

THE TRANSITIVITY OF LEWIS CAPALDI'S SONGS LYRICS IN *DIVINELY UNINSPIRED TO A HELLISH EXTENT* ALBUM

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini menganalisis makna *ideational* dalam lirik lagu milik Lewis Capaldi di album *Divinely Uninspired to A Hellish Extent*. Objek penelitian ini adalah mengidentifikasi elemen *transitivity* di dalam lirik lagu, lalu menganalisis dan mendeskripsikan makna *ideational*. Deskriptif kualitatif digunakan sebagai metode penelitian dengan teori *transitivity* milik Halliday sebagai teori utamanya. Ditemukan 63 data dan 93 proses *transitivity* di dalam tiga lagu Lewis Capaldi. Data tersebut direalisasikan menggunakan *transitivity* sistem yang terbagi menjadi 52 proses *relational*, 17 proses *mental*, 17 proses *material*, 6 proses *verbal*, dan 1 proses *existential*. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa lirik lagu milik Lewis Capaldi kebanyakan menggunakan proses *relational* untuk merepresentasikan hubungan dan kualitas hal serta peristiwa yang pernah ia alami. Selain itu, proses *mental* menjadi proses kedua terbanyak yang ditemukan oleh peneliti yang menandakan bahwa Lewis Capaldi sebagai penulis lagu juga ingin menggambarkan pemikiran, perasaan dan keinginannya ketika mengalami banyak permasalahan. Ia ingin pendengar mengetahui penyesalannya.

Kata kunci: lirik, *transitivity*, Lewis Capaldi

Abstract

This research examined the ideational meaning of Lewis Capaldi's songs lyrics in *Divinely Uninspired to A Hellish Extent* album. The objectives of this research are to identify *transitivity* elements in Lewis Capaldi's songs lyrics, then analyze them to get the ideational meaning. The design of this research is descriptive qualitative with Halliday's *transitivity* theory as the main theory. The result of the analysis are 63 data and 93 *transitivity* processes. The data are realized by *transitivity* system that are divided into 52 relational processes, 17 mental processes, 17 material processes, 6 verbal processes, and 1 existential process. Lewis Capaldi's songs lyrics mostly used relational process to represent the relation and quality of things and phenomena that had been experienced by him. Furthermore, mental process is the second dominant process in the songs lyrics that means that Lewis Capaldi as the song writer also wanted to describe his feeling, thought and desire when he had many problems. He wanted the listener to know his regret.

Keywords: lyrics, *transitivity*, Lewis Capaldi

BACKGROUND OF PROBLEM

Lewis Capaldi's debut album entitled *Divinely Uninspired to a Hellish Extent* has got the United Kingdom listeners attention. According to BBC News, it became the

UK's best-selling album in the year of 2019 and continued to stay at number one in 2020. Moreover, a song "Someone You Loved" which is taken from the album, reached 228 million streams. Every song in

Lewis Capaldi's album contains story and message that are conveyed to the listeners through lyrics. The lyrics make the listeners know the topic of song and realize the similarity between their experiences or moments with the story in the song they listen to. Thus, the meaning of a song can be found in the lyrics.

The researcher interested in analyzing the songs lyrics from *Divinely Uninspired to a Hellish Extent* album using transitivity approach to discover how participants involved in action and how they relate to others. Transitivity represents experience that can be seen in a clause. Furthermore, the researcher also analyzed the ideational meaning to describe how the participants in the lyrics creat a meaning based on their situation. The intended meaning will be understood through ideational meaning, because it reveals experiences, involved participants, and surrounding circumstances contained in a clause. Experience is constituted by three elements, namely, process, participant, and circumstance.

Based on the description above, to conduct this research, the researcher identified the problem as follows:

1. What elements of transitivity are found in Lewis Capaldi's songs lyrics?
2. What are the ideational meanings in Lewis Capaldi's songs lyrics?

