

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

“The Little Prince” is a fictitious novel written by Antoine De-Saint Exupère, a French writer in 1943. The book itself has become one of the most popular books in the world and has been adapted into several films, stage productions, and operas. It tells a story about a young prince called “Little Prince” who travels to different planets and meets numerous characters, such as the pilot (the narrator), a businessman, a geographer, and a fox among others during his journey to other planets. Through these encounters, Little Prince learns the problem of human nature, the importance of love and friendship, and the value of life. The novella is often seen as a philosophical work with hidden valuable meanings behind the story and explores themes such as loneliness, the search for meaning, and the beauty of the natural world. In addition, Little Prince himself is the main character from this story who came from a vastly different planet from Earth, living alone for his whole life. This new journey of him reveals his behaviors, actions, emotions, and all of the important parts contributing to the story.

Subsequently, Little Prince's character can be determined using the transitivity system theory in systemic functional linguistic theorize by Halliday (1978) which provides an analytical framework to examine the relationships between different kinds of elements of a sentence, for instance, subject, object, and also verbs. The theory can be

applied as to explore their actions, and thoughts that are expressed through the language used to describe them. Transitivity system also examines how the author, Antoine De-Saint Exupèry uses transitive structures to deliver Little Prince's personality, for example, it could analyze how the Prince's use of transitive verbs such as "discover" and "explore" to show his adventurous side and curiosity about the world he took a journey of. In addition, this could examine how the transitivity system represents the characters and the ways in which Little Prince interacts with other characters by deducting its active and passive verbs to describe the interactions as for the prince and the fox, the narrator, the geographer and other characters as he learns the value of connection and friendship.

Since Systemic Functional Linguistic enables a thorough analysis of texts by looking at the connection between language, context, and social purpose, this is important as to discover how language is used to create the characters and their connections by the use of SFL in classifying the characterization. Furthermore, SFL can also analyze the character's linguistic choices, for example in the words they use, how they implement grammar and syntax, and context in their talks. The Little Prince himself is defined by his youthful vocabulary, eager attitude, and strong curiosity about the universe. The narrator, however, is distinguished by his use of more formal language.

SFL makes it possible to examine the social and cultural setting to which the characters function, for instance, the Little Prince's language, symbolizes that he belongs to a different culture with a different set of values and beliefs. Through this, a deep knowledge on how language is used to form characters and their relationship is how this is the result of being shaped by the social and cultural settings in which they exist and it's

provided through the application of SFL in classifying the characters in “The Little Prince” novel. Hence, the writer studied this research using SFL on “*The Little Prince*” novel as the writer viewed “The Little Prince” story as unique and interesting to do research with since the characters and events in the novel are seen as symbols for bigger themes and ideas.

### **1.2 Problem Statement**

Antoine De-Saint Exupère, the author of this novel created Little Prince as one of the main characters in the story. His life story and how he ended up going to Earth is narrated/tell by the narrator (the pilot) who is also the main character of the story. Therefore, the writer wants to analyze what clause/lexicons Little Prince use to describe the characterization of the main character and how this clause may be examined to show the main character’s characterization through transitivity system theory.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

This research is conducted to answer these two questions, they are :

1. What transitivity process expresses the characterization of Little Prince in “The Little Prince” novel?
2. How is Little Prince characterized in the novel?

#### **1.4 Purpose of The Study**

The purposes of this research are:

1. To analyze the transitivity process that expresses the characterization of Little Prince in “The Little Prince” novel
2. To explain the characters of Little Prince

#### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

The analysis of this research focuses on the Little Prince’s actions with all the characters he encounters throughout the book. The selected clauses will be taken from the novel’s narrative based on the narrator’s point of view on the character Little Prince and sorted into the six Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL) processes, and the selected lexicons are limited only to which can describe the character in the story through the prominent process appeared in the text.

#### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

Studies on transitivity systems to various literary fiction have been undertaken so far, however, there are no formal studies specifically on “*The Little Prince*” novel. In this study, the writer focused on in transitivity system as a method for gathering and organizing an amount of data taken from the main character, Little Prince’s clauses. The process, participant, and circumstance analysis are added to help the writer to study Little Prince’s character depiction in the selected discourse. The findings of this study will help explain his characterization from SFL perspectives.

## **1.7 Previous Studies**

In acquiring this thesis, the writer has already collected 10 previous studies to be used as reference material. This begins with a previous study written by Sakulpimolrat (2019) which discussed the translation techniques and translation quality of directives speech act in “The Little Prince” novel using triangulation method to collect the data and the data are analyzed using analysis theory presented by Spradley. Thus, from this research the results showed the use of 14 techniques in directives speech act translation, including established equivalence, variation, modulation, implication, explication, discursive creation, transposition, paraphrase, compensation, addition, reduction, borrowing, literal and generalization. It concludes that deployment is the appropriate translation techniques that creates a great transition. Furthermore, this can be obtained that this thesis and the writer’s research has a difference, which in this thesis it focuses more on the speech act from Little Prince’s utterance to distinguish its translation techniques while the writer’s research focuses more to pick up Little Prince utterance with transitivity analysis to produce his distinct characterization.

The next previous study was written by Eliana (2020) who examine about symbolism that is found in “The Little Prince”. This research uses several theories of symbols in literature represented by Kennedy and Gioia, from this thesis, it is found that there are a total of 18 symbols combined, consists of 10 symbolic characters, 2 symbolic actions, 5 symbolic objects, 1 symbolic place and all of it are related to one another. The distinction between this thesis from the writer’s research is how it focuses more to find symbols hidden in the story and it depicts symbols through characters, actions, objects

and places, while the writer's study focuses more to analyze Little Prince's speech to other character or how the narrator describe him in order to point out his transitivity process and character.

