

Transitivity Analysis in Four Selected Opinions about Jakarta Governor Election

Arina Isti'anah

arina@usd.ac.id

Department of English Letters, Sanata Dharma University

Abstract

Jakarta governor election has been a popular topic recently. People who are interested in politics also comment the election. This paper attempts to analyze four selected opinions about the election, given by those who are interested in politics, by employing transitivity analysis. The method employed in this research was Critical Discourse Analysis which mainly focused on transitivity analysis. Based on the analysis, most opinions utilized material processes to show what Jakarta people expect from the governor, reflected by Actor-Goal, Affected, and Goal-Recipient participants. Relational process occurs in the data to attach Jakarta to its labels, shown by Carrier-Attribute participants. Verbal process reveals what the candidates assure when they win, by the appearance of Sayer-Verbiage. Mental process occurs with Jakarta as the Senser. Circumstances of purpose often exist in the data, indicating people's expectation in the election.

Keywords: *transitivity, process, participant, circumstance*

Introduction

Transitivity analysis has become one of the tools to conduct Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). This type of analysis is offered by the theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), initiated by Halliday, to analyze a text so the ideology of it can be seen. Mathiessen and Halliday (1997) state that grammar in SFL refers to the resource for creating meanings by means of wordings. The occurrence of language elements creates various interpretations. In creating the meanings, grammar can be represented within metafunctions: ideational (field), interpersonal (tenor), and textual (mode).

The ideational function deals with what happens in the text. Halliday (2004: 29) defines the ideational function as the function that the speaker or writer embodies language in his experience of the phenomena of the

real world. Dijk (2008) adds that analyzing the action-process of a discourse is one of the ways in doing CDA. In transitivity, clause is the grammatical unit that can show what happens in a text. Inspired by those ideas, this paper attempts to apply CDA by means of transitivity analysis in four selected opinions about Jakarta governor election.

In transitivity analysis, six processes can be categorized: material, verbal, mental, relational, behavioral, and existential. To recognize each process, a verb is the tool to determine the type of each process. Material verbs mark the material process, verbal verbs mark the verbal process, mental verbs mark the mental process, linking verbs mark the relational process, behavioral verbs mark the behavioral process, and *there* and non referent *it* mark the existential process.

Each process is also composed by its participants. The material process has Actor, Goal, and Affected participants. The verbal process has Sayer, Receiver, and Verbiage participants. The mental process has Senser and Phenomenon participants. The relational process has Carrier-Attribute, Identifier-Identified, and Possessor-Possessed participants. The behavioral process has

Behaver participant. The existential process has Existent participant.

The table below show the summary of the meaning, participants and sample verbs in transitivity based on Halliday (2004), Downing and Locke (2006), and Eggins (2004) (Isti'annah, 2012: 28).

Table 1: Summary of Six Processes

No	Processes	Category Meaning	Participants	Sample Verbs
1	Material			
		doing	Actor, Goal	<i>elect, give, choose</i>
		happening	Actor, Affected	<i>get, exposed</i>
2	Mental			
		perception	Senser-Phenonemon	<i>see, hear, notice, feel, taste, smell</i>
		affection	Senser-Phenonemon	<i>like, love, admire, miss, fear, hate</i>
		cognition	Senser-Phenonemon	<i>think, believe, know, doubt, remember, forget</i>
		volition	Senser-Phenonemon	<i>want, need, intend, desire, hope, wish</i>
3	Verbal	saying	Sayer, Receiver, Verbiage	<i>say, tell, pledge, express, address</i>
4	Relational			
		attributive	Carrier-Attribute	<i>to be, linking verbs: become, look, last</i>
		identifying	Token-Value	<i>to be, equal, signify, define</i>
		possessive	Possessor-Possessed	<i>have, has, possess, own</i>
5	Behavioral	behaving	Behaver	<i>smile, look, sniff</i>
6	Existential	existing	Existent	<i>to be</i>

Previous studies applying transitivity analysis have been conducted by many scholars. However, those observing newspaper articles are rarely found. Some have been conducted to analyze reports, media, speeches, and also literary work. One of them is Iwamoto's *The Analysis of Warmingtime Reporting: Transitivity* (1995). Iwamoto (1995) finds that transitivity analysis proves how language structures are exercised by language users to depict Japan as a Patient in order to respond to social demand.

