

## THE EXPERIENTIAL ANALYSIS OF OPINION COLUMN SECTION MEDIA TEXTS ABOUT SEXUAL HARRASMENT IN JAKARTA POST: A SYSTEMIC FUCTIONAL ANALYSIS

<sup>1</sup>\*Maria Klara Timorina Situmorang, <sup>1</sup>Rahmadyah Rangkuti, <sup>1</sup>Alemina Perangin-Angin

<sup>1</sup>English Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Sumatera Utara, Indonesia

\*Corresponding Author Email: [maria.clara021094@gmail.com](mailto:maria.clara021094@gmail.com)

Article Info	Abstract
<b>Article History</b> Received: November 2024 Revised: January 2025 Published: April 2025	<i>This study adopts an experiential analysis approach to examine how sexual harassment is represented in opinion columns published by The Jakarta Post. Utilizing Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) as the theoretical framework, the research focuses on exploring how language is structured to convey experiential meaning, particularly through the transitivity system. As a form of qualitative and descriptive research, this study investigates online news texts with the aim of uncovering how linguistic choices reflect and construct social realities. The central analytical focus lies in identifying types of processes, participant roles, and circumstantial elements within the clauses of the texts. These components are crucial for understanding how actions, events, and relationships are framed in relation to gender and power dynamics. Through the analysis of 436 clauses, the findings indicate that material and relational processes are the most frequently used. Material processes reflect actions and events, while relational processes emphasize classification, attribution, and identification. Their prevalence suggests that opinion columnists highlight both the concrete experiences of harassment and the ways individuals and groups are labeled or characterized. This dominance illustrates how language is strategically employed to both narrate and evaluate incidents of sexual harassment. By analyzing these linguistic features, the study sheds light on how media discourse contributes to shaping public understanding and societal attitudes toward gender-related issues. Ultimately, the study provides valuable insight into how opinion columns, as influential media texts, can reinforce or challenge dominant ideologies, thus playing a critical role in public discourse surrounding sexual harassment.</i>
<b>Keywords</b> Systemic functional linguistics; Transitivity analysis; Sexual harassment; Experiential metafunction;	
<b>How to cite:</b> Situmorang, M.K.T., Rangkuti, R., & Perangin-Angin, A. (2025). The Experiential Analysis of Opinion Column Section Media Texts about Sexual Harrasment in Jakarta Post: A Systemic Fuctional Analysis, <i>JOLLT Journal of Languages and Language Teaching</i> , 13(2), 798-810. DOI: <a href="https://doi.org/10.33394/jollt.v13i2.13491">https://doi.org/10.33394/jollt.v13i2.13491</a>	

### INTRODUCTION

Media serve as powerful instruments of communication, playing a vital role in shaping how individuals perceive and interpret the world around them. In contemporary society, media channels—particularly mass media—are not only used to transmit information but also function as agents of socialization and ideological formation. Sylvester (2019) emphasizes that media is one of the primary sources through which individuals engage with global and local realities, rendering everyday interactions with media a significant aspect of modern life. Mass media, by its very nature, disseminates uniform messages to large audiences simultaneously. As Neuendorf (1990) explains, it involves a structured system of communication in which messages are strategically encoded and delivered to influence public opinion on a wide scale. Therefore, studying how mass media constructs and conveys social phenomena becomes crucial in understanding public perception and the shaping of policy discourses. As Dorman (2003) argues, media analysis offers key insights that can inform

communication strategies and advocacy efforts, particularly in areas of social concern such as gender justice, violence, and equality.

Printed and electronic media, especially newspapers, have long been influential in forming public opinion and setting agendas (MacQuail, 1994; Mubarok et al., 2024). Newspapers present information through a variety of formats such as headlines, news articles, editorials, and opinion columns. Each section plays a unique role in the dissemination of perspectives, but it is the opinion column that stands out as a space where diverse voices—often underrepresented in mainstream discourse—can express their views. Opinion columns serve as dialogic spaces where contributors, including academics, activists, and concerned citizens, address pressing issues and share their interpretations, experiences, or recommendations. In recent years, Indonesian newspapers have increasingly devoted attention to gender-based violence, with particular focus on sexual harassment. This growing media attention coincides with a rise in reported incidents, as documented by Indonesia's National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan), which recorded a significant increase in gender-based violence cases in 2022. This social reality has prompted more writers to use opinion columns as platforms to advocate for gender awareness, legal reform, and societal support for victims—encouraging women to break the silence and speak out against harassment and abuse.

