

P-ISSN 2621-3575

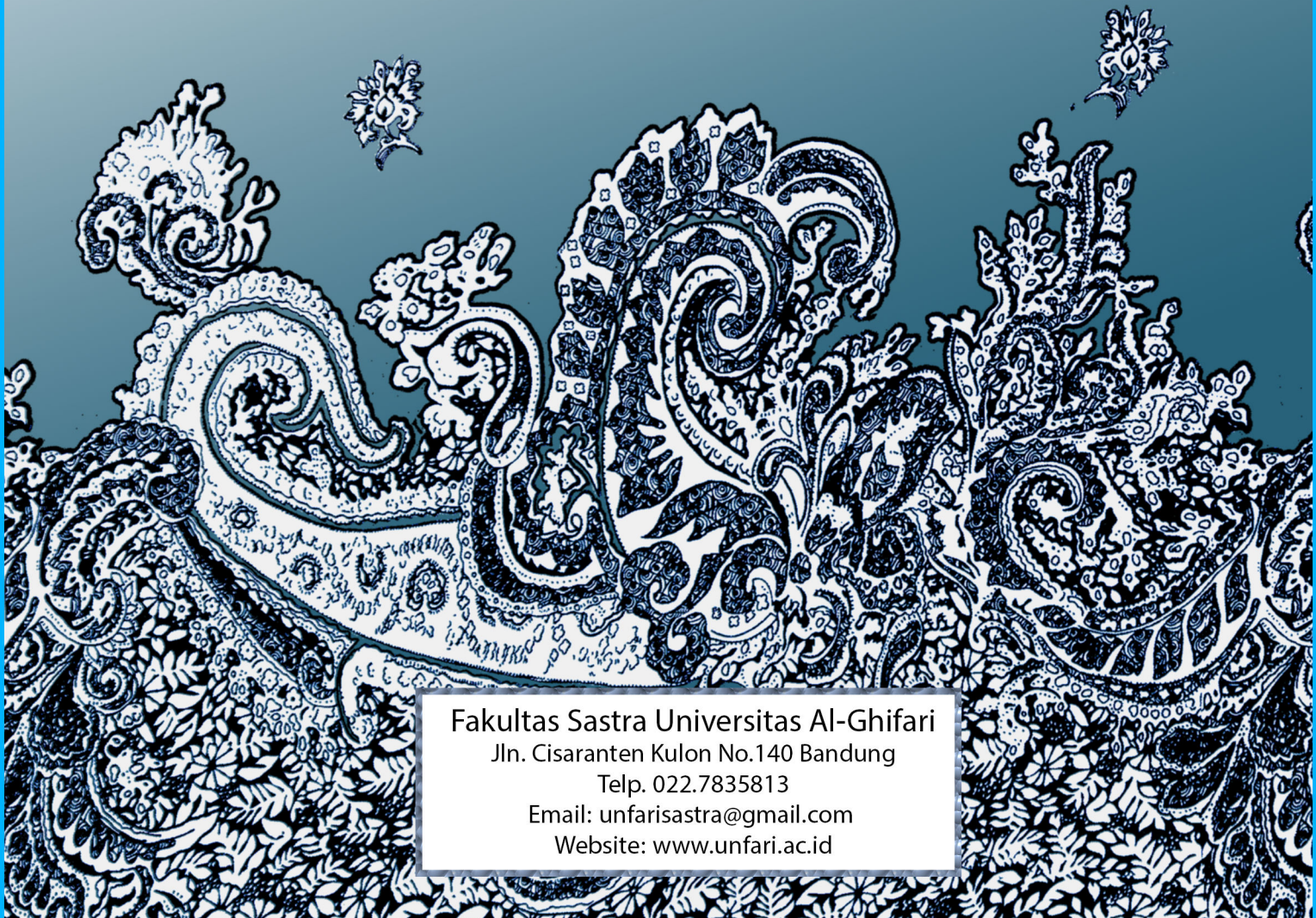
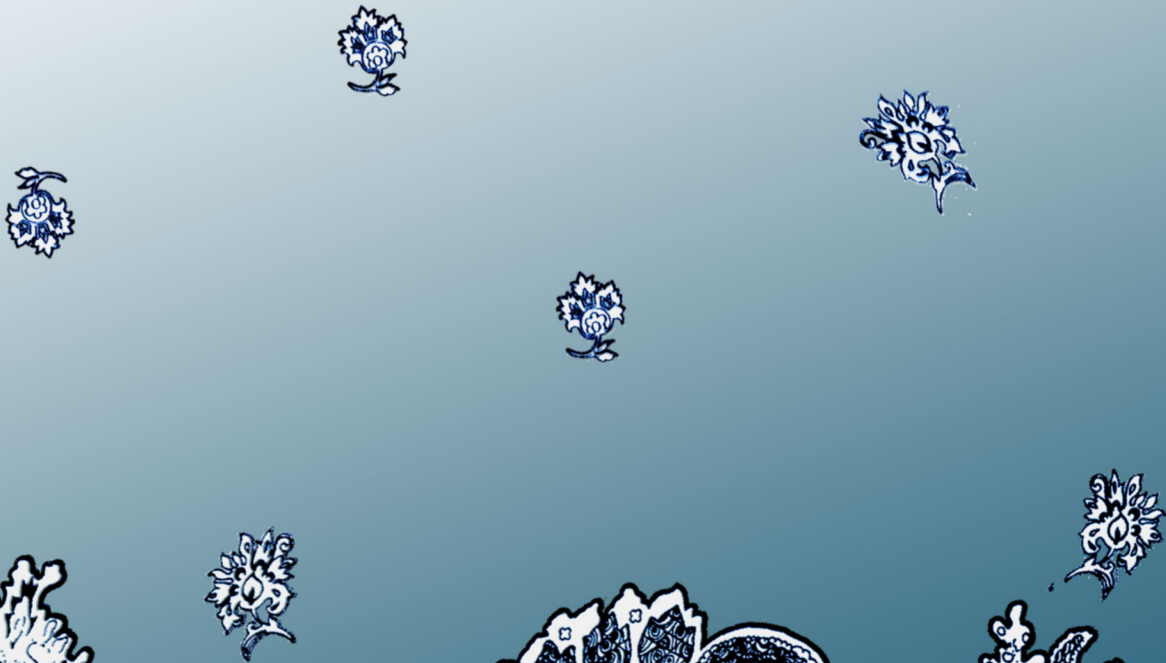
E-ISSN 2723-2921

