

## Transitivity Process in Sia's Selected Songs Lyrics

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**Abstract.** *The focus of this research is to find the usage of the transitivity processes in SIA's selected song lyrics. This research is descriptive qualitative research. This study attempts to identify and investigate transitivity mechanisms that are employed in the SIA's selected song lyrics. The source data of this research are the five selected song lyrics of SIA. Meanwhile, the data of this research are the clauses that used transitivity processes in SIA's selected song lyrics. The interactive model is used to analyze the research's data. The results show that five of SIA's song lyrics contain all six categories of transitivity processes, which include mental, relational, material, verbal, behavioral, and existential processes. From the six types of transitivity processes that are found, the material process is dominantly used in SIA's selected song lyrics. It suggests a connection between the physical activity that occurs in the social phenomenon and the lyrics of the songs chosen by SIA. In order to fully comprehend the song's meaning, readers should be aware of transitivity processes. Along with that, it also benefits the songwriter by giving them more freedom to craft lyrics with a variety of language.*

**Keywords:** *transitivity processes, song lyrics, systemic functional linguistics.*

**Abstrak.** Fokus penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan penggunaan proses transitivitas dalam lirik lagu pilihan. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif deskriptif. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan dan menguji jenis-jenis proses transitivitas yang digunakan dalam lirik lagu pilihan. Sumber data dari penelitian ini adalah lima lirik lagu yang dipilih. Sementara itu, data penelitian ini adalah klausa yang menggunakan proses transitivitas dalam lirik lagu pilihan. Data penelitian ini dianalisis dengan menggunakan model interaktif. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa keenam jenis proses transitivitas tersebut terdapat pada lirik lagu pilihan, yaitu: proses material, proses mental, proses rela, proses verbal, proses perilaku, proses eksistensial. Ini menunjukkan bahwa, dalam mewujudkan lagu, menerapkan enam jenis proses transitivitas. Dari enam jenis proses transitivitas yang ditemukan, proses material dominan digunakan dalam lirik lagu pilihan. Ini menunjukkan bahwa lirik lagu yang dipilih terkait dengan aktivitas fisik yang terjadi dalam fenomena sosial. Sangat membantu bagi pembaca untuk mengetahui proses transitivitas dalam memahami pesan lagu. Selain itu, juga memberikan keuntungan bagi penulis lagu dalam menulis lirik lagu untuk memberikan variasi kata-kata dalam lagu.

**Kata kunci:** proses transitivitas, lirik lagu, linguistik fungsional sistemik.

### BACKGROUND

A song is one type of entertainment that may be used to lift a person's spirits by listening to good music. Listeners can get information and knowledge from songs by understanding the words in the lyrics and examining the meaning contained within the lyrics. Songwriters typically compose various lyrics and have varied purposes. Some composers compose songs on romance, religion, criticism, and so on. Language is required for writing song lyrics. Language is recognized to be a way of transmitting information. This study focuses on an analysis of the transitivity procedures employed by SIA songwriters to develop each song lyrics. The transitivity processes are concerned with the actual employment of verbs in

sentences in each song's lyrics. According to Halliday (2014), transitivity processes are classified into six types: material processes, mental processes, behavioral processes, relational processes, linguistic processes, and existential processes. All processes are linked to a verb that appears in clauses. The utilization of transitivity processes varies by field; for example, singing and speech employ various forms of transitivity processes. The language of a song is frequently generated and composed independently of conventional language in several domains. In other words, some song listeners may struggle to comprehend the song's meaning or intentions since the music is a representation of the artists' emotions. As a result, language song analysis is both intriguing and vital to do.

SIA is an Australian singer-songwriter. The researcher wishes to analyze Sia's picked song lyrics because she is one of the world's most popular singers. The research questions for this study are what forms of transitivity processes are employed in SIA's selected song lyrics and how they are realized in each clause of SIA's selected song lyrics. The advantage of this research is that readers and song listeners will be able to better grasp each line of a song they have heard. Aside from that, songwriters can consider using different sorts of transitivity processes while crafting song lyrics so that listeners may grasp them more easily. Some researchers had previously performed study on transitivity and song analysis (Zahoor in 2016; Setiawati in 2018; Isti'anah in 2019; Sihura in 2019; Pasaribu in 2020; Yanti in 2020; Afri in 2021; and Fajrin in 2021). The eight research listed show that there is no single study analyzing transitivity in SIA's songs. As a consequence, our study fills in the gaps and adds to our understanding of the six types of transitivity processes in songs.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