Crafting effective opinion articles, however, is not merely about conveying facts; it requires a nuanced use of language to persuade, engage, and inform. Language in this context does not merely describe reality—it actively constructs it. Masroor (2013) notes that distinguishing between the objective reporting in news sections and the subjective expression in opinion columns helps preserve journalistic integrity while still accommodating diverse perspectives. Yet, even within opinion writing, the language must be carefully chosen to appeal to readers' emotions, intellect, and ethical sensibilities. The strategic selection of grammatical structures and lexical choices subtly shapes how issues are perceived and understood. Mills (1992) supports this view by stating that the meanings embedded in texts are not fixed; rather, they are shaped by the reader's interpretations, which in turn are guided by the writer's language choices. Grammar and linguistic patterns, therefore, play a central role in influencing how a message is received and what kind of ideological or emotional response it provokes.

To better understand how meaning is constructed in media texts, this study adopts Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) as a theoretical and analytical framework. Developed by Halliday and further refined by Matthiessen (2014), SFL views grammar not as a set of rigid rules but as a flexible system for making meaning in context. Halliday identifies three metafunctions of language: ideational (or experiential), interpersonal, and textual. Among these, the experiential metafunction is particularly relevant in media discourse as it represents how language encodes experiences, actions, and events. This is operationalized through the transitivity system, which maps out processes (e.g., actions, states), participants (e.g., actors, goals, sensors), and circumstances (e.g., time, place, cause). Transitivity enables us to understand how media constructs reality: Who is doing what to whom? What roles are emphasized or obscured? What contexts are highlighted or omitted?

In the realm of media discourse, particularly regarding sensitive topics such as sexual harassment, transitivity analysis provides an invaluable tool for unpacking the ideological and representational strategies of writers. For example, Abbas and Talaat (2019) demonstrated in their analysis of crime news headlines in *The Nation* newspaper how transitivity processes shape readers' understanding of events. They found that grammatical choices significantly influenced how blame, responsibility, and victimhood were constructed. Material processes (representing physical actions) were often used to describe the acts of violence, while relational and mental processes helped characterize the psychological states and identities of

victims and perpetrators. These findings reinforce the idea that grammatical structure is not neutral but is deeply implicated in how media texts position their subjects and shape public attitudes.

Within this context, the present study explores how opinion columns in *The Jakarta Post* represent the issue of sexual harassment through the lens of transitivity analysis. While previous studies have focused primarily on hard news or headlines, this research shifts attention to opinion writing, which offers a different kind of discursive space—one that allows for more subjective, reflective, and evaluative language. This space is especially important in the context of social justice advocacy, as it can be used to challenge dominant narratives, foreground marginalized voices, and propose transformative ideas.

The novelty of this study lies in its unique focus on opinion columns as discursive sites for the representation of sexual harassment, examined through the lens of Systemic Functional Linguistics, particularly the transitivity system. While many previous studies have analyzed news reports or headlines related to gender-based violence, few have explored how opinion writers construct experiential meaning and shape public discourse through their grammatical choices. By focusing on the experiential metafunction within opinion pieces, this study reveals how contributors to *The Jakarta Post* frame acts of sexual harassment, assign roles and responsibilities, and evoke empathy or urgency through linguistic structures.

Furthermore, this research offers an important contribution to media discourse analysis in Southeast Asia, particularly in the Indonesian context, where gender-based violence remains a pressing issue. The integration of linguistic theory with socio-political analysis enriches the understanding of how media not only reflects but also produces social realities. In highlighting the representational patterns of opinion writers, this study also informs future media practice by suggesting how language can be used more ethically and effectively to support victims, challenge oppressive norms, and advocate for systemic change. In doing so, it bridges the gap between linguistics, gender studies, and media analysis—providing a fresh perspective on the complex interplay between language, ideology, and power in public discourse.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

### **Research Design**

This study adopts a descriptive research design, aimed at exploring the representation of sexual harassment through linguistic structures in opinion columns of *The Jakarta Post*. The qualitative approach is selected for its strength in interpreting textual data within its natural context, offering a rich, in-depth understanding of the social and ideological meanings conveyed in discourse. As Croker (2009) states, qualitative research is a complex and dynamic process that is well-suited for disciplines such as linguistics and discourse studies. It allows researchers to examine the nuances of language and uncover hidden meanings embedded in texts.

Descriptive research, on the other hand, systematically provides factual and detailed accounts of phenomena. In this context, it enables the researcher to depict and describe the use of language—particularly the experiential metafunction—within selected texts. Following Creswell (2014), qualitative research allows for the analysis of texts and images, which aligns with the goal of this study: to uncover how experiential meanings are constructed through transitivity processes in opinion writing. The theoretical framework of this study is grounded in Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), particularly focusing on the experiential metafunction, which examines how language represents experiences through processes, participants, and circumstances. The study is therefore characterized as a descriptive discourse analysis, aiming to explore and describe patterns of meaning-making in media texts related to sexual harassment.

