

AN ANALYSIS OF IDEATIONAL METAPHOR IN POLITICAL TEXT: A STUDY OF SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTICS

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Abstract

The research entitled “An Analysis of Ideational Metaphor in Political Text: A Study of Systemic Functional Linguistics” is aimed to find out the ways the ideational metaphor is organized in Political text. The scope in which the study is conducted ranges from the variety of processes used in political text. The analysis is conducted in accordance with the grand theories put forwarded by Halliday, Mathiesen, and Thompson, with some supportive theoretical background from Downing and Locke, and Eggins and some theories of metaphor in general. The result of this research shows that the types of processes found in this research almost covers all the types of processes, namely: Material, Mental, verbal, and Relational Processes. Behavioural and existential were not found under the assumption that those types have little relevant to the process of metaphorical wording.

Introduction

Halliday (1985:321) makes a distinction between two main types of grammatical metaphor: interpersonal metaphors (or metaphors of mood), and ideational metaphors (or metaphors of transitivity). One of the commonest features in the use of metaphor arises in political scenes. Politicians have their own rhetorical style. They will not use such an ordinary expressions to attract their voters. A more modified language is then taken into their consideration as to create their rhetoric more impressive. In this respect, Edelman (1977: 16-17) highlights that metaphor has the capacity to evoke linguistic references in the form of mythic

cognitive structures in people's minds. And it can even evoke the structure of beliefs, in a more subtle and powerful fashion. When politicians and government officials appeal for public support for policies or candidates, the form of their statements conveys the message that public opinion is influential, and it does so both for those who accept the particular appeal and for those who do not, regardless of the content of the statement.

Ideational grammatical metaphor is the first type of grammatical metaphor. Nominalization is the most common form of ideational grammatical metaphor, especially in science, technology, political and business discourse. Nominalization

turns actions or processes into concepts, while also reducing the number of clauses and compressing more information into each nominal group. As Halliday has argued in his IFGs (Introduction to Functional Grammar; in all three editions of 1985, 1994 and 2004), each nominalized or metaphorical wording in the metaphorical domain has its congruent wording in the congruent domain. The metaphorical domain explains the situation in more interesting and more formal ways in comparison with the congruent one. This type of metaphor is basically an extensive view toward the system of transitivity, the system with which our language represents our experiential knowledge. That what makes this section preliminarily start to stem from such a system to further elaborate of the description of transitivity metaphor.

As a system, transitivity construes from the interrelated concept of semantic functions of process, participant, circumstance, and attributes to represent our experiential knowledge through language. Downing and Locke (2006:5) states that the representational meaning of the clause is encoded through the transitivity structures, whose elements of structure or functions include: Agent, Recipient, Affected, Process, Attribute and Circumstance. The process is the core of the transitivity system.

Process types

In general, the process types describe the action, circumstances tell about the Extent, Location, Manner, Cause, Contingency, Accompaniment, Role, Matter, and Angle of the action going on. Downing and Locke (2006:125) highlight that there are three main types of processes, namely:

- 1) Material processes are processes of 'doing' (e.g. kick, run, eat, give) or 'happening' (e.g. fall, melt, collapse, slip).
- 2) Mental processes, or processes of 'experiencing' or 'sensing' (e.g. see, hear, feel, know, like, want, regret).
- 3) Relational processes, or processes of 'being' (e.g. be, seem) or 'becoming' (e.g. become, turn), in which a participant is characterised, or identified, or situated circumstantially.

However, there are also three subsidiary processes: behavioural, verbal and existential. Up to this point, the presence or absence of volition and energy are important factors in distinguishing between processes.

The concept of transitivity in Functional Grammar represents Halliday's conception of syntactic structure comprising whether a verb takes or does not take a direct object is not a prime consideration. In this respect, there are three components of what is so called "transitivity process", namely: the process

itself, participants in the process; and circumstances associated with the process. Then, Halliday (1981: 42) highlights that clause in English is the simultaneous realization of ideational, interpersonal and textual meanings. A clause is the product of three simultaneous semantic processes. It is at one and the same time a representation of experience, an interactive exchange, and a message.

Up to this point, it can be concluded that a clause has a close relation to the ideational, so that absolutely a clause also can be related to the transitivity. In the transitivity system (Halliday, 1985: 131), there are six types of process, namely: material, mental, relational, verbal, existential, and behavioral.

1. Material Processes: processes of doing

Material processes are processes of 'doing'. They express the notion that some entity 'does' something – which may be done 'to' some other entity. In the material processes, there are two participants role, namely: actor and goal.

2. Mental Processes: processes of sensing

There three types of process manifested as mental activities, namely: perception (seeing, hearing, etc.), affection (liking, fearing, etc.) and cognition (thinking, knowing, understanding, etc.). In the mental processes, there are two

participants, namely: senser and phenomenon. Senser is the conscious being that is feeling, thinking, or seeing and phenomenon is the conscious being which is 'sensed' – felt, thought or seen.

