

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

This chapter will discuss regarding the theory and method that is used on the research.

2.1. Theoretical Framework

To examine how Charlie's introversion is constructed and represented in the novel, this research employs Halliday's transitivity system within the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), complemented by Jung's theory of introversion as popularized by Susan Cain, and Pennebaker et. al. There is also characterization theory as the bridge for transitivity system and psychology theory by Pickering and Hopper, Fowler, and Minderop.

2.1.1. Systemic Functional Linguistics

M.A.K Halliday developed a functional theory of language which views language as research in construing meaning in social contexts, and not merely as a system of formal language structure (Halliday & Hasan, 1985; Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). This perspective offers that linguistic decisions are heavily influenced by the functions language fulfils in specific contexts and societies.

Unlike formal linguistic theories that emphasize grammatical structure as an autonomous system, SFL regards grammar as a resource for making meaning.

Consequently, linguistic forms are interpreted according to the communicative functions they perform rather than solely by their structural properties. Halliday proposes that language simultaneously fulfils three metafunctions: the ideational, interpersonal, and textual metafunctions. The ideational metafunction enables speakers and writers to represent human experience through language. The interpersonal metafunction concerns the enactment of social relationships, attitudes, and evaluations, while textual metafunction organizes linguistic resources into coherent and meaningful discourse (Halliday & Matthiesen, 2014). SFL has been extensively used in discourse analysis, stylistics, educational linguistics, and literary studies because it highlights the connection between language, meaning, and context. In this study, SFL serves as the theoretical foundation for investigating how Charlie's linguistic decisions influence the development of his psychological characterizations.

2.1.2. Transitivity System

The transitivity system, within the ideal metafunction, describes how language interprets human experience. Halliday and Matthiesen (2014) argue that the transitivity framework goes beyond the broader configuration of traditional grammatical distinctions. The transitivity system focuses on processes, participants, and circumstances through which events, actions, emotions, and states are represented in clauses. It categorizes experiences into six process types: Material process represents physical actions and events; Mental processes

represents perception, emotion, cognition, and desire; Relational process refers to states of being, possession, and identification, which include attributive relations (a quality that is assigned to an entity); Verbal processes refers to acts of saying and communication; Behavioural refers to physiological and psychological behaviors such as breathing or dreaming; and Existential processes refers to the existence of entities or phenomena. Respective process type is associated with specific participant role and shape the experiential meaning of the clause, such as Actor, Sensor, Carrier, Sayer, Behaver, or Token.

Out of all six transitivity processes, the Mental process is the most important process in this study due to its nature that encompasses inner consciousness, or how people perceive, think, feel, and desire. Grammatical evidence of introversion, which is basically defined by an inward orientation toward thought and emotion rather than external action, may be seen through the dominance of mental processes in a character's language. Thus, this research focuses on the distribution of process types across Charlie's narration for the purpose of investigating his grammatical choices and how it contributes to the linguistic depiction of his introverted nature.

2.2. Characterization

Characterization is the depiction of a character's traits, motivations, and psychology in a story. According to Pickering and Hoepfer (1981:27), there are two types of methods:

1. Direct Method

The author's direct comments and explanations of the character's characterizations to the exposition are used in the direct technique (telling). As a result, readers will be able to understand the character's characterizations based on the author's explanation.

2. Indirect Method

The indirect approach (showing) depicts the author stepping outside the story by allowing the characters to demonstrate their characterizations through dialogue and actions. This indirect method is further elaborated by Minderop (2005:8), who identifies dialogue and behavior as the primary vehicles through which characters are exhibited and demonstrated, rather than declared. According to Burroway (2000:54) there are four different methods of indirect characterization in literary work: 1) speech, 2) thoughts, 3) action, and 4) appearance.

2.2.1. Character as Linguistic Orientation

Fictional characters are written and communicated to readers through words, sentences, and grammatical choices. Culpeper (2001) argues that readers form mental perceptions of a character through their vocabulary, syntax, and discourse patterns. This proves that characterization is a process that originates from the text itself, and not merely a narrative method applied by the author.

2.2.2. Mind Style: Language as Window to Psychological Orientation

Fowler (1977) introduced a concept of Mind Style, subsequently developed within the field of stylistics. Mind style refers to how a character's habitual linguistic

choices, such as grammatical patterns, lexical preferences, and transitivity selections, work together to create a distinct depiction of their psychological viewpoint. According to Fowler (1977:103), "any consistent structural features of a text... may cue the reader to a particular mental set or worldview." In other words, the grammar of a character's language encodes the psychological orientation with which that character views and portrays the world, rather than merely communicating facts.

Simpson (1993) expands on this theory in his work on language and point of view, proposing that the transitivity patterns of a narrative text are among the most dependable linguistic markers of a character's psychological orientation. He illustrates that a character whose language is controlled by Mental processes lives in a fundamentally different psychological environment than one whose language is dominated by Material processes, with the former oriented toward inner experience and the latter toward exterior action. This finding serves as one of the current research's fundamental methodological principles.

2.3. Psychological Types: Introversion and Extraversion

Carl Gustav Jung's (1921/1971) theory of psychological types offers the fundamental explanation of introversion as a personality construct and serves as the psychological framework against which the transitivity findings of this research are understood. Jung identified introversion and extraversion as the two basic orientations of psychological activity. Psychic energy travels outward

toward things, people, and events in the extraverted orientation, and the person's main source of excitement and meaning comes from engaging with the outside world. The introverted orientation is characterized by psychic energy flowing inward, into the subject's own inner world of thinking, feeling, reflection, and subjective experience. The person primarily uses this internal filter to analyze reality before, or frequently in place of, reacting to it externally.