In systemic functional linguistics, the transitivity system is one of the ideational functions in metafunction. Transitivity systems are divided into three categories: transitivity process, transitivity participant, and transitivity situation. The utilization of verb phrases is the result of the transitivity process. The doer realizes transitivity participants, which are influenced by processes and are often realized through noun phrases. Meanwhile, transitivity conditions refer to the reality of an adjunct component, such as adverbial phrases. This transitivity mechanism is what gives rise to sentence clauses. According to Halliday (2014), there are six categories of transitivity processes: material, mental, relational, behavioral, linguistic, and existential processes. Material processes are those that occur or are performed in relation to the physical

body of a person. Mental processes refer to sensory processes in human psychology. The relationship process reflects the link between two entities, which is classified as assigning, identifying, and symbolizing. Behavioral processes are the mechanisms that govern an entity's behavior and indicate psychological or physiological behavior. Verbal processes are defined as the act or process of expressing information. Existential processes need the presence of an entity. Table 1 displays the types of processes, their construction, and an example.

**Table 1. Transitivity Processes**

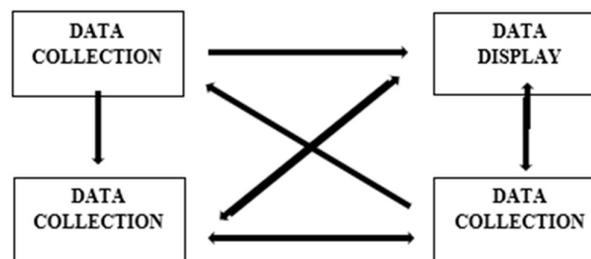
No	Types of process	Construing	Sample of verbs
1.	Material	creating, changing, doing (to), acting	reading, giving, choosing
2.	Mental	seeing, feeling, thinking	loving, thinking, believing, knowing, forgetting, admiring.
3.	Verbal	Saying	saying, commanding, asking, and offering, telling
4.	Relational	attributing, identifying, symbolizing	seem, become, appear, etc, or sometime by verbs such as have, own, possess, linking verbs.
5.	Behavioral	Behaving	smiling, dreaming, staring, breathing, coughing
6.	Existential	Existing	to be (is, am, are)

Source: Halliday (2014: 213 – 217)

## RESEARCH METHOD

This is descriptive qualitative study. This study is based on systemic functional linguistics, especially the several sorts of transitivity processes that are included in metafunction. This study's analysis focuses on the many forms of transitivity processes seen in SIA song lyrics. This research includes three song lyrics: 1) Chandelier; 2) Unstoppable; 3) The Greatest; 4) Snowman; and 5) Cheap Thrills.

The data analysis technique used and interactive model data analysis suggested by Miles, Hubberman, and Saldana (2014:10), which is seen in Figure 1 below.



This study uses the four phases of interactive model data analysis to investigate the sorts of transitivity processes in SIA's selected song lyrics. The four steps are interrelated when doing the analysis.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

It is found that there are 178 transitivity processes used in the five selected song lyrics of SIA. The occurrences of each type of the transitivity processes used in SIAi's selected song lyrics differ from one another. From the analysis that has been done, it shows that the six types of transitivity processes are realized in the five selected song lyrics of SIA, namely: material processes, mental processes, relational processes, behavioral processes, verbal processes, and existential processes. The occurrences and percentage of each type of transitivity process in the five selected song lyrics of SIA are shown in Table 2 below:

**Table 2. Occurrences and Percentage of Types of Transitivity Processes**

<b>Types of Transitivity Processes</b>	<b>Occurrences of Processes</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Material</b>	97	54,5%
<b>Mental</b>	20	11,23%
<b>Verbal</b>	1	0,58%
<b>Relational</b>	5	2,8%
<b>Behavioral</b>	3	1,6%
<b>Existential</b>	52	29,21%
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 2 shows that the material processes are the most commonly used with the occurrences of processes is 97 data and the percentage is 54,5%. The second domination is existential processes with the occurrences of processes is 52 data and the percentage is 29,21%. The third domination is mental processes with the occurrences of processes is 20 data and the percentage is 11,23%. The fourth domination is relational processes with the occurrences of processes is 5 data and the percentage is 2,8%. The fifth domination is behavioral processes with the occurrences of processes is 3 data and the percentage is 1,6%. The sixth domination is verbal processes with the occurrences of processes is 1 data and the percentage is 0,58%. According to the findings, SIA's selected song lyrics pay more attention to the physical activities of a human being (material processes) when confronted with social phenomena followed by processes of seeing, feeling, and thinking (mental processes); processes of

connecting from one entity to another entity (relational processes); processes of saying (verbal processes); processes of human's physiological activities (behavioral processes) and the processes of entity's existence (existential processes).