## **Research Objects**

The object of this research is the experiential metafunction (transitivity system) as realized in the opinion column texts of The Jakarta Post that discuss the issue of sexual harassment. The focus of the study is on how language is used in clauses to represent participants, actions, and events, and how these representations contribute to constructing public discourse on gender-based violence. The unit of analysis in this study is the clause, as it is the smallest grammatical unit that can express a complete experiential meaning. Each clause is analyzed for its transitivity components, including the process type (e.g., material, verbal, mental), participants involved, and any relevant circumstantial elements. These elements are then examined to understand how meaning is constructed in relation to the issues of sexual harassment, gender relations, and social justice.

## **Data Collection Technique**

The data for this study were collected through document analysis of selected opinion articles published in The Jakarta Post. The articles were selected using purposive sampling, focusing on texts that explicitly address issues of sexual harassment in Indonesia. The inclusion criteria included articles that appeared in the opinion section, used clause-based expressions of experiential meaning, and were published in the last few years to ensure relevance and currency of the discourse. The researcher manually extracted the texts from the digital archives of The Jakarta Post and segmented them into clauses for systematic analysis. The selected articles were saved, organized, and categorized before being coded according to the types of transitivity processes found in each clause. Attention was also given to the context, themes, and the identity of social actors represented in the discourse.

## **Data Analysis**

The analysis of data in this study follows the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics, specifically focusing on transitivity analysis as a tool to uncover the experiential metafunction of language (Aggins, 2004). The transitivity system includes an examination of the types of processes (material, mental, verbal, relational, behavioral, and existential), the participants involved in the processes (e.g., Actor, Goal, Sensor), and the circumstantial elements (e.g., time, place, manner) accompanying those processes. Each clause in the selected opinion texts was analyzed to determine how the grammatical structures construct meanings related to acts of sexual harassment, power dynamics, victimization, agency, and social responsibility. The findings were interpreted to reveal the ideological and representational patterns in the media discourse. Special attention was paid to how language choices reflect or challenge dominant societal attitudes toward gender and sexual violence.

The analysis was conducted in stages, beginning with the identification of clauses and categorization of process types, followed by interpretation of participant roles and circumstantial details. The results were then synthesized to identify recurring discursive patterns and ideological orientations in the opinion texts. This interpretative process aims to provide a deeper understanding of how language functions as a tool for meaning-making in public discourse about sexual harassment.

## **RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Research Findings**

The findings are focused on the description with the summaries of the process types, the participant functions and types, and circumstantial elements found in Opinion column section about sexual harassment in Jakarta Post. The discussion is concerned with some interpretations that are made based on the research findings. The data in this study were the clauses in Opinion column section about sexual harassment in Jakarta Post totaling 436

clauses from 7 opinion column section article about sexual harassment in Jakarta Post. The clauses were analyzed by applying transitivity system namely: process types, participant types, and circumstances elements.

**Material Process**

In table 4.1 the prominent process type is material process. It has 165 or 37.85% of the total number in proves types. The occurrence of material process type is above the occurrence of each type. This process is represented by the verbs such as: *condemned, accuse, forced, helped and etc.* The sample of material process in the text can be seen as the following:

Data 1

When	Perpetrator	force	themselves	on the victims
	Actor	Pro: material	Goal	Circ: conti

The table above a clause containing material process. The word ‘force’ is an action done by actor or the actor does an activity. An inference can be drawn from the analysis that the writer tend to write what practically happens and what the actor do to the victim. It is relevant what Halliday and Matthiessen (2014:224) have pointed out that this type of process brings out the meaning of actions or some entity ‘does’ something, which may have some influences of other entity.

Data 2

Instead	Minah	disappeared	for a month without any explanation
	Actor	Pro: material	Circ: extent

The table data 2 showed the concrete doing. In this data, ‘minah’ which mentioned the name by the writer as an actor give the clear doer. ‘disappeared’ as an action by the actor which give a clear things to do by the actor. This clause doesn’t hide the true meaning that the actor obviously disappeared, can be seen by the process of material.

Data 3

Before	They	prey	on more victims.
	Actor	Pro: material	Goal

The table data 3 also showed the process of doing and it is by the actor to reach the goal. From the data above, material process is “prey” because the clause describe the process of doing, “they” as the actor who done by the action, the goal is “on more victims”.

**Relational Process**

Subsequently, material process is followed by relational process which has 146 occurrences or 33.48 %. The writers both insider or outsider of the Jakarta Post used this process to talk or give the perspective about things are, what they possess. These processes were expressed by the verbs such as be (is, am are, was, were), have, had and etc. the example of the types of relational process can be seen as the following.

Data 4

Novia Widiasari	a student	from Mojokerto, East Jawa	Was not so lucky
Part 1: Token	Part 2:	Cir: loc	Process: relational (att)
	value		

Based on the result analysis, relational used to describe something. There is a process to which an attribute is assigned (she), possession (has). Thus, I as carrier belongs to human participant, The women and children’s protection ministry (possessor), Novia Widiasari (token), that involve the the possessed (with my daughter).

