

## Process Types of the Main Character's Utterances in the Short Story *Bliss* by Katherine Mansfield

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### Abstract

This research focuses on process types of the main character's utterances in the short story *Bliss* by Katherine Mansfield. Six kinds of process types which are material process, behavioral process, mental process, verbal process, existential process and relational process are analyzed. The aim of the research paper is to investigate and classify the process types of the main character's utterances in the short story. The objectives are to analyze the use of process types and to find out which process type is mostly used in the main character's utterances of the short story. In this research, the data are collected and analyzed by using the theory of Halliday and Matthiessen (2004). It is found that material process is the most frequent type of the main character's utterances in the short story *Bliss*. It can be said that the use of process types in the short story can make the readers vividly see the characters' action, feelings, opinions, thoughts, behaviors, emotions, beliefs and values in their mind eyes.

**Keywords:** process types, transitivity, short story

### Introduction

Language is a system of communication used by a group of people in a particular country or area. The use of language in the form of spoken or written text is called discourse. Written discourse is considered as an imperative aspect that needs to be analyzed. Cohesion, coherence, clause relations and text patterns are all parts of written discourse. Discourse analysis is an approach to the analysis of written, vocal, or sign language use, or any significant semiotic event.

In evaluating and describing the language use for a written text, functional grammar is very important and there are four big groups in functional grammar: noun group, verb group, adjective group and prepositional group. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), there are three meta-functions. They are interpersonal function, ideational function and textual function. The ideational meta-function consists of experiential function and logical function of language. But in this research, ideational function is mainly focused and process types are classified. The process is realized by means of a verbal group, which is either one word belongs to the world class verb, or a group of words with a verb as the head or nucleus of the group. Moreover, the processes constitute one of a small number of different process types in the experiential grammar of the clause.

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The aim of the research paper is to explore the main character's utterances of the short story from functional point of view. The objectives are to analyze the uses of process types and to find out which type of process types is mostly used in the utterances of the short story. In this present research, the data are collected and analyzed by using the theory of Halliday and Matthiessen (2004). To fulfill the aim and objectives of this research, the short story *Bliss* by Katherine Mansfield is selected to collect data and the data are analyzed based on the theory of Halliday and Matthiessen (2004).

### **Literature Review**

Transitivity is one of the components of ideational functions which concerns with the transmission of ideas. It is also a well-known model taken from systemic functional grammar. Its function is representing 'process' or 'experience': actions, events, processes of consciousness and relations (Halliday, 1985). Process is the central of the transitivity (Gerot and Wignell, 1994:54). It is usually described by a verb. Traditionally, verb has been defined as "doing word". However, some words are not doing words at all, they can sometimes show the state of being and having.

The focus of this study is process types in the main character's utterances of the short story *Bliss* by Katherine Mansfield.

### **A Brief History of the author**

Katherine Mansfield Murry (14 October 1888 – 9 January 1923) was a famous New Zealand modernist short story writer. She wrote short stories, letters, journals and reviews, and was regarded as a central figure in British modernism. She is also noted for her short stories with themes relating to women's lives and social hierarchies as well as her sense of wit and characterizations. In an early age, her stories had published in newspapers and periodicals while still a teenager. She had her first story "Enna Blake" published since she was nine years old. That story appeared in *The High School Reporter* in Wellington, and the editor commented that it shows promise of great merit. She is remembered for her short stories and poems. She published several short stories that included popular titles like *In A German Pension* (1911), *Bliss* (1920), *An Ideal Family*, *The Garden Party* (1921) and *Her First Ball* (1921).

### **Theoretical Background**

In this research, the data is analyzed by using the theory of Halliday and Matthiessen (2004). According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), the transitivity system construes the world of experience into a manageable set of processes types. These processes are material process, mental process, relational process, behavioral process, verbal process, and existential process. The definitions of these processes are as follows;

### **1. Material Process**

Material Processes encode the experiences in the external material world. These are to do with doing and happening. Processes such as gave, arrived, collapsed, caught, bit are material processes.

For example; Tsunami has damaged many properties.

### **2. Mental Process**

Mental Processes encode the inner world of cognition, perception, inclination or liking and disliking. These are to do with thinking, wanting, perceiving and emoting. Processes such as know, enjoy, remember and understand are mental processes.

For example; Thomas understands what they mean.

### **3. Relational process**

Relational processes function to explore relationships of being and having between two participants. Processes such as are, was, were, seemed, have, became, felt, belongs to are known as relational processes. Within relational processes, there are two main types; relational attributive which relate a participant to its general characteristics or description and relational identifying which relate a participant to its identity, role or meaning.