Manan (2001) also conducts transitivity analysis in *Re-reading the Media: A Stylistic Analysis of Malaysian Media Coverage of Anwar and the Reformasi Movement* (2001). She proves how language use in media constructs social reality. The language choice in the media influence the way the readers perceive the message brought by the media. For instance, the choice of Actor in the

material process reveals that Anwar is portrayed as not only the more powerful entity but also a "perpetrator" of crimes.

Opara utilizes transitivity in order to observe narrative discourse made by Emecheta in *Transitivity Systems in Selected Narrative Discourse* (2012). She finds that by applying transitivity analysis, we can see how the discourse maker depicts a character through language choice. Moreover, the research also concludes that the issue of feminism can be found in the discourse. Transitivity analysis also becomes the bridge to find Themes which the discourse maker chose. From the research, it is concluded that the Themes chosen by Emecheta are dominated by positive character.

Naz, Alvi, and Baseer's *Political Language of Benazir Bhutto: A Transitivity Analysis of Her Speech "Democratization in Pakistan"* (2012) also supports Halliday's

SFL that language can be exercised to show power. The findings on the domination of material processes in Bhutto's speeches reveal her strong determination to reestablish democracy in the country.

The different data in the previous studies above represent similar findings: transitivity is applicable to uncover various texts. Transitivity analysis can explain why certain linguistic features in the texts are chosen. Compared to the previous studies above, this research attempts to observe dissimilar data, i.e. people's opinions about Jakarta governor election. The analysis is important to conduct since the writer would like to prove that transitivity can also be used to analyze what people thought through newspaper opinion columns. By doing so, we can see the role of each process and participant in the data and how people construct their point of view about the election in wordings. The findings of the research can prove and support how SFL becomes a delicate theory to conduct CDA.

Method

This research applies Critical Discourse Analysis. There are some theories underlying CDA, but Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics is believed to be the theory underlying it. Language as a text concerns the context of situation, meaning the ideational, interpersonal, and textual function. CDA also believes that as a social practice, a text is inseparable to the context of situation. Hence, the relation of CDA and SFL is clear. Wodak and Meyer (2006: 8) add that Systemic Functional Linguistics proves to be important for the text analysis undertaken by CDA.

SFL is believed as the root of CDA that relies on the linguistic study. Young and Harrison (2004:1) propose some commonalities between SFL and CDA. First, they share a view of language as a social construct, looking at the role of language in society and at the ways in which society has fashioned language. Second, they share dialectical view of language in which particular discursive events influence the contexts in which they occur and the

contexts are influenced by these discursive events. Third, both SFL and CDA emphasize the cultural and historical aspects of meaning.

Fairclough (1995: 2) summarizes that CDA has a three-dimensional framework where the aim is to map three separate forms of analysis onto one another: analysis of spoken or written language texts, analysis of discourse practice (including process of text production, distribution, and consumption), and analysis of discursive events as instances of socio-cultural practice. This research will only focus on the analysis of the written language text.

The data which become the texts to analyze in this research were the four opinions about Jakarta governor election. Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia, holds governor election every five years. The previous election was won by Fauzi Bowo and Prijanto. However, Prijanto decided to resign from his position as the deputy governor in December, 2011. The governor election was held on July 11, 2012. There were six pairs in the election: Fauzi Bowo and Nachrowi Ramli; Hidayat Nur Wahid and Didik J. Rachbini; Joko Widodo and Basuki Tjahaja Purnama; Alex Noerdin and Nono Sampono; Faisal Basri and Biem Benjamin; and Hendarji Soepandji and Ahmad Riza Patria.

The 2012 election becomes people's attention because some candidates are considered as the "outsiders". Joko Widodo is the mayor in Surakarta, Alex Noerdin is the governor in South Sumatera, Hidayat Nur Wahid and Hendarji Soepandji were not born in Jakarta. Besides, the popularity of Fauzi Bowo, Hidayat Nur Wahid, and Joko Widodo becomes another magnet to pay attention to the election. Therefore, people who are interested in the election give their opinions in social media such as TV, newspapers, and social networking. This paper observes people's opinions about the election, published by *The Jakarta Post*.

This research utilized transitivity analysis, adopting Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (2004). The data in

this research were four selected articles written by people who have background in politics, published by *The Jakarta Post* from March to April 2012. The articles were labeled A to D. The strategy to select the clauses in the data was purposive random sampling. It is purposive since the selected clauses are included to find out the domination of the processes, thus the participants of the texts. It is random because the clauses to analyze are randomly selected from the overall data since they have the same general topic: Jakarta governor election. The analysis examines forty clauses: ten clauses from each article,

labeled one to ten. As the example, clause A1 means clause number one from article A. The steps of the analysis are: analyzing the clauses by transitivity, counting the processes in the data into percentage, presenting the findings, discussing the findings, and drawing conclusion.

