

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

This study analyzed the characterization of Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee using Halliday's (2014) transitivity system. The analysis focused on how different process types construct Atticus's character traits in the courtroom scenes. The results indicate that verbal processes dominate the data. Out of 65 clauses analyzed, most clauses position Atticus as the Sayer, demonstrating that his character is primarily constructed through speech rather than physical action.

Atticus's incisive trait is shown entirely through verbal processes. His incisiveness appears in his carefully structured questioning, logical sequencing of ideas, and precise attention to factual detail as provided in Datum 1 and 2. Rather than directly accusing witnesses, Atticus employs exact and purposeful language to uncover weaknesses and contradictions in their testimony. Through this strategy, his incisiveness is reflected in his ability to analyze information critically, organize arguments coherently, and guide the courtroom toward the truth through reasoned speech.

The principled trait is expressed through verbal, material, and behavioral processes. Through verbal processes, Atticus demonstrates his commitment to fairness, honesty, and legal procedure. His calm and respectful speech reflects strong moral integrity and ethical responsibility. Material and behavioral processes as shown before in Table 2 and 3 further reinforce this trait by

presenting his controlled actions and professional conduct in court. These patterns portray Atticus as a lawyer whose principles are consistently reflected in both his language and behavior.

The compassionate trait is represented through verbal, relational, and mental processes. Atticus's compassion is most clearly realized through his polite, considerate, and reassuring speech, particularly when addressing vulnerable witnesses, particularly Mayella Ewell. Relational processes characterize him as calm and amiable, strengthening his empathetic portrayal. Mental processes further reveal that although he must expose painful truths, he takes no satisfaction in doing so, highlighting his emotional awareness and humanity.

In conclusion, through his language, Atticus Finch is portrayed as a man whose strength lies not in force, but in speech. His incisiveness is evident in his ability to formulate precise questions and lead others toward the truth through logical reasoning rather than confrontation. His principles are reflected in his calm, fair, and respectful manner, which upholds justice despite social prejudice. At the same time, his compassion is revealed through his gentle tone, respectful address, and sensitivity to the suffering of others. Atticus's use of language ultimately constructs him as a character who believes that words serve not only to uncover truth, but also to preserve human dignity. In this way, he stands as a man of words who is incisive in thought, principled in action, and compassionate in heart.