MEANING BEHIND THE POEM: AN ANALYSIS OF TRANSITIVITY OFPOEMS IN ROMANTICISM PERIOD

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ABSTRACT

Romanticism period is the period of poem. The themes of poems in romantic era are dominated with nature, freedom, equality and confraternity. To get the meaning of the poem, the readers have to interpret the intention in the poem. One of the ways to convey the meaning is by analyzing the transitivity pattern in the poem. Transitivity is represented the experiential meaning that are meanings about the world, experience and what is going on in the clauses. The purpose of this research was to figure out the ideas contained within the three poems in romantic period. The data were three poems in romantic era entitled *I wandered Lonely as a Cloud by William Wordsworth*,*The Battle of Blenheim by Robert Southey*, and *London by William Blake*. Descriptive qualitative method of transitivity technique was employed in analyzing the process types occurred in the three poems. The process types were then calculated and cultivated to reveal the meaning behind them. The findings showed that there were 7 material processes, 2 mental processes, 9 behavioral processes, and 2 relational attributive in the poem entitled *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*. Then in *The Battle of Blenheim*, the processes that found were 9 relational attributive, 10 behavioral, 4 mental, 24 material, 1 existential, and 9 verbal processes. Meanwhile in *London*, the processes were 6 material and 3 mental. The finding result of transitivity has a relationship on the idea of poet at the romantic period.

Keywords: transitivity, type of processes, experiential meaning, poem, romanticism period

I. INTRODUCTION

Romanticism refers to a glorious era spanning in the late 18th and early 19th centuries mainly in Europe. The idea of romanticism comes from the belief that men are basically good and they should be given chances to build a better world, apart from formal institution such as government and church, based on that basic characteristic (Samekto, 1976: 50). This idea then brings massive transformations to the life of European and British Society. The transformations ranged from agriculture to industry, from man worker to machines, and most importantly is the shift from the conventional order and authority into individual freedom. Nearly all the parts of life from economy, politic, culture, social, art, including poetry became a part of this history.

In poetry, most poets were also influenced by the emerging situations at that very time. They mostly promoted the freedom for individuals in expressing their rights and ideas. Among those prominent poets which are classified as one of the greatest during the Romantic era include *I wandered Lonely as a Cloud* byWilliam Wordsworth,*The Battle of Blenheim* by Robert Southey, and *London* by William Blake.This research attempts to figure out ideas contained within the three poems in relation with the time they were published. The analysis employed Systemic Functional Linguistics of Transitivity as formulated by Halliday.

II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
Earlier Studies

Researches in transitivity analysis on poetry and the like have been flourishing lately.Mehmood, Amber, Ameer, and Faiz (2014)appliedtransitivity in elaborating Wilde's The Nightingale and the Rose by explaining the roles of each process to successfully deliver the message of the short story.Abed and Mohammed (2015) examined the functions of different processes of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguisticstheory in creating the poetic voice in

Langston Hughes's three early poems: *The Negro Speaks of Rivers* (1921), *Motherto Son*(1922), and *I, Too* (1926).This research took a slightly different object by analyzing the poems during the Romantic era.

Transitivity

Through the system of transitivity, we can find the clause as representation. We can explore the clause in terms of who does what, who feels what, who says what and etc. The central part of transitivity is *process*. The processes are:

1. Material process, expresses the notion that an actor does something.
2. Mental process,ones of sensing: feeling, thinking, perceiving.
3. Verbal process,process of saying.
4. Behavioral process, process of physiological and psychological behavior.
5. Relational process,process of being and having.
6. Existential process, process of existence

III. METHODOLOGY

To elaborate the process types of transitivity in the poems, descriptive analysis method was applied in this research. The analysis was done in every line of the poem. The researchers identified the predicator used in the poem and analyzed the process. After determining the type of process for each predicator, the percentages were then counted and compared one to another independently in each poem. From the percentages found, the researchers then elaborated and interpreted the processes found to explain the meaning behind the poems.

IV. RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

A. Finding

The transitivity in three poems found can be seen in the table below.

Table 1. The Result of Transitivity Analysis

Type of Process	I wandered lonely as a cloud		The Battle of Blenheim		London	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Behavioral Process	9	45%	10	17,54%	-	
Material Process	7	35%	24	42,11%	6	66,67%
Relational – Attributive	2	10%	9	15,79%	-	
Mental Process	2	10%	4	7,02%	3	33,33%
Existential Process	-		1	1,75%	-	
Verbal Process	-		9	15,79%	-	
Total	**20**	**100 %**	**57**	**100%**	**9**	**100%**

From the table above we can conclude that the dominant processes in *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*were Behavioral processfollowed by material process. Meanwhile in *The Battle of Blenheim*, the process was dominated with material process followed by Behavioral process. In *London* there were only two processes found: material process and mental process. Below are some examples of transitivity that were found in the poems:

1. Behavioral process.

There are 9 clauses applied behavioral process in '*I wandered Lonely as a cloud'*. The examples are:

Behavioral/line6/IWLC
A host, of golden daffodils; (Behaver)
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,

Fluttering and dancing (behavioral) in the breeze. (Circumstance)

In 'The Battle of Blenheim' there are 10 behavioral process that found. The behavioral process reflects physiological and psychological behaviours. The examples are:

Behavioral/line26-27/TBB
Young Peterkin, he **cries**;
And little Wilhelmine**looks up**
With wonder-waiting eyes;

2. Material Process

Material process is found in all the poems. Material process dominates the poem entitled *"The Battle of Blenheim"*. There are 24 material processes in that poem. The examples are:

Material/line10-11/TBB
In playing there **had found**;
He **came to ask** what he had found,

The second highest is found in 'I Wandered Lonely as a cloud.' There are 7 material processes, for examples.

Material/line1-2/IWLC
I **wandered** lonely as a cloud
That **floats** on high o'er vales and hills,

Furthermore, the material processes in *London* are in the third. There are 6 processes here. The examples are as follows:

Material/line1-3/L
I **wandered** lonely through each chartered street,
Near where the chartered Thames **does flow,**
A mark in every face I **meet,**
Marks of weakness, marks of woe.

3. Relational – attributive process

Relational-attributive processes are dominated by*The Battle of Blenheim*. The researchers found 9 clauses that apply relational-attributive. Relational-attributive is the process of being and having. The examplesare as follows.

RelationalAttributive/line41/TBB
Nor **had** he where to rest his head.

In addition, the researchers only found 2 relational-attributive in *I wandered lonely as a Cloud*.

RelationalAttributive/line15/IWLC
A poet could not but **be** gay,

RelationalAttributive/line22/IWLC
Which **is** the bliss of solitude;

4. Mental Process

Mental process are about sensing, feeling, perceiving, or thinking. The material process is found in the three poems chosen. There are 4 material processes that found in The Battle of Blenheim. The clauses that applied material process can be seen below.

Mental/line46and52/TBB
But things like that, you **know**, must be

London also applied material process. The researchers found 3 clauses there. The exampleof clauses is written down below.

Mental/line10/L
How the chimney-sweeper's cry
Every blackening church **appals**,

Mental processes can also be found in *I Wandered Lonely as a Child*. There are 2 material processes in that poem as follows.

Mental/line3/IWLC
When all at once I **saw** a crowd,

Mental/line11/IWLC
Ten thousand **saw** I at a glance

5. Existential Process

The existential process is only found in The Battle of Blenheim. Below is the example of clausewith existential process.

Existential/line20/TBB
For **there's** many here about;

6. Verbal Process

The researchers found verbal processes in The Battle of Blenheim. Nine verbal processes are applied in the poem.

Verbal/line34/TBB
But everybody said," quoth he,

B. DISCUSSION

From the findings above, we can see that the highest transitivity found in *The Battle of Blenheim* and *London*is material processes. This material process explains some entity physically does something. Within the two poems, the writers choose the verbs of material process to show some actions. *The Battle of Blenheim*tells about Wilhelmine and Peterkin who asked their grandfather, Kaspar, about something they found near the stream. Kaspar told them about the battle in Blenheim. Blenheim is the English name of Geman village, Blindheim. In addition, behavioral process in this poem shows us the physiological and psychological behavior of Kaspar, Wilhelmine, Peterkin, and the people in the battle.

Then, in London, material process also tells the reader about the action of the writer who wandered through the street of London and told the observation about the condition. Mental processes in London reinforce the poem condition. They create the feeling of the reader toward the poem.

In *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*, the dominant process that found is behavioral process. These processes tell the physiological and psychological behavior of the nature and the writer.

This poem is about the beauty of nature and the deep feeling of the writer. The writer chooses behavioral process to explain the physiological behavior of the nature such in the line:

A host, of golden daffodils; (Behaver)
Beside the lake, beneath the trees, (Circumstance)
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze. (Behavioral)

Moreover, the material process in this poem tells the reader about the action that done by the writer or the nature.

V. CONCLUSION

Processes found in each poem represent experiences. In *The Battle of Blenheim* and *London*, material processes explain the reader about the actions of the actorsduring France revolution. Both poems tell the conditions in that era,the separation of social classes and uphold the human dignity by giving sympathy to the lowest class people. In *London*, material processes explain the writer's actions in observing the way of London. Then, in *The battle of Blenheim*, material processes explain the actions done by the hero to win the battle and also explain the actions of the main actor there. Quite different to the two previous ones,*I wandered Lonely as a Cloud* is dominated with behavioral process first and then followed by material process. This poem tells about the beauty of nature beside the lake. Wordsworth chooses the verb in behavioral process to show the physiological behaviors of creatures in the small nature. Furthermore, the material processesfound in this poem shows the reader about the actions done by both the writer and the creatures.

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