In order to ease the analysis, the transitivity identification test is needed to conduct. Below is the table of the transitivity identification test (Isti'anah, 2012: 29).

Table 2: Transitivity Process Identification Test

Verb Category	Verb be/linking verb			Action verb		Non action verb	
				Trans.	Intrans.	Verbal	Mental
Circumstance	NP + be + NP/PP/AdvP	there/it + be	NP + be + adj.	NP + trans. V + O/C	NP + intrans. V + (adjunct)	NP + verbal	NP + mental V + NP
Process	relat. (ident, possess)	exist.	relat. (attrib.)	mat.	mat.	verbal	mental, behav.
Sample Verbs	<i>is, become, own</i>	<i>is, am, are</i>	<i>is, am, are</i>	<i>try, give</i>	<i>choose, expose</i>	<i>talk, say, tell</i>	<i>look, think, believe</i>

Findings

The analysis of the data finds that people’s opinions about Jakarta governor election are dominated by material processes. Besides material processes, the

data also employ relational, verbal, and mental processes. Behavioral and existential processes are not found in the data. Table 3 below summarizes the number of processes and also verbs presenting each process.

Table 3: Percentage of Transitivity Analysis

No	Processes	Number	Percentage	Verbs (taken as they appear in the data)
1	Material	23	57.5	made, waited, changed, ask, decided, adopted, defied, replicates, elect, conducted, vote, exposed, given, challenged, haunted, work, deserve, contested, to be used, serving, face, secure, exercise
2	Relational	12	30	have, is, are, include, be able, remain
3	Verbal	3	7.5	remind, promise, claimed
4	Mental	2	5	consider, resist
Total		40	100%	

The table above clearly depicts that material processes dominate the data, proven in the use of those processes in 57.5%. The

material processes are marked by the existence of action verbs as seen in the above table. The next dominating processes

are relational processes, found in the data in 30% and shown by the verbs to be and linking verbs. Verbal process occurs in 7.5%. It is marked by the verbal verbs, while mental processes occur in 5% shown by the mental verbs.

Material Processes

A material process is the process of doing or happening in the transitive or intransitive clause. Matthiessen and Halliday (1997) propose that looked from above, a material clause construes of doings and happenings which include actions, activities, and events. In other words, the material process is an arrangement of a process and participants involved that require some input of energy to occur and when the participant is likely to undertake a change. Thus, the energy flow marks the material process.

There are three possible participants in the material process. The first is an Actor. An Actor is doing the action and realized by

nominal groups. This participant can be questioned, *What did X do?*. As the example, "Diana (Actor) went to Geneva (Goal) (Eggins, 2004: 215)." To test the Actor, the question *What did Diana do?* can be applied. The second is a Goal. It is the participant which the process is extended to. A Goal can be identified by asking the question, *What did X do to Y? What happened to Y?* as in "The lion caught the tourist (Halliday, 2004)." The third is an Affected. An Affected is someone or something affected by the action of the verb in an active clause, as a result of energy flow (Downing and Locke, 2006). For instance, "Pele (Agent) kicked the ball (Affected) (Downing and Locke, 2006: 133)."

In the data, the Actor is represented by some different NPs, meaning to say that the data do not only involve the candidates but also the voters. The same result is also found in Goal, Affected, and Recipient. The table below shows the summary of participants in the material clauses.

Table 4: Summary of the Participants in Material Processes

Participants	Realization in the Data
Actor	the city administration, the people of Jakarta, Jakarta's citizens, all the parties, the political intensity, Jakarta, they (Jakarta voters), constituents within the party, the above candidates, the incumbent, Fauzi, the winner, Jakarta voters
Goal	Jakarta, the immediate and possibly long-term fate of Jakarta
Affected	the nomination of each candidate, each candidate, the incumbent Fauzi Bowo, governorship in Jakarta, the election results
Recipient	the constituents, those candidates

Material process occurs in the data with Jakarta people or voters as the participants as seen below,

- (1) *They* (Actor) elect *the right candidate* (Goal) for the position of governor (Circ. purpose).
- (2) *The people of Jakarta* (Actor) have waited *long enough* (Cir. of time) to see if these are going to be put into action (Cir. purpose).

