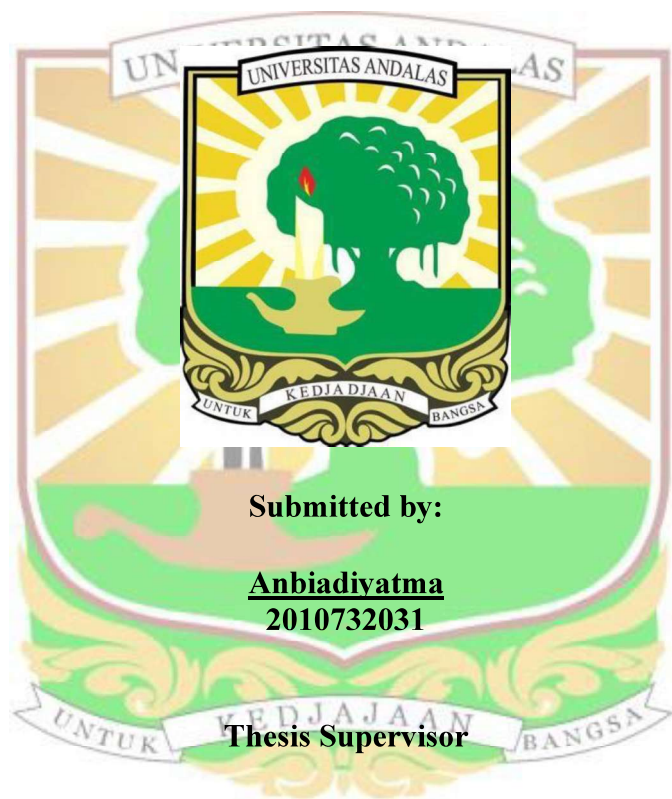


TRANSITIVITY ANALYSIS OF JOE BIDEN'S SPEECH ON THE EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST CONFLICTS

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement

for the Degree of Sarjana Humaniora



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ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS ANDALAS

2025

ABSTRACT

This study employs Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), Halliday's framework of transitivity analysis, to examine the experiential meanings embedded within a speech delivered by U.S. President Joe Biden on October 20, 2023, while he was addressing the concurrent conflicts in Europe (Russia-Ukraine war) and the Middle East (Israel-Hamas war). The research aims to identify the transitivity analysis (Process, Participants, Circumstances) used in the speech and deduce the experiential meanings these structures convey regarding Biden's perspective and stance on the conflicts. A qualitative analysis using boxing diagrams and sentence level analysis was conducted on the official transcript of the speech, categorizing 174 sentences according to the six process types defined within SFL transitivity theory. Findings reveal a predominance of Material processes (46.55%), emphasizing actions and responses, followed by Relational processes (25.29%), used for attributing characteristics and defining identities. Mental processes (13.79%) conveyed emotional responses, while Verbal processes (11.49%) were less frequent. Existential (2.30%) and Behavioral processes (0.57%) were minimal. Circumstances of Location (50%) were most frequent, anchoring events in specific times and places. The analysis demonstrates how the strategic selection of transitivity analysis constructs experiential meaning: Material processes highlight tangible U.S. actions and decisions; Relational processes attribute roles and underscore the scale of destruction; Mental processes reveal emotional responses and extensive Location circumstances provide concrete grounding for the described events. The study concludes that the transitivity patterns collectively project U.S. leadership, frame the conflicts morally and strategically, express emotional resonance with victims, and underscore the perceived global significance and urgency of U.S. decisions regarding these conflicts.

Keywords: Discourse Analysis, Experiential Meaning, Halliday, Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), Transitivity Analysis.



ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini menggunakan Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), khususnya kerangka Transitivity Analysis Halliday, untuk mengkaji makna pengalaman yang tertanam dalam pidato Presiden AS Joe Biden pada 20 Oktober 2023 mengenai konflik yang terjadi di Eropa (perang Rusia-Ukraina) dan Timur Tengah (perang Israel-HAMAS). Penelitian bertujuan mengidentifikasi Transitivity Systems (Process, Participant, Circumstances) dalam pidato serta menyimpulkan experiential meaning yang disampaikan struktur tersebut terkait perspektif dan sikap emosional Biden terhadap konflik. Analisis kualitatif menggunakan metode boxing diagram dan analisis di tingkat kalimat dilakukan pada transkrip resmi pidato, mengategorikan 174 kalimat menurut enam tipe proses dalam teori. Temuan menunjukkan dominansi Material process (46,55%) yang menekankan tindakan dan respons, diikuti Relational process (25,29%) untuk memberi atribut karakteristik dan identitas. Mental process (13,79%) menyampaikan respons emosional, sementara Verbal Process (11,49%) lebih jarang. Existential process (2,30%) dan Behavioral process (0,57%) minimal. Circumstances of Location (50,00%) paling sering muncul, menempatkan peristiwa pada waktu dan tempat spesifik. Analisis memperlihatkan bagaimana pemilihan strategis Transitivity Analysis membentuk Experiential Meaning. Material process menyoroti tindakan/keputusan nyata AS. Relational process memberi atribut peran dan menegaskan skala kerusakan. Mental process mengungkap respons emosional sedangkan Circumstances of Location yang ekstensif memberikan dasar konkret bagi peristiwa. Studi menyimpulkan bahwa pola transitivitas secara kolektif memproyeksikan kepemimpinan AS, membingkai konflik secara moral dan strategis, mengekspresikan resonansi emosional dengan korban, serta menegaskan signifikansi global dan urgensi keputusan AS terkait konflik-konflik ini.

Kata kunci: Discourse Analysis, Experiential Meaning, Halliday, Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), Transitivity Analysis.

