

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the Study

*It Ends with Us* (2016) is a romantic novel covering abusive relationships and the trauma experienced by the main character, Lily Bloom. Lily was traumatized because she grew up witnessing her father repeatedly mistreating her mother. Lily never told anyone about her feeling to anyone. She only wrote some letters to Ellen as she wrote a diary. How Lily wrote a letter to Ellen was the only way for her to release the buried feelings. And then, after her father died, Lily chose to live far away from home to be an independent daughter and to recuperate from her trauma.

However, Lily unexpectedly falls in love with a man named Ryle in her new neighborhood. Ryle's presence gives Lily a new viewpoint on love; Ryle treats Lily very well. Nevertheless, it did not last long; Ryle lost control when angry. Ryle's mistreatment reminds Lily of her father's mistreatment of her mother in the past, which brings the traumas buried within Lily to the surface.

According to Freud (as cited in Caruth, 1996, p. 8), trauma is a wound inflicted on the mind rather than the body. How traumatic events are remembered is determined not just by how they are experienced initially and how others interpreted them, either directly or indirectly (Bal et al., 1999). Painful memories can be traumatic in and of themselves: uncontrolled, intrusive, and usually

visceral. Besides that, one of the most destructive consequences of trauma, according to

Caruth (1995), is the frequent use of suppression, denial, and psychological detachment. The consequences of the trauma were also seen in Lily Bloom's attitude, which was shown by how tightly Lily kept her past wounds.

The novel *It Ends with Us* by Colleen Hoover explores an important social issue of domestic violence and its impact on survivors like the protagonist Lily Bloom. The traumatic experiences that Lily endured due to witnessing and experiencing abuse shaped her perspective, emotions, and behavior. The complex character of Lily Bloom and the theme of domestic violence make the novel *It Ends with Us* a compelling choice for a transitivity analysis that could yield significant findings about trauma.

Analyzing the utterances that refer to Lily Bloom's attitude toward her trauma through the lens of transitivity, as Halliday and Matthiessen suggest, can provide insights into how she construes her traumatic experiences and relates to her trauma. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014, p. 213), transitivity provides resources for construing events through different process types that represent distinct ways of construing experiences. Since trauma is also a type of experience, transitivity can therefore be applied to analyze the utterances that refer to Lily Bloom's attitude toward her trauma by identifying the six trauma reactions of Lily Bloom's and then analyzed using the transitivity processes according to the six trauma reactions.

## 1.2. Research Problems

There are two research problems raised in this study,

1. What are the kinds of the transitivity process that the author uses to depict Lily Bloom's attitude towards her trauma in the novel *It Ends with Us*?
2. How do Lily Bloom's uses of transitivity processes in her utterances reveal her attitude toward her trauma in the novel *It Ends with Us*?

## 1.3. Objectives of the Study

According to the research problems, this study aims to identify the kind of transitivity processes used to depict the utterances that occur in Lily Bloom's attitude toward her trauma in the novel and to examine how Lily Bloom's utilization of transitivity processes in her utterances reveal her attitude toward her trauma in *It Ends with Us* novel.

## 1.4. Previous Studies

The novel *It Ends with Us* has been discussed by some researchers, such as Zahro (2022), Purwita (2021), Dwiastuti & Yamin (2020), and Lestari et al. (2019), from a literature perspective. Studies on the novel *It Ends with Us* from linguistic perspectives have not been conducted, especially the transitivity system. However, there have been studies on literary works similar to this object of the study using the transitivity system.

First, Ezzina (2015) utilized transitivity in her journal to reveal specific

linguistic indicators indicating Pynchon's features and practices as a postmodernist writer in the novel *The Crying Lot of 49*. As a result, the data demonstrate that the novel's main character plays the primary roles in each process type more than other characters. Hence, as the main character, Oedipa Maas demonstrates that her actions have little effect on others.

Next, according to a study by Boukari & Koussouhon (2018), Grabiél Okara's book *The Voice* employed a transitivity system to convey its overall meaning. In analyzing the transitivity processes, the research analyzes the ideational meaning. The analysis of the different processes type in the chosen text showed that it was all about man's constant need to act, comprehend life's meaning, established a fair society, and achieved salvation.

In the following study, Kaur (2019) examined the process types of transitivity systems that may serve as valuable analytical tools for character analysis. The object of the analysis was Joseph Conrad's work *Heart of Darkness*. Kaur (2019) evaluated the characters of Marlow and Kurtz, their roles in the action, and why they are labeled counterfoil each other. The findings indicate that Marlow is a senser, whereas Kurtz is an actor. It indicates that Marlow reflects, whereas Kurtz acts. Marlow observed everything but did not take part in any action. Kurtz's role is in direct contrast to Marlow's, and he is more of an action-oriented individual whose predominant process types are material processes.