In (1), the Actor is an NP, *they*, referring to Jakarta people. The Actor is doing an action *elect*, meaning to decide or to choose by voting (CALD3). The action is extended to

the Goal, *the right candidate*. In (2), the Actor is also realized in an NP, *the people of Jakarta*. The process is marked by the verb *wait* which is explained by the Circumstance of time and purpose. The Circumstance of purpose indicates the intention of the action done by the Actor: witnessing the promises by the candidates.

The candidate also performs as an Actor as seen below,

- (3) *The winner* (Actor) must secure a *simple majority of the vote* (Goal), *making a runoff quite inevitable* (Circ. matter).

The Actor in (3) is an NP, *the winner*. It refers to the candidates elected by the voters as the governor and vice governor in Jakarta. The Goal in (3) is also an NP, *a simple majority of the vote*. The material process in (3) is shown by the action *secure*, which is extended to the Goal. Therefore, (3) can be interpreted that gaining majority of the votes is a must to be the governor and vice governor in Jakarta.

In (3), there is a Circumstance of matter which functions to add more information about the clause. It is shown in *making a runoff quite inevitable*. This circumstance explains that there is also another possibility in the election shown by the noun *runoff*: an extra competition or election to decide the winner, because the leading competitors have finished equal (CALD3). In (3), there is the other participant named Circumstance of purpose: *for the position of governor*. This circumstance clarifies the purpose of the action done by the Actor. The analysis in (3) explains that Jakarta people vote the right person to be the governor. The lexical items *right candidate* refer to the person who is suitable among the other candidates.

The Affected participant as the only participant in the data can be seen as follows,

- (4) *Each candidate* (Affected) should have been exposed *in a fair debate on their ideas and platform for Jakarta* (Cir. time).

In (4), the Affected is shown by an NP *each candidate*. This participant is the one being affected by the action *expose*. The Actor does not exist in (4) because the Actor is already understood by the readers. However, in order to clarify the clause, the existence of the circumstance of time is needed. It is seen in *in a fair debate on their ideas and platform for Jakarta*. The circumstance fulfills and

completes the clause so that the action *expose* is clear. When the circumstance of time is missing, the clause might be unclear.

In the material process that has a di-transitive verb, a Recipient is found. A Recipient is the participant that receives the Goal (Lock, 1996: 75). In the data, this participant can be seen as follows,

- (5) *The constituents* (Recipient) should have been given *an opportunity* (Goal) *to hold a dialogue with candidates* (Cir. of contingency) *before the definite nominee was selected* (Cir. of time).

The material verb *give* is a di-transitive verb because it requires two participants: Goal and Recipient. A Goal refers to what is given and a Recipient refers to the constituent that receives the Goal. In (5), the Recipient, *the constituents*, receives the Goal, *an opportunity*. The Actor is absent since (5) is a passive construction. Another participant in (5) is Circumstance of contingency, particularly purpose. It is realized in the form of a PP: *to hold a dialogue with candidates*. This circumstance can be checked by asking *What...for?* (Downing and Locke, 2006). The other circumstance, time, is also found in (5). It is in the form of an AdvP, *before the definite nominee was selected*. To check this type of circumstance, we can ask, *When should the constituents have been given an opportunity to hold dialogue with candidates?*

Relational Processes

A relational process is known as the process of *being*. It can be differentiated into three types: attributive, identifying, and possessive processes. The summary of participants in relational processes is presented in table 5.

Table 5: Summary of Participants in Relational Processes

Type of Relational Processes	Participants	Realization in the data
Attributive	Carrier	the nomination process, Jakarta, they, Fauzi, Jakarta
	Attribute	an important signal of growing democracy in Indonesia, symbol of a progressive democracy in Indonesia, well-known public figures, the microcosm of Indonesia, a giant in local electoral politics
Identifying	Token	it, the advantage of incumbency, Fauzi; traffic congestion, floods, a lack of public security and poor service
	Value	now, unavoidable, mobilize many local Betawi people, the topmost concerns as expressed in public debates and daily chats
Possessive	Possessor	Jakartans, Fauzi's heavyweight opponents, the incumbent
	Possessed	a greater chance, popular and respected figures, little chance to make it to the second round

The overlooking participants in the relational processes, Carrier-Attribute, can be seen in the following clause,

(6) *Jakarta* (Carrier) is a symbol of a progressive democracy in Indonesia (Attribute).