Related on the research problem, the objective of this research as follows:

1. To identify the elements of transitivity that are found in the songs lyrics by Lewis Capaldi.
2. To analyze and describe the ideational meaning in songs lyrics by Lewis Capaldi.

According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), the name systemic theory came from the fact that the grammar of a language is not an inventory of structures, it represents in the form of system networks. In addition, Halliday and

Matthiessen in Almurashi (2016) stated that the importance and the use of language are placed on the function. Systemic Functional Linguistics deals with the use of language as the source for making meaning; it is not only concerned with the structures but also with how those structures construct meaning (Gerot & Wignell, 1995). Thus, a resource of making and exchanging meaning is remarked as functional grammar (Lock, 1996).

There are three functional components of meaning called metafunctional that are realized throughout the grammar of a language (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Those components are the ideational (clause as representation), the interpersonal (clause as exchange), and the textual (clause as message).

Ideational meaning means understanding the environment based on the experience. According to Halliday & Matthiessen (2014), theory of human experience is provided by language, and certain of the resources of the lexicogrammar of every language are dedicated to that function. Gerot & Wignell (1995) stated that ideational meanings are the phenomena about things, what they are or do, and their situation. Those meanings are seen through participants, processes and circumstances.

Transitivity system is one of the approaches in linguistics for analyzing texts, specifically clauses. According to Motta-Roth & Nascimento (2009), transitivity is a representation of ideational content. Meanwhile, Hopper & Thompson (1980) stated that transitivity contained with many components, including affectiveness in which the action taking place. It contains three categories that explain how phenomena of the real world are represented as linguistic structures. Those categories are circumstances or information that answers wh-question

about the doing, participants or a doer, and processes or a doing.

Furthermore, Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) explained that the strongest impression of experience consists of goings-on - happening, doing, sensing, meaning, being and becoming. The experiences are construed into a manageable set of process types by transitivity system. Halliday identified processes into seven different processes. However, the processes is divided into two main groups in a specific term: non-relational process and relational process.

The non-relational process is a process of doing which shows a verb that indicates an activity. It includes four processes, namely, material process, mental process, verbal process, and behavioural process.

Material process expresses the notion that something is done by some entity physically to some other entity (Gerot & Wignell, 1995). It is related to physical activities where the participants do, such as running, drawing, and cooking. Moreover, its participants who do something are named actor and the other participant who receives the action from the actors are goal. There are some additional participants who receive the benefit from the actor known as beneficiary (Lock, 1996). The beneficiary is divided into two: recipient and client. The recipient gets the outcome of the process, which is usually marked by the word to. Meanwhile, client is the participant whom the process is done that is usually signed by the word for.

Table 1. Material Process (Lock, 1996)

I	'll give	your paper	to you
Actor	Material Process	Goal	Recipient

Related on table 1 above, the actor as one of participants in table 4 is marked by the word 'I' and followed by process 'will give'. Another participant that will get the outcome of the process or known as recipient, is marked by 'to you'. It is a material process because the participant plans to do physical activity to the other participant.

Mental process reflects sensing such as feeling, thinking, and perceiving (Gerot & Wignell, 1995). It is divided into three types: affective or reactive (feeling), cognitive (thinking), and perceptive (perceiving through the five sense). Meanwhile, in Halliday & Matthiessen (2014) there are one more types called desiderative (expressing a desire). The participant roles in this process are called sener and phenomena. The sener is a conscious being who can feel, think or see, while the phenomena is the one that is sensed.

Table 2. Mental Process (Gerot & Wignell, 1995)

Mark	Likes	new clothes
Senser	Mental: Affect	Phenomena

Based on table 5, the participant 'Mark' as sener is followed by word 'likes' that projects the feeling in mental process. There are three types of mental process, namely, affective, cognitive, and perceptive, meanwhile the word 'likes' in this clause is an affect type which shows sener's feeling about the phenomena 'new clothes'.

