Example:

I d hardly call what happened in London 'surgical True .
 Actor Circumstance Circumstance Process Goal
 Goal Process Circumstance

I meant surgical in terms of purpose .
 Sensor Process Phenomenon Circumstance

A narrow, defined goal .
 Circumstance
 Process Goal

We see hundreds dead, they might see only one.
 Phenomenon Sensor Process
 Sensor Process Phenomenon

We see horrific destruction; they see a single building gone .
 Sensor Process Phenomenon Parataxis
 Sensor Process Phenomenon
 Qualif
 Process

Within this example, Ellen as a participant is Sensor. The process type is mental since the verbs “mean and see” have been used. Even as Sensor, the pronoun “We” is used which refers that she is not talking about her issue but she presents a country and a nation. This dialogue was when she was in a meeting with some European foreign ministers.

Example:

I can tell you, Mr. President, what we know .
 Sayer Process Verbiage
 Qualif
 Phenomenon Sensor Process

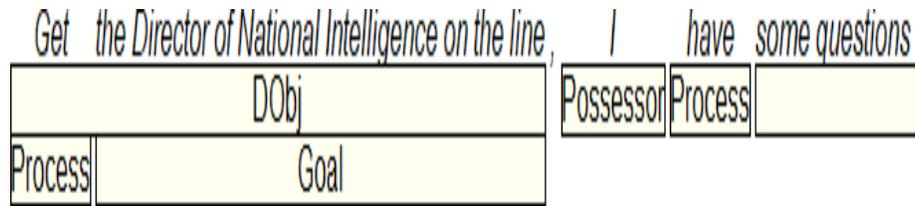
I can give you facts, not speculation .
 Actor Process Recipient Goal

It s a possibility.
 Process

In this example, Ellen is once a Sayer, and the other time she is an Actor. Both of these sentences refer that she has the power to know who is behind these explosions that hit Europe and what she is saying is not a matter of speculation. It means that

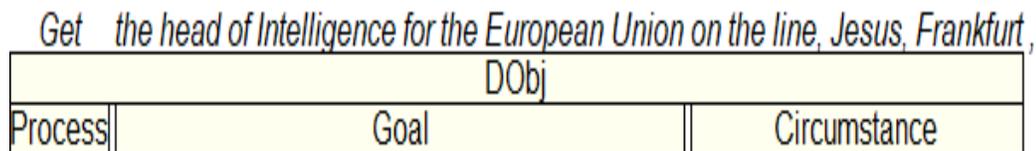
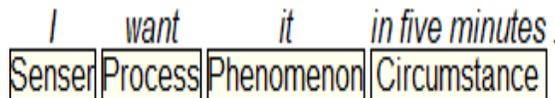
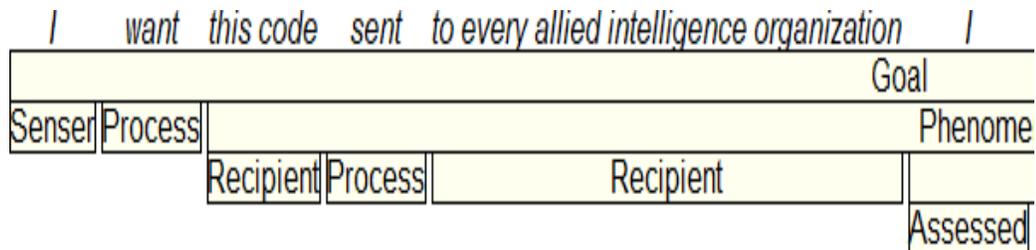
she is really the head of American politics. Her own experience as an owner of a Media Institution has given her that professionalism in dealing with such issues.

Example:



In the example above, once again, Ellen Adams is practicing her authority as a Secretary of State. The clause is imperative and here she is talking about the Director of National Intelligence which represents an important status in the United States. She says in the other clause that she has some questions which means that she has the power that enables her to do so.

Example:



Here again, Ellen Adams is experiencing her authority. *I want this code sent* implies that she is in power and the second clause she wants it in five minutes no more. In the third clause, Ellen uses the imperative clause with the head of Intelligence asking him to join her in Frankfurt where the bus was exploded. There are a lot of examples related to the Secretary of State that express power. It is hard to

find even a clause that expresses her weakness. Since this novel was written by the former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the First Lady, so all these examples have been written with intention. She has chosen her own lexicon to express stylistically that a Secretary of State or anyone in power in terms of transitivity process type, material ones will be bigger in number in comparison with other process types.

4.7 Bashir Shah

Bashir Shah, a nuclear physicist and arms dealer “intent on creating a hell on earth.”. He was secretly freed from prison with the blessing of the previous U.S. president., may be involved. Ellen once produced a documentary evidence about him which made him so angry that he kidnapped and nearly killed her son Gil. To this day, Ellen suspects that Shah may have killed her husband and is still taunting her from afar. According to General Whitehead, the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Shah was unexpectedly released from house arrest in Pakistan during the previous administration. Ellen begins to suspect that Tim Beecham, the Director of National Intelligence may be a traitor.