In (6), the participants are Carrier and Attribute. The meaning of an attributive is that "X is a member of the class A" (Eggins, 2004: 240). A Carrier is the participant in the Attributive structure, while an Attribute is the entity to which is ascribed (Downing and Locke, 2006: 123). Thus, (6) can be understood that Jakarta is attributed as the symbol of a progressive democracy in Indonesia. An attributive process is not reversible. Therefore, the test whether the clause cannot be passivized or not can be applied to this process. The construction *A symbol of a progressive democracy in Indonesia is assigned by Jakarta* is not acceptable. Therefore, (6) is classified as an attributive relational process.

Another clause containing attributive relational process is below.

(7) *The advantage of incumbency* (Carrier) is *unavoidable* (Attribute) in any election (Cir. of place).

The Attribute *unavoidable* is attached to the Carrier, *The advantage of incumbency*. Those two participants are inseparable, which

signify that the incumbency brings advantage in any election including Jakarta governor election. By giving that opinion, people assume that Fauzi Bowo – Nachrowi Ramli have a bigger chance than the other candidates to win the election.

Another type of relational process is identifying process. In an identifying process, there are two participants that have equal position, meaning to say that the participants are reversible. A Token is the participant being defined, while a Value is the participant which defines. Eggins (2004: 242) assumes that a Token and a Value are realized by nominal groups. All identifying clauses are reversible. In reversing the clause, the synonymous words of the linking verbs must be found.

The example of identifying relational process is below.

(8) *The nomination process* (Token) is an *important signal of growing democracy in Indonesia* (Value).

In (8), the Token is in the form of a NP, *The nomination process*. The other participant, Value, is also an NP, *an important signal of growing democracy in Indonesia*. In order to test the sentence, Token and Value can be reversed as *An important signal of growing democracy in Indonesia* (Value) is referred to *the nomination process* (Token). In the previous sentence, Value occupies the

Subject and Token occupies the Object. Therefore, even though the clauses are reversed, the Token and Value in (8) do not change. What changes is the position in the sentence, not the function. This pattern implies that the participants in identifying relational process have an equal role.

The employment of a possessive relational process can be seen as follows,

- (9) With the upcoming election of their governor, *Jakartans* (Possessor) now have *a greater chance* (Possessed) *to demand more and push the incumbent and other candidates further to not only promise a better Jakarta but also to come up with ambitious and clear action plans to improve the city* (Circ. of Purpose).

Lock (1996: 138) argues that the possessive process includes relationships of part to whole and of ownership. In (9), the Possessor refers to *Jakartans*, realized in the NP. Another participant is the Possessed, realized in *a greater chance*. Clause (9) clearly demonstrates that Jakarta people own a larger opportunity in the election. What is meant by larger opportunity is shown by the Circumstance of Purpose. In sum, they have more opportunity to demand and push the incumbent and other candidates to make the city better. This pattern is chosen in the opinion in order to show that Jakarta people will determine the future of the city. However, they will not only choose the governor but also demand actions by the elected governor.

Verbal Processes

In the data there are three clauses containing verbal process. One of the clauses is below.

- (10) *Every year* (Cir. of time), *the city government* (Sayer) promises *to make various efforts to prevent major floods from inundating the capital city* (Verbiage).

A Verbal process is the process of saying. The participant who says is called a Sayer. In

(10), the Sayer is *the city government*. Another participant in (10) is Verbiage, meaning the content of what is said or name of the saying (Halliday, 2004). The Verbiage in (10) is shown by *to make various efforts to prevent major floods from inundating the capital city*. In the verbal process, a Verbiage becomes the most important participant in the process since it corresponds to what is said, representing it as a class of thing rather than as a report or quote (Halliday, 2004: 255).

The Circumstance of time in (10) adds more information about the clause that the city government always repeats the Verbiage every year. This pattern exists in the opinion in order to show us that the people in Jakarta are already bored with the promises made by the government. The promise is made annually, but there is no change. Therefore, this clause shows people's dissatisfaction with the government.

Another clause containing a verbal process is as follows,

- (11) For this, *some* (Sayer) claimed *to have a formula to solve Jakarta's notorious traffic jams and seasonal floods* (Verbiage).

The verbal verb *claimed* in the above sentence marks the verbal process. The first participant in the process, the Sayer, is represented by an NP *some* (the candidates). The other participant is the Verbiage that becomes the content of what the Sayer utters. In other words, the Verbiage is the message the Sayer would like to convey. The Receiver is absent in (11) because the readers already understand that the message is directed by some candidates to the voters.

Mental Processes

One of the mental clauses in the data is seen below.

- (12) *Jakarta*, for *some* (Senser), is considered as *a source of economic opportunities, a stepping stone to*

living the “Indonesian dream”
(Phenomenon).