The realization of each type of transitivity process in the twenty selected song lyrics of Bon Jovi is shown in Table 3 below:

**Table 3: Realization of Types of Transitivity Processes**

No	Song Title	Material	Mental	Behavioral	Relational	Verbal	Existence
1.	UNSTOPPABLE	21	2	-	4	1	20
2.	CHANDELIER	22	1	3	-	-	3
3.	THE GREATEST	26	2	-	1	-	16
4.	SNOWMAN	6	2	-	-	-	5
5.	CHEAP THRILLS	22	13	-	-	-	8

Table 3 shows that from the five selected song lyrics of SIA, the realization of the types of transitivity processes are different in each selected song lyrics. Song's title 'UNSTOPPABLE' shows that there are five types of transitivity processes in the song lyrics, they are: material processes, mental processes, relational processes, verbal processes, and existence processes. Song titles 'CHANDELIER' shows only four types of transitivity processes in the song lyrics, namely: material processes, mental processes, behavioral processes, and existence processes. The song title 'THE GREATEST' shows only four types of transitivity processes in the song lyrics, namely: material processes, mental processes, relational processes, and existence processes. Song titles 'SNOWMAN' and 'CHEAP THRILLS' show only three types of transitivity processes in the song lyrics, namely: material processes, mental processes, and existence processes. Table 4 shows some of the examples of the transitivity processes analysis in each song's lyrics.

**Table 4. Examples of Transitivity Processes Analysis**

Song's title	Clause of the Song Lyrics	Types of Transitivity Process
<b>UNSTOPPABLE</b>	I <b>put</b> my armor on, I'll <b>show</b> you that I am	material processes
	I'll <b>tell</b> what you wanna hear	verbal processes
	I' <b>m</b> a porche with no brakes	relational processes
	I' <b>m</b> unstoppable	existence processes
<b>CHANDELIER</b>	Throw 'em back 'till I <b>lose</b> count.	material processes
	I <b>feel</b> the love, feel the love.	mental processes
	I'm gonna <b>live</b> like tomorrow doesn't exist.	behavioral processes
	I' <b>m</b> the one for a "good time" call.	existence processes
<b>THE GREATEST</b>	I <b>close</b> my eyes.	aterial processes
	I <b>need</b> another loves, be mine.	mental processes
	I <b>see</b> another mountain to climb.	mental processes

	I'm free to be the greatest.	existence processes
SNOWMAN	I <b>want</b> you to know	material processes
	I <b>love</b> you forever.	mental processes
	I'm mrs. Snow	existence processes
CHEAP THRILLS	I <b>hit</b> the dance floor.	material processes
	I don't <b>need</b> dollar bills to have fun tonight.	mental processes
	I <b>love</b> cheap thrills.	mental processes
	It's friday night.	existence processes

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

It is determined that there are 178 transitivity processes used in numerous occurrences of each type of the transitivity processes from the twenty selected song lyrics of SIA. It has been determined that five songs chosen by SIA do not use six types of transitivity processes. It's only used only some of the transitivity processes. Based on the findings of this research, material processes are dominantly used, followed by existential processes, mental processes, relational processes, behavioral processes, and verbal processes. This means that SIA's songwriter is most concerned with describing physics activities in the song lyrics, such as put, need, running and so on through the material processes. The message of SIA's selected song lyrics is expressed not only through material processes but also through mental processes such as love, see, hear, need, and so on; relational processes that realize by the using of 'to be' such as: be, is, was; verbal process that realizes by a tell; behavioral process that is realized by a live. Besides, existential processes are the types of transitivity processes that are also mostly used in the selected song lyrics of SIA. Existential processes are realized by the using of verbs 'be' to show the existent of one entity for example sun is here, i am here, and so on. In other words, it is concluded that the realization of each type of the transitivity processes in selected song lyrics of SIA is diverse. This is to provide the variation of the wording used in each song's lyrics to entertain the song listeners, particularly the fans of SIA. Future research could be further examine the taxis and logico-semantic relations to analyze the clauses in its SIA's song lyric.

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