

## EXPLORING LINGUISTIC POLARITY DISPLAYED IN ALICE'S "ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND": A SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVE

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### Abstract

Short story is an interesting texts for promoting linguistic awareness and language acquisition, e.g. English young learners. It is important to introduce them with the linguistics features, e.g. subject-finite in their early ages of language learning especially in second and foreign languages. In respecting to the students character building, short stories are enriched of doctrines and philosophy which are fruitful for their psychological development, e.g. characters. Therefore, this study aims to analyze finites of linguistic polarity found in Alice's Adventure in Wonderland. This is interesting as it leads to linguistics awareness. Adopting Bustam & Rayhan's (2012) transitivity analysis model of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) Approach, this exploratory research identified linguistic polarity of the attitudes of the story. The findings show that finite processes realize the polarity of attitudes utterances. Behavioral mental process are realized through finite to sharpen the attitudes in the story.

**Keywords:** *finite, polarity, process, SFL*

### Sari

Tujuan penelitian ini untuk menganalisis finite pada process dan mendeskripsikan polaritas tuturan aktor pada cerita Alice's Adventure in Wonderland. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian exploratif dengan pendekatan *systemic functional linguistics (SFL)*. Dengan menerapkan pendekatan *SFL* yang dikembangkan oleh Rustam & Rayhan (2012), polaritas kebahasaan digali dari cerita pendek berjudul *Adventures in a wonderland* karya Elis. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa polaritas menunjukkan proses perilaku mental para tokoh dalam cerita.

**Kata kunci :** *finit, polaritas, proses, SFL*

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### Introduction

English short story is important to promote character buildings of children in their early ages in their language class (Rozak, Sholihah, & Misdi, 2020). A short story usually has

a moral value that can be imitated by the target reader. As one of the short stories, “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” has influential linguistic features relevant for children linguistic awareness, e.g. speaking contexts. In terms of speaking, utterances are realized in both positive and negative polarities. Following Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), finite shows the polarity of the actor/ participants. The polarity can be known as positif or negatif.

Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do, she had peeped into the book her sister was reading.  
“And what **is** the use of a book, without pictures or conversations?”

From the example of Alice’s words, the finite is “is” that shows polarity. Some previous research have taken objects about children. Anggororeni (2018) discusses interpersonal meaning of children movie’s dubbing. She used Sistemc Functional Linguistics as the tool for analyzing the data. Sholihah (2017) elaborated more specific aspect of linguistics in her study. She took circumstance in clauses as the data. Pengsun & Fengfeng (2013) used SFL as their tool, too. Even, they focused on modality in their research, but they didn’t use object for children such as kid story or movie. Schulz (2008) has discussed polarity, but she combined it with tense and modality. In spite of a number of studies, clausal level of analysis in SFL perspective is still barely investigated. Thus, this research is an effort to shed light the process part of a clause in comprehensive study about spoken language, e.g. in a short story. The addressed question in this paper is how polarity of the Alice’ Adventures in a wonderland is realized in the process of finite?

## **Method**

This exploratory case study reported finite process and linguistic polarity from the perspective of Systemic Functional Linguistics as proposed by Bustam & Rayhan (2012). All phenomena were selected from the Elice’ Adventures in A Wonderland. All cited and quoted utterances were coded and analyzed according to Bustam & Rayhan’s (2012) SFL framework.

## **Results and Discussion**

The story of Alice’s Adventure in Wonderland consist of twelve subtitles. The writer selected eight titles of data because finites shows in the clauses are used repeatedly.

Finite is something that can be argued about (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). Finite is the verbal component of the Mood. From 120 data, finites that used are is, am, are, was, were, have, had, do, does, did, shall/ should, will/ would, must, ought to, can/ could, and may/ might. Some of finites with negative mark are no, hadn't, don't, doesn't, didn't, shan't, won't, wouldn't, can't, couldn't. The data can be seen on the table below.

Table 4.1 The distribution of finite

No	Items	Total Items
1.	Finite	86
2.	Finite + not	34

Wiratno (2018) explained that polarity shows by finite and polarity shows the actor positions or attitude. Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) said that the positive/ negative opposition is one that is fairly certain to be grammaticalized in every language. From the table, it can be conclude that the actor, in this case is Alice, has positive attitude or she has resolute determination.

Finite is showed as process in transitivity. Process expresses the ideational meaning (experiential meaning). According to Wiratno (2018), process represent the experience pattern. In this study, the writer found five prosesesses of clause. They are Relational process (attribution, identivication, possession), Behavioral process (mental and verb), existential process, material process and mental process.

### 1. Relational process

Relational process is process of being, its is divided into attribution, identivication, possession and circumstance. The data example on relational process is below.

<i>But</i>	<i>it</i>	<i>'s</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>use</i>	<i>now.</i>
Conj	S	<b>Finite</b>		C	Adjunc
	Carrier	<b>Relational attribution process</b>		Attribute	

Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) explain that a positive polarity doesn't mean has negative sentence. From the example, finite is expressed by relational attribution process. Besides, it shows that the actor has negative polarity. Her attitude is weak.

On relational attribution process, there is a carrier and attribute. Their position can not be changed. On the other hand, it is different in positive composition.

