

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the Research

In human life, language functions as a tool to construe every human experience and act out people's social relations. In this understanding, language can be understood as a code that expresses meaning and is used in contexts that exist in human relationships to get things done through communication. Language and humans as language users go through similar natural phenomena. They grow, change, develop, and even die. Therefore, no wonder that everything in human life involves language, even matters related to crime. Of the various kinds of crimes that exist, one of them is terrorism which is an extraordinary crime and occurs not only in Indonesia but also throughout the world.

Terrorism is an ideology that encourages violence and creates conditions of fear in society. The far-reaching effects of fear that they make are the result of physical crimes as well as language crimes. In various crimes and violence that often occur involving language, the manipulation of language is the most obvious fact that can be found. The language used by the perpetrators of terror can create uncomfortable social conditions for the community. However, it is possible that the language they use also creates a different atmosphere depending on to whom the language is addressed.

In connection with what has been discussed previously, this study will focus on analyzing the phenomenon of language used by the perpetrators of terror. The language that will be analyzed is written language in the form of suicide letters

written by the perpetrators when they are about to or are carrying out the action. Some of the concepts used in this research will be explained first. As quoted from the official UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) website, the act of terror is defined as a criminal act committed to cause death/serious injury, provoke a group of certain people, intimidate a group/population, or force government/a particular organization to take or not to take any action.

There are many forms of crime that can be categorized as terror. However, the acts of terror referred to in this study are limited to bomb attacks in Indonesia. Therefore, perpetrators or terrorists meant in this study are bombers or all people or parties, whether the mastermind or the executor, involved in the bomb attack. Based on demographic data compiled from the Global Terrorism Database (GTD), there were at least 166 bomb attacks occurring in Indonesia during 2002-2019. Of these several cases attracted not only the Indonesian people's attention, but also the world's attention. The bomb attacks, include the Bali I Bombing (2002), the JW Marriott Bombing (2003), the Australian Embassy Bombing (2004), the Bali bombing II (2005), and Sarinah bombing (2016).

Some bombers wrote letters or last messages when they planned a bomb attack or before they decided to blow themselves up in suicide bombings. The bombers whose letters were analyzed in this research belong to Dr. Azahari, Dian Yulia Novi, and Lukman Alfariz. Dr. Azahari was an intellectual from Malaysia who was strongly suspected of being the mastermind behind the 2002 Bali Bombings, 2005 Bali Bombings, and other attacks by Jemaah Islamiyah (a militant Islamic organization in Southeast Asia affiliated with Al-Qaeda). Dr. Azahari wrote

a letter addressed to his beloved wife, Noraini Jusoh. Unfortunately, the letter never reached his wife since it was found in Batu, Malang, where Dr. Azahari died in a shootout with the National Police's anti-terror squad.

The next bomber who also left a suicide letter before committing her act was Dian Yulia Novi. This woman intended to detonate a suicide bomb at the State Palace on December 11, 2016. Prosecutors said Dian Yulia Novi targeted the Presidential Security Forces as her victims. Luckily, the police managed to sniff out the action, and Dian was arrested, so the suicide bombing was thwarted. She was suspected of being instigated by the ISIS doctrine and intended to carry out a bomb attack in her own country because she could not go to Syria. Before being arrested, Dian Yulia Novi wrote a letter to her husband in Cirebon, West Java. The letters were successfully confiscated by Densus 88 Anti-terror in a package that was planned to be sent to her parents.

The next letter was written by Lukman Alfariz, the suicide bomber at the Makassar Cathedral Church that occurred on Sunday, March 28, 2021. He carried out a suicide bombing with his wife, whom he only married a few months before the suicide bombing incident. Quoted from BBC News Indonesia (2021), Pol. General Inspector Argo Yuwono, the Head of the Public Relations Division of the National Police, revealed that Lukman Alfariz and his wife were affiliated with JAD (Jamaah Ansharut Daullah, which is affiliated with ISIS). Lukman's letter addressed to his mother was found at his parent's house, as confirmed by the National Police Chief General Listyo Sigit Prabowo at a press conference on Monday, March 29, 2021 (BBC News Indonesia, 2021). This study explores the

language phenomenon used by the perpetrators of bomb attacks using Halliday's transitivity structure. Halliday's transitivity structure was used to see the perpetrators' experiential meaning according to the discourses they left before committing their crimes.

The analysis was carried out by applying Halliday's transitivity structure that focuses on language at the clause level. The clause relates to the representation of our experience in the world (Fontaine, 2013). The transitivity structure is part of the theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics developed by Halliday. By identifying the elements of the clause with transitivity analysis, the ideational meaning of the text can be revealed. This transitivity structure analysis will allow us to see the possible construal of related reality written by some terrorists (from now on, referred to as 'bombers' or 'perpetrators of bomb attacks' to be more specific) based on the grammar of Processes, Participants, and Circumstance elements.