Verbal process or process of saying is expressed by a verb such as say, tell, ask, reply, and suggest (Lock, 1996). The clauses of this process usually have one participant known as sayer. There are another three participants of the verbal process, namely, receiver, target, and range/verbiage. The

receiver is the one who is addressed by the verbalization; the target is the one who acted upon verbally, meanwhile range or verbiage is the name of verbalization.

Table 3. Verbal Process
(Gerot & Wignell, 1995)

John	told	Jenny	a rude joke
Sayer	Verbal Process	Receiver	Verbiage

Based on table 3, the verbal process indirectly reports that the participant 'John' as sayer says something bad to another participant called receiver 'Jenny'. The verbal process is expressed by word 'told' which placed after the sayer and followed by the receiver. Therefore, the verbiage or verbalization of the clause is 'a rude joke'.

Behavioural process corresponds to physiological and psychological behaviour such as dreaming, snoring, smiling, and hiccuping (Gerot & Wignell, 1995). The behavior is the obligatory participant in this process. It is a conscious being identical to the participant in mental process. However, the difference is, behavior is the one who is doing not sensing. Another participant called range is serving information about the process semantically, but it is regarded to the circumstances (Lock, 1996).

Table 4. Behavioural Process
(Gerot & Wignell, 1995)

He	heaved	a great sigh
Behavior	Behavioural	Range

The clause in table 4 is behavioural process because the behavior 'He' is followed by 'heaved' word that indicates a physiological behaviour. The process is supported by information 'a great sigh' that

specifies the scope of the process called as range.

The relational process expresses process of being and having. It can be classified according to how the process is used to identify something or assigns a quality to something. The verb is usually an auxiliary verb or a helping verb. The relational process is distinguished into three units: relational, existential, and meteorological.

Gerot & Wignell (1995) said that the relational process is related to identifying and attributive processes. The identifying process establishes an identity with token and value as the participant roles. Meanwhile, the attributive one assigns a quality with carrier and attribute as the participant. Moreover, the relational process also can be divided into wider sub-classified as intensive, possessive, and circumstantial. The principal categories of relational process can be seen in table 5.

Table 5. The Principal Categories of Relational Clause
(Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014)

	(I) Attributive 'a is an attribute of x'	(II) Identifying 'a is the identifying of x'
(1) intensive 'x is a'	Sarah is wise	Sarah is the leader; the leader is Sarah
(2) possessive 'x has a'	Peter has a piano	the piano is Peter's; Peter's is the piano
(3) circumstantial	The fair is on Tuesday	tomorrow is the 10th;

'x is at a'		the 10th is tomorrow
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There is an important difference between attributive and identifying in table 5. The participants in identifying are reversible, so the x and a can be switched like the example 'Sarah is the leader/the leader is Sarah'. Meanwhile, the attributive ones are not reversible since there is no form 'wise is Sarah'. While intensive clauses dominate relational process, there are also two significant types of being: the possessive clauses that relate to possession and the circumstantial which construe the extension of space.

Existential process is a process of existence which represents that something exists or happens. There is usually a verb be or another verb that expresses existence, such as be, exist, or arise (Gerot & Wignell, 1995). Therefore, the existent can be a phenomenon of any kind. If an existential clause contains a circumstantial elements, that element is classified as thematic which means the word there can be omitted.

Table 6. Existential Process (Gerot & Wignell, 1995)

There	was	a blood-stain	on the matinee jacket
	Existential	Existent	Circumstance :place

The supporting word 'there' shows that the clause in table 6 is existential process. Therefore, the word 'was' is the existential process of the existent 'a blood-stain'. The circumstance of place 'on the matinee jacket' expresses detail where the existent is.

Meteorological process is a process that has no participant in it (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014). The word it in this

process serves the function of subject, but no function in transitivity.