Volume 9, Nomor 1, Juni 2026



TheGIST

Jurnal Sastra dan Bahasa



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Volume 9, Nomor 1, Juni 2026

TheGIST

Jurnal Sastra dan Bahasa

Jurnal The Gist adalah jurnal yang memuat karya ilmiah berupa artikel di bidang Ilmu sastra dan Bahasa. Jurnal The Gist diterbitkan 2 kali dalam setahun oleh Fakultas Sastra Universitas Alghifari sebagai media untuk menampung karya ilmiah sivitas akademika di lingkungan Fakultas Sastra Universitas Alghifari. Jurnal ini juga membuka peluang bagi penulis dari luar lembaga untuk berkontribusi dalam penulisan karya ilmiah selama masih memiliki bidang ilmu yang sama.

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IDEATIONAL METAFUNCTION IN THE LYRICS OF "TIMELESS" BY THE WEEKND AND PLAYBOI CARTI

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Abstract: This study aims to analyze the lyrics of the song "Timeless" by The Weeknd and Playboi Carti. The main focus is the ideational metafunction using the Transitivity system from Systemic Functional Linguistics. The song talks about wealth, power, and being timeless. This qualitative research analyzes the clauses in the lyrics to see how the singers show their real-life experiences. Furthermore, the transitivity system within the concept of Clause as Representation serves as a powerful analytical tool to examine how authors utilize participants, processes, and circumstances to shape readers' interpretations. The results show that Playboi Carti mostly uses Material Processes, which are action verbs, to show off his luxury and fast lifestyle. Meanwhile, The Weeknd uses Relational Processes, which are verbs of being, to prove that their greatness is permanent and will never fade away. Overall, these simple language choices help build a clear picture of their success and strong ego.

Key words: ideational metafunction, transitivity, song lyrics, sfl, timeless.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis lirik lagu "Timeless" oleh The Weeknd dan Playboi Carti. Fokus utamanya adalah fungsi ideasional menggunakan sistem transitivitas dari Systemic Functional Linguistics. Lagu ini membahas tentang kekayaan, kekuasaan, dan sifat abadi (timeless). Penelitian kualitatif ini menganalisis klausa-klausa dalam lirik untuk melihat bagaimana para penyanyi menunjukkan pengalaman hidup mereka. Selain itu, sistem transitivitas dalam konsep Clause as Representation berfungsi sebagai alat analisis yang kuat untuk mengkaji bagaimana penulis memanfaatkan partisipan, proses, dan sirkumstansi untuk membentuk interpretasi pembaca. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Playboi Carti banyak menggunakan Material Process (kata kerja tindakan) untuk memamerkan kemewahan dan gaya hidup cepatnya. Sementara itu, The Weeknd menggunakan Relational Process (kata kerja keadaan) untuk membuktikan bahwa kehebatan mereka bersifat permanen dan tidak akan pernah pudar. Secara keseluruhan, pilihan kata yang sederhana ini membantu membangun gambaran yang jelas mengenai kesuksesan dan ego mereka yang kuat.