### **Mental Process**

Relational process is then followed by mental process. Those processes appeared in the analysis totaling to 62 occurrences or 14.22 %. The writers use mental process to construe a quantum of change in the flow of events taking place in their own consciousness. For example they share what they feel, think, or wish. The next tables present the example of the mental process appeared in Jakarta Post opinion column section about sexual harassment.

#### Data 5

Do	They	Think	sexual violence	keeps to office hours?
	Part 1: senser	Proc: mental	Part 2: Phenomenon	Cir: manner

From the data above, the mental process is “think” because it is the cognition, and it is sensed by the senser that is “they”. It refers to what goes on the internal of the mind above the case.

### **Verbal Process**

The fourth rank of processes in appeared in Jakarta Post opinion column section about sexual harassment goes to verbal process. Verbal process has 60 occurrences or 13.77 %. This process occurred in the data to show the process of saying. This process is represented by verbs such as: said, reported, argument, explained, and etc.

#### Data 6

Education, Culture, Research and Technology Minister Nadiem Makarim	Issued	the regulation
Part 1: Sayer	Proc: Verbal	Part 2: Verbiage

### **Existential Process**

The existential process also appeared in the data. It has the total occurrences 3 or 0.08 %. It is the less occurrences from all process types. This process is used by the writers in order to describe that something is exist or something happens (Halliday and Mathiessen, 2014:307). Here is participant role is existent, following the examples:

### **Participant Function of Material Process**

From the table displayed in advanced, the participant function of material process becomes the most dominant one. It has 142 occurrences or 36.22 %. It is in line with the dominant process type which is material process. There can be one or more participants inherent in a material process. In line with the previous statement, the table above display us that actor dominates the total of occurrences of the participant function in material process. The example for each type of participant function can be seen as the following:

### **Participant Function of Relational Process**

Participant function of relational process is in the second prominent participant types. It is because of its occurrences totaling 123 occurrences or 31.30 %. The specific number of participant types of relational process is shown in the following table. The findings show that carrier dominates the participant function in relational process with the 76 total occurrences or 61.78 %. In the last position, identified has 1 occurrences or 0.81 %. The example of every participant type in relational process is shown in the following tables.

### **Participant Function of Mental Process**

The third prominent participant function goes to participant function in mental process. It has 59 occurrences or 15.01 %. There are only two of participant function that involve in mental process and those appeared in the data. They are sense and phenomenon. It is relevant that in a clause of 'mental' process, there is always one participant who is human; that is sener, the one that 'senses' feels, think, seem, etc. The other main element in clause of mental process, namely phenomenon that which is felt, though, wanted, perceived, and etc.

### **Participant Function of Verbal Process**

The participant function of verbal process becomes the fourt prominent participant with total 65 occurances or 16.65%. Verbal clauses are defined as the saying clauses with a sayer as the prominent participant (Halliday, 2004). These are a crucial property in numerous discourse varieties as assisting the narrative production by potentially establishing dialogues within clauses.

### **Circumstantial Elements**

Based the participant, circumstantial elements is also involved in the process. From the circumstantial element as cited in Halliday and Matthiessen (2014), there are nine types of circumstances. Nine of them were found in Opinion column section about sexual harassment in Jakarta Post. There are, extent, location, manner, cause, contingency, accompaniment, role and matter. The dominant circumstantial element which characterizes the text is circumstantial of location, with the total occurrences 52 occurrences or 27.65 % from the total occurrences. The table 4.6 gives summary of the total occurrences of the circumstantial elements in the text.

#### ***Extent***

Halliday and Mathhiessen (2014) assert that extent construes the extent of the unfolding of the process in space time: the distance in space over which the process unfolds or the duration in the time during which the process unfolds. The interrogative forms for extent are how far?, how long?, how many (measure units), how many times?. Here is the following example of extent.

#### ***Location***

This type of circumstance construe the location unfolding of the process in space-time: the place where it unfolds or the time when it unfolds. The general interrogatives of location are where? When?. Place includes not only static location in space, but also the source, path and destination movement. It is used in setting the activity of the certain place to involve the participant. From the analysis, it can be inferred that circumstantial of location is the dominant circumstances elements found in the text with the total occurrences 52 occurrences or 27.65 % from the total occurrences. The circumstantial such as, in his charge, in university campuses, in Bandung, west java, at home, from Mojokerto, and etc.

#### ***Contingency***

This Contingency circumstances are an element on which the realization of the process depends. Contingency are typically relations between processes and often realized causally. Contingency might express the emergency of situation and condition. Contingency might express the emergency of situation and condition. It can happen in what circumstances. The appearance of contingency in data with 37 occurrences or 19.68 %. The example of this circumstances is given in the following table.

