

THE REPRESENTATION OF SOCIAL ACTORS IN THE PUTIN'S *FINANCIAL TIMES* INTERVIEW

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Abstract

This study aims to uncover ideologies of president Vladimir Putin based on the interview in the Financial Times newspaper. This study adopted Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory of Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), particularly Transitivity analysis. This analysis utilized processes and participants of Transitivity is to examine Putin's ideology behind his lexical choices. This study applied a qualitative approach. The data findings present the highest number of occurrences came to Mental process with 60 occurrences (38%), This finding indicates how Putin's ideology. Putin plants his ideology by showing his hard work and how he convinced USA's president. This is done to build his positive image and people trust to him in order he get support from his constituents. This study is concluded that Putin attempts to uphold his ideology in order he can maintain his power relation among he himself to the public or people.

Keywords: *Systemic Functional Linguistics, Ideology and Online media*

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Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengungkap ideologi presiden Vladimir Putin berdasarkan wawancara di surat kabar Financial Times. Penelitian ini mengadopsi teori Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) dari Halliday dan Matthiessen (2014), khususnya analisis Transitivity. Analisis ini memanfaatkan proses dan partisipan Transitivity untuk mengkaji ideologi Putin di balik pilihan leksikalnya. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif. Temuan data menunjukkan jumlah kejadian terbanyak datang ke proses Mental dengan 60 kejadian (38%), Temuan ini menunjukkan bagaimana ideologi Putin. Putin menanamkan ideologinya dengan menunjukkan kerja kerasnya dan bagaimana dia meyakinkan presiden AS. Hal ini dilakukan untuk membangun citra positifnya dan kepercayaan masyarakat kepadanya agar ia mendapat dukungan dari konstituennya. Studi ini menyimpulkan bahwa Putin berusaha untuk menegaskan ideologinya agar ia dapat mempertahankan hubungan kekuasaannya antara dirinya sendiri dengan publik atau rakyat.

Kata kunci: *Systemic Functional Linguistics, Ideology dan Media daring.*

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Introduction

Language is a main tool for human communication. Halliday (1999) asserts that language acts as a medium and the text is behind the linguistic system which gets impressions and influences from the context. In addition, Cleveland, et al., (2015) that language can function as an indicator of identity for individuals or groups and is more flexible than other more stable indicators such as race, gender, and religion to represent the identity of its speakers. Again, Halliday (1999) emphasizes that language is a system of grammatical and lexical items, which have a relationship with its context. Mushtaq et al (2020) augmented the language performs its role in the speeches to shape ideology and power. The researchers claim that both political leaders used personal pronouns to demonstrate the recognition of problems faced by the common people. Through social media, the language is used effectively.

Thus, the language is considered as a vital role in the news media, which has emerged as a political institution and known as mediatized (Schudson, 2002). Asad et al. (2019) augments that in politics, the design for effective communication is based in language, which can be verbal or written to attract towards the message of a speaker/writer. Nowadays, online newspaper is more popular compared to paper-based newspaper, it has great influence and which also represents different ideologies when a person reads different newspapers with different images or expressions (Asad et al., 2019). That leads to discover the ideology behind the news, which forces it to transform into present condition.

According to Leong (2015) and Asad et al. (2019) and media as a cultural source in the political world is considered political 'kingmakers', which legitimize or de-legitimize different positions as media discourse. On the other hand, via online media politicians are easily to plant their ideologies (Abdulameer et al, 2019). The depiction of political news in textual shape has big impacts on readers. As Fairclough (1995) stated that texts are social life spaces by comprising of cognition process and social interaction. And by considering 'context' of language as a notion leads to the useful investigation (Halliday, 1999). By

adding context with the language investigation, it creates a dialectical relationship between them.

Furthermore, Schudson (2002) scrutinizes the three main approaches towards language i.e. the performance of social organizations, political economy and cultural effects/traditions recognizing that the language as a form of culture. Asad et al. (2019) depicts that the media outlets and their employees often make policies by considering public opinion by putting their own interests first and favor politicians also.

It is based on the explanation above the representation process in political discourses has brought clarification of power distribution among the society. Therefore, mostly prominent political leader or nation leaders utilize online media to spread their ideologies and influences.

Therefore, a leader uses a language to be a political tool to influence many people. A nation leader uses a language or a speech to transfer his ideology to be planted to his people. Ideology can be transferred via language. According to Mushtaq et al (2020) ideology can be analyzed via his language. Language use, great emphasis is attached to language features, such as what language is used for, rather than what language structure is all about and how it is constructed (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Vladimir Putin is one of the most popular political leader in the world, therefore he is very interesting to be analyzed since he is the most powerful man in the world and very influential around the world because of everything that he do or says could effect the whole world. But before he become someone who is very powerful and respected in his early career Vladimir Putin studied Law at Leningard State University, after that he served 15 years as a foreign intelligence officer for the KGB (committee for state security) including six years in Dresden, East Germany.

