

# METAFUNCTION ANALYSIS IN NEWS ITEM: A SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTIC STUDY

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#### **ABSTRACT**

This research is aimed at identifying the generic structure in the news item and lexico grammatical drawn in the news item. The analysis is intended to reveal meaning contained in the text by employing systemic functional linguistics approach. This study was conducted by qualitative descriptive method to analyze and describe the data. The data of this research an article about the governor of Yogyakarta, Sri Sultan HB X who made the decision to appoint his daughter as his successor. This article taken May 2015 from http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/05/08/sultan-half-brothers-discusssuccession.html. result of the analysis showed that: the generic structure of news item can be newsworthy event, background event and comment. The lexico grammatical of this genre are mostly used verbal, material and attributive process, mostly used circumstantial of time and place, used past tense and used nominal group (six half brothers, Suryodiningrat and Sri Sultan HB X) as the main subject.

Keywords: SFL study, Metafunction, Generic Structure, Lexico grammatical, News Item

#### I. INTRODUCTION

This study intended to analyze an article about the governor of Yogyakarta, Sri Sultan HB X who made the decision to appoint his daughter as his successor. This article was taken on 10 May 2015 from <a href="http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/05/08/sultan-half-brothers-discuss-succession.html">http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/05/08/sultan-half-brothers-discuss-succession.html</a>. The articles have been selected topics taken enough to attract attention, because in the present situation the discourse about the appointment of Sri Sultan's daughter as his successor were busy discussed. Besides the public spotlight Sri Sultan statement which revealed that he was getting sabdaraja. In a word, there is one point in it that discussed renaming the first daughter GKR Pembayun becomes GKR Mangkubumi, as well as lifting GKR Pembayun become Crown Princess the Palace of Yogyakarta. A series of "sabda Tama" and the "sabdaraja" issued by the Sultan that had caused the pros and cons among the royal family. The reason for this in the history of the kings of Mataram, has never appointed women as leaders.

Therefore, the systemic functional grammar is used as a tool to answer the question of what is the generic structure of that news item? and what are lexico grammatical drawn in the news item?. Regarding this, Derewianka (1946: 3) elaborates that functional approach looks at how language enable us to do things, to share information, to enquire, to express attitude,

to order our experience and make sense of the world. The analysis is intended to reveal meaning contained in the text by employing systemic functional linguistics approach. This paper analyzing raced on Halliday's theory (2004) that analyze lexicogrammar into three metafunctions: ideational, interpersonal and textual. Each of the three metafunctions discussed about different aspects found in the world, and focus on a different meaning in each clause.

#### II. LITERATURE REVIEW

## A. Systemic Functional Grammar

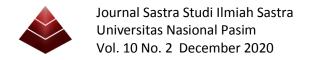
The systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), first presented by M.A.K Halliday, provides a new perspective to analyze language while offering a new method to see into its meaning based on its function. In Systemic Functional Grammar, language use is considered functional and the function is to make meanings. Meanings are influenced by the social and cultural context in which they are exchanged. While Gerot and Wignell (1994: 6) say that Functional grammar attempts to explain language in actual use and so focus on text and their contexts. Functional grammar concerns not only with structure but also how those structures construct meaning. In functional grammar, clause is the most important unit rather than sentences.

In SFG's perspective, clause is the most important unit rather than sentences. In relation to the importance of clause in the analysis, Bloor and Bloor (2004) point out that clause has a special place in expressing meaning because with clause we can begin to talk about how things exists, how things happen and how people feel in the world around us. Additionally, people usually use language to interact with others at the rank of clause.

In the light of Functional Grammar, three types of meanings are simultaneously constructed within the text itself: (1) ideational meanings, which include experiential and logical meanings; (2) interpersonal meaning; (3) and textual meaning (Halliday,1985; Eggins, 1994; Gerot and Wignell, 1994). Concerning this, Bloor and Bloor (2014) state that this happens since certain aspects of grammar support ideational metafuncion, other aspects realize interpersonal metafunction yet others recognize the textual one. Although there are three types of meaning as pointed out earlier, this paper focuses only in ideational meaning and textual.

## **B.** Ideational Metafuction

The term transitivity is probably familiar as a way of distinguishing between verbs according to whether they have an object or not. According to Thompson (1996: 78) "Transitivity refers to a system for describing the whole clauses, rather than just the verb and its object". Halliday and Matthiessen (2004: 170) also say that transitivity system belongs to experiential metafunctions". When it looked at the experiential metafunctions, that mean looked at the grammar of the clause as representation. It is called so because the clause in its experiential functions is a way of representing pattern of experience.



