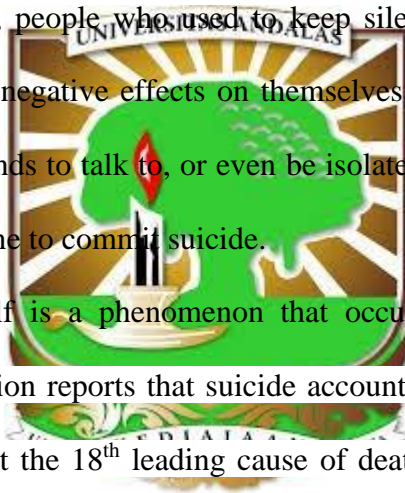


CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

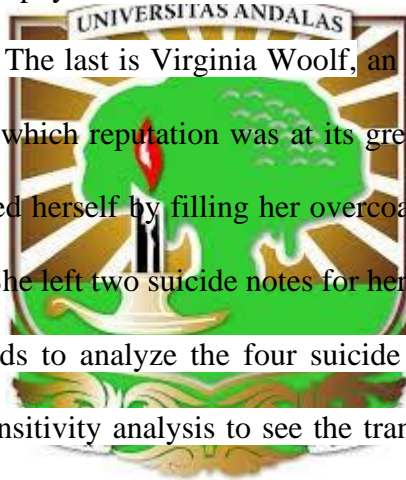
In human life, not only as an oral and written communication tool, but language also functions as an emotional release and a tool for the human to express themselves as members of society and parts of culture. Usually, there are people who prefer to use written language rather than spoken language to say what is left unsaid. Some people believe that sometimes writing is more than just speaking. Unfortunately, people who used to keep silent on the things they are facing are feared to get negative effects on themselves. The worst possibility is, they might not have friends to talk to, or even be isolated from their surroundings which could lead someone to commit suicide.



The suicide itself is a phenomenon that occurs throughout the world. World Health Organization reports that suicide account for 1.4% of all deaths in the world, and making it the 18th leading cause of death in 2016 (World Health Organization, 2018). Usually, there is a message left behind before a person dies, or intends to die by suicide. People who write suicide notes are likely to beg something, or ask for forgiveness, or even blaming their family, their friends or their society for their life's failings. Those written words hide some truth that must be revealed. In this case, language plays an important role in uncovering the truth beyond those written words.

Talking about the suicide notes left by those who commit suicide, this research discusses four suicide notes written by three famous people who decided

to commit suicide when their reputation was at its great, Jiah Khan, Kevin Carter, and Virginia Woolf. Jiah Khan is a promising actress who debuted in Bollywood with Ram Gopal Verma's film entitled Nishabd in 2007. She was nominated for Best Female Debut in the Filmfare Award. Jiah's career was moving fine with her two films, Ghajini and Housefull. In June 2013 she was found hanging from a ceiling fan in her bedroom of her family's residence in Mumbai. The second famous person is Kevin Carter, a South African photojournalist. In April 1994, his photograph of a starving Sudanese child being eyed by a vulture won the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography. Two months after receiving his Pulitzer, he died by suicide at the age of 33. The last is Virginia Woolf, an English novelist, essayist, diarist and letter writer, which reputation was at its greatest during the 1930s. In March 1941, she drowned herself by filling her overcoat pockets with stones and walking into the River. She left two suicide notes for her husband and her sister.



The author intends to analyze the four suicide notes left by those three famous people using transitivity analysis to see the transitivity system, including the process types, participant functions, and circumstantial elements, and also to see how the transitivity system could help the writers of the suicide notes to convey their experiences according to the function of each process types, participant functions, and circumstantial elements. This research is based on four suicide notes written by three famous people who decided to commit suicide when their reputation was at its great. Hence, by using transitivity analysis, we wished to understand the thoughts, conditions and life experiences that immediately bring an end to the three famous people's own lives.

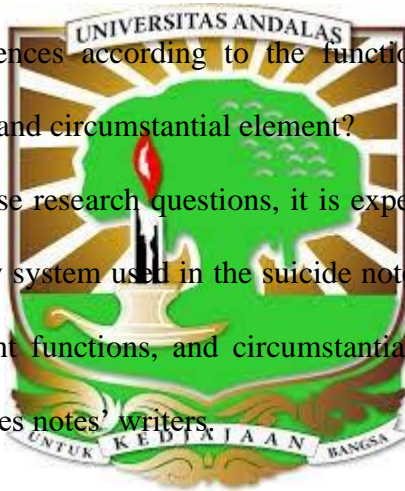
1.2. Research Question

The main focus of this research is to find out the distribution of the transitivity system from four suicide notes written by three famous people who decided to commit suicide when their reputation was at its great.