Table 12. Meteorological Process (Gerot & Wignell, 1995)

It	's five o'clock 's windy 's hot
	Meteorological

Gerot & Wignell (1995) stated that systemic functional linguistics focuses on clause, thus, it is necessary to know where a clause begins and ends. A clause is divided into major and minor clauses. A minor clause indicates address, greeting or exclamation without predicator. Meanwhile, major clause indicates indicative or imperative clause with a predicator, except the predicator that is ellipted. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), ellipsis is used to create cohesion. Moreover, it is also used when there is same background knowledge between the speaker and the hearer. The subject in the ellipsical clause can be omitted, such as in 'carry your bag?' which is actually constructed '(shall I) carry your bag?'. It is described as giving clause (offer or statement).

According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), some clauses meaning have a possibility to be extended by adding something new to it. The extension can be an addition, a replacement, or an alternative. The summary of extension and principal marker categories can be seen in table 7 below.

Table 7. Categories of Extension and Principal Markers

(Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014)

	Category	Meaning	Paratactic	Hypotactic	
				finite	non-finite
(i) addition	'and', additive: positive 'nor', additive: negative	X and Y not X and not Y	(both ...) and; not only ... but also (neither ...) nor	while, whereas -	besides, apart from, as well as -
(ii) variation	'but', adversative 'instead', replacive 'except', subtractive	X and conversely Y not X but Y X but not all X	but, (and) yet but not ... but only, but, except	while, whereas -	Without instead of, rather than except for, other than
(iii) alternation	'or'	X or Y	(either ...) or (else)	if ... not (... then)	-

Songs are entertaining media that combine language and music. Nettl (2000) in Mihalcea and Strapparava (2012) stated that the capability of producing and enjoying language and music happens in every human society, regardless of the richness of its culture. The listeners can feel sad or motivated while listening to songs, because the lyrics have personal meaning for them. Therefore, the elements of song are similar to speech and poetry. Song and speech are produced by vocal, meaningful in linguistic view, and have melody; whereas song and poetry use words to transfer meaning, are usually written down before publication, can be combined with music, and can be listened (Griffiee, 1992 in Zakiyah (2019).

Lyric expresses deep personal emotion or observations. Hornby (2000) in (Teguh,

2017) stated that lyrics express a personal feeling and thoughts of someone. There could be a message serves through lyrics to create an atmosphere and a picture of the listener’s imagination, which create diverse meanings.

The debut album of Scottish singer-songwriter Lewis Capaldi, entitled *Divinely Uninspired to a Hellish Extent* was released on 17 May 2019. Twelve songs are included on the first edition of the album; meanwhile the extended edition has three additional songs. It is distributed in Europe by Vertigo Records, in the United States by Capitol Records, and globally by Universal Music. The album peaked at number one on charts in the UK and Ireland, became outselling all of the top 10 combined in both countries, and the fastest-selling album of the year. It won gold certification a week after its release in the UK. The album was the best-selling album of 2019 and 2020 in the UK, with a song entitled “Someone You Loved” being the best-selling single in the UK in 2019.

The researcher chose three popular songs from this album according to Billboard charts to be analyzed; those songs are “Someone You Loved”, “Before You Go” and “Hold Me While You Wait”.

METHODOLOGY

This research aimed to examine the elements of transitivity in *Divinely Uninspired to a Hellish Extent* album using transitivity approach. The researcher focused on analyzing the transitivity appearing in songs lyrics and the ideational meaning of them. Sugiyono (2017) stated that qualitative method was used to examine the object’s natural condition where the researcher itself is the main instrument. Furthermore, describing a phenomenon and its characteristics is the goal of descriptive research (Nassaji, 2015).