For example; Their office is sumptuous.

### **4. Behavioral Process**

Behavioral Processes encode physiological or psychological behavior (often the doing equivalent of a mental or even a verbal process). They lie somewhere between material and mental or verbal processes. Processes such as breathing, smiling and watching are behavioral Processes. This process requires only one participant. The participant who is behaving is called 'behavior'. (Halliday,2004).

For example; He is smiling.

### **5. Verbal Process**

Verbal Process is a process of saying. The sayer is the central participant of verbal processes; saying, telling, asking, informing, suggesting and praising and so on. The participant who is speaking is called "sayer".

For example; Marcus Antonius praised Julius Caesar.

### **6. Existential process**

Processes realized by the verb groups such as are, was, were, where the verb to be functions to set up the existence of a sole participant. In this process type, verbal group is almost always proceeded by the word there, which functions as subject in the clause.

For example; Once upon a time there were nine villages.

### **Related Research**

A research entitled “PARTICIPANT ROLES AND PROCESS TYPES IN ENGLISH INSURANCE FORMS” was conducted by Pia Nurstiana, Siti Wachidah, Herlina, in State University of Jakarta in December 2018. It was based on Halliday’s theory about transitivity and process types in language. The aim of this research is to investigate about the English Health Insurance Claim Form with content analysis and the systemic functional approach for the purpose of identifying process types and participants roles. This research used text as a research object. The focus of this research was the English health insurance claim form text and the sub focus was process types. In this research, material process is 62.95% and it is the most commonly used type. The least process type is existential process and the percentage is 0.9%.

A research entitled “PROCESS TYPES IN STUDENTS’ NARRATIVE TEXTS” was conducted by Erwin Oktoma (Department of English Education, University of Kuningun, Indonesia in January 2017. It was based on Halliday’s transitivity. The aim of this research was to investigate the process types appear in students’ narrative text. This research raised two problems; the process types in students’ narrative text and the errors of process types occurred in students’ narrative texts. As the results of data analysis, the process types used by students were mental, material, verbal and relational processes. There are two findings in this research. The first finding related to the process types occurred in the narrative texts produced by the first-grade students and the second related to the errors of process types in students’ text constructed by transitivity system.

The researches were by different researchers from different point of views. The theories used in the two related researches and the present research are generally the same. The material of the first research is English Health Insurance Claim Form and the second one is the students’ narrative text. The present research studies the use of processes in utterances of the short story “Bliss” by Katherine Mansfield. The materials of the two researches and the present research are not the same but the theories are related, based on Halliday’s theory.

### **Research Methodology**

This research observes process types of the main character’s utterances in the short story “Bliss” by Katherine Mansfield. The data is analyzed and divided into six types of processes; material process, mental process, relational process, behavioral process, verbal process, and existential process based on the theory of Halliday and Matthiessen (2004).

In the short story *Bliss*, there are 102 utterances of all characters. But in this research, the 52 utterances of the main character Bertha Young were analyzed.

### **Data Collection and Data Analysis**

The data are collected from the utterances of the short story “Bliss” by Katherine Mansfield. Process types in the utterances are analyzed and classified into six types by using the theory of

Halliday and Matthiessen (2004). The following table shows the sample data analysis of process types found in the utterances of the short story “Bliss” by Katherine Mansfield.

The analysis of process types are shown in the table (1) using abbreviation as follows.

- Ma = Material Process
- Me = Mental Process
- Re = Relational Process
- (Att = Relational Attributive)
- (Id = Relational Identifying)
- Be = Behavioral Process
- Ve = Verbal Process
- Ex = Existential Process

**Table 1: Process types in the main character’s utterances of the short story “Bliss” by Katherine Mansfield**

Utterance No.	Utterances	Process Types							
		Ma		Me	Re		Be	Ve	Ex
		Doing	Happening		Att	Id			
1	No, that about the fiddle <b>is</b> not quite what I <b>mean</b> .			√		√			
2	I'm too happy-too happy!					√			
3	<b>Is</b> nurse back?						√		
4	And <b>has</b> the fruit <b>come</b> ?		√						
5	<b>Bring</b> the fruit <b>up</b> to the dining-room, will you? I'll <b>arrange</b> it before I <b>go</b> upstairs.	√ √ √							
6	No, <b>thank</b> you. I <b>can see</b> quite well.			√ √					