In the above clause, a Senser is the one that senses, feels, thinks, and wants to perceive. The significant feature of a Senser is that of being ‘endowed with consciousnesses’, or human-like (Halliday, 2004: 201). In (12), the Senser is realized in *for some* referring *for some people*. In (12), the participant that is sensed is called a Phenomenon. A Phenomenon is the participant which is felt, thought, wanted, or perceived, the position is in a sense reversed (Halliday, 2004: 203).

In the clause, the Phenomenon is categorized as a Fact Phenomenon. It can be identified as a Fact-Embedding because a Fact-Noun can be inserted before (explicit or implicit) *that* which introduces it. Thus, (12) can be paraphrased as *Some considered that Jakarta is a source of economic opportunities,*

a stepping stone to living the “Indonesian dream.” The employment of a mental process in the data imply that people are conscious to state that Jakarta is attached as the source of economic opportunities, a stepping stone to living the Indonesian dream. Jakarta is regarded as the city which becomes the model for other cities in Indonesia since the center of governance is there.

Circumstances

The occurrence of a circumstance in a clause can be realized in various forms. Eggins (2004: 222) states that circumstances can occur with all processes types and usually marked by adverbial groups or prepositional phrases. Table 6 below summarizes the circumstances found in the data.

Table 6 Summary of Circumstances in the Data

Type of Circumstance	Number	Percentage	Realization in the Data
Contingency	14	77	to address these issues, to see if these are going to be put into action, to learn from the success of cities in other developing countries, to administer the country’s microcosmic region, to be given the benefit of the doubt, to evaluate party’s preparedness in the upcoming 2014 general election, to hold a dialogue with candidates before the definite nominee was selected, to demand more and push the incumbent and other candidates, to not only promise a better Jakarta, to come up with ambitious and clear action plans to improve the city, to voice their concerns louder, to administer the country’s microcosmic region, to solve Jakarta’s notorious traffic jams and seasonal floods, to make it to the second round, as there are good candidates to choose from.
Place and time	3	16	in a fair debate on their ideas and platform for Jakarta, for decades, in this upcoming election,
Manner	1	7	in a clear and transparent manner
Total	18	100	

Table 6 above exposes the domination of Circumstance of contingency. A

Circumstance of contingency covers the meanings of cause, purpose, reason,

concession, and behalf (Downing and Locke, 2006: 156). The question *what cause?* is used to indicate the cause. *What...for?* is used to know the purpose. *Why?* is to analyze the reason. To know the concession, *despite what condition?* can be asked. Behalf is asked by *who/what for?* To know the condition, the question *under what condition?* can be tested.

In the data, the examples of Circumstances contingency appear below,

- (13) Promises after promises have been made by the city administration *to address these issues*.
- (14) The constituents should have been given an opportunity *to hold a dialogue with candidates before the definite nominee was selected*.
- (15) Jakarta voters, especially traditionally apolitical and less-enthusiastic voters, will likely exercise their voting rights, *as there are good candidates to choose from*.

In (13), contingency refers to purpose, *to address these issues*, in the form of a PP. This circumstance can be tested by asking, *what have promises been made for?* The same type of circumstance also occurs in (14), *to hold a dialogue...* This circumstance can be asked, *what should the opportunity have been given for?* Thus, this kind of circumstance performs to extend the goal of the action in the clause. In (15), contingency refers to reason. This can be checked by asking, *why will Jakarta voters likely exercise their voting rights?* The answer is definitely seen in the Circumstance of contingency, particularly reason.

Circumstance of place and time can be seen in the following clauses,

- (16) Each candidate should have been exposed *in a fair debate on their ideas and platform for Jakarta*.
- (17) The incumbent, Fauzi Bowo, has been serving the capital's government *for decades, ever since he started working as a low-ranking official*.

Circumstances of place and time in (16) and (17) are also realized in the form of PPs. The circumstance of place seen in (16) gives additional information of the place where each candidate should have been exposed. The Circumstance displayed in (17) explains the time when Fauzi Bowo has worked for Jakarta. This type of circumstance occurs there since it is assumed as important information about Fauzi Bowo.

Circumstance of manner occurs in the only clause below.

- (18) The nomination of each candidate was not conducted *in a clear and transparent manner*.

In the clause above, Circumstance of manner is realized in a PP, *in a clear and transparent manner*. This kind of Circumstance can be tested by asking, *how was the nomination of each candidate not conducted?* This existence reveals that people question if they will face a fair election. By involving this circumstance, people are indirectly disappointed with the unfair election regarding Jakarta people's spirit to welcome the election.