Data collection methods are the way of collecting data that was used in research. In this research, the researcher used documentation with purposive sampling technique. Corbin & Strauss (2008) in Bowen (2009) stated that same with other analytical methods in qualitative research, document analysis is required to examine and interpret the data in order to elicit meaning, gain understanding, and develop empirical knowledge. Purposive sampling is a technique to collect data with particular consideration (Sugiyono, 2017). The steps of collecting the data in this research as follows:

1. Browsing Lewis Capaldi's songs and lyrics.
2. Selecting Lewis Capaldi's songs that will be analyzed by the researcher using purposive sampling.
3. Analyzing the lyrics using Halliday's theory.
4. Drawing result based on the finding.

According to Stainback in Sugiyono (2017), data analysis is critical to the qualitative research process. It is used to recognize, examine, and understand the interrelationship and concept in the data hypotheses. It can be concluded that data analysis is a process to analyze and arrange the data systematically. Miles and Huberman in Sugiyono (2017) stated that data collection in qualitative research is done continuously until the data is saturated. The activities of analyzing data are data collection, data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. The researcher followed technique of analyzing data:

1. Finding clauses, elements and types of transitivity in Lewis Capaldi's songs lyrics.

2. Identifying the transitivity elements of every clause in Lewis Capaldi's songs lyrics.
3. Describing the ideational meaning of every clause in Lewis Capaldi's songs lyrics.
4. Drawing the result based on data analysis of transitivity elements and ideational meaning in Lewis Capaldi's songs lyrics.

ANALYSIS

1. The Transitivity in Lewis Capaldi's Songs Lyrics

The researcher had analyzed Lewis Capaldi's songs lyrics through transitivity system. Transitivity itself consists of processes, namely, material, mental, behavioural, verbal, relational, and existential. In material process, the experience is provided by actor who did physical process to the goal. Meanwhile, mental process can be seen through senser who is sensing about the phenomena. In behavioural process, the physiological and psychological behaviour is realized by behavior and behavioural. Thereafter, verbal process is recognized by a signal known as sayer and a signalling known as verbal. Moreover, relational process is used to identify something through token, identifying and value; while to assign something through carrier, attributive and attribute. Furthermore, existential process expressed an existence by an existential and existent.

1.1 The Relational Process in Lewis Capaldi's Songs Lyrics

The researcher found 52 relational process. Lewis Capaldi's songs lyrics use relational process because he wants to serve the relation and quality between participants of his experiences.

1.2 The Mental Process in Lewis Capaldi’s Songs Lyrics

Mental process is the next process that is used in Lewis Capaldi’s songs lyrics to represent his experiences of feeling. the researcher found 17 mental processes on Lewis Capaldi’s songs. Lewis Capaldi uses mental process because he wants to serve the experiences of his feeling, thought and desire consciously.

1.3 The Material Process in Lewis Capaldi’s Songs Lyrics

The songs lyrics by Lewis Capaldi not only use relational process to represent his experience, but also material process. the researcher found 17 material processes on Lewis Capaldi’s songs. Lewis Capaldi’s song lyrics use material process because he wants to serve physical doing of experiences around him.

1.4 The Verbal Process in Lewis Capaldi’s Songs Lyrics

Verbal process is another process that is used in Lewis Capaldi’s songs lyrics to represent his experiences of saying. the researcher found 6 verbal processes in Lewis Capaldi’s songs. Lewis Capaldi’s songs lyrics verbal process because he wants to serve experiences of saying. The process mostly about Lewis Capaldi who asked his lover to tell him something.

1.5 The Existential Process in Lewis Capaldi’s Songs Lyrics

The researcher found one exestential process in Lewis Capaldi’s songs. Lewis Capaldi’s songs lyrics use existential process because he wants to serve something, in this case is their conversation, that exist before but now it is not.

In the three songs lyrics of Lewis Capaldi that were analyzed, 63 data with 93 processes were found by the researcher.

The table 8 below explains how the meaning of Lewis Capaldi’s songs lyrics based on transitivity system.