Table 4.6 Process-types attributed to Farooq in relation to other characters

CLAUSE-TYPE	Bashir Shah		Comparison			
	N	%	ChiSqu	P	Signif	Effect Size
- material	64	10.5	0.03	0.8743		0.007
- mental	24	3.9	2.98	0.0842	+	0.081
- verbal	14	2.3	3.34	0.0676	+	0.074
- relational	19	3.1	0.06	0.8016		0.011
- modal	0	0.0	0.00	1.0000		
- existential	2	0.3	0.86	0.3532		0.046
TOTAL:	123	20.1%				

The table shows that Bashir Shah, a nuclear physicist and arms dealer has accorded the following Process types respectively Material (64 tokens), Mental Process type (24 tokens), Verbal Process type (14 tokens), and finally relational process type (19 tokens) and Existential (2 tokens). The number of the Material Process type refers that Bashir Shah being strong enough since he works explicitly

and implicitly with mostly all Middle East countries promising them to build them reactors. He was under house arrest in Pakistan but he arrived suddenly in the US soils and more specifically the White House. This means that there is high treason on the American part with top officials.

Example:

Watching what was happening here in the States .

Actor	Process	Circumstance	Circumstance
Process	Goal		

Watching you make a balls-up of democracy .

Actor	Process	Goal
Process	Goal	

Very entertaining .

Circumstance	Process
--------------	---------

Best reality show ever , though it' s not actually reality , is it ?

			DObj	Process	Subj
Actor	Process	Circumstance	Circumstance		
			Process	Circumstance	

Most of politics, of so-called democracy, is an illusion, staged for the great unwashed .

Carrier		Process	Attribute		
			Qualif		
			Process	Circumstance	

In the example above, Bashir Shah is talking to the Secretary of State, Ellen Adams at the white house. He tells her to watch what is happening in the State. The social issues are too bad and the families are no longer families and have that familial bond that gathers them. Look house Muslims have been dealt with. Look at the racism against the black. All this happen under the slogan of Freedom and democracy. It is really a big lie. It is an illusion. All these facts that the Secretary of State likes to show but indirectly via a third party who is wanted by the US government and he was found due to traitors in the white house.

Example:

Ah, fifty-eight minutes, All this goes away.

Goal	Actor	Process
------	-------	---------

Given a choice between bedlam and a dictatorship.

Process	Goal
---------	------

what do you think the American people will choose ?

Phenomenon	Senser	Process	DObj
	Senser	Process	

Driven by fear of another attack, in a state of terror.

Process	Circumstance	Circumstance
---------	--------------	--------------

They 'll do the terrorists' work for them .

Actor	Circumstance	Process	Goal
-------	--------------	---------	------

They 'll destroy their own freedoms .

Actor	Process	Goal
-------	---------	------

The dialogue continues between Bashir Shah and Ellen Adams about the code of the bombs planted in some of the US States. He asks her what do you think the American people will choose. They are actually driven by fear. The American people still remember the 9/11. He tells her that the American people live in a state of terror. Their leaders are the ones who bring terrorists to them via the equality practiced inside and outside the States. The unfair wars were waged against the world nations aiming to steal their own resources. All these attacks are reactions against the unfair policies practiced against the nations, especially Muslims.

Example:

The liberal agenda, women' s equality, gay marriage, immigrants, will be blamed for the death of the real America.

Goal	Parataxis	Process	Circumstance
	Process		

Once again, the dialogue above between Bashir Shah and Ellen Adams continues. He pays attention to certain issues that touch the American people and their ethics; women's equality, gay marriage, immigrants, and the crucial laws executed against immigrants. The writers cleverly convey a message that America the real America is dying because of the unwanted things that are happening in the American community. This novel is not written by a foreigner but it is written by the US Secretary of State and the first lady of America. There are a lot of examples where transitivity and stylistic met.

It is time to comment on the results of both novels and it is time to say that power plays an important role in both novels . When unfair power is experienced by their institutions against people, it represents that equality and wrongfulness will have been swept out.

Conclusion

Transitivity analysis can be read revealed , the inner and outer aspects of human experience and can identify "who is doing what with whom". This is essential for easily deciphering and understanding the text. Transitivity deals with the transmission of worldviews and the interpretation of experiences. It represents the worldview of the persona depicted in the text of the story. It represents the experience of the inner and outer worlds of the narrator or person depicted in the language of the short story. Transitivity is essential in constructing the experience of the inner or outer world of the characters portrayed by the novelist. Concerning *State of Terror*, the tokens in Ellen Admas have recorded (333 tokens) material and (176) tokens Mental. This reflects stylistically that the writer knows well that the Secretary of State represents the government and the government in reverse represents power. Ellen Adams mostly was the Actor and the clauses were active. This refers to power and confidence.

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