### Data Interpretation

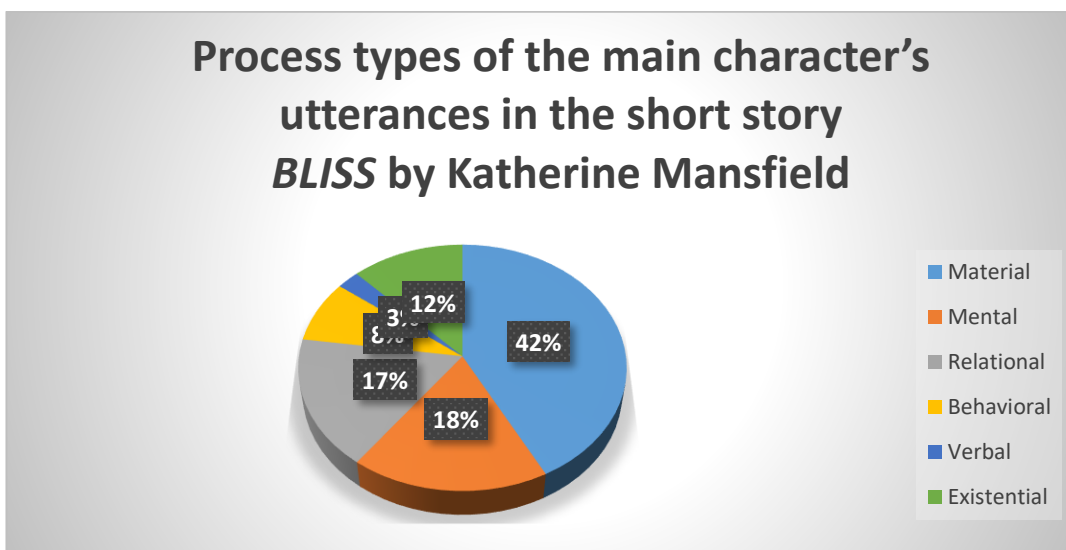
**Table 2: Total frequency and percentage of process types of the main character's utterances in the short story**

No.	Process Types	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Material	52	42.3%
2.	Mental	22	17.9%
3.	Relational	21	17.1%
4.	Behavioral	10	8.1%
5.	Verbal	3	2.4%
6.	Existential	15	12.2%
<b>Total</b>		<b>123</b>	<b>100%</b>

The above table shows the frequency of six process types of the main character's utterances in the short story "Bliss". It is shown that the frequency of material process is 42.3%, mental is 17.9%, relational is 17.1, behavioral is 8.1%, verbal is 2.4% and existential is 12.2% in the main character's utterances. It reveals that there are 123 frequencies of all process types in the main character's utterances. Material process is the most highly used process type.

### Findings and Discussion

There are 102 utterances of the characters. In this research, 52 utterances of the main character and 123 frequencies of process type. The percentage of process types found in the short story is shown in the following figure.



**Figure 1: Percentage of the Process Types of the main character's utterances in the short story**

### ***Bliss* by Katherine Mansfield**

The above figure shows the percentage of process types in the main character's utterances of the short story *Bliss*. It is found that material process is 42% and the most highly used process type in the selected utterances. It can be said that the writer mostly used material process to describe the physical appearance of the main character. To make the main character's actions and manners are vividly seen in the readers' mind eyes. The writer frequently used the action verbs which leads to material process types. It can be seen that the writer has a wide knowledge of choice of words in presenting her characters in the selected utterances of the short story.

### **Conclusion**

In learning a language, the learners should have a better understanding on not only linguistics but also literature of that language. Literature is a written work which can make the readers more interested in learning the language. Especially, short story became an important role in creating the activities and feelings of the people in the fictional or non-fictional world. The writers present their work with the use of beautiful words and clauses, conveying the message of their work to the readers. This research is mainly concerned with how the writers create the utterances of the characters in their work, playing the main role to give the essence of the work to the readers.

Therefore, it aims to analyze and classify into process types in the utterances of the short story *Bliss* by Katherine Mansfield. The objectives are to identify the process types and to analyze which type of process types is mostly used in the utterances of the short story. To fulfill the aims and the objectives of this research, the process types in the selected short story are analyzed and classified, based on the theory of Halliday and Matthiessen (2004). It is found that material process is the most frequent type.

It can be said that the use of process types in the short story makes the readers construes a quantum of change in the flow of events taking place in the reader's own consciousness. Moreover, it can be concluded that this research will be effective for the learners who would like to improve the comprehensive skill and writing skill in learning a language, arousing their interest in functional grammar. Finally, it can be suggested for the next researcher that other literary works apart from the short stories can be used to collect data for process types based on the theories proposed by different linguists.

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