#### ***Accompaniment***

Accompaniment circumstances that forming a joint participation in the process and represents meanings and, or, not as circumstantial. The circumstantial of accompaniment is bringing someone or something to the process. The interrogative form of accompaniment such as: who/what else?, but not who/what? It is expressed by prepositional phrases such as:

with, without, besides, instead of. This circumstantial element in the data with 25 occurrences or 13.29 %.

### **Angle**

Angle circumstances which represent either sayer in verbal process or senser in mental process. Angle is expressed by prepositions such as: according to, in the words of, in the view/opinion of, from the standpoint of etc.

### **Matter**

Matter Circumstances which related to verbal process which is described, referred to, narrated etc. The interrogative is what about?. Matter is expressed by prepositions such as: about, concerning, with reference to and sometimes simply of. This circumstantial element occurred in text 12 times or 6.38 %.

### **Role**

Role circumstances which construe the meaning be and become circumstantially. Role includes the subcategories of Guise be and Product become. It is to the interrogative what as? And what into? and construes the meaning of be (attribute or identity). The usual preposition is as, by the way of, in the role/shape/guise/form of etc. This circumstantial element occurred in text 9 times or 4.78 %.

### **Manner**

Manner circumstances express the way in which the process is actualized. Manner compromises four subcategories such as: means, quality, comparison and degree. This circumstantial element occurred in text 6 times or 3.19 %.

### **Cause**

Cause circumstances express the reason why the process actualized. This involves not only Reason in narrow sense of existing conditions leading the actualization of the process but also Purpose in sense of intended conditions for which purpose is actualized. A circumstantial expression of Reason represents the reason of which process takes place and what causes it and markedly have the sense of because. This circumstantial element occurred in text 6 times or 3.19 %

## **Discussion**

The data analyzed in this study were drawn from 436 clauses found in seven opinion column articles discussing the issue of sexual harassment, published in *The Jakarta Post*. Each clause was examined using the transitivity system as conceptualized within Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework (Halliday, 2004; Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). This system focuses on the experiential metafunction of language, which reveals how experience and reality are represented through the configuration of processes, participants, and circumstantial elements in a clause. Through the analysis, various process types—namely material, relational, mental, verbal, and existential—along with their associated participant roles and circumstances, were identified and interpreted in order to understand the linguistic choices employed in constructing the discourse surrounding sexual harassment.

The findings reveal that material processes are the most frequently occurring process type, constituting 165 clauses or 37.85% of the total. This high frequency indicates a strong emphasis on actions and concrete events within the discourse. Material processes are typically used to describe what happens, who does what, and what is affected. In the context of sexual harassment reporting, the use of material processes serves to highlight the perpetrators' actions and the tangible impact on victims (Magfiroh, 2017; Khamaddudin, 2021). For example, verbs such as *forced*, *prey*, and *disappeared* are used to describe incidents of abuse, flight, and harm. These processes vividly illustrate the perpetrators' actions and position the

victims as recipients or goals of those actions. Such representation reinforces the gravity and physicality of the offenses, ensuring that readers comprehend the real, lived impact of harassment.

Clauses like “Perpetrators force themselves on the victims” and “They prey on more victims” reflect this tendency to center the narrative around acts of doing. The actors (typically the perpetrators) are grammatically foregrounded, while the victims are positioned as affected goals. This aligns with Halliday and Matthiessen’s (2014) assertion that material processes depict ‘doing’ and highlight causal relationships, thereby constructing agency and responsibility. In contrast, a clause like “Minah disappeared for a month without any explanation” reveals how material processes are also used to portray the actions of victims, including responses such as withdrawal or escape, which further reflect the emotional and physical aftermath of abuse.

Following material processes, relational processes were the second most prominent, with 146 occurrences or 33.48% of the total. Relational processes involve expressions of identity, attribution, or possession. They are typically constructed with verbs like *is*, *was*, *have*, and *had*, serving to define or assign characteristics to participants. In this corpus, relational processes were primarily used to describe victims, their social status, and their circumstances. For instance, a clause like “Novia Widyasari, a student from Mojokerto, East Java, was not so lucky,” attributes an evaluative state to the victim and reinforces her identity as both a student and an unfortunate individual within a tragic narrative. It is in line with Jamaluddin (2016) who argue that the choice of process not only humanizes the victim but also invites empathy from the reader. Relational processes also frequently frame institutional involvement and official stances, establishing possession and responsibility (Masroor, 2013). These constructions, often using possessive verbs, assign ownership or association with specific actions, outcomes, or policies. For instance, phrases like “the Ministry of Women and Child Protection has responsibility” portray institutional roles in managing or responding to abuse cases. This kind of representation emphasizes institutional accountability and the systemic nature of the problem.

