

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, I provide an overview of the background of the study, the research questions, the purpose of the study, any related previous studies, and the writing organization.

1.1. Background of the Study

The novella *Animal Farm* by George Orwell written in 1945 is an allegorical tale that uses animals to symbolize the events, personalities, and ideologies of the Russian Revolution of 1917. It follows the story of a group of farm animals who overthrow their human farmer and establish their own independent state. The animals attempt to create an ideal society based on the principles of “Animalism”. However, one of the animals, Napoleon, gradually gains more and more power and eventually becomes the leader of the farm.

Napoleon, a Berkshire boar, is portrayed as a power-hungry tyrant. He is a swine who uses his cunning and brute force to manipulate and control the other animals on the farm. Through the use of his own ‘private police force’, which are the dogs, he is able to keep the other animals in check and also maintaining his power. He is also highly ambitious, setting out to gain absolute power over the farm and its inhabitants. He abuses his power to oppress and exploit other animals, which significantly affects the functioning of the farm.

Despite the extensive analysis of "Animal Farm" over the years, particularly concerning its theme of totalitarianism, there appears to be a notable gap of previous studies delving into the linguistic aspects of Napoleon's abuse of power. This

research seeks to address this gap by conducting a thorough transitivity analysis, focusing on Napoleon's utterances and actions, the narrator's description of him and the way the other animals depicted him as a character. Therefore, by looking at the processes Napoleon used to maintain control of the farm, we can have a better understanding about his character and how he was able to effectively abuse his power.

1.2. Research Questions

There are three research questions raised in this study:

1. What types of transitivity processes do Napoleon, the narrator and other characters around Napoleon use to portray Napoleon's abuse of power?
2. How can Napoleon's abuse of power in *Animal Farm* be described using transitivity system?
3. What are the external and internal factors influencing Napoleon in abusing his power?

1.3. Purposes of the Study

The objective of this study is to analyse Napoleon's abuse of power in George Orwell's novel *Animal Farm* (1945) using the transitivity system. This study aims to investigate what types of transitivity processes used to portray Napoleon's abuse of power, how his abuse of power can be described using transitivity system and explore the factors, both external and internal, that influence him in abusing his power by delving into the external and internal factors that shape his actions and decisions.

1.4. Significances of the Study

The study confirmed that the transitivity system can be applied to analyse the characterization of a character in a narrative text. The findings of this study also prove that analysing a person's characterization can be done not only through the actions and words of the person, but can also be represented from the point of view of the narrator and other characters in the story.

1.5. Previous Studies

I found ten studies that provide valuable insights in carrying out this study. These have been divided into two topics: studies which concentrated on studying *Animal Farm* as their object of research and studies that applied the same theory that is transitivity system, but with different literary works.

The first four studies are those that specifically looked at *Animal Farm* (Hafez, 1995; etc.). Hafez (1995) conducted a critical discourse analysis of manipulation in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. The analysis focused on identifying various manipulation techniques, such as generic statements, modality, forms of reference and address, and rewording. The study aimed to expose how the pigs used language to dominate and control the other animals, undermining their autonomy and perpetuating inequality. Ultimately, the pigs represented the injustices and abuses of power that the rebellion sought to overcome. By examining these manipulation tactics, the study sheds light on parallels with totalitarian states, highlighting the importance of raising awareness for the establishment of genuine democracy.

Umam (2016) studied how totalitarianism was represented in the characters of Old Major, Napoleon, Snowball, Squealer, Benjamin and Boxer using semiotics theory from Roland Barthes. This was done by interpreting the personalities of each character, comparing Russian and English culture, making connections, exploring the realm of myth theory and determining the representation of totalitarianism in the work. It was concluded that all of the characters embodied features of totalitarianism.

Furthermore, Hidayat and Susanto (2016) conducted a study on how linguistic strategies are employed to attain political power in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. They adopted the New Criticism approach proposed by Michael Bakhtin. The findings revealed three distinct steps used by the characters in the novel to achieve their ambitions as rulers. The first step involves constructing language to sway others and garner sympathy and support. The second step centers on creating language as a tool for establishing political power. Finally, the third step revolves around the use of language as a means to protect and maintain the acquired political authority.

Subsequently, Risdianto et al. (2019) also studied the pragmatics assumption in *Animal Farm* and how it is manifested in communication. This was done by using the descriptive method and taking data from the utterances of all characters in the novella. The novella contained five types of presuppositions, which were mostly used by the main characters.

For the next five studies, I concentrated on studies that utilized the same theory: transitivity system. Nurhayati (2018) examined the use of the transitivity

system to analyse the characters of the mother and *Emily in I Stand Here Ironing* by Tillie Lerner Olsen. To initiate the investigation, the text was broken down into clauses since they are the unit of examination in Systemic Functional Linguistics. The results indicated that the writer mainly drew upon material processes in contrast to other processes to establish that the main characters were involved in domestic and physical activities.

Likewise, Hajar and Laila (2018) performed a study on *The Little Frenchman and His Water Lots* by George Pope Morris with the transitivity system. This study was conducted to uncover the processes of transitivity and which of these processes predominantly appeared in the text to illustrate Monsieur Poopoo's character. The author utilized observation and documentation method. Two techniques of data analysis were used. First, the author applied the theory of Lexicogrammar to identify the transitivity elements, i.e., Processes, Participants, and Circumstances. Second, the author mathematically used a table of percentage to display the predominant elements found in the text. The study suggested that the dominating process was the material process, which accounted for 48.5% of the total, and that Monsieur Poopoo had a dominant role as an actor.

In 2019, Isti'annah attempted to analyse three different woman character roles; Sharifa, Bibi Gul and Leila based on *The Bookseller of Kabul* by Åsne Seierstad via the transitivity system. The analysis revealed that the three female roles were mirrored in similar material, mental, relational, verbal, and behavioural processes. The processes demonstrated that Afghan women were depicted as humble and devoted figures. The behavioural process was merely employed to show that the

characters were subordinate, while the material process was employed extensively to portray Afghan women's loyalty to their families.

A year later, in 2020, Nugraha and Mahdi looked into how the transitivity system contributes to the character of *Mr. Summers in The Lottery* by using a descriptive qualitative method. Their findings revealed that the author mainly used the verbal process to portray the main character. The second most common process is material, which implies that the character engages in physical activities. Relational process is also used to characterize the characters. The least used processes are mental and behavioural. The former illustrated the characters' cognition and the latter depicted a common activity of Shirley Jackson.

The last study is by Syed, Nazir, Hafiz and Shahbaz (2021), where they tried to analyse the female characters in *The Boarding House* using transitivity system. Both qualitative and quantitative method has been used by the researchers. The analysis found that material process was the most used with 40 clauses.

It is significant to recognize that, at the time I conducted this research, there were no studies about *Animal Farm* that focused on Napoleon's abuse of power via the transitivity system. Nevertheless, the utilization of transitivity in evaluating a characterization has been explored by a number of researchers prior to this. This research provides a unique opportunity to build upon existing knowledge and extend the understanding of the characterization of Napoleon in *Animal Farm*.

1.6. Writing Organization

This study is written in five chapters through the following organization:

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the study, research questions, purpose of the study, significance of the study, previous studies and writing organization.

CHAPTER II: THEORY AND METHODS

This section provides the literary review of the theory used to analyse the data gathered for this research.

CHAPTER III: RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter provides the results and the discussion of an analysis of Napoleon's abuse of power using transitivity system.

CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION

This chapter shows the conclusion based on the finding in this study.