This research is essential for several reasons, such as: *first*, there are still many people who are unaware of the possibility of criminal loads in the spoken or written language that a person uses. This public unawareness will become an easy target for terrorists or criminals who want to expand their network. *Second*, in this digital era, many texts on the internet can be accessed by people from all walks of life. The letters written by the perpetrators of these bomb attacks are examples of things that can be accessed freely because they have been widely distributed on the internet. Irresponsible people can use this to instill ideologies, interests, or ideas contrary to the applicable laws and norms through language. *Third*, language as part

of society's culture should protect the society itself. Some of these factors are used to conduct research on letters written by the perpetrators of bomb attacks with transitivity analysis to reveal the perpetrators' construal of related reality.

As the early idea about what sort of data is analyzed, here are the example of the data found in the analyzed letter:

<b>datum SL1/C07</b>	<i>karena <u>abang takut akan ancaman tuhan jika tidak melakukan jihad ini</u></i>
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The data above is a mental process represented by the verb 'takut'. The feeling of fear is related to the entity that functions as the participant phenomenon, 'ancaman tuhan'. The participant senser, or the one who senses, is 'Abang'. The process is then further explained with the existence of the circumstantial element of contingency. The analysis of the experiential meaning is then carried out based on the transitivity structure consisting of process type, participant function, and circumstantial element.

## 1.2. Scope of the Research

In this study, letters are messages left behind when a person (in this study is the perpetrator of bomb attacks) dies or intends to die due to the act of bombing. To avoid discussion that is too broad and deviates from the purpose of the study, this research is limited to the analysis of the transitivity structure in the letters written by the perpetrators of bomb attacks. The distribution of the transitivity structure is divided based on Halliday's theory by analyzing the elements of clauses. By applying the transitivity theory, the bombers' experiential meaning related to their construal of related reality in the discourses they left before committing their crimes is expected to be revealed.

### 1.3. Identification of the Problem

The formulation of research questions guides the researcher in thoroughly, broadly, and deeply revealing the problem. Following the limitation of the research previously mentioned, the analysis presented in this research will be guided by the following research questions:

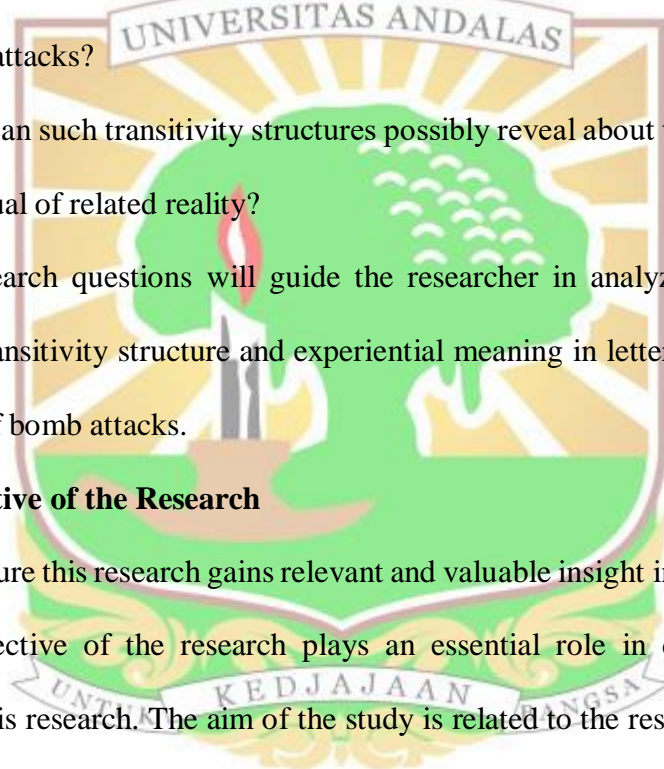
1. What transitivity structures, including process types, participant functions, and circumstantial elements, are used in the letters by the perpetrators of the bomb attacks?
2. What can such transitivity structures possibly reveal about the perpetrators' construal of related reality?

These research questions will guide the researcher in analyzing the data to identify the transitivity structure and experiential meaning in letters written by the perpetrators of bomb attacks.

### 1.4. Objective of the Research

To ensure this research gains relevant and valuable insight into the linguistic field, the objective of the research plays an essential role in determining the purposes of this research. The aim of the study is related to the research questions, which are:

1. To find out, describe, and analyze the transitivity structure in the letters written by the perpetrators of bomb attacks.
2. To reveal the perpetrators' interpretation of the related reality based on the transitivity structures.



### 1.5. Significance of the Research

Research should significantly contribute to and benefit the world of science and society. Theoretically, this research can provide advantages and benefits in the linguistics field. This research will contribute to expanding knowledge and new perspectives in Systemic Functional Linguistics, especially the transitivity structure. This research can be used as a reference for future studies and researchers who wish to conduct similar or more in-depth research on Systemic Functional Linguistics.

This research also provides significant contributions and benefits for members of society due to achieving the research objectives. Terrorism has occurred throughout human history, not only in Indonesia but also worldwide. By analyzing clauses on letters left by the perpetrators of bomb attacks, it is expected that things that became these bombers' motivation and encouragement can be revealed. In addition, people can also be more aware of the language used by the people around them so that the possibility of acts of terrorism or other crimes can be minimized.