Doing transitivity analysis starts form a classification of the different kinds of processes. It agrees to Gerot and Wignell (1995: 54) that "process is central to transitivity". Participant and circumstance are incumbent upon process. It indicates different processes suggest different participants in varying circumstances.

### C. Interpersonl Metafunction

This metafunction tell how to make an utterance on interactive event enherently involving a speaker or writer and an addressee (listener or reader). This metafunction consist of mood element and residue.

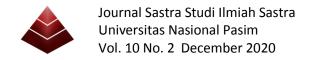
The Subject, when it first appears, may be any nominal group. he Finite element is one of a small number of verbal operators expressing tense (e.g. *is,has*) or modality (e.g. *can, must*). Subject and Finite are closely linked together, and combine to form one constituent which we call the Mood. The Mood is the element that realizes the selection of mood in the clause. It has sometimes been called the 'Modal' element; but the difficulty with this is that the term 'modal' is ambiguous, since it corresponds both to mood and to modality (Halliday, 2004: 113).

The remainder of the clause called the residue. It has sometimes been labelled 'Proposition', but this term is also not very appropriate; partly because, as has been mentioned, the concept of proposition applies only to the exchange of information, not to the exchange of goods-and-services, and partly because, even in the exchange of information, if anything it is the Mood element that embodies the proposition rather than the remainder of the clause (Halliay. 2004: 114).

#### **D.** Textual Metafunction

Textual matafunction is what role language is playing in the interaction how the text is organized, what kind of text is being made, what the channel of communication (Gerrot & Wignell, 1994: 14). Textual metafunction is realised by theme-rheme system. According to Halliday, (1985: 38) theme is the element which serves as the point of defature of the message; it is which locates and orients the clause within its context. It is mean from Halliday about theme is element which save in first sentence in the message. There are three types of textual theme like topical, interpersonal and structural theme.

Topical theme is usually but not always the first nominal group in the clause (Gerot & Wignell, 1994: 104). Interpersonal theme is the elements occurring before the topical theme are also thematic. They may modal adjncts, vocatives, finite or wh-elements (Gerot & Wignell, 1994: 107). Textual theme is relate the clause to its context. they are continuatives, conjunctive adjuncts and conjunctions. The line between conjunctions and conjunctive adjuncts often a fine one. One difference is that conjunctive adjuncts are more free to move in a clause whereas conjunctions are pretty well restricted to being at the beginning. Conjunctions tend to provide textual themes within a clause complex and are called



structural themes. Conjunctive adjuncts, on the other hand, tend to (but don't always) join text outside of clause complexes. They tend to have more of a text-organising function.

## E. Genre

The notion genre and grammar are closely linked. Different genre deploy the resources for meaning-making through the grammar in different ways. Genre includes the more general idea of what the interactants are doing through language and how they are organize the language event, typically in recognizable stages, in order to achieve that purpose (Thompson, 2004: 43). There are some kinds of genres taken from Gerot and Wignell (1994):

Genre	Social function	Generic structure	Significant lexicogrammatical
			feature
Spoof	To retell an event	Orientation,	Focus on individual participants,
	with a humorous	event(s) and	use material processes,
	twist	twist	circumstances time and place,
			use past tense
Recount	To retell events	Orientation,	Focus on specific participants,
	for the purpose of	event(s) and re-	use material processes,
	informing or	orientation	circumstances time and place,
	entertaining		use past tense, focus on temporal
			sequence
Reports	To describe the	General	Focus on generic participants,
	way things are	classification,	use of relational processes, , use
	with reference to	description	simple present tense, no
	a range of		temporal sequences
	natural, man-		
	made and social		
	phenomena in		
	our environment		
Analytical	To persuade the	Thesis (position,	Focus on generic human and
exposition	reader or listener	preview),	non- human participants, use of
	that something is	arguments	relational processes, , use simple
	in the case	(point,	present tense, use internal
		elaboration),	conjunction to stage the
		reiteration	argument and reasoning.
News item	To inform	Newsworthy	Telegraphic information
	readers or	event(s),	captured in headline, use
	listeners or	background	material processes, use
	viewer about	event(s), sources	projecting verbal processes and
	events of the day		focus on circumstances
	which are		