Thus, it is interesting to understand Putin's ideologies via analyzing an interview has been done by the 'financial Times' online newspaper. By using systemic functional linguistics (SFL), particularly transitivity analysis.

Systematic Functional Linguistics (SFL)

Michael Alexander Kirkwood Halliday is a prominent linguist who introduced Systematic Functional Linguistics (SFL) in 1978 by providing ground for the analysis of linguistics.

SFL particularly focuses on clauses, which is rooted in structural grammar. As per Halliday, the context is a social angle that affects the language. He explained the concept of transitivity as transmission of ideas by a semantic system that analyzing the representation of reality by linguistic texts.

In SFL, text is analyzed in four ways i.e. context, semantics, lexicogrammar, and phonology. In 'context', language is categorized into two parts i.e. the context of culture and context of situation (Asad et al, 2019). In 'context of culture' the language gets its shape as per cultural values. The 'context of situation' is categorized into three terms i.e. field, tenor and mode. In 'field', the status of language appears, in 'tenor', the language role is defined while in last term that is 'mode', the role of language has emerged in existing situation (Matthiessen&Halliday, 2014).

By using Transitivity or Ideational metafunction is about what is happening what will happen, what has happened from according to Butt, et al., (2010). Transitivity is used to analyze human experience as represented in the texts. So, it can be realized in clause as representation of the Transitivity process which are Processes, Participant, and Circumstances. By using these main elements of transitivity enable to uncover Putin's ideology in the interview texts.

Transitivity in Theory

There are six processes of transitivity system: Material, Mental and Verbal processes as major and Relational, Behavioral and Existential as a minor process. These processes have the participants, which serve different roles in the clause (Halliday & Mathiessen, 2014, p. 213-223). The researchers also classified the clause process based on Halliday's classified by Eggins (2004) and Fontaine (2013). The participants in the clause play specific functions. Material Process "considered of events and actions and consist of an actor the doer of the action and the goal" (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The Mental process is based on sense. The Mental process is divide into Senser who is (like, hate, remember) and Phenomenon the thing being sensed. The person, fact or particular object can be the phenomenon can be (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The mental process considers about Perception Processes ('seeing'), Cognition Processes ('thinking'), Desiderative Processes ('wanting') and Emotive Processes ('loving'). The relational processes are based on characterizing or identify (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The relational process is realized in clauses by 'being' and 'having'. There are verbs involved in the Relational process: verbs 'be' and the verbs of possession such as: have, own, and possess. Relational processes have two types: Attributive (Hassan is wise) and Identifying (Hassan is a leader) Examples from (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014, p.265).

The Relational attributive process does not identify the situation or case but describes it. In other words, it attributes to some entity (Bloor & Bloor, 2004, p. 121). There are two

Participants in the Attributive Relational Carrier and Attribute. In some cases Attributive process shows to serve possession. ownership so is known as a Possessive process. In this case, the participants are the Possessor and the possessed (Bloor & Bloor, 2014). The verbal process realizes by the verbs such as (say, tell, speak, criticize, explain, repeat and declare).

The verbal process is related to three participants: Sayer, Verbiage, and Target (Thompson, 2004). Moreover, Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) stated the “physiological and psychological behavior, like breathing, coughing, smiling, dreaming and staring can be called a Behavioural process”. Behavioural processes divided into two participants: Behavior and Range, and the function like scope participant in the material process. The existential process is represented by existence or happening in the clauses. The existential process is realized by (there is or there are) in the clauses. “The existential process has one participant is called existent and represents the thing existed” (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004).

Media

A media of entertainment is very important for human beings, particularly the internet has been a part of human’s life (Pramesthi, 2021, p.221). Media is largely controlled by acts like The Official Secrets Act, The Printing and Publication Act, Internet Security Act and Sedition Act (Asad et al., 2019, p.581). By keeping the view to embrace the ‘Information Society’ which is imminent and inevitable and it is the only choice for developing nations to embrace new technology. By taking benefit of the internet, the very first online newspaper, which gained the reputation of the unbiased source. Nowadays online media is very popular to be accessed promptly and easily. It enables online media is enjoyed to be consumed widely and quickly.

