

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Research

People use language to form meaning and to express their experience by their choice of language and context. Thompson (2014) clearly explains that human experiences in the world influence how we talk and the way we talk about something. Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) also elaborate that language names things, thus construing them into categories, and further construing categories into taxonomies. When people use language to make meanings, they do so in specific situations, and the form of the language that they use in discourse is influenced by the complex aspects of those situations (Bloor & Bloor, 2004).

Language can transform how the speakers serve their speeches for shaping public perception. For example, a politician can construct their narratives that reflect their intentions, ideologies and the socio-political context in which they are delivered. Another example, a sentence of a prime minister could frame their beliefs and attitudes towards specific issue and it can lead into different interpretations.

According to a legal website, ClearLegal (2024), a joint statement is a formal or official announcement issued by two or several entities, especially governments, experts, and others on a particular issue or issues. It is a document that help in identifying the area of agreement and disagreement between the parties, which can facilitate negotiations and settlement discussions. It could be used as a tool for mediation, where a neutral party helps the disputing parties reach a mutually acceptable solution and also to understand the issues at hand and guide the parties towards a resolution. A joint statement could

have different interpretation and meaning based on language perspective from other party that perceive the joint statement.

The joint statements by the Prime Ministers of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand consist of responses to the issue between Israel and Palestine in the late of 2023. It has been long debated that the conflict of Israel and Palestine has existed since 1917. Since then, there have been many military operations and movements carried out by both sides to defend their ideology and lands. Morris (2009) explains that the emergence of this conflict started from the conquest of Palestine by British and the issue of Balfour Declaration by British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour who declared their support for the establishment of a “National Home” for the Jewish people in Palestine.

The declaration has since provoked several continuations of military movements from both countries to defend their land. Furthermore, the raising of political movements between Palestine and Israel produces several organizations, such as Hamas as Palestinian Arab national movement and Israeli Defense Force (IDF) as Zionist Organisation. Therefore, the conflict has caused massive casualties from both sides, especially Palestinians. The latest conflict between the two parties occurred on October 7, 2023 and is still going on by the time of writing this research thesis. Several international leaders have already attempted to help resolve the conflict in the form of releasing joint statements to support or to oppose the conflict, such as demanding both countries to ceasefire.

This research analysed the two joint statements by the Prime Minister of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand regarding the conflict between Israel and Palestine from October 7, 2023. The first joint statement is released on December 13, 2023. The first

joint statement mainly responded to the attack happened on October 7, 2023 between Israel and Palestine. Not long after that, the second joint statement was released on February 15, 2024 considering the continuation of Israel-Palestinian conflict in 2024. These three Ministers declare their statements accordingly and release the written text in their official websites that are accessible for everyone.

A joint statement could be interpreted by analysing their multiple meanings, including experiential, interpersonal, or textual meaning. Analysing the meaning of a joint statement could be done, one of them, by using Systemic Functional Linguistics (hereinafter is referred to SFL) theory proposed by Halliday. SFL is useful to interpret the intention of the speakers of the joint statement and the purpose of declaring those statements. Therefore, three metafunctions correspond to the study of meaning, according to Halliday and Matthiessen (1994), which construe meaning based on the representation of reality, the exchange and the message attached to language.

In this research, the researcher only discussed the experiential meaning on the sentence level. Webster (2015) identified that the analysis at the sentence-level help to determine the dependent and independent clauses of the joint statement, with the focus of the research is the independent clause, while the dependent clause will be treated as part of the independent clause. Therefore, the analysis will be used to discover how the experience of the world in terms of processes (typically verbs), along with participants (nouns) and circumstances (adjuncts) that accompany them.

This research carries out the transitivity analysis of Joint Statement of the Prime Ministers of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand to discover the experiential meaning behind their statements on the issue. Experiential meaning represents experience through

the realization of Process(es), Participant(s), and Circumstance(s) or transitivity structure. This research has two purposes: first, it probes transitivity structure analysis of Joint Statement by the Prime Minister of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. Second, it specifies the transitivity element's function to expose the experiential meaning of what on the joint statement towards the Israel-Palestine issue. In addition, this research aims to discover the experiential meaning of those statements stated by these Prime Ministers and figure out if they really suggest that both countries to cast a ceasefire and live in peace and harmony based on the distribution of frequency of Processes, Participants, and Circumstance elements of the statements. Therefore, the primary data of this research are two Joint Statements by the Prime Ministers of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand which are released in 2023 and 2024.

## 1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background, this research aims to discover the transitivity analysis of the Joint Statement by the Prime Ministers of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand on the issue between Israel and Palestine. Therefore, this study proposes two research questions as follows:

1. What are the transitivity structures in the two Joint Statements by the Prime Ministers of Australia, Canada and New Zealand regarding the Palestine-Israel conflict?
2. What experiential meanings can possibly be interpreted from the transitivity structure analyses of the two Joint Statement?

### **1.3 Objective of the Research**

The objectives of the research are to discover the transitivity structures of two Joint Statements by the Prime Ministers of Australia, Canada and New Zealand, including Processes, Participants, and Circumstances. To figure out the experiential meaning of the two Joint Statements, a transitivity analysis is used. This research will provide an alternative interpretation of two Joint Statements regarding the conflict between Israel and Palestine from a linguistic perspective.