3. Relational processes: processes of being

There are three types of relational process in the clause, namely: Intensive and Circumstantial, and possessive. Each of these types is categorized into attribute mode. This type of mode describes a relation in which 'a is an attribute of x'. The mode involves two participants, namely: attribute and carrier. However, intensive relation establishes a relationship of sameness between two entities (x is a). Circumstantial defines the entity in terms of location, time, or manner ('x is at a'), Possessive indicates that one entity owns another ('x has a').

Another categorization of relational process can also be classified into identifying mode. This type of mode describes a relation in which 'a is an attribute of x. This mode also involves two participants, namely: identified and identifier. As in intensive relational process, the function of establishing a relationship of 'x is a'.

In the same respect of circumstantial relation in which the process defines its location, time, and manner, the participants involved

construes from its identified and identifier function. Similarly to the above description, possession relational process, the same pattern is applicable as well.

4. Behavioral processes

This type of process stands basically between stand between material and mental processes. It covers the process of psychological and physiological process, like breathing, coughing, smiling, dreaming, chatting, watching. These construe human behavior including mental and verbal behavior as an active version of verbal and mental processes. Saying and sensing are construed as activity. Typically, the participant is a conscious being, like the senser, but the process functions are more like one of doing. As a rule of thumb, a behavioral process verb is

- a. Intransitive (it has only one participant) and
- b. Indicates an activity in which both the physical and mental aspects are inseparable and indispensable to it. In this process, there is only one participant, namely: behavior.

5. Verbal processes

These are processes of saying. The participants of the processes are: sayer (participant who speaks), receiver (the one to whom the verbalization is addressed), verbiage (a name for the verbalization itself).

6. Existential processes

These processes represent that something exists or happens. These clauses typically have the verb be, or some other verb expressing existence, such as exist, arise, followed by a nominal group functioning as Existent (a thing which exists in the process). The existent may be a phenomenon of any kind, and is often, in fact, an event.

7. Other participant functions

There are two other participant functions in the English clause, namely: Beneficiary and Range. Beneficiary is the one to whom or for whom the process is said to take place. It appears in material and verbal process.

Findings and Discussions

The data are analyzed to describe its transitivity configuration showing its semantic functions and its syntactic realization. The analysis of Metaphorical Wording focuses on the various transitivity configuration realized by the lexicogrammar. This will see on how the choice of word in different syntactic function creates metaphorical meaning. Some findings range from its classification on the basis of its process types.

1. Metaphorical Wording on the basis of Material process

In this analysis, all the Metaphorical Wordings are found to

have the properties of material process. The data are found in various semantic classes of syntax (verb group, noun group, verb group) and for the purpose of bringing about a more comprehensible semantic analysis; the data are presented in the structure of a clause or clause complex. Below are two data taken to figure out the analysis of metaphorical wording on the basis of material process.

(a) Homes have been lost; jobs shed; businesses shuttered. Our health care is too costly; our schools fail too many; and each day brings further evidence that the ways we use energy strengthen our adversaries and threaten our planet.

The sentence above comprises three metaphors with almost similar transitivity configuration:

<i>Job</i>	<i>shed</i>
<i>Business</i>	<i>shuttered</i>
<i>Each day</i>	<i>brings</i>
	<i>further evidence</i>

Participant : Actor Process :
 material Participant: Goal

In terms of their transitivity configurations, the sentences above have one participant by which it carries a ‘doing’ meaning. In this case, the verb ‘shed’, ‘shuttered’, and ‘brings’

designates a material process expressing an ‘action’ meaning. Those verbs designate a noun group semantically function as the actor of their action-meaning exemplified by the participants.

b). Our campaign was not hatched in the halls of Washington.

<i>Our campaign</i>	<i>was</i>	<i>not</i>
<i>hatched</i>	<i>in the halls of</i>	<i>Washington</i>

Participant: Actor Process :
 Material Circumstance: place

The transitivity configuration of the sentence above depicts a material process. The verb ‘hatched’ indicate a material activity by which the Actor ‘our campaign’ expresses doing meaning. The transitivity configuration employs one participant, one circumstance and one process.

2. Metaphorical Wording on the basis of Mental process

All data presented in this section of analysis are all categorized into mental process. The properties of being ‘a mental process’ clauses are determined mainly by the use of the verbs. In relation to the metaphorical use of the process, the clause is analyzed based on its transitivity configuration. Below is an analysis of metaphorical wording on the basis of mental process.

The schools suffer

Verbiage Process :
verbal Sayer

Basically the transitivity
configuration of the sentence above
depicts a verbal process. The verb 'told'
indicate a verbal activity by which the
Sayer 'the lines' expresses an utterance
with 'the answer' as its verbiage.

Conclusions

The transitivity configuration of
ideational metaphor in the form of
metaphorical wording covers four types of
processes, including material, mental,
relational, and verbal process. The most
types existed in the speeches are material
process with little occurrence of
the other types.

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