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	considered		
	newsworthy		
Anecdote	To share with	Abstract,	Use exclamations, theoretical
	others an account	orientation,	questions and intensifiers, use
	of an unusual or	crisis, reaction,	material processes, use temporal
	amusing incident	coda	conjunction
Narrative	To amuse,	Orientation,	Focus on specific and usually
	entertain and to	evaluation,	individualized participants, use
	deal with actual	complication,	material processes, use relational
	or vicarious	resolution, re-	and mental process, use
	experience in	orientation	temporal conjunction and
	different ways		temporal circumstance and use
			past tense.
Procedure	To describe how	Goal, material,	Use generalized human agents,
	something is	steps 1-n	use simple present tense, mainly
	accomplished		temporal conjunction and
	through		material processes
	sequences of		•
	actions or steps.		
Description	To describe a	Identification,	Focus on specific participants,
1	particular person,	description	use attributive and identifying
	place or thing	1	processes, frequent use of
			epithet and classifier in nominal
			group, use simple present tense.
Hortatory	To persuade the	Thesis,	Focus on generic human and
exposition/	reader or the	argument,	non- human participants, use
argumentation/	listener that	recommendation	material, mental and relational
persuasion	something should		processes, use simple present
persuasion	or should not be		tense.
	the case		tense.
Explanation	To explain the	General	Focus on generic human and
Zaplunuton	processes	statement, a	non- human participants, use
	involved in the	ĺ	mainly material and relational
	formation or	explanation	processes, use simple present
	workings of	- Apidiation	tense, use mainly temporal and
	natural or socio-		causal circumstances and
	cultural		conjunction, some use of passive
	phenomena		voice to get theme right.
Discussion		Issue (statement,	Focus on generic human and
Discussion	· `	,	
	least) two points	preview),	non- human participants, use

	of view about an	arguments for	material, relational , mental
	issue	and against or	processes, use comparative:
		statements of	contrastive and consequential
		differing points	conjunctions, reasoning
		of view (point,	expressed as verbs and nouns.
		elaboration),	
		conclusion or	
		recommendation	
Review	To critique an art	Orientation,	Focus on particular participant,
	work or event for	interpretative	direct expression or opinion
	a public audience	recount,	through use of attitudinal lexis,
		evaluation,	use elaborating and extending
		evaluative	clause and group complexes to
		summation	package the information, use
			metaphorical language

## III. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

## I. What is the generic structure of that news item?

The article which is analyzed can be called as news item. As drawn by Gerot & Wignell (1994: 200) the function of news item is to inform readers, listeners or viewers about events of the day which are considered newsworthy or important. It means that the writer wants to tell the reader about the process of naming his daughter and about sabdaraja. The incident was crowded as previously discussed, Sri Sultan held a meeting with community leaders and told that he got sabdaraja so he made the decision to make her as a leader. Therefore the authors try to explain the naming procession and reason.

Firstly, the writer tells the event in summary form. He summarize in the beginning of the text that Sri Sultan made a decision to name the eldest of his five daughters as the crown princess. Then, the writer elaborate what happened to Sri Sultan that he choose her daughter as the crown princess. Because of the unusual decision, the public becomes excited and not a few who deplore the decision. Thus, at the end the writer gave a comment from another participants about his dissagrement which said that the governor actually should be a king not a queen.

Text	Generic
	structure
Yogyakarta Sultan Hamengkubuwono X met with his six younger half brothers	Newsworthy
from Jakarta on Thursday afternoon to explain his decision to name the eldest	Event
of his five daughters as the crown princess on Tuesday.	
The six half brothers are the sons of their father, former sultan	Background
Hamengkubuwono IX, and wife Kanjeng Raden Ayu Cipto Murti.	Event

	I
They are Gusti Bendoro Pangeran Haryo (GBPH) Pakuningrat, GBPH	
Cakraningrat, GBPH Suryodiningrat, GBPH Suryomentaram, GBPH	
Hadinegoro and GBPH Suryonegoro. The meeting took place at the Kraton	
Kilen (West Palace) and lasted about two hours. Suryodiningrat said the	
meeting was a relaxed and ordinary discussion between	
brothers. Accompanying the sultan was his eldest daughter Gusti Kanjeng Ratu	
Pembayun, who has been given the new title of Gusti Kanjeng Ratu	
Mangkubumi after being named the crown princess.	
Suryodiningrat, however, declined to reveal the details of the meeting and said	
they first needed to share them with their other brothers.	
"I am sorry I cannot tell you more about the meeting," Suryodiningrat told <i>The</i>	
Jakarta Post after the meeting. He added that the meeting was more like a	
forum of clarification, in which the sultan explained his actions and the six	
brothers listened and clarified matters."We will have a meeting first before we	
decide on anything," Suryodiningrat said. Tensions intensified between the	
sultan and his half brothers following his decision to name his eldest daughter	
his heir. None of his brothers were reportedly present during the naming of the	
crown princess on Tuesday, which was conducted only five days after he	
issued a sabdaraja (king's proclamation) that many considered was a move to	
smooth the way for his daughter to take the reins. This internal palace affair is	
also a matter of public interest, since Law No. 13/2012 on Yogyakarta's	
special status stipulates that the ruling sultan is also the governor of the	
province. To help collect input from the public, the sultan's brothers	
established a post at Ndalem Yudonegaran to give people the opportunity to	
convey their aspirations regarding the issue.	
The post was officially opened at 10:30 a.m. and until late afternoon groups of	
people were still seen arriving there.	
Activist Beny Susanto of the Yogyakarta NGO Forum, who was among the	Comment
visitors, said those who highlighted gender in respect of this issue were not	
being fair. "I'm not talking about the internal regulation at the palace but the	
Yogyakarta Special Status Law, which implies that the governor is the sultan,	
not a queen," Beny said.	

