

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Anne with an E is a series adaptation that reimagines “Anne of Green Gables”, a timeless classic in children's literature by Canadian author Lucy Maud Montgomery (1908). Montgomery is widely recognized and celebrated as a literary icon for her exceptional talent in writing. Some scholars have extensively studied her life and work and have praised her for her skillful storytelling and unique writing style (Epperly, 2014; Rubio, 2008; Johnston, 2005).

Montgomery had published a number of high-quality literary works, among which *Anne of Green Gables* invariably stands out as one of her masterpieces. The novel is widely regarded as the first successful work of Montgomery's that has been researched from literary approaches (Manal, 2023; Hinshaw, 2023), cultural approaches (Adjikusuma, 2020; Partyka-Sitek, 2019) and linguistics studies (Tinhinane & Wafaa, 2022; Shet & Kumar, 2021; Bajri & Al-Amshani, 2019).

Anne with an E first premiered in 2017 and was directed by Moira Walley-Beckett. The series ran for three seasons, totaling twenty-seven episodes, with a story that follows the adventures of Anne Shirley, a spirited and imaginative orphan girl who is accidentally sent to live with Marilla and

Matthew Cuthbert in the fictional town of Avonlea, Prince Edward Island, Canada. The series adaptation, nonetheless, reframes the original story with a contemporary viewpoint, most notably through storylines that expand upon the original's themes so that the characters would address relevant issues of social prejudice and injustice, encompassing race and gender discrimination (Collins, 2023; Abbiss, 2020).

The series *Anne with an E* features two main characters, i.e. Anne Shirley and Gilbert Blythe. Anne Shirley, the main female character, whose character aligns closely with feminist principles, has garnered interest from some literary researchers, including Wardani (2023), Sitorus, Palupi, & Danadharta (2023), and Hanifah (2021). Besides that, some linguistic studies have been conducted focusing on Anne Shirley in the series (Widyasari, Widiastuti & Qomariana, 2023; Damayanti, 2023). However, at the time of conducting this research, only one study was reported examining the character of Gilbert Blythe in the series. Therefore, I am particularly interested in choosing Gilbert Blythe to be further analyzed as a research object in this study.

This research will proceed to discover the characterization of Gilbert Blythe in *Anne with an E* Series from a linguistic approach. I attempt to provide a linguistic interpretation of Gilbert Blythe's portrayal using Halliday and Matthiessen's transitivity theory (2014), as the concepts of transitivity allow for an investigation of how the character is constructed

through certain process within a clause that represents his characterization. This study focuses on how transitivity theory can be applied to analyze utterances that reveal the characterization of Gilbert Blythe.

1.2. Research Problems

From the background of the study, I decided to formulate two research problems as follow:

1. What is the type of transitivity processes used to characterize Gilbert Blythe?
2. How is the characterization of Gilbert Blythe based on transitivity theory?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

This research aims to provide solutions for the research problems. Thus, I decided to propose the objectives of the study, which are listed below:

1. To identify the types of transitivity processes used to characterize Gilbert Blythe.
2. To elaborate on utterances containing Gilbert's characterization based on transitivity theory.

1.4. Previous Studies

There has been some research undertaken to analyze various aspects of *Anne with an E Series* (Season 1, 2 and 3) utilizing different approaches. I discovered two studies within the domain of literature: Wardani (2023) and Rahma (2023) both explored the representation of liberal feminism in *Anne*

with an E. Wardani (2023) focused on the representation of liberal feminism in season 3, arguing that the struggle for gender equality prompts the female characters to advocate for the liberal feminism movement. Meanwhile, Rahma (2023) examined how patriarchal culture in *Anne with an E* series contributes to gender discrimination. By applying Naomi Wolf's (1997) theory of liberal feminism, the study focused on how female characters resist the discrimination through feminist movement advocating for equal rights.

Regarding cultural studies, Hnatow (2020) used feminist media perspective, focusing on decolonization and centering marginalized voices, to investigate the representation of girlhood in *Anne of Green Gables* and its various adaptations, with a rigorous analysis specifically of *Anne with an E*.

Furthermore, within the domain of linguistics, Annisa and Elfiondri (2021) used theoretical concepts from Claridge (2011) to study the use of hyperbole in *Anne with an E*. Their research analyzed the various forms and intended meanings of hyperbole employed by the characters in the series. On the other hand, Damayanti (2023) used Coates's (2013) language features theory to investigate the differences and similarities between the language features of Anne Shirley and Gilbert Blythe, the main characters in *Anne with an E* series. This study employed Coates's theory as the recent critical theory towards Lakoff (1975).

Despite the fact that *Anne with an E* series has been discussed in some studies, none have specifically addressed the transitivity system. By employing Halliday and Matthiessen's theory of transitivity (2014), I conduct an analysis study of the characterization of Gilbert Blythe, one of the prominent characters in *Anne with an E*, as only one study focusing on his character has been identified. Accordingly, this study aims to provide practical contribution to fill the gap in linguistic research on *Anne with an E* series.

The analysis of transitivity in stylistics has been extensively explored to study literary works and narratives. Two prior studies employed a similar method, applying content analysis approach to examine narrative content in transcripts from fictional movies. Sihura's study (2019), utilizing Martin, Matthiessen, and Painter's theory (1997), investigated the dominant transitivity process used in the cartoon movie *Frozen* (2013). Unlike Sihura's study, Istriningsih and Ekawati (2022) focused on the types of transitivity processes in *Crazy Rich Asians* (2018), directed by Jonathan Murray Chu. They also assessed the effectiveness of the processes based on Hopper and Thompson's theory (1980).

Furthermore, some research has previously applied transitivity theory to study characters in literary works. Nurhayati (2018) and Kusuma Putri and Nirmala (2021) used transitivity theory to identify the main characters: Mother and Emily from *I Stand Here Ironing* (1961), and Lion

and Fox from Aesop's Fables (1919). Rahmadanty and Subiyanto (2021) and Lubabah (2023) each conducted a transitivity analysis to examine characters: Eleanor from *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* (2017) and Tai Lung, the antagonist in *Kung Fu Panda I* (2008), respectively. In their research, Rahmadanty and Subiyanto (2021) incorporated corpus linguistics to manage large data sets. Meanwhile, beside analyzing Tai Lung's character, Lubabah (2023) also investigated the dynamics between Tai Lung and Shifu to uncover the reasons behind Tai Lung's turn to evil, as well as examined Tai Lung's influence on Tigress.

1.5. Scope of the Study

The current study utilizes the application of transitivity theory proposed by Halliday within the purview of linguistics. The data are restricted to the selected clauses of utterances in which Gilbert takes the role of an active participant, passive participant, or a circumstantial element in transitivity processes. The data consist of Gilbert's utterances and other characters' utterances that contains references to the characterization of Gilbert Blythe in the three seasons of *Anne with an E* series.

1.6. Writing Organization

The current study provides a systematic explanation and is divided into five chapters, structured as follows:

CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, research problems, the objective of the study, previous studies, the scope of the study, and writing organization.

CHAPTER II : THEORY AND METHOD

This chapter contains theoretical framework and research method. Theoretical framework addresses the theory of characterization and transitivity system. Research method covers the research design, data and data sources, population and sampling technique, method of data collection, and methods of data analysis.

CHAPTER III : RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the result by including a table and discusses the data, which has been analyzed through transitivity perspective.

CHAPTER IV : CONCLUSION

This chapter provides the conclusion derived from the study's result and discussion.

REFERENCES

APPENDIX