

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

This chapter presents the theoretical framework that explains the theory and research methods used by the writer.

2.1. Theoretical Framework

In this subchapter, the writer explains the theory utilized for examining and interpreting the data.

2.1.1. Transitivity

Transitivity is part of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) developed by M.A.K. Halliday. According to Eggins (2004), Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is a way of looking at language from functional and semantic perspectives. It examines how people use language in various contexts and how language is organized as a system of meaning. SFL provides a framework for analyzing how language choices affect meaning in various contexts.

According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2004), language is seen as having three main “metafunctions” that work together. There are ideational, interpersonal, and textual metafunctions. First, ideational metafunction deals with how language is used to represent and make sense of human experience. It is distinguished into two components: experiential and logical. Interpersonal metafunction focuses on using language to conduct and manage our social relationships. Textual metafunction is about organizing language to create coherent and cohesive text or speech.

As a part of ideational metafunctions, transitivity explains how language represents reality. According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2004:170), the transitivity system enables us to understand and classify human experiences into various types of processes. Each type of process offers a different way to represent a specific type of experience as a particular event. As stated by Halliday & Matthiessen (2004), transitivity describes the system of the clause where the verb presents the process that affects the participants and circumstances. In other words, transitivity is the way language categorizes what is happening (process), who or what is involved (participant), and under what conditions (circumstance).

The process is the central element of the clause that shows what is happening, being done, felt, said, or exists. The participant also plays a crucial role in the process. It could be people, objects, or abstract things that are involved in either causing the process or being affected by it. The roles and characteristics of these participants depend on the type of process. Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) classify processes into six main types. There are six types of processes: material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioral, and existential.

2.1.1.1. Material process

According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2004), it is a process of doing and happening. A material process represents actions or events in the physical world. The participant who initiates the action is called the actor, while the one affected by the action is the goal. Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) distinguish material processes into transitive and intransitive. Transitive is when an action is performed by an actor

and directed toward another person or thing, known as the goal. Intransitive is when an action happens, but it is contained within the actor itself. It does not affect another person or thing. Besides the actor and goal, material process can include other participants such as the recipient (person or thing that receives something), client (person or thing that benefits from a service), scope (range or extent of the process), and attribute (description of the final state of the goal after the action).

2.1.1.2. Mental Process

Mental process is focused on our internal, conscious experiences (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). This process senses and represents a shift or change within our mental activity. As a conscious participant, the senser always experiences feelings, thoughts, wants, or perceptions. The entity being sensed or perceived is known as the phenomenon. Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) also distinguish mental processes into four sub-categories: perceptive (involves perception through the five senses), cognitive (thinking and knowing), desiderative (wanting or desiring something), and emotive (feeling and emotions).

2.1.1.3. Relational Process

Relational process is a process of being and having. According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2004:210), relational processes serve to describe qualities or attributes and establish identity. In relational attributive processes, a characteristic or quality (the attribute) is assigned to a participant (the carrier). In relational identifying processes, the focus is on defining or identifying something. The participants are the token (what is being identified) and the value (the definition).

In the relational possession process, the party who owns is called the possessor and something that is owned is called possessed.

2.1.1.4. Behavioral Process

Behavioural process is a process that occurs between material and mental processes. This process describes physiological and psychological actions, or “behaviours” (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). The participant is called a behavior and is usually a conscious being.

2.1.1.5. Verbal Process

Verbal process is constructed in human consciousness and realized through language, such as speaking and understanding experiences (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). The participants are the speaker (sayer), the listener (receiver), the content (verbiage), and the entity affected by the saying (target). Projection is a grammatical feature of verbal clauses in which one clause (the “saying” clause) prepares or introduces another clause that contains the actual message.

2.1.1.6. Existential Process

Existential process is concerned with existence, recognizing that various phenomena exist or happen (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004). This type of clause is typically characterized by the presence of the word “there,” which, in this context, does not carry any representational meaning but appears due to the requirement in English grammar for every clause to have a subject (Egins 2004:238). The participant that is said to exist is called the existent, which can be a person, object, institution, abstraction, or even an event.

2.1.1.7. Circumstances

Circumstantial elements provide additional information to the core of the process, such as time, place, cause, and other relevant details. Circumstantial elements can be represented by prepositional phrases, adverbial phrases, or nominal groups. Halliday & Matthiessen (2004) divided circumstances into several types. First, **extent** refers to the duration or distance of a process. **Location** refers to the specific point or place where a process occurs. **Manner** describes how an action is performed. **Cause** describes the reason for an action. **Contingency** refers to the conditions under which an event occurs. **Accompaniment** indicates who or what is with a participant during the action. **A role** describes what an entity is acting as or what it has been transformed into. **Matter** refers to what the action is about. **Angle** specifies the viewpoint or source of a statement.

2.2. Research Method

In this subchapter, the writer describes the methodology used in this study. The methodology comprises the type of research, data, population, methods of data collection, and methods of data analysis.

2.2.1. Type of Research

This study uses a qualitative method. According to Creswell (2018), qualitative research is a method for investigating and comprehending the significance that people or groups assign to a social or human issue. This research is also considered a descriptive qualitative method because Dr. Randall Mindy's

utterances were collected as data and presented by describing or interpreting how he represents the comet to the listeners.

2.2.2. Data and Population

The data source is from the movie *Don't Look Up* (2021) on Netflix. The data is taken from all of Dr. Randall Mindy's utterances. The unit of data analysis is a clause. The population for this study consists of all his utterances in representing the comet to the listeners. This study uses a purposive sampling technique as the writer collected the data specifically relevant to the phenomenon. The sample data is the clause that consists keyword "comet" or "it" that refers to the comet.

2.2.3. Method of Collecting Data

The nonparticipant observation method is used to collect data by evaluating dialogues in the film. Fraenkel & Wallen (2009:441) stated that the nonparticipant technique refers to a research approach in which the researcher takes an observational role but is not directly involved in the circumstances. First, the writer is watching the movie *Don't Look Up* (2021). Next, identify and select the utterances when Dr. Randall Mindy talks about the comet to the listeners. From all of Dr. Randall Mindy's utterances in the movie, there are 94 utterances when he talks about the comet to the listeners. These 94 utterances were sorted to highlight the comet entity by selecting utterances with the keywords "it" that refer to the comet and "comet" itself. Of the 94 utterances, there are 32 that contain these keywords. After that, the writer took notes on all the relevant utterances of Dr.

Randall Mindy in written text. Last, dividing the text into clauses makes it easier to identify relevant linguistic structures.

2.2.4. Method Of Analyzing Data

To answer the research question number 1, “What types of transitivity are used by Dr. Randall Mindy in representing a comet? the writer uses the theory of transitivity by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004). The writer identifies and categorizes clauses based on these process types. Next, create the table and group the clauses by process type. Then, explain the types found and the quantity of each process.

To answer research question number 2, “How does Dr. Randall Mindy represent the comet through the transitivity system?” the writer uses the theory of transitivity by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004). The writer categorizes clauses into tables containing transitivity processes, participants, and circumstances. Then, sentences are analyzed in depth to reveal how the role, process, and circumstance of the comet in sentence structure shape the perception of it as an active entity, an affected object, or an existing and threatening phenomenon, considering the specific context of each utterance.