Discussion

To observe the metafunctions of language, conducting transitivity analysis is prominent to see how people represent the real world. The findings of the present study clearly support Halliday's claim that people reflect their consciousness through their reactions, cognitions, and perceptions, and also his linguistic acts of speaking and understanding (2004: 170). People are enthusiastic to welcome the election. The various backgrounds of the candidates give them new hopes since the previous governors failed to solve Jakarta problems.

Transitivity aims at identifying the participants or things which are involved, the actions and event taking place, and any relevant surrounding circumstances (Morley, 2000: 9). The existence of Jakarta people as the Actor in the data signals the importance of the election for them. Jakarta

people are chosen as the Actors to reveal that they are the Doers who have authority and energy to conduct certain actions. It is also realized when the candidates appear as the Affected, Goal, or Recipient. People demand the concrete action by the candidates when the candidates perform as the Actor in the data. The unsolved problems in Jakarta result in people's boredom about the election. The various backgrounds of the candidates in the upcoming election give the people new hopes so they assign their expectations to the candidates, realized by Affected and Recipient participants.

On the other hand, the candidates also appear in the material processes as the Affected or Goal. It means that their existence occurs in passive clauses. This construction is found in the data since people demand the candidates to do something. In this case, the candidates received actions by the Actor.

The findings of the analysis, particularly in the material processes, prove that language users have freedom to convey their ideas in different styles of wordings. It means that, different participants in the clauses signify different intention meant by opinion givers. The reason why the Actor is absent, for instance, reflects that the opinion givers attempt to show the same understanding about the topic to the opinion readers. Another example in the data is the occurrence of single participant in the clause, Affected. That type of participant is possible to occur in the initial position as the only participant since the clause would like to focus on what happened to this NP.

The analysis of the relational process finds that Jakarta is the domination of the Carrier. This finding shows that people attach Jakarta to particular attributes since they consider the city as the participant that cannot be separated from its attributes. By doing so, people expect that the next governor will give their best action to solve the complicated problems in the city. The existence of Attributes cannot be ignored

since they are always attached in the Carrier.

The positive labels attached to Jakarta reveal that people still respect the city. Despite its unsolved problems, Jakarta remains its positive marks: *an important signal of growing democracy in Indonesia, symbol of a progressive democracy in Indonesia, the microcosm of Indonesia, a giant in local electoral politics*. Those positive attributes are the ones related to politics and democracy. It becomes a proof that as the capital city of Indonesia, Jakarta is assumed as the role model of what the politics looks like in the country.

The small numbers of verbal and mental processes in the data signify that people do not focus on what the candidates utter or what Jakarta people feel, but they mainly focused on the material or concrete actions related to the election. The Verbiage or what is said by the candidates does not often occur in the data since it is about what the candidates promise when they win. The Jakarta people are already bored with the same promises by the candidates in every election.

The finding of this research is in line with the findings in Iwamoto's *The Analysis of Warrtime Reporting: Transitivity* (1995). The occurrence of a Patient in passive construction is exercised in the report to demand Japan to respond social demand. In the present study, an Affected also appears in the opinion columns to demand the Jakarta governor candidates to conduct concrete actions to solve Jakarta problems. The similar findings on the two studies clearly reveal that the choice of wordings, particularly in passives with an Affected or a Patient, is to demand the participant to do actions.

In comparison with the findings in Manan's writes *Re-reading the Media: A Stylistic Analysis of Malaysian Media Coverage of Anwar and the Reformasi Movement* (2001), the present study also proves that language use in the opinion columns also influences the way the readers perceive the message. When the readers are

involved as the Actors, they are represented by what is written in the columns. For instance, the role of the Actor represents the voters' authority. Another example is how Jakarta is depicted as the city which has some positive labels. People who read the opinion columns will be influenced by the positive marks of Jakarta, regardless its unsolved problems.

The finding of this research also points out that relational processes are exercised by language users to describe Jakarta. This finding supports Opara's *Transitivity Systems in Selected Narrative Discourse* (2012). Though the type of the text is different, both characters of Jakarta and the main character in the discourse can be uncovered by means of transitivity. While Opara offers Theme analysis, the present study offers relational processes to observe how Jakarta is described.

The similar findings are also found in Naz, Alvi, and Baseer's *Political Language of Benazir Bhutto: A Transitivity Analysis of Her Speech "Democratization in Pakistan"* (2012). Both studies prove that material processes can be exercised to show power. In the previous study, the domination of material processes in Bhutto's speeches reveals her strong determination to reestablish democracy in the country. The present study also proves that material processes with Actor as participant can also be used to show power. Jakarta people or the voters are involved as the participants who determine the winner of the election.