It	is	The stupidest tea-party [I ever was at in all my life]
S	F	C
Carrier	<b>Relational Attribution Process</b>	attribute

The second example include on relational attribution process to, but the finite which found was positive. So the attitude of the actor (Alice) was positive when she said that clause. In the other hand she has strong attitude or character. Besides relational attribution process, the writer also find finite with relational identification process and relational possession process.

That	was	a narrow escape
S	Finite	O
Token	<b>Relational Identification Process</b>	value

I	've	had	Nothing yet
S	finite	predicator	C
Token	<b>Relational possession process</b>		Value

Both data show positive polarity because of its finite, “was” and “ve (have)”.

## 2. Behavioral process

Behavioral process shows the act of the participant. It almost same with the material and mental process. Behavioral process is material process in doing action and also verbal process. There is a behavior as the participant who do something and receiver. Here is the example of behavioral process.

Dinah	'll	miss	me	very much tonight
S	Finite	Predicator	O	C
Behavior	<b>Behavioral process mental</b>			receiver

From the example, finite is expressed by behavioral process mental. Finite “will” shows that the actor has positive polarity. Her attitude is strong or assertive. Behavioral process is also find in other type, that is behavioral process verb. In this analysis, the example shows finite which is realized has positive polarity.

I	'll	give	them	a pair of of boots every christmas
S	<b>finite</b>	Predicator	O	C
Behaver	<b>Behavioral process verb</b>		receiver	

### 3. Existential process

Existential process shows the existence of thing. Existential process is like relational process. The difference is the participant of this process, called existence, placed after the process. But, sometimes, existence also placed in early clause. This is the example of existential process: "There **are** no mice in the air".

There	<b>are</b>	no	mice	In the air
	<b>finite</b>		O	Adjunc
	<b>Existential process</b>		existence	circumstance

Finite "are" shows the existence of the mice. The polarity is negative because there is negative mark on the finite. Beside the negative polarity, there are also the positive form of existential process which represent positive polarity.

There	's	plenty of room
	<b>finite</b>	O
	<b>Existential process</b>	
	existence	

Finite "is" with the existence "plenty of room" realizes the positive polarity. The existence has assertive character.

### 4. Material process

Material process shows the process of doing or process of happening. It realizes by verb that shows physical act. The participant of this process is actor and the receiver. Some material processes happen without support other participant, so just the actor.

<b>Do</b>	cats	eat	bats?
<b>finite</b>	S	predicator	O
	Actor		Receiver
<b>Material process</b>			

"Do cats eat bats?", Do realizes the process of doing. It shows material process and positive polarity. From Alice's speaking on the story, there is also negative finite that include on material process too. Of course it realizes negative polarity.

and	mine	doesn't	go	in ringlets
Conj	S	finite	predicator	C
	Actor	Material process		receiver

### 5. Mental process

Mental process is the process of sensing. Mental process explains about perception, kognition, affection, and pretension. There are sensor and the phenomenon, as this sentence,

I	'm	sure
S	Finite	C
Senser	Mental process	Phenomenon

“I’m sure”. Finite “am” shows on mental process and realizes the positive polarity. The actor is known having good attitude, positive polarity.

I	don’t	think
S	Finite	C
Senser	Mental process	Phenomenon

From the clause above, finite “don’t” shows that the polarity is negative. It will influence the attitude of the actor. Finite is the component of process. Finite in process of clauses that found in data, then distribute on this table.

Table 4.2 Finite in process of clause

No	Process	Total Items
1.	Relational	
	- Attribution	17
	- Identivication	12
	- possession	3
2.	Behavioral	
	- mental	36
	- verb	16
3.	Existential	4
4.	Material	17
5.	Mental	15

The table shows that behavioral process mental is the biggest number. Existential process is the rare one. It meant that finite realizes psychology process and as the way to measure the polarity. Positive finite can mark that polarity of a clause is assertive. Negative mark that shows in finite will influence the polarity. As Halliday & Matthiessen explain (2004), if the negative word is part of some element in the Residue, the clause itself maybe positive.

From the data, total item of finite with negative mark is 34 data and 86 data is finite in positive form. According to the data, the actor of the story (Alice) has assertive polarity. The writer can conclude that Alice on the story has positive character and strong attitude. The polarity found from Alice's speaking shows that she is in certain condition whatever it is. Sort story reading is important to promote students' critical literacy at schools (Crook, 2019; Simmons, 2016) especially in the contexts of early education which is short story is relevant (Dermott, 2015).

As the final remark, most finites represent polarity is known as behavioral process mental. It means the act of mental can be the way to measure the character of the participant. As a part of the process, finite process helps readers to reveal the speakers' attitude. Alice's words on the dialogue mostly contains assertive behaviors. This is as an indication that she is not a weak girl. Yet, she is strong. Every event faces without fear.

### **Conclusions and Recommendation**

Polarity is indicated by its finite to show the actor positions or attitude. To this, it concludes that Alice on the story has positive character and strong attitude. The polarity found from Alice's speaking shows that she is in certain condition whatever it is. Finite shows the process realizing the polarity of the actor's speaking. Most finites represent polarity known as behavioral process mental. From the findings, it suggests textual meaning and ideational, which are not explored within the analysis can be further investigated in the contexts of short stories.

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