Next, Ammara et al. (2019) analyzed the ideational function of language, known as transitivity, in "To the Lighthouse." Ammara et al. (2019) conducted the

transitivity analysis in this paper using the AntConc 3.5.7 corpus analysis tool software. The findings show that the transitivity system can effectively analyze text.

Then, in *The Stone Woman*, Mahmood & Hashmi (2020) employ transitivity to develop Nilopher's character. The study of clause structure for each process reveals that Nilopher has been depicted as assertive. In addition, it has been determined that Nilopher is portrayed as an intensely emotional character with a tender yet corrupt nature and covet behavior.

Sixth, Prajnandhari (2020) analyzed woman's oppression in “The Handmaid’s Tale” TV series. Prajnandhari’s (2020) study aims to discover Offred’s portrayal of oppression. Prajnandhari used qualitative method and library research methods to obtain the data. Afterward, according to the statistics, the relational process type had the most frequency because Offred introduced her oppression and Gilead through this process type. It is also discovered that she utilized more free direct thought to recount her experience than free direct speech since she prefers to remain silent but loud in her mind.

Next, the study by Rahmadanty et al. (2021) aims to analyze lexicons that appeared to determine characterization using Halliday's transitivity system theory. The researchers employed a quantitative-qualitative method to compile the study. Afterward, the findings showed six transitivity processes, each with a lexicon that expressed Eleanor's appearance, traits, behavior, identity, and psychology. A result concluded that Eleanor had a hard worker and a drinker who had trauma

and clinical depression.

Rauf (2021) employed Halliday's transitivity theory to examine Mariam's character in *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. In its study, Rauf (2021) discovered that most of Mariam's clauses are defined as mental processes, and the majority of the processes are cognitive. It was indicated that Mariam was a rational person.

The next study analyzed the representation of anxiety in a short story called *The Thing Around Your Neck* using transitivity. Yahya et al. (2021) assembled this study to use transitivity analysis to analyze how much anxiety is included in the story and explain the anxiety that arises. This study used Halliday's theory and a descriptive qualitative method to describe and analyze the transitivity processes in the story. The study's findings showed that five transitivity processes indicated anxiety in the story, and Akunna's anxiety was created by the helplessness and stereotypes she received from others around her.

Last, Saleh et al. (2021) examined of the transitivity system of sexual-related language in Eka Kurniawan's "*Cantik itu Luka*" and its English version. The qualitative method used to identify the characteristics and structures of the events in its novel. There are 430 sexual-related-language data in Indonesian and English versions. Each version has 215 data. Then, the writer studied 213 data from 215 data and discovered that the primary process was a material process in both the English and Indonesian versions.

The previous studies above indicated that some authors employed transitivity to analyze characteristics of the characters in the novel and literary aspect using

linguistic perspective. Nonetheless, no studies have focused to analyze how the characters react to their trauma in the novel utilizing transitivity. *It Ends with Us* is a novel by Collen Hoover, it tells about trauma that felt by the main character, Lily Bloom. However, ever since the release of *It Ends with Us* no study has focused on the transitivity systems within the novel nor the study analyzed Lily Bloom's attitude toward her trauma. To fill in the gap, the writer used Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) transitivity system theory to identify Lily Bloom's attitude toward her trauma in the novel *It Ends with Us*.

### **1.5. Scope of the study**

To focus the research, the study employs Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) theoretical framework transitivity system to identify the transitivity processes of Lily Bloom's attitude toward her trauma in the novel *It Ends with Us*.

### **1.6. Writing Organization**

This study is divided into four chapters. They are Introduction, Theory and Method, Result and Discussion, and Conclusion. Moreover, every chapter contains of sub-chapters.

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION: This chapter is divided into six sub-chapters: background of the study, research problems, objectives of the study, previous studies, scope of the study, and writing organization.

CHAPTER II THEORY AND METHOD: This chapter presents the theory of trauma and trauma reaction by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (2014), the theory of the transitivity system by Halliday and Matthiessen

(2014), and the type of research, data, data source, method of collecting data, and method of analyzing data.

CHAPTER III RESULT AND DISCUSSION: This chapter presents the result of the data analysis and the discussion.

CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION: The conclusion explains the summary drawn from the result of the analysis done in Chapter III