In the matter of the topic that is going to discuss in this research, I have formulated two research questions as follow:

1. What transitivity system, including process types, participant functions, and circumstantial elements, used in the four suicide notes?
2. How is the transitivity system helping the writers of the suicide notes to convey their experiences according to the function of each process type, participant function, and circumstantial element?

According to these research questions, it is expected that the writer could figure out the transitivity system used in the suicide notes, and the function of the process types, participant functions, and circumstantial elements to convey the experiences of the suicides notes' writers.



1.3. Objective of the Research

The objective of the research is related to the research questions. So, the aims of this research are:

1. To find out the transitivity system used in the four suicide notes.
2. To identify the function of the transitivity system in helping the writers of the suicide notes to convey their experiences.

1.4. Scope of the Research

The main focus of this research is narrowed into the distributions of transitivity systems that might exist on the suicide notes written by three famous people who decided to commit suicide when their reputation was at its great. In this case, I would like to find out the transitivity system used in the suicide notes and whether the transitivity system including the processes, participants, and circumstances could convey the experiences of the writers of the suicide notes.

1.5. Methods of the Research

In conducting this research, the methods used are divided into several steps, including informants/source of the data, collecting the data, analyzing the data, and trustworthiness of the data.

1.5.1. Informants/Source of the Data

The data of this research are four suicide notes written by three famous people who decided to commit suicide when their reputation was at its great. The four suicide notes were chosen because of the similarity of the writer's situation. The three of them decided to commit suicide when their career was at its great. In addition, the data were chosen because they were obtained from credible sources.

1.5.2. Collecting the Data

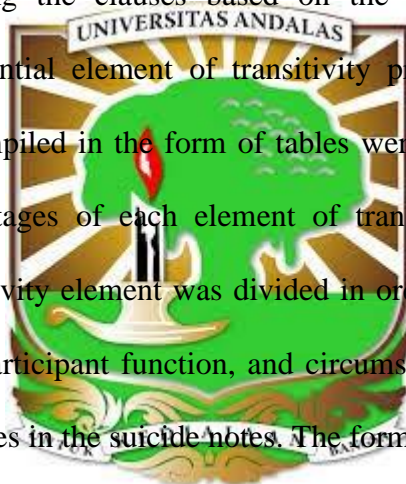
This study aims to see how three famous people who committed suicide chose the words and arranged the clauses they used in their suicide notes. The data were chosen based on the similarity of the conditions of the three suicide notes' writers, where they decided to commit suicide when they were at the top of their career. In addition, the suicide notes were obtained from credible sources.



In collecting the data, the suicide notes were segmented into sentences and then clauses. After that, each clause was identified and labeled based on the theory of transitivity proposed by Halliday. The clauses were compiled in the form of tables after the clauses were categorized to determine their types of process type, participant function, and circumstantial element.

1.5.3. Analyzing the Data

This is the step where the data are analyzed. In conducting the analysis of the data, the researcher follows some stages of analyzing data. After collecting, identifying, and labeling the clauses based on the process type, participant function, and circumstantial element of transitivity proposed by Halliday, the clauses which were compiled in the form of tables were calculated based on the frequencies and percentages of each element of transitivity. The total of the presence of each transitivity element was divided in order to find the percentage of each process type, participant function, and circumstantial element out of the total number of all clauses in the suicide notes. The formula that was used in order to find the percentage is:



$$\text{Part / Whole} \times 100 = \%$$

The realization of the formula is exemplified in the illustration below:

$$\frac{\text{Number of each type of process}}{\text{Total number of all processes}} \times 100 = \%$$

$$\frac{\text{Material process (55)}}{\text{Total processes (118)}} \times 100 = 46.61\%$$

Furthermore, the data that have been calculated based on the frequencies and percentages of each element of transitivity was carried into the process of interpretation by determining the most dominant process type, participant function, and circumstantial element.

1.5.4. Trustworthiness of the Data

The data for this research are suicide notes left by three famous people who decided to commit suicide when their reputation was at its great. The first suicide note is a six-page suicide letter written by Jiah Khan. The suicide note had been recovered from Jiah Khan's house after her death. In 2016, the suicide letter had been included in the CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) Chargesheet and extensive investigations had been carried out by the CBI. The second suicide note was written by Kevin Carter. TIME, the world's largest weekly news magazine and news website, published an article in 2001 entitled *The Life and Death of Kevin Carter*. It says that Carter died because of carbon monoxide poisoning inside his red pickup truck and there is a note left on the passenger seat beneath a knapsack. Then, the last is Virginia Woolf's suicide notes. Her two suicide notes published in her husband's autobiography, *The Journey Not the Arrival Matters: An Autobiography of the Years 1939 to 1969* (1970) and in *Virginia Woolf: A Biography: Volume 2: 1912-1941* (1972) by Quentin Bell.



Then in order to achieve the credibility of the data for this research, the researcher carried out a deep and detailed observation of the data. The researcher read and reread the data carefully and comprehensively to make sure the data are suitable for the research questions.