Methods

this research applies a descriptive qualitative approach. Qualitative research is a method that uses text and images with interesting steps in analyzing data as well as using diverse research strategies (Creswell, 2009, p. 173). This research concern on the expression of functions in the language which in the end can also determine the ideology of a political leader, for instance Vladimir Putin. From the results, the specific case of some information from different socio-political contexts. Since the material is depicted as cords of words, it is identified as qualitative rather than quantitative research. It depends on how the data is analyzed by the researcher to find certain ideological stances of Putin. The objectives of this study are to analyze ideological stance by using transitivity analysis in the Vladimir Putin Interview published by ‘Financial times’ news online. The data for this study was obtained from the video that was uploaded by Financial times in 5 July 2019 entitled “Vladimir Putin: the full interview” as the main source. This editorial could be found at <https://www.ft.com/video/d62ed062-0d6a-4818-86ff-4b8120125583> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbY0Vpyjtul&t=2772s>. This research used the textual analysis to give contribution widely information to the mechanisms by which the social contradictions evolving and are lived out (Graber & Smith, 2005). As mentioned previously, to uncover the ideology behind the interview of the “‘Financial times’ news online’ as an is employed with Halliday’s Systematic Functional Linguistics (SFL) analytical tool for textual analysis particularly transitivity analysis.

Findings and discussion

The findings of this study is aimed to unmask ideological stances of Putin behind his lexical choices in the interview of ‘Financial Times online newspaper’ in 2019. It is to investigate certain ideology of Putin by using Transitivity analysis. As stated in the limitation that this study will use types of participants and processes of Transitivity. Those are as the findings displayed. This table below shows the process of transitivity.

Table 1: Types of Transitivity process’

Process	Frequency	Percentage
Material	31	14%
Verbal	28	18%
Mental	60	38%
Behavior	5	3%
Relational	27	17%

Existential	8	5%
Total	159	100%

As presented in the table 1 above that the most frequency of the of the process types in the Interview of Vladimir Putin with total 159 (100%). The first place felt under Mental process with 60 Occurrences (38%). The second position is placed by Material Process with 31 Occurrences (19%). The third place came to Verbal Process with 18(%). The Fourth place was Relational Process with 27 occurrences (17%). The Fifth place went to Existential process with 8 occurrences 5(%). The last position felt under Behavioral process with 5 occurrences 3(%). Thus, the Mental process exceeded the five other processes. This shows how Putin tends to use the Mental process in his interview. The following part comes to participants.

Table 2: Types of Participants

Process	Frequency	Percentage
Actor	31	20%
Senser	60	39%
Carrier	15	10%
Token	13	9%
Behaver	5	8%
Sayer	28	18%
Total	152	100%

Table 2 shows the most frequency of the of the participant types in the Interview of Vladimir Putin comes with total number of the occurrences 152 (100%). The highest position came to Senser with 60 occurrences (39%). The second position felt under Actor with 31 occurrences (20%). The third place came to Sayer with 28 occurrences (18%). The Fourth place was Carrier with 15 occurrences (10%). The Fifth place was Token with 13 occurrences (9%). The last position came to Behaver with 5 occurrences (3%).

The findings shows that Senser in the Mental process exceeds the five other participants found in the interview of Putin. Mental clauses refer to “our inner experience of the world, our consciousness, our state of being, and our reflection on or “our relation to outer experience” (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Thus, the findings indicate ideological inclination of Putin use mental perspective as can be seen more detailed discussion as following part.

Discussion

Based on the findings as in previous part that the material process as the most and the Behavioral as the least frequency occurred. The then the most participant used came to Senser in the Mental process. This indicate ideological tendency of Putin as some extracts below.

Extract 1

“We are **working** on the basis Russia not only today.”

The extract 1 above that the process of the clause is “**working**”, the used participant of ‘We’ refers to the actor, ‘on the basis Russia’ refers to the goal. This indicates that Putin wants to show that he is a hard-work president. The use of pronoun ‘We’ is aimed to ask the people to work together to build the nation. Extract 2

“to **convince** our US partners not to withdraw from the treaty.”

As can be seen in the Extract 2 above that the process of the clause is “**convince**” can be categorized as cognition, The used participant of ‘(elliptical)’ refers to senser, ‘our US partners not to withdraw from the treaty’ refers to the phenomenon. In this case, putin utilizes his mental process to maximize his effort to convince his partner include the United States of America as ‘the big rival’ in the world. He convince his people that he can work even with his ‘enemy’. From the two extracts above indicates how Putin to show the public that he is a hard- work president. On the other side he also build the public trust that he can cooperate with ‘the big enemy’. This is done by Putin to attract the sympathy from the audiences to support his government.

Conclusion and further research

This study can be concluded that analysis of the ideological stance of Putin is done, using systematic functional linguistics (SFL) by Michael Alexander Kirkwood Halliday. Putin is considered one of the great presidents in the world has great influence to plant his ideologies via his lexical choices. the analysis of this study based on transitivity analysis, particularly process types and participants. The finding shows that the most frequency came to the Mental process which is aimed to show how Putin convince the readers or audiences how he works hard in order to get positive image from the public to get support from the audineces. Then, the participant role mostly came to Senser to show how he is able to convince the audiences that he can work together even with the , big enemy’ as like the united states of

America. He has planted his ideologies to the audiences that he is the correct and grey president who able work hard.

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Conflict of Interest

No potential conflict of interest was reported.

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