Kata kunci: fungsi ideasional, transitivitas, lirik lagu, sfl, timeless.

INTRODUCTION

Music is a very important part of daily life. People listen to music not only for fun, but also to understand stories and feelings. In modern music, especially in R&B and hip-hop genres, song lyrics are often used by artists to talk about their real lives. They like to share stories

about how they got rich, how successful they are now, and how powerful they feel in the music industry. A very good example of this kind of song is "Timeless" by The Weeknd and Playboi Carti.

When people listen to "Timeless," they hear a strong message about

success, money, and fame. Both singers want the listeners to know that they are big stars and that their music will stay popular for a very long time. However, to understand how they make this message feel so real and strong, we cannot just listen to the sound of the music. We need to look closely at the words they use in the lyrics. We need to study the grammar and language choices behind the song.

To do this, this paper uses a theory called Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). This theory was created by a famous linguist named M.A.K. Halliday. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), language is a tool that people use to make meaning in social life. Language has three main functions, and one of them is called the ideational metafunction. The ideational metafunction is very helpful because it explains how language represents our experiences and the world around us. Furthermore, the organization of a text plays a significant role in conveying its intended message effectively, where text development and thematic structures in discourse act as powerful tools to influence readers and shape public perception (Dewi, Sujatna, & Mahdi, 2019: 246).

Inside the ideational metafunction, we use a system called Transitivity. As emphasized by Dewi, Heriyanto, and Citraresmana (2021: 237), the transitivity system within the concept of Clause as Representation serves as a powerful

analytical tool to examine how authors utilize participants, processes, and circumstances to shape readers' interpretations and reflect specific underlying ideologies. Transitivity helps us break down every sentence or clause into three simple parts:

Process: The action or state (what is happening in the sentence).

Participant: The person or thing doing the action or experiencing the state.

Circumstance: The extra information, such as time, place, or how something is done.

The main problem that this paper wants to discuss is: What types of Transitivity processes are used in the song "Timeless", and how do these processes show the rich, powerful, and permanent lifestyle of the singers? By looking at the clauses in the lyrics one by one, this paper will help us see how simple words can build a very strong and proud image.

Previous studies have shown that looking at grammar in song lyrics is a great way to understand hidden messages and social meanings (Suparto, 2018). However, comparing how The Weeknd sings with how Playboi Carti raps gives us a very unique text to study. Therefore, the main goal of this research is to find, describe, and explain the transitivity processes in the song "Timeless" so that readers can understand how the artists build their "timeless" identity through language.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method. A qualitative method is chosen because this research focuses on words, meanings, and language understanding, not on numbers or statistics. The primary data source for this study is the official written lyrics of the song "Timeless" by The Weeknd and Playboi Carti (The Weeknd & Playboi Carti, 2024).

The steps for collecting the data are very simple and clear:

- Listening to the song "Timeless" several times to understand the music style, mood, and general message.
- Reading the written lyrics carefully from beginning to end.
- Breaking down the lyrics into smaller parts called clauses. In SFL, a clause is the basic unit of meaning that contains a verb or process.

After collecting the data, the analysis technique follows the Transitivity system by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014). The steps are:

- Finding the Process: Looking at each clause to find the main verb (such as action verbs or state verbs).
- Identifying the Participants: Finding out who is doing the action or who is involved in the process (such as the Actor or the Carrier).
- Finding the Circumstances: Looking for extra details like time or place in the sentence.

Interpreting the Meaning: Explaining what those grammar choices mean for the song's main theme, which is about being rich, powerful, and timeless.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

After analyzing the clauses in the song "Timeless," we can see that the lyrics mostly use two main types of processes. These are Material Processes and Relational Processes. There are also a few Mental Processes and Circumstances of Time that help support the message. In conducting a transitivity analysis, each clause is systematically broken down into distinct process types—namely material, mental, behavioral, verbal, relational, and existential processes (Dewi, Heriyanto, & Citraresmana, 2021: 237–238). Furthermore, in examining text development patterns like Theme Reiteration (Constant Theme), Zigzag (Linear Theme) pattern, and Multiple (Split Theme) pattern, we can see how clauses are structured to dictate how the main topic is maintained or shifted across clauses (Dewi, Sujatna, & Mahdi, 2019: 248–249). Below is the detailed explanation and breakdown of each process found in the song.

Realization of Material Processes (Playboi Carti's Verse)

Material processes are verbs that show physical actions or "doing" words. They tell us what someone is doing in the real, physical world. In the song "Timeless," these material processes are mostly found in Playboi Carti's part of the song. Playboi Carti is known for his hip-hop style, where he likes to "flex" or show off his money,

expensive clothes, and fast lifestyle. Let us look at the first example from Carti's lyrics:

Table 1. Material Process 1

I		Wrestle	All of my demons
Actor		Process: Material	Goal

In Table 1, the word I is the Actor. The word wrestle is the Material Process because it is a physical action. The phrase all of my demons is the Goal, which means the things he is fighting against. Even though fighting demons sounds like a mental or spiritual problem, Carti uses a physical action verb (wrestle). This shows that he is strong, brave, and actively fighting his life problems instead of giving up.