Table 8. Analysis of Transitivity System

The Transitivity System of Lewis Capaldi’s Songs	
Relational	52
Mental	17
Material	17
Verbal	6
Existential	1

According to the transitivity analysis, the most dominant transitivity process is relational process. The meaning of Lewis Capaldi’s songs lyrics based on ideational meaning can be seen through the way every relational elements was constructed to describe quality or give label. The finding shows that Lewis Capaldi, his loved ones and their relationship are the main characters discussed.

The second dominant process in Lewis Capaldi’s songs lyrics is mental process. The experiences of feeling that Lewis Capaldi had are showed in the songs. Therefore, the processes are mostly about how his feeling towards his loved ones and their situation. Meanwhile, the third dominant process which has less processes, is material process. Nevertheless, verbal and existential process are two least processes. It shows that the songs lyrics by Lewis Capaldi rarely quoting or reporting his experiences in the songs.

2. The Ideational Meaning in Lewis Capaldi’s Songs Lyrics

The ideational meanings in the transcripts were identified and analyzed by focusing on transitivity system. Ideational meaning is constructed by transitivity elements, which interpret experiences between participants and processes. It is about how the real world phenomena are represented as linguistics structure that is concerned with clause as representation.

Furthermore, the researcher found ideational meanings presented by different transitivity processes that correlates to each other. In that case, a couple of processes cannot be separated since the two or more processes perfectly deliver the ideational meaning.

Lewis Capaldi's songs lyrics use many relational processes to describe the relation and quality of the things around him when he was in bad situation with his loved ones. Mental process becomes the second dominant to show how his thought, feeling and desire about the phenomena. Furthermore, material process projects the act of him, his loved ones and things between them. Moreover, verbal process mainly used to ask his loved ones about their feeling towards him and the situation. In addition, existential process was used to show the absence of something when his situation was getting worse. Thus, Lewis Capaldi through his songs lyrics wants the listeners to know about his regret while hoping his relationship situation with his loved ones would be better after all the problems that happened.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of ideational meaning in the lyrics of Lewis Capaldi Divinely Uninspired to a Hellish Extent album, two conclusions can be drawn as follows:

1. Transitivity elements had been analyzed on the previous chapter. The meaning of Lewis Capaldi's songs lyrics based on ideational meaning can be seen through the way the elements of processes were put in the song. Relational processes are the most dominant process that can be found easily in every song. It means that Lewis Capaldi wants to describe the relation between things that he had experienced in his relationship. There

are 63 data of the three songs that the researcher had chosen. After analyzing the data, the researcher found 93 processes in total. The lyrics are divided into: lyrics one (Someone You Loved) with 17 relational processes, 7 material processes, 6 mental processes. Furthermore, lyrics two (Before You Go) with 17 material processes, 8 mental processes, 5 material processes, 2 verbal processes, and 1 existential process. The last is lyrics three (Hold Me While You Wait) with 20 relational processes, 4 material processes, 4 verbal processes, and 3 mental processes.

2. The ideational meaning of Lewis Capaldi's songs lyrics can be seen after analyzing the transitivity system of every clause in the songs lyrics. The researcher used transitivity because it is the tool to get the ideational meaning. According to Hopper & Thompson (1980), transitivity contained many components, including affectiveness in which the action took place. It contains three categories that explain how phenomena of the real world are represented as linguistic structures. Those categories are circumstances, processes, and participants. Therefore, transitivity is used to describe the phenomena in Lewis Capaldi's songs lyrics. The researcher found 63 data with 93 processes. There are many relational processes in his songs that describe the relation and quality of the things around him when he was in some bad situation with his loved ones. Mental process becomes the second dominant to show how his thought and feeling about the phenomena. Furthermore, material process projects the act of him, his loved ones and things between them.

Moreover, verbal process mainly used to ask his loved ones about their feeling towards him and the situation. In addition, existential process was used to show the absence of something when his situation was getting worse. Thus, Lewis Capaldi through his songs

lyrics wants the listeners to know about his regret while hoping his relationship situation with his loved ones would be better after all the problems that happened.

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