### **1.4 Focus of the Research**

This research concentrates on the experiential meaning of the Joint Statement by the Prime Ministers of Australia, Canada and New Zealand by using transitivity analysis. The researcher will analyse and identify the distribution of Processes, Participants, and Circumstances of each sentence to find out how exactly the meaning of two joint statements stated by the three Prime Ministers concerning the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

### **1.5 Methods of the Research**

This research employed a qualitative method. According to Creswell (2013), this method is used to obtain data by examining documents, behavior or interviewing participants. Bowen (2009) explained that document analysis is systematic procedure for evaluating documents-both printed and electronic (computer-based and internet-transmitted) material. Documents of all types can help the researcher uncover meaning, develop understanding and discover insight relevant to the research problem.

In this research, the documents collected were two joint statements from the Prime Ministers of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand which discussed the conflict between Palestine and Israel. Therefore, both joint statements are analysed in order to figure out the transitivity analysis and their experiential meanings.

### **1.5.1 Data Collection**

Data were obtained from the Australian's Prime Minister Official Website consisted of two joint statements of the Prime Ministers of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand regarding the conflict of Israel-Palestine. The first joint statement was released on December 13, 2023, from <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/joint-statement-prime-ministers-australia-canada-and-new-zealand>. While the second joint statement was released on February 15, 2024 from <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/joint-statement-prime-ministers-australia-canada-and-new-zealand-0>. The speakers of the joint statement are the three Prime Minister of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. The Prime Minister of Australia is Anthony Albanese, an Australian Politician who serves as the 31st Prime Minister of Australia. The Prime Minister of Canada, whose name is Justin Trudeau, served as the 23rd Prime Minister of Canada from 2015 to 2025. The last speaker is the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Christopher Luxon, who is the 42nd Prime Minister.

Both joint statements were chosen because they discussed the latest perpetual issue in the conflict between Israel and Palestine, which has affected many people on both sides. The two joint statements consisted of 48 statements in total. The first Joint Statement (referred to as JS1) text contains twenty-five sentences, consisting of two simple and twenty-three complex sentences. The second Joint Statement (referred to as JS2) contains twenty-three sentences, and consists of four simple sentences and nineteen complex sentences.

In order to analyse transitivity analysis of the data, several procedures for data collection were prominently conducted. The procedures were conducted by reading the text repeatedly or engaging in close reading. After that, each sentence was then reproduced separately and accurately according to each joint statement. Furthermore, each sentence will be given a code to differentiate them. In this research, the first sentence in the first joint statement is encoded as JS1-01 and so forth, while the first sentence from the second joint statement is encoded as JS2-01 and so forth. For example:

JS1/01	Australia, Canada, and New Zealand	mourn	every Israel and Palestinian innocent life which has been lost in this conflict
	Participant	Process	Participant

This is an example on how the sentence encoded in the research in the form of box diagram and each excerpt will be encoded separately in order to differentiate each text, and for several long sentences the size of the font is minimized.

### 1.5.2 Data Analysis

In analysing the data, the researcher answered the two research questions proposed in the research question section. Therefore, each research question was addressed accordingly by analysing both joint statements at sentence-level whether the clause is simplex or complex, in order to enhance the deeper meaning of broader semantic units.

Afterwards, each sentence (independent clause) was analysed in terms of transitivity based on Halliday's theory. Thereafter, each sentence was classified into Process types, Participants, and Circumstances, and more specific functional terms using boxing diagrams as commonly used in SFL studies, for instance, a book from *Halliday's*

*Introduction to Functional Grammar* (2014) written by Halliday & Matthiessen, providing examples by analysing sentences in box diagrams, as shown below:

JS1/17	We	support	Palestinians' right	to self-determination
	Participant	Process	Participant	Circumstance
	Actor	Material	Goal	Cause: purpose

However, it should be noted that the analysis is based on the actual text only; other phenomena in the text, such as elliptical participants or circumstantial elements, are brought out in the boxing diagram analysis solely for the contextualisation of the text. The ellipsis is analysed in brackets in order to differentiate them from the actual structure of the text's sentences. Therefore, those ellipticals are not included in the table of frequency distribution of the SFL analysis because it is not existed in the actual text.

Following the analysis, the distributions will be tabulated in several tables, allowing the general picture of the data to be easily shown. The possible experiential meanings in the texts were then interpreted into two separate sections. Furthermore, the sections are then concluded in a brief paragraph to determine if there any similarities or differences between two texts.

## 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

**Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL)** : A linguistic approach proposed by MAK Halliday which involves the idea that a language consists of a set of system and language is used to construe reality and enact social relationship (Thompson, 2014).

**Transitivity Structure** : SFL term use to refer to structural configuration of process as an intergrated phenomenon involving participant(s) and circumstance(s) (Webster, 2019).

**Transitivity System** : a grammatical system which construe the world of experience into a manageable set of process types (Halliday, 2004).

**Experiential Meaning** : One of three metafunctions that is concerned with the actions, events, and states which occur in the world, the entities, or participants, which are involved in those processes and the circumstances in which they take place (Banks, 2019).

**Joint Statement** : A written document issued by the government, experts, or organization consists of agreement or disagreement on specific issues that are used to strengthen policy coordination, create official announcements, or resolve political and legal action (ClearLegal, 2024).