The discussion on the existence of Circumstances in the texts enriches the previous studies on transitivity. The present study assumes that Circumstances are also important constituents in the text. The Circumstances of contingency in the data are about what people demand for the election. They are necessary in the data because the election is special for Jakarta people. The euphoria of the election does not only occur in the political campaign but also in the form various opinions, as what researched.

Conclusion and Suggestion

Opinions about Jakarta governor election employ material, relational, verbal, and processes. In the material process, Actor-Goal, Actor-Affected, and Goal-Recipient appear in the data. The variation of participant in the data is influenced by type of verbs. In active clause, Actor-Goal and Goal-Recipient exist in the data. In passive clause, an Affected appears since it is the constituent that experienced the action given by the Actor. Goal-Recipient occurs in the data with a di-transitive verb. The participant in the material clause is dominated by Jakarta people as the Actor. It reveals how Jakarta people welcome the election. Relational processes are employed to entail Jakarta with its attributes. Verbal process exercises the candidate as its Sayer, while the mental process uses Jakarta as the Senser.

The choice of verbs determines the process in the clause, thus its participants. In the newspaper articles, as being the data, participants in the clause play an important role to influence the readers. The readers will pay attention to the Doer since some of them, Jakarta people, are involved as the participant in the clause.

Since this study limits the analysis on transitivity only, the future researchers can observe modality in opinion columns on other political elections. By conducting modality, they can observe the interpersonal function to see how the speaker shows the relationship with the addressee(s). Another area to analyze is the textual function analysis: Theme-Rheme analysis. A Theme is understood as the initial constituent of a clause. Halliday (2004: 64) clarifies that a Theme is the element that serves as the starting-point for the message: it is what the clause is going to be about. Thus, we can uncover the most important part of language use to be paid attention to.

References

- Cambridge University Press. *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary with CD-Downing*, Angela and Locke, Philip. *English Grammar: A University Course: 2nd Edition*. New York: Routledge, 2006. Print.
- Eggins, Suzanne. *An Introduction to Systemic Functional Linguistics: 2nd Edition*. London: MPG Books Ltd, Bodmin, Cornwall, 2004. Print.
- Fairclough, Norman. *Critical Discourse Analysis: the critical study of language*. New York: Longman Publishing, 1995. Print.
- Halliday, M.A.K. and Matthiessen, Christian M.I.M. *An Introduction to Functional Grammar: 3rd Edition*. London: Hodder Education, 2004. Print.
- Isti'annah, Arina. *Ideologies in Hosni Mubarak's and Muammar Qaddafi's Translated Speeches: Critical Discourse Analysis*. Thesis. Yogyakarta: Universitas Sanata Dharma, 2012. Print.
- Lock, Graham. *Functional English Grammar: An Introduction for Second Language Teachers*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996. Print.
- Manan, S. "Re-reading the Media: A Stylistic Analysis of Malaysian Media Coverage of Anwar and the Reformasi Movement". *Research Online: Asia Pasific Media Educator*. 2001: 29-54. Print.
- ROM: 3rd Edition (ed. Elizabeth Walter, et al.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008. Print.
- Matthiessen, Christian and Halliday, M.A.K. *Systemic Functional Grammar: A First Step into the Theory*. 1997. Web. February 26, 2011.
- Morley, G. David. *Syntax in Functional Grammar: an introduction to lexicogrammar in systemic linguistics*. London: Continuum, 2000. Print.
- Naz, Sehrish., Alvi, Sofia Dildar., Baseer, Abdul. "Political Language of Benazir Bhutto: A Transitivity Analysis on Her Speech 'Democratization in Pakistan.'" *Interdisciplinary Journal of Contemporary Research in Business*. 2012: 125-141. Print.
- Opara, Susan. "Transitivity Systems in Selected Narrative Discourse." *International Journal of Arts and Commerce*. 2012: 109-121. Print.
- Pham, Hoa. "Transitivity Analysis of Heroic Mother." *International Journal of English Linguistics*. 2012: 85-100. Print.
- Van Dijk, Teun A. "Discourse, Knowledge, Power and Politics." *Lecture towards Critical Epistemic Discourse Analysis*. 2008: 1-40. Print.
- Wodak, Ruth and Meyer, Michael. *Methods of Critical Discourse Analysis*. London: SAGE Publication, 2006. Print.