The mental processes, totaling 62 or 14.22% of the clauses, offer insight into the inner experiences of the participants. These processes include verbs related to cognition, perception, and emotion, such as *think*, *feel*, and *believe*. Their presence in the data reflects attempts by writers to engage with the psychological dimension of sexual harassment, whether from the perspective of victims, society, or policymakers. For example, the clause “Do they think sexual violence keeps to office hours?” captures public skepticism and critique through the process of thinking. Here, the senser (“they”) refers to an unspecified collective, likely institutional actors or authorities, while the phenomenon (“sexual violence keeps to office hours”) serves as a rhetorical challenge to policy inadequacies.

Mental processes are particularly important in illustrating awareness, misunderstanding, or denial, which are central to discussions about sexual harassment. By incorporating cognitive verbs, writers are able to problematize existing beliefs and invite readers to reflect on prevailing societal attitudes. These processes thus serve both an explanatory and persuasive function, articulating internal states that complement the material and relational actions depicted elsewhere (Cheng, 2022; Syamsurrijal & Arniati, 2024). Next, appeared in 60 clauses or 13.77% of the data. Verbal processes involve communication acts such as *said*, *reported*, *explained*, and *issued*, and are integral in mediating public discourse. In news writing, verbal processes are often used to present statements from authorities, public figures, or institutions, and to frame arguments and opinions. In this dataset, they often occurred in contexts where government officials, activists, or victims voiced concerns or proposed solutions. For instance, in “Education Minister Nadiem Makarim issued the regulation,” the

process “issued” functions as a verbal process in which the sayer performs a speech act that carries legal or administrative weight.

The inclusion of verbal processes underlines the importance of voice and authority in shaping how harassment is discussed. These clauses grant agency to speakers and institutions while also contributing to the legitimization of policies, opinions, and societal responses. In opinion writing, where persuasive communication is key, verbal processes reflect the dialogic nature of the discourse and how it draws upon multiple perspectives (Naddumba & Athiemoolan, 2022). The existential process, with only three occurrences (0.08%), was the least frequently used. Existential processes serve to affirm the existence of something, usually in a neutral or descriptive sense. Although rare, their presence highlights situations or conditions that are acknowledged as real or emergent, such as “There is a lack of safety in campuses.” Such clauses may serve a contextualizing function, setting the scene or summarizing issues that are explored more dynamically through other process types.

Turning to participant roles, the actor in material processes is the most frequent, with 142 occurrences or 36.22%. This dominance reflects the focus on identifying perpetrators and documenting what actions were taken. The strong presence of actors aligns with the broader function of material processes in exposing agency and causality (Neuedorf et al., 1990; Geluso, 2022). Conversely, in relational processes, the (often the victim or subject being described) is the most prevalent, indicating the focus on defining personal identities or attributes. In the mental processes, the senser—the individual experiencing or perceiving—occurs in all 59 relevant clauses. This confirms the consistency of the pattern in mental process clauses, where one human participant engages in internal processes and is paired with a phenomenon representing the thought, feeling, or perception. For verbal processes, the dominant participant is the sayer, with 65 total occurrences (16.65%). These clauses function as vehicles for public statements and institutional pronouncements, supporting the argument that the opinion column provides a platform for constructing credible and authoritative commentary.

The analysis of circumstantial elements offers further insight into how experiential meaning is layered into the text. Based on Halliday and Matthiessen’s (2014) framework, nine circumstantial types were found across the data: location, extent, manner, cause, contingency, accompaniment, role, angle, and matter. Among these, location was the most dominant, appearing in 52 clauses or 27.65% of the total. This finding reflects the importance of spatial and temporal settings in grounding the narratives of harassment. Circumstances such as “in university campuses,” “at home,” and “from Mojokerto” specify where incidents occur, thereby lending realism and context to the representations.

The extent and contingency circumstances also appeared frequently, with the latter accounting for 19.68% of all circumstantial elements. Contingency circumstances describe the conditions under which processes occur, often revealing underlying causes or justifications. Clauses using expressions like “under pressure,” or “in cases like this,” provide insight into situational factors that influence behavior or outcomes. Such representations emphasize the conditionality and complexity of sexual harassment cases. Accompaniment circumstances, found in 13.29% of the data, illustrate joint participation or support structures, such as victims reporting incidents with family members. These details not only enrich the narrative but also reflect the social networks involved in addressing or concealing harassment.

The data reveals that writers in *The Jakarta Post* opinion columns use transitivity resources not just to narrate events, but to frame perspectives, assign blame, and evoke empathy. The dominant use of material and relational processes reflects a focus on action and identity, while mental and verbal processes provide insights into awareness, emotion, and dialogue. Circumstantial elements enrich the narratives with details of space, time, motivation, and social context.