Here is another example of a material process from Carti's verse where he talks about spending money on his family:

Table 2. Material Process 2

I	Put	My son	In some
Actor	Process: Material	Goal	Circumstance (Location)

In Table 2, the word I is the Actor who does the action. The word put is the Material Process. The phrase my son is the Goal, and in some Rick is the Circumstance that tells us where or what brand he is using (referring to expensive designer clothes by Rick Owens).

By using these material processes, Carti builds a reality where his power is proven through real actions. He does not just talk about being rich; he shows it by doing physical things like buying expensive clothes and taking care of his family with luxury goods. This makes his image feel very active, bold, and energetic.

Realization of Relational Processes in The Weeknd's Lyrics

While Playboi Carti uses a lot of action verbs, The Weeknd uses a different style. The Weeknd mostly uses Relational Processes. Relational processes are verbs of 'being' or 'having' (such as is, am, are, have, been). They do not show physical action. Instead, they show identity, condition, or ownership. This type of process is very important because the song is titled "Timeless," and the word "timeless" is all about who they are as people.

Let us look at the main chorus sung by The Weeknd:

Table 3. Relational Process 1

I	Been	Legit
Carrier	Process: Relational Intensive	Attribute

In Table 3, the word I is the Carrier. The word been is the Relational Process, and the word legit is the Attribute (describing what kind of person he is). Notice that The Weeknd is not saying he did something to become great right now. Instead, he uses a relational process to state that being great is a part of his permanent identity. He is and has always been cool

and real (legit). Here is another example of a relational process in the lyrics:

Table 4. Relational Process 2

The city	Is	on fire
Carrier	Process : Relational	Attribute / Circumstance

In Table 4, the city is the Carrier, is is the Relational Process, and on fire is the Attribute. This sentence describes the situation around them. The city is full of excitement and hype because of their presence.

These relational processes help create the core meaning of the song. Action verbs have a beginning and an end, but relational processes show a permanent state. By using relational processes, The Weeknd and Playboi Carti tell the listeners that their success is not temporary. They are not just acting rich for one day; they are naturally and permanently great. This is how the language choice builds the feeling of being "timeless."

Mental Processes for Self-Awareness

Aside from material and relational processes, the song also uses Mental Processes. Mental processes are verbs that deal with thinking, feeling, seeing, or knowing. In this song, mental processes show how the singers think about themselves and how other people look at them.

Look at the example below: Table 5. Mental Process Analysis

The y	know	my name
Senser	Process: Mental (Cognition)	Phenome non

In Table 5, the word They (referring to the public, fans, or haters) is the Senser. The word know is a Mental Process of cognition (thinking or knowing). The phrase my name is the Phenomenon (what is known).

This clause is very interesting because it shows that the singers do not need to introduce themselves anymore. The public already has them in their minds. The mental process highlights the fact that their fame is already inside people's heads everywhere. It gives the singers a very high level of confidence and pride.

The Role of Circumstances of Time

In Systemic Functional Linguistics, Circumstances give extra background information to the sentence, such as when, where, or why something happens. Because the title of the song is "Timeless," time plays a massive role in the lyrics.

In the chorus, The Weeknd sings the phrase "Ever since I was a kid". In SFL grammar, this is a Circumstance of Time (specifically, extent or duration). It tells us about the timeline of their success.

By adding "Ever since I was a kid" before their main statement, the singers are stretching their success across many years. They are telling the listeners that they did not just become famous

yesterday. They have been great since they were very young, and they will continue to be great in the future. This circumstance supports the relational process very well. It proves that their status is not a sudden trend that will disappear tomorrow, but a lifelong truth. This makes the message of the song fit its title perfectly.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the song "Timeless" by The Weeknd and Playboi Carti, we can make several clear conclusions. Using the Systemic Functional Linguistics framework, especially the Transitivity system, helps us see how the singers build their image through simple grammar choices.

First, Playboi Carti uses many Material Processes in his verses. These

action verbs help him show off his physical power, fast lifestyle, and expensive luxury goods like designer clothes. His success is proven through active things that he can buy and do.

Second, The Weeknd uses Relational Processes to talk about his identity. By using verbs of being, he shows that his greatness and cool status are not just temporary actions, but permanent parts of who he is.

Finally, supported by Mental Processes that show people already know them and Circumstances of Time that stretch their success back to their childhood, the whole song creates a very strong reality. The singers successfully use language to construct an image where they are rich, powerful, and truly "timeless."

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