USING TRANSITIVITY AND FUNCTIONALIST STYLISTICS AS A FRAMEWORK IN STUDYING HASSAN BALASIM'S SHORT STORY "THE GREEN ZONE RABBIT"

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ABSTRACT

This paper shows how transitivity can be used to classify verbs and clauses through many types of processes, and it aims to clarify the meaning that is beyond a literary work such as short stories and here the researchers aim to analyze "The Green Zone Rabbit" Written by the Iraqi writer Hassan Balasim and translated into English by Jonathan Wright in 2013 ، by using Transitivity system and Systematic Functional Linguistics (SFL) that is devised by Michael Halliday (Halliday, 1994; Halliday and

Matthiessen, 2014).) to show how language is considered as a social semiotic system and as a resource for making meaning and choices, in addition, this paper illustrates the different points concerning stylistic applications of Halliday's model of Transitivity, finally it shows the connection between linguistics and literature as a language through the use of functional stylistics.

Key words: Transitivity, systemic functional linguistics (SFL) , functionalist stylistics.short story

INTRODUCTION

Transitivity Theory

Transitivity theory was developed by Michael Halliday In the 20th century. In the broadest sense, "Transitivity is a way of classifying verbs and clauses with reference to the relationship of the verb to other structural elements" (Nordquist, 2018).

Transitivity is used to create an experimental or an intellectual meaning that deals with how structures and events are coded in the language, It also expresses who does what, to whom, when, where and how. The one who does the action is the Participant, and the action is the process that is represented in a clause by the verbal group, while the thing that expresses optional information is called circumstantial, circumstances tell how, where and when something occurs (Ryder, 2006, p.40).

Ali goes to school every day.

Ali=participant

goes=process

to school =circumstance of place

Everyday =circumstance of time

In the transitivity system, processes are divided into six types: Material process, Mental process, Behavioral process, Verbal process and Existential process (Ryder,2006,p.40).

In Material process which is the process of doing and happening, "things happen and people or other actors do things or make them happen". It deals with these verbs: build, break, rub, deliver, shrivel, flatten and meet. The "doers", in this kind of process -in two participant processes -are called "Agent", while those in one participant are called "Mediums", In addition, there are other participants such as: Goal, Recipient and Scopes. These participants differ in term of the extent to which they are affected by the action (Ryder, 2006, p.40).

79

1-Ali studied Grammar in the class.

Ali =actor

Studied =process

Grammar =goal

in the class =circumstance

2-Ali gave Ahmed a grammar book.

Ali = actor

gave =process

Ahmed =recipient

a grammars book =goal

3-Noor sang a song.

Noor =actor

sang =process

a song =scope

The Mental process is the process of perception and cognition, It deals with "How we perceive and present the world to ourselves ",This process Consists of many verbs like: believe, know, see, want, like, frighten, doubt, remember or regret. There are two kinds of participants in this process, The Sensor who does the action and The Phenomenon which is the entity that is inducing the state (Ryder, 2006, p.40).

I saw Ali yesterday.

I =sensor

Saw = process

Ali =phenomenon

Yesterday =circumstance

Relational process is the process of being, it deals with "How we identify and classify entities", and It's verbs are: be, remain, seem, have and exemplify. This kind of process is used for many functions including Identifying and Attributing (Ryder,2006, P.41).

A girl is a young person.

A girl =identified

Is = process

A young person =identifier

Verbal processes are the verbs of saying like: speaking, announce, promise and ask. There are four participants in this process: The Sayers, The Receiver, The Verbiage and The Target (Ryder, 2006,p.41).

Ali praised Ahmed to other students in the class.

Ali =sayer

Praised =process

Ahmed = target

other students = receiver

in the class = circumstance

Existential processes are "Those which present that something exists or happens". They are usually followed by one participant that is called Existent, They usually consist of the verb (There +to be) or other verbs that refer to the meaning of existence as in the following sentence: (Halliday, 1985, p.130).

There is a patient to see you.

There = circumstance

Is =process

A patient = existent

to see you = circumstance

Behavioral processes are the processes of "physiological and psychological behavior". They are represented by verbs such as coughing, watching or listening, that"reflect physiological and psychological behaviors", They are usually followed by one participant that is known as *Behaver* (Downing,2006,p.151).

He is laughing.

He = behaver

is laughing = process

Table (1) shows different degrees of power of participants depending on "How event like the process is, In which the are involved "(Ryder, 2006,p.42).

According to (Ryder, 2006, p.42) there are different points regarding the stylistic application of Halliday's model of transitivity, the first one is "Coding Power and Responsibility ", Which is explained in the next table.