According to Jung's theory, these personality orientations influence behavior and communication patterns. Introverted inclination might be represented in more restricted, reflective, or internally focused modes of expression, whereas extraverted inclination can show in more explicit, action-oriented, or interaction-focused behaviours. Jung's framework, therefore, offers a helpful psychological lens through which to view how personality characteristics influence the process of meaning-making.

2.3.1. Introversion and Inner Experience

Cain (2012) describes introverts as having a preference for reflecting rather than reacting impulsively. Introverts focus on inner experience over external stimulation; they simply thrive at their best level of engagement at lower levels of external inputs compared to extroverts. Due to this nature, they are naturally drawn toward quieter and more solitary activities such as reading, writing, or one-on-one conversation, rather than situations that demand constant social interaction and performance. According to Cain (2012) introverts tend to absorb experience

things slower but deeper compared to extroverts. Introverted individuals tend to take things in, reflect them over internally in thought and feeling before expressing them outwardly, and sometimes they don't even respond to events around them outwardly at all..

An introverted speaker's language would reflect not only external events but also the layers of introspection, emotion, and interpretation that those events provoke within, as demonstrated by this characteristic of deep internal processing. According to Cain (2012), an introvert is someone who observes their social surroundings with caution and attention. She notes that introverts are more likely to observe and listen than to speak, taking in the subtleties of relationships and circumstances with a perceptiveness that is often overlooked in social contexts that encourage vocal aggressiveness.

2.3.2. Introversion and Language Use

Language is a systemic manifestation of introversion. It is a tool for communication and a window into the speaker's inner world, according to Pennebaker et al. (2003). Individuals' word choices, including the use of pronouns, cognitive words, and social allusions, were identified through analysis of large natural language corpora. Measurable psychological qualities like personality traits, mental states, and self-control tendencies are regularly correlated with word choice. Additionally, the current study found that those who are more introspective and inwardly focused produce language with a higher mix

of cognitive and emotional language, indicating a habitual tendency to analyze and articulate inner experience through words. The introverted personality type is closely associated with these characteristics.

According to Pennebaker et al.'s (2003) analysis of the use of first-person singular pronouns, people who frequently use the word "I" in their natural language are more inward-looking, self-focused, and emotionally expressive than those who heavily rely on third-person or plural pronouns. Additionally, Pennebaker et al. highlight the differences between language that interacts with the interior psychological world and language that communicates with the external social context. Words of insight, causation, and self-reflection are more frequently used by those with higher levels of introversion and emotional depth. On the contrary, extraverted people are more inclined to utilize language focused on social connection and external action.

2.4. Research Method

2.4.1. Data and Data Source

The source of data in this research was taken from the novel *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* released by Pocket Books on February 1, 1999. The novel follows Charlie as he navigates the realms of adolescence and maturity, attempting to deal with serious concerns prompted by his relationships with both his friends and family. The clause, which is defined by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) as the

grammatical unit that accomplishes a single transitivity process through a finite verbal group and its associated participant roles, is chosen as the unit of analysis.

2.4.2. Methods of Collecting Data

The data was collected using non-participant observation and documentation by the writer in order to obtain the data for subsequent analysis. First, the researcher obtained the novel's digital version (PDF), then repeatedly examined the novel to identify Charlie's dialogues. The relevant novel's data were compiled into a spreadsheet and coded according to their type of process, participant role, and the verbs and occurrences. The coding process enabled the researcher to have a systematic organization, retrieval, and comparison during data analysis. Google Sheets is used to conduct the analysis. The researcher utilized Google Sheets to sort the utterances that could be included as mental, material, verbal, behavioral, and relational processes which had been manually annotated earlier in order to collect data and identify the number of transitivity processes found in the character Charlie. In the quantitative method, the researcher used a formula to obtain data.

2.4.3. Methods of Analysing Data

This research utilises a qualitative descriptive method supported by quantitative frequency counts. To obtain an accurate and factual result, the data were described in a systematic manner. To ensure analytical precision, Charlie's utterances were differentiated into two categories based on their communicative context: narrative

utterances, in which Charlie functions as a first-person reflective narrator addressing an anonymous reader within the novel's epistolary framing, and dialogic utterances, in which Charlie functions as a participant in direct interaction with other characters, identifiable through dialogue tags, turn-taking sequences, and explicit addressee markers. Within each category, the researcher categorizes data on the pronouns 'I' and 'me' into two subcategories: active (dynamic) and passive (static). This research then classifies transitivity processes according to Halliday's (1985, 2014) taxonomy and arranges the data according to each process type, participant role, verbs with occurrence, and their narrative context. The unit of analysis is the clause in which Charlie appears as a participant in the transitivity structure, either as Senser, Actor, Carrier, Sayer, Behaver, or other relevant participant roles. The chosen lexicons are analyzed to reflect the main character's characterization.

Three textual markers are used to identify and exclude reported dialogue: first, the presence of verbal process reporting clause (e.g., *I said, He told me*); second, a change from addressee from an anonymous friend to a named character within a scene; and a tense shifts from Charlie's customary past-tense narration into the present tense of quoted speech. To reveal trends and enable methodical comparison, the data are arranged into a structured format comprising descriptive tables and narrative analytical passages. Each datum displays the code, original utterance, transitivity process categorization, contextual circumstance, and identified linguistic indicators of introversion. The interpretative conclusions are

derived from the presented data and methodically checked against the theoretical framework. Each analysis is verified by comparing the categorization of an utterance to Halliday's (1985, 2014) criteria for the transitivity process, direction of fit, and sincerity condition. Additionally, the results of the characterization are confirmed by linking them to particular linguistic indicators and contextual evidence found in the data.