## II. What are lexico grammatical drawn in the news item?

It can be proved by seen the language features of news item. In news item, the process used are verbal and material, beside that circumstansial of place also used in this genre. From the data, the most dominant process type in this atricle are verbal process with 16 frequency or 37,2 % and material process with 13 frequency or 30,2 %. It can be seen in the table below:

Process Type	Frequency	Percentage
The Use of Material Process	13	30,2 %
The Use of Behavioral Process	0	0 %

The Use of Mental Process	2	4,6 %
The Use of Verbal Process	16	37,2 %
The Use of Attributive Process	10	23,2 %
The use of Identifying Process	2	4,6 %
The Use of Existential Process	0	0 %
Frequency	43	100 %

Verbal process is used more predominantly used because the author wanted to express what was said by Sri Sultan Hamengku Buwono X about *sabdaraja*. And the circumstances mostly used is circumstance of place with 9 frequency or 37,5 %. It proved that the writer tend to give the explanation where that event took place. The table below will give information about the circumstancial in this article:

Circumstances	Frequency	Percentage
The Use of Circumstances of Time	8	33,3 %
The Use of Circumstances of Place	9	37,5 %
The Use of Circumstances of Manner	1	4,2 %
The Use of Circumstances of Cause	1	4,2 %
The Use of Circumstances of Quality	0	0
The Use of Circumstances of Behalf	0	0
The Use of Circumstances of Accompaniment	2	8,3 %
The Use of Circumstances of Matter	2	8,3 %
The Use of Circumstances of Role	1	4,2 %
Total	24	100

The tenses mostly used is past tense with 23 frequencies or 70 %. It told that news item happened in the past, and the writer tend to give information about something's happend in Yogyakarta. The main subject of this article are six half brothers, Suryodiningrat and Sri Sultan Hamengku Buwono X. It can be proven by the title "Sultan, half brother discuss succession". It can be seen at the following table:

Tenses	Frequency	Percentage
Present Tenses	11	33,3 %
Past Tenses	22	66,7 %
TOTAL	33	100 %

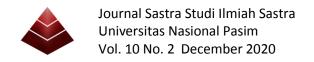
Subject	Frequency	Percentage
Sri Sultan Hamengku Buwono X	5	17,8 %
He (refer to Sri Sultan HB X)	1	3,6 %
Six Half Brothers	2	7,2 %
They (refer to six brothers)	3	10,7 %
We (refer to six brothers)	2	7,2 %
The meeting	2	7,2 %
Suryodiningrat	4	14,2 %
I (refer to Suryodiningrat)	2	7,2 %
He (refer to Suryodiningrat)	1	3,6 %
Gusti Kanjeng Ratu Pembayun	1	3,6 %
Beny Susanto	3	10,7 %
I (refer to Beny Susanto)	1	3,6 %
The governor	1	3,6 %
Total	28	100 %

The subject mostly used is topical theme. It means that the subject used is nominal group and it can be said the generic human. Gerot & Wignell (1994: 104) elaborated that topical theme is usually but not always the first nominal group in the clause. The following table is the frequency of textual theme:

Type of Themes	Frequency	Percentage
Textual	3	8 %
Interpersonal	1	3 %
Topical	33	89 %
TOTAL	37	100

## IV. CONCLUSION

The analysis of data showed that the generic structure of news item can be newsworthy event, background event and comment. Firstly, the writer give a conclusion of the event happened and tell the readers about the whole event in short. Then, the writer give the explanation clearly about the background of the event. At the end, the source information



or adding information is put in that article. The lexico grammatical of this genre are mostly used verbal, material and attributive process, mostly used circumstantial of time and place, used past tense and used nominal group (six half brothers, Suryodiningrat and Sri Sultan HB X) as the main subject.

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