Process	Participant	Power degree
1-Material	Agent Goal Recipiant	Powerful Low in power Powerless
2-Mental	Senser	Active but not particular powerful
3-Relational	Identified	The least powerful
4-Verbal	Sayer	Low in power
5-Existential	Existent	The least powerful
6-Behavioral	Behaver	Active but not particular powerful

Table (1) Different degrees of the power of the participants

The second point is "Text Sub worlds" which means that sub worlds can be achieved by stylistic devices such as Mental and Verbal processes which act as "Space builders" in creating sub worlds involving the information represented by the process, For example (Ryder,2006,p.42).

"Peter dreamed that a steamboat was being washed over the pier by the storm".

The verb "dreamed" act as a space builder that "it creates a sub world containing the event including the steamboat, The pier and the storm" (Ryder,2006,p.42).

The third point is "the point of view "which can be achieved by "a number of stylistic devices such as Mental and Cognitive Behavioral processes". In Mental process the sensor is the only one who knows about his phenomenon, for example (Ryder,2006,p.41).

Suha thinks that she has a wonderful cat.

The information that is presented by the subordinate clause, is only known to Suha, the same thing is with the Behavior in the Cognitive Behavioral process like "dreaming or listening ",So both of them (the sensor and the behavior)will be considered as "The Focalizer in that section of text"(Ryder,2006,p.42).

FUNCTIONALIST STYLISTICS

Canning (2014, p.46)shows that Functionalist Stylistics deals with the connections between what we have in our mind of context, situation, social, cultural, political and so on..And the forms of language as a system, according to this, a language by its own does not mean everything, for example, when we hear the word "violence" the perception in our minds say that it is something unacceptable.

According to Holliday (1994) language has three "Interconnecting Metafunctions", the first one is Ideational Metafunction which is concerned with the meaning of ideas and things "clause as representation", the other one is interpersonal Metafunction that deals with the meaning about social relationship " clause as exchange ",the last one is Textual Metafunction that "provides the formal properties of language so "clause as message"(Canning, 2014, p.46).

"While waiting for the bus, David kicked an old tin can". This example presents the three metafunctions in that it contains a "message" (Textual metafunction), it is "an exchange " (Interpersonal metafunction), and it is " a means of representation "(Ideational metafunction) (Halliday,1994,p.34).

Cunanan (2011,p.71) points out that systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is a framework in which language is described as " a resource for making meaning and choices " ,and it is identified by Halliday

whose main aim in the stylistic analysis is "to show why and how the text means what it does ", the next figure illustrates the meaning in text by:
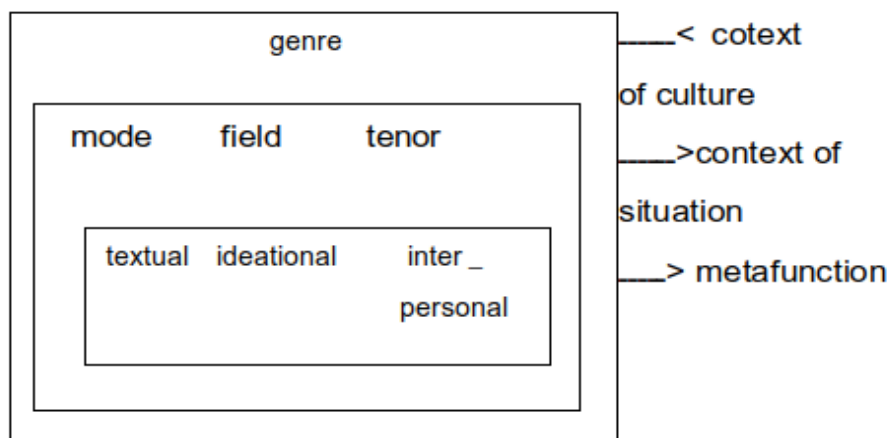

Figure (2) systemic functional linguistics (SFL) Martin (2002)

According to Leech(1987,p.76)," functionalism (in the study of language) is an approach which tries to explain Language not only internally, in terms of its formal properties, but also externally, in terms of what language contributes to a larger subsystem of which it is a part of a subsystem. Whether we call these larger systems "culture", "social system", "belief systems", etc, does not concern me".

Halliday (1969, p.19) makes an analysis of the use of language in William Goldings the Inheritors regarding linguistic function and literary style. He uses his Systematic Functional Model of language to point out the establishment of a strange world view presented by both the people and the tribe, he also shows how grammar can be used to convey the message that is beyond the literary work.

The foreground patterns of *The Inheritors* are ideational ones that deal with the meaning of ideas and things (clauses as representations of experience) ,the patterns express the abstract structure of the reality of the novel in addition to the content (Halliday,1969,p.19).

Syntactic analysis is hard to introduce anything in the way of a new interpretation of specific sentences, for example: **The stick began to grow shorter at both**

ends, the difficulty here is at the level of making interpretation or reinterpretation. In the Inheritors, there is a double shift between global to the local norm(Halliday,1969,p.27).

