

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusion

This research explored two selected online news articles from *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs* and *The New York Times* using transitivity analysis within systemic functional linguistics, as proposed by Halliday. Specifically, this research mapped the types of processes, participant functions, and circumstantial elements in both online news articles. The selected online news articles are: “War Crimes and Israel’s Purported Right to Self-Defense” written by Dale Sprusansky in *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, and “Israel’s defense failures may change strategy toward Hamas and Gaza” written by Ronen Bergman in *The New York Times*. The data were collected during October–November 2023, when news about the current Israel-Hamas tensions was at its peak.

As for the research findings, the predominant process occurred in the selected online news article of *Washington Report on Middle East* was material process, with occurrences of 28 times (41.17%) out of 68 total processes. The least process type that occurred was mental process, with 8 occurrences (11.76%) out of 68 total processes. In the same critical manner, the participant function that occurred dominantly was Actor, with 27 occurrences (21.42%) out of 126 total participants. As for the circumstantial elements, Location dominated the occurrences 12 times (41.37%) out of 29 total circumstantial elements. On the other hand, material process also dominated the occurrences in the selected online news article of *The New York Times*, with 71 appearances (65.74%) out of 108 process types. The least process type that appeared was

existential process, with 3 appearances (2.77%) out of 108 process types. The dominant participant function that occurred was Actor, with 71 appearances (36.78%) out of 193 total participant functions. Lastly, the dominant circumstantial element that occurred was Location, with 23 occurrences (39.65%) out of 58 total circumstantial elements.

As for the comparison of the designs, both news articles relied on material processes, but the participants who appeared were different. The selected online news article of *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs* portrayed Israel as the agent of the violator, which can be seen in the clause ‘(the country) killed more than 11,000 civilians’ (see ONA1/025). It pointed out the destructive action that affected Palestinian civilians. In contrast, the selected online news article of *The New York Times* depicted Hamas as the agent of aggressor, which can be seen in the clause ‘(a Hamas squad) attacked a group of soldiers’ (see ONA2/082). It emphasized the Palestinian militant actions against Israel.

4.2 Suggestion

This research was only focused on the transitivity system analysis of the two selected online news articles of *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs* and *The New York Times*. To be precise, this research only explored mapping the types of processes, participant functions, circumstantial elements, and the interpretation of the predominant process of each selected online news article. The limitation of this research is that it only used one news article each from both media outlets.

For future research, it will be more interesting if this kind of research is combined with critical discourse analysis (CDA) to reveal the discursive practice (meso-level) or interpretation on how texts are produced, distributed, and consumed by public, and social practice (macro-level) or explanation on the context of huge society, culture, or politics. For the meso-level of dimension, it will be interesting to examine the

intertextuality, genre, and discourse conventions. For the macro-level of dimension, it will be interesting to analyze power relations, ideologies, or even how institutions impact the construction of discourse. In addition, it will be better if this kind of research uses broader corpora data points to strengthen the argument in the interpretation section.

