

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The concept of narrative stylistics underscores the critical role of stylistic elements in shaping the interpretation and construction of meaning in narrative composition. Fludernik (2009:8) advocates a comprehensive examination of narrative texts that goes beyond the analysis of plot and structure, arguing that stylistic choices, including point of view, tense, free indirect discourse, and descriptive language, actively contribute to the depiction of character, the depiction of motivation, and the formation of the narrative environment. By examining these stylistic elements, narrative stylistics provides a nuanced understanding of how linguistic choices intricately shape the interpretation of a narrative's thematic and character-based dimensions (Fludernik, 2009:8).

Derived from the concept of narratology, narrative stylistics explores grammar and semantic content in narrative texts to explain how the writer uses language to convey a series of events (plot, character, and setting). Studying narratives using a stylistic approach has attracted many scholars such as Abdu & Khafaga, 2019; Mehmood et al., 2014; Nurhayati, 2018; Rahmadanty & Subiyanto, 2021; Song, 2013.

One of the narrative texts that is particularly interesting to study using the stylistic approach is George Orwell's novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. This dystopian

masterpiece delves into a totalitarian regime that controls everything, including thought. By analyzing Winston Smith, the protagonist, through the lens of transitivity and corpus linguistics, a stylistic thesis can reveal a fascinating interplay. The novel's relevance to Indonesia and any society lies in its timeless themes. The dangers of unchecked power, information manipulation, and individuality suppression are ever-present concerns. *Nineteen Eighty-Four* serves as a cautionary tale, prompting reflection on the fragility of freedom. Analyzing Winston through transitivity and corpus linguistics can illuminate totalitarianism's power dynamics and human cost, offering valuable lessons for any society. The book was studied previously by Alam, 2020; Ammer, 2012; Hossain, 2017; Kulsum-Binder & Khawla Ahmed, 2017; and Muradian & Karapetyan, 2017. However, learning the book using the stylistic approach with big data has yet to be conducted. Therefore, this thesis chose the novel primarily because of its in-depth exploration of Winston's character and its relevance to contemporary phenomena. Furthermore, Winston's struggle to maintain individual thinking amidst societal pressures to conform underscores broader concerns about the erosion of individuality and the prevalence of groupthink in modern society. Thus, the novel provides a rich source for understanding the complexity of Winston's character and its implications for contemporary sociopolitical issues.

The writer uses corpus linguistics to handle large amounts of data in this research. The writer used corpus linguistics to sort the clauses in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, which will be explained in the discussion chapter. These clauses were

automatically annotated to help the writer provide additional information for exploring each clause.

1.2 Research Problems

Based on the previous background of the study, the following two research problems will be examined in this research:

1. How does the narrator construct the character of Winston Smith in his narration?
2. How is the development of the characterization depicted by the narrator?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This research aims to explain one aspect of the narrative structure by finding what lexicon describes the characterization of the main character and how the lexicon is analyzed to describe the characterization through the narrator's point of view.

1.4 Previous Studies

A significant amount of research has already been carried out using transitivity analysis. This thesis identified five prior studies that applied the system to examine aspects of narrative structure within literary works. The writer found five studies that discussed the transitivity system, including Song's (2013) analysis of "A Rose for Emily." This analysis shows how sentence structures reflect the story's themes of old traditions and societal expectations—Faulkner's story, the writer's argument, honors Emily's fight against these constraints (Song, 2013). Mehmood et al. (2014) analyze "The Nightingale and the Rose" using transitivity, revealing how Wilde uses language to balance our initial sympathy for the nightingale with a deeper understanding of love's complexities (Mehmood et al., 2014). Another study on

short story-identification by Nurhayati (2018), analyzing short stories through “transitivity,” a grammar system, reveals how writers build characters and themes. Studies show verbs (material processes) depict actions, while others (mental processes) explore characters' emotions. This approach helps uncover deeper meanings within the story (Nurhayati, 2018). The fourth paper was conducted by Abdu and Khafaga (2019). Beyond analyzing stories, transitivity can also be used to examine the influence of language itself. They employed Critical Discourse Analysis to show how influential figures manipulate language to shape public opinion. Their study highlights how seemingly neutral words can control thought and behavior (Abdu & Khafaga, 2019). The last study is a transitivity study using corpus-based linguistics by Rahmadanty and A. They used transitivity and corpus linguistics to analyze how word choices reveal character traits. By examining verbs like “working” and “thinking,” they demonstrate how language builds a comprehensive picture of a character, including their personality and psychology (Rahmadanty & Subiyanto, 2021).

In addition, the writer found five other studies using the novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. The first study was conducted by L. Ammer (2012), who analyzes how alienation is conveyed in translations of Orwell's 1984 to Arabic, using transitivity systems to compare the source text with Yahya Haqqi's *The Saint's Lamp*. This highlights how grammatical choices can shape meaning across languages (Ammer, 2012). Hossain (2017) explores how Orwell uses language, notably “Newspeak,” to manipulate people's thoughts in 1984. This control ensures that the population adheres to the government's ideology (Hossain, 2017). Kulsum-Binder (2017)

analyzes Orwell's 1984, focusing on how word choices and “Newspeak” contribute to the oppressive and anxiety-ridden atmosphere of the dystopian world. This stylistic analysis reveals Orwell's intention to evoke a sense of despair and limited expression (Kulsum-Binder & Khawla Ahmed, 2017). A similar point is also discussed by Muradian (2017), who analyzes the invented words in Orwell's “1984,” exploring how these words stylistically shape the reader's experience of the dystopian world. He delves into the linguistic features and influences behind these words (Muradian & Karapetyan, 2017). The last research was conducted by S. Alam (2020). He uses transitivity analysis of Orwell's “A Hanging” to argue that the story exposes the moral failings of colonialism and capital punishment and urges their abolition in the 21st century (Alam, 2020).

It is important to note that, although “1984” is often used as a research subject, at the time the writer conducted this study, there had been no research focusing on the characterization of Winston Smith using the transitivity method and from the narrator’s point of view. Nonetheless, the application of transitivity in analyzing a classification has been made by many scholars in the past. The selected studies presented below prompted the writer to explore his character in a literary composition using the transitivity system.

1.5 Scope of the Study

In this scope of study, the narrator presents the narrative from a perspective that highlights the active and passive roles of the protagonist, Winston Smith, by focusing on clauses in which Winston Smith is involved as an active and passive participant, followed by various verb forms. The analysis of this study's scope is

limited to ideational meaning, allowing it to dissect how the narrative expresses the concepts and ideas underlying the actions and thoughts of the protagonist in the text. Thus, through this approach, the research will reveal the complexity of Winston Smith's characterization within the narrative context exposed in the work.

1.6 Writing Organization

This research is elaborated in four chapters through the following organization:

CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, research problems, objectives, previous studies, scope of the study, and writing organization.

CHAPTER II : THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter comprises the theory of transitivity systems in Systemic Functional Linguistics, the concept of corpus linguistics, and narrative stylistics. It also contains the type of research, data, population, sample, sampling technique, method of collecting data, and method of analyzing data.

CHAPTER III : RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter demonstrates the result by providing tables and examining what lexicons used in the text can be analyzed to describe Winston Smith's characterization seen from the narrator's perspectives. It also proposes a corpus linguistic method to address the perspective of Systemic Functional Linguistics in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Then, the development

of Winston's character is also explained through the results of transitivity and previous corpus examination.

CHAPTER IV : CONCLUSION

This chapter contains conclusions based on the results of the analysis of this research.