THE DATA "THE GREEN ZONE RABBIT"

The story is written by the Iraqi writer Hassan Balasim (2013), it is about a man called Hajjar who was going to do his first murderous mission with his partner Salsal. They were living in the same place which is a Villa in the Green Zone. Salsal used to use his laptop a lot to keep in touch with his friends on Facebook, while Hajjar spent his time in reading books and taking care of a rabbit in that Villa. One day when Hajjar went to feed the rabbit, he found an egg in the rabbit hutch, and the egg confused both of Hajjar and Salsal, because they were the only persons in that Villa which mean that someone was deceiving them! On the day of their mission, they went by their car and Hajjar took the rabbit with him.

While they were waiting the one whom they were supposed to kill, Salsal got a message from one of his Facebook friends who was the minister of culture asking them about the rabbit egg and that mean they were deceived by him, both of Salsal and Hajjar were

82

shocked, then Hajjar got out of the car to get some breath when suddenly the car exploded and both of Salsal and the rabbit died (Balasim,2013).

I found the egg three days before Mr. Salman's last visit. One day I woke up at dawn as usual. I fetched some clean water and food and went to inspect my friend the rabbit. I opened his hutch and he hopped out into the garden. There was an egg in the hutch. I picked it up and examined it, trying to understand the absurdity of it. It was too small to be a chicken's egg. I was anxious, so I went straight to Salsal's room. I woke him up and told him about it. Salsal took hold of the egg and stared at it for a while, then laughed sneeringly (Balasim,2013,p.3).

"Hajjar, you'd better not be pulling my leg," he said, pointing his finger toward my eye.

"What do you mean? It wasn't me who laid the egg!" I said firmly.

Salsal rubbed his eyes, then suddenly jumped out of bed like a madman, firing curses at me. We headed to the villa gate and checked the security system. We inspected the walls and searched the garden and all the rooms. There were no signs of anything unusual. But an egg in a rabbit hutch! Our only option was to think that someone was playing tricks on us, sneaking into the villa and putting the egg next to the rabbit.

"Perhaps it's a silly stunt by that whore Umm Dala. Damn you and your rabbit," said Salsal, but then went quiet (Balasim,2013,p.3).

THE ANALYSIS

In this part of the study, the researchers follow Cunanan(2011) steps in his article which is "Using Transitivity as a Framework in a Stylistic Analysis of Virginia Woolf's *Old Mrs. Grey*, and Halliday steps in his inquiry into the language of William Goldings" *The Inheritors* .

In this paper, processes, participants, and circumstances are analyzed to interpret the world view of Hajjar in this story. It applies the three steps developed by Burton(1982,p.202) which are (1) dividing the processes and determining which participant is doing each process,(2)identifying the kind of processes, and

(3)verifying who or what is affected or seems to be affected by the process.

According to this , numbers of steps should be followed

1-Number of participants

The total number of the participants are(21).(3) are considered as major participants which are : I (Hajjar) ,It (rabbit) ,and Salsal , while (18)of them are minor participants like the egg, clean water, food, hutch, the garden, my leg, his finger, my eyes, his eye, the villa, the security system, the walls, the rooms, someone, tricks, and Umm Dala.

2-Number of processes

The total number of the processes are (42), most of them are Material, Verbal and Behavioral Processes.

(1)Material processes are(18) found,wake up,fetched,went, opened hopped,picked,went,woke,pulling,laid,rubbed,jumped,checked, inspected,searched,firing and putting.

(2)Mental processes are (5): examined, trying, understand, do and think.

(3)Existential processes are(2): there was and there were.

(4)Behavioral processes are (6): took hold, stared, laughed, pointing, headed, and went quiet.

(5)Verbal processes are (8): told, said, wasn't, said, was, was playing, sneaking and said.

(6)Relational processes are (3): was too small, was anxious and had.

3-Power degree

There are participants that are powerful more than other participants, for example, I found the egg, the participant " I ", which is the agent, has powered more than the participant " him " which is the goal that is found in: I woke him up.

4-Point of view

The point of view is shown in the Mental process as in trying to understand the absurdity of it, these words are said by Hajjar who is the sensor, he is trying to understand the absurdity of the egg which is the phenomenon.

5-Metafunctions that are used

Most of the patterns that are used in this story are Ideational and Textual ones, the ideational ones have the meaning of representation, while the textual ones provide the formal properties of language "clauses as messages.

CONCLUSIONS

As a summary, readers can understand that using transitivity can help to make an interpretation about the things that exist in the mind of persona by classifying verbs and clauses through many types of processes, in other words, the sensations and thoughts presented by the main character " Hajjar "become the readers, making a link between the linguistic choices and the literary work can help to understand the meaning that is beyond the literary works , finally as a stylistic analysis of the short story 'The Green Zone Rabbit " this paper has indicated how literary teaching can be linguistically informed by applying the system of categorization in vocabulary, syntax, and semantics .

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