This research highlights the intricate relationship between grammar and meaning in media discourse, demonstrating how linguistic choices contribute to the ideological framing of sexual harassment. The novelty of this study lies in its application of transitivity analysis to the *opinion* section of a major Indonesian English-language newspaper—a domain often overlooked in discourse studies. Unlike news reports that prioritize objectivity, opinion columns allow for subjective interpretation, making them rich sites for uncovering how language is used to represent, challenge, or reinforce societal attitudes toward sexual harassment. By analyzing clauses as units of experiential meaning, this study provides a nuanced understanding of how media text both reflects and shapes public discourse around gender, power, and justice.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussion, the conclusion can be drawn as the followings: In term of process type, on the whole there are five types that occur in the Opinion column section about sexual harassment in Jakarta Post. They are the material, relational, mental, verbal and existential. Those processes are expressed by verbs such as *is, have, be, become, think, condemned, accuse, forced, helped, report, argue, told, and etc.* The detail can be seen in appendix. In participant, there are 13 types of participant function occurred in Opinion column section about sexual harassment in Jakarta Post namely actor, carrier, sayer, senser, goal, token, value, attribute, possessor, verbiage, phenomenon, possessed, and existent. However, in the part of circumstantial types, there are 9 circumstantial elements found in the Opinion column section about sexual harassment in Jakarta Post namely, location, contingency, extent, matter, accompaniment, cause, role, manner, and angle.

The most dominant of the process type is material process which takes 37.85 % from the 436 total occurrences. An inference can be drawn from the analysis that the writers tend to write what practically happens about the issue and what they do to do it out there. This happens because there is an action above the case that needs to express beyond the writing. The process of experiential function realizes of the experience which relate to the writers. The specific total number and its types can be found in the appendix. While in the participant types, the most dominant participant types is actor with the total percentage 28.24 %. It is in line with the dominant process type which is material process. The actor plays the important roles beyond the text, the writer shows that something needs to be execute clearly. As the definition of the actor, they are the major doer of the action. It also affects another participant. And the last part of the experiential parts is circumstantial element which characteristic the text in the Opinion column section about sexual harassment in Jakarta Post. 27.65 %. The most dominant circumstantial types is location which shows the location of space the time such as, *at, in, on, yesterday, now, tomorrow, etc* and also shows the space of place, *such as near, at, above, from, outside, at home, in Campus, etc.*

The reason why the experiential analysis realized in the opinion column section about sexual harassment In Jakarta Post based on the process, participants and circumstances. In terms of process type, material process characterizes the process of occurred in the text. It means that the writer tends to write what practically happens and what needs to do about the case, because the topic about the sensitive issue (sexual harassment). Then, in terms of participant realize as the dominant one because they want to describe in specific things of what is going on beyond the case. The actor is relevant to the material process as the dominant process realized. It happens because the actor is the participant involved in material process or the doer of the deed. The realization of circumstantial of location as the dominant circumstantial element in the text because the writer wants to describe someone or something in clear location or places about where the location or place the action happened. This experiential analysis brings the writer both inside outsider of Jakarta Post against to the issue of sexual harassment. The writer in the position of the victim without trying to hide any

participant involved. The experiential analysis, particularly in transitivity system has proven very useful in uncovering the participants involved, how the writer locate themselves in relation to the others, and whether they take an active or passive role in discourse and how they account for their experience of the case around them. Each text has its own different message conveyed.

## REFERENCES

- Abbas, M.A., & Talaat, M. *Transitivity Analysis of Newspapers' News-Headlines Depicting Crime Committed Against Women in Pakistan*. International Journal of English Linguistics; Vol. 9, No. 5; 2019 ISSN 1923-869X E-ISSN 1923-8703 Published by Canadian Center of Science and Education.
- Bartley, L. V. (2018). "Justice demands that you find this man not guilty": A transitivity analysis of the closing arguments of a rape case that resulted in a wrongful conviction. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 28(3), 1-16. DOI: 10.1111/ija.
- Briones, R.R.Y. (2016). *Textual analysis through systemic functional linguistics*. *Journal of English Language Teaching and Linguistics* 1(2). Retrieved on 18 December 2019 from <https://jeltl.org/index.php/jeltl/article/view/27>.
- Cheng, M. (2022). Theoretical Framework for Ecological Discourse Analysis: A Summary of New Developments of Ecological Discourse Analysis. *Journal of World Languages*, 8(1), 188–226. <https://doi.org/10.1515/jwl-2021-0030>
- Creswell, J. W. (2007). *Qualitative Inquiry & Research Design Choosing Among Five Approaches (2nd ed.)*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.
- Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research design: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches (4th ed.)*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.
- Croker, R. A. (2009). *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*. In J. Heigham, & R. A. Croker (Eds.), *Qualitative Research in Applied Linguistics A Practical Introduction*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Dorman, J. (2003). *Testing a Model for Teacher Burnout*. *Australian Journal of Educational & Developmental Psychology*, 3, 35-47.
- Eggins, S. (2004). *An introduction to systemic functional linguistics*. London: Continuum.
- Eggins, S. (1994). *An Introduction to systemic Functional Linguistics*. London: Pinter Publisher.
- Emilia, E. (2014). *Introducing to Functional Grammar*. Bandung: PT. Dunia Pustaka Jaya.
- Ezeifeke C., R. (2013). *Analysis of Experiential Meaning in Selected Inaugural Political Speeches in Nigeria*. (Department of English Language and Literature Nnamdi Azikiwe University).
- Geluso, J. (2022). Grammatical and functional characteristics of preposition-based phrase frames in English argumentative essays by L1 English and Spanish speakers. *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, 55, 101072. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeap.2021.101072>
- Gerot, L., & Wignel, P. (1994). *Making sense of functional grammar*. Sydney: Antipodean Educational Enterprises.
- Fairclough, N. (1995). *Critical Discourse Analysis: The Critical Study of Language*. New York, United States: Longman Publishing.
- Fraenkel, J.R., & Wallen, N.E. (2009). *How to Design and Evaluate Research in Education (7th ed)*. New York. McGraw-hill.
- Halliday, M.A.K. (2004). *An Introduction to Functional Grammar (3rd ed.)*. (C. Matthiessen, Ed.) New York: Hodder Arnold.
- Halliday, M.A.K., & Matthiessen, C.M.I.M. (2014). *An introduction to functional grammar (4th edition)*. London: Routledge.
- Hulteng, J., & Nelson, R. (1983) *The Fourth Estate: An Informal Appraisal of the News and Opinion Media*. Harper and Row Publishers: New York.

- Hutabarat, E.H. D., & Sihombing, P.S. (2020). *An Analysis of Ideational Metafunction on News Jakarta Post about Some Good Covid-19 Related News*. Journal of English Department, Vol. 4, No. 2; October 2020.
- Jamaluddin, I. (2016). *The Analysis of Experiential Function in Public Speeches of Bill and Melinda Gates*. <http://repository.IAIN> Syekh Nurjati Cirebon.ac.id.
- Johnstone, B. (2008). *Discourse Analysis*. Malden, United States: Blackwell Publishing.
- Khamaddudin, M. (2021). *Exploring The Ideational Meaning In Selena Gomez's Rare Album*. <http://repository.IAIN> Universitas Negeri Maulana Malik Malang.ac.id.
- Maghfiroh, L. (2017). *The transitivity analysis of the news headlines of the jakarta post*. Education and teacher training faculty :Walisongo state islamic university semarang.
- Masroor, F. (2013). *Argumentative strategies of newspaper editorials in English across cultures*. Asian ESP Journal, 9(3), 35-72.
- Miles, M. B., & Huberman, A. M. (1994). *Qualitative data analysis: An expanded sourcebook* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Mills, S. (1992). *Knowing Your Place: A Marxist Feminist Stylistic Analysis*. Dalam Michael Toolan (ed) *Language, Text, and Context: Essays in Stylistics*. London and New York: Routledge.
- McQuail, D. (1994). *Mass communication and the public interest: Towards social theory for media structure and performance*. In D. Crowley, & D. Mitchell (Eds.), *Communication theory today* (pp.235-253). Cambridge: Polity.
- Morley. (2000). *Syntax in Functional Grammar*. London and New York. Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data.
- Mubarok, Y., Sudana, D., & Gunawan, W. (2024). Hate Speech in the Comments' Column Instagram: A Discourse Analysis. *Journal of Languages and Language Teaching*, 12(1), 439. <https://doi.org/10.33394/jollt.v12i1.9050>
- Naddumba, A., & Athiemoolam, L. (2022). Teachers' Pedagogical Practices to Support Learners' Functional Literacy Development: The Context of Mother Tongue Language. *Journal of Languages and Language Teaching*, 10(3), 329. <https://doi.org/10.33394/jollt.v10i3.5499>
- Neuendorf, K. A., Brentar, J. E., & Porco, J. (1990). *Media technology hardware and human sensory channels: Cognitive structures in multidimensional space*. *Communication Research Reports*, 7(2), 100–106.
- Nordic Journal of African studies, definition of media. 2002 p.8.
- Oladego, J.; Shi, K.; Luo, X.; Yang, G.; Wu, T. *A Review of Sludge-to-Energy Recovery Methods*. *Energies* 2019, 12, 60.
- Sanjaya, R.M. & Ningsih, S.W. (2020). *Analysis of Experiential Function of Students Recount Text*. Nommensen Journal of English Studies (NoJES) Volume1, Number 1, October 2020.
- Syamsurrijal, S., & Arniati, F. (2024). A Study of the Metafunctions of Lombok Regional Slogans: Systemic Functional Linguistics Analysis. *Journal of Languages and Language Teaching*, 