Another previous study was conducted by Afriza (2022) with the research on compound words found in "The Little Prince" novel. The writer analyzes the data based on Andrew Carstairs-McCarthy's theory, with this theory the writer has found 80 compound words in total, in detail there are 49 categorized as compound nouns, 9 words as compound verbs, 21 as compound adjectives and 1 words as compound prepositions. This research focuses more on examining sentence construction, it doesn't assess the meanings or interpretation in "The Little Prince" novel, on the other side the writer focuses more on the deeper denotation of it on to evaluate a character based on their behavior.

Additionally, the next previous study was written by Azman (2022), who conduct an analysis of contrastive figurative language and visual imagery in "The Little Prince" novel that is used in the English-to-Malay translation centered in similes, metaphors, and visual imagery. To the end, it is concluded that most of the English similes, metaphors, and visual imagery were translated primarily using the paraphrasing approach. Also, it was discovered that only a small number of the paraphrased translations accurately conveyed the original sense of the source text, yet it was done for a stylistic reason that still makes sense to readers of the target content who speak the target language. This thesis has focal point on comparing the novella side by side between English version and Malay version to distinguish its contrastive figurative

language in two different language, it is sided more to language based research rather than focusing in the book contents, while the writer's research focuses more on the contents as it analyzes the main character's characterization.

Adding to more previous studies, the following one is conducted by Nugraha and Mahdi (2020) with their research about transitivity system on building the character of Mr. Summers in *The Lottery* written by Shirley Jackson. This research uses Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL) theory proposed by Halliday. The outcomes reveal that the author largely uses verbal process which covers 52.63% of the total process in clauses to develop the main character through his verbiage. The difference spotted between this study to the writer's study is how it takes a side character who describes to he has power in the village he live and take him as its main object, while the writer take *Little Prince* from the novel as the main object, who is the main character and has a naïve character.

Likewise, a study directed by Wilde (2019) took research on the short story titled "The Happy Prince" using transitivity system. This thesis uses Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) opposed by Halliday, and it is concluded that material process dominated the most, thus creating dynamic and tangible actions in the text. In addition, the writer's study uses novels as the main object as the study while this study uses short stories as their main object.

The writer then found another previous study written by Rauf and Saleem (2021) who discussed the analysis of Mariam's character in "A Thousand Splendid Suns" using transitivity system. This research uses the theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics by Halliday to examine numerous significant occurrences in Mariam's life, including her

upbringing, marriage, and the murder of the husband. From this research, Mariam is seen to be given more mental processes than material, verbal and relational processes according to a clause-by-clause analysis. Then the majority of mental processes in Mariam are cognitive, showing her logical being. In this research, the distinction is centered on the life story apart from Mariam and the writer's main object namely Little Prince which affects their characterization since both have different struggles.

The next study was written by Rashid (2016), which discussed Hiroko's character in "Burnt Shadows" using transitivity analysis, contains an explanation of applying transitivity to investigate the process of construction of Hiroko. This study uses Systemic Functional Linguistic theory proposed by Halliday. This study reveals the changes in Hiroko's character as she travels from Japan, India, to Pakistan and America as the victim of circumstances. It is then revealed that the character is shown to have development in her characterization from the first section which is 'Nagasaki' to the last section 'Speed Necessary to Replace the Loss'. The novelty of this study compared to the writer's is, although the character Hiroko and Little Prince did travel from place to place, they don't have a similar back story on why they're doing those things. Hiroko's change of character might not be the same as the description Little Prince did because as he gets to other planet from time to time, he became more curious and keeps questioning things just as a child would do, meanwhile, Hiroko's change of character won't be described similarly.

Then going to the next previous study written by Song (2013) conducted a transitivity analysis on "A Rose for Emily" to discuss several examples of six processes



using Systemic Functional Linguistics by Halliday, and it revealed that the process is effective to illustrate the theme. It is also shown that Emily was given continuous rumors, excessive concern, and strong disapproval given by the people which gives burden to Emily as they also place their hope on Emily, this can be concluded from the numerous mental and verbal processes found within the story. The difference that can be taken from this study and the writer's study is, while the character Emily is more of an adult character whose written to have a miserable life, "*The Little Prince*" is written to observe life, adults and human nature. There's a great disparity between both character.

The last study was written by Qasim, et al. (2018) who discussed the linguistic choices in "Hamid's Moth Smoke" using transitivity system in Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL) by Halliday. The purpose of this study is to investigate how meanings are construed in a literary text. Female characters were depicted as having mental and attributive process clauses, whilst masculine characters were given more material and verbal process clauses. According to the results of the current study, transitivity choices can be a helpful analytical tool when examining a literary work. The novelty of the writer's study is, from this study, there are no specific characters that the author put as their object, meanwhile, the writer does have one main character as the main object in the study.

## **1.8 Writing Organization**

This research is going to be interpreted in four chapters with the following organization:

### **CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION**

This chapter covers the background of the study, problem statement, Research questions, purpose of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, previous studies and the last one, writing organization.

### **CHAPTER II : THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK & RESEARCH METHOD**

This chapter explains the transitivity system theory in SFL, the concepts of transitivity, narrative stylistics and characterization in literary fiction.

### **CHAPTER III : FINDING & DISCUSSION**

This chapter shows the findings of the discussion which includes tables and explains what clauses or verbs can depict Little Prince's characterization from the transitivity system theory.

### **CHAPTER IV : CONCLUSION**

This chapter indicates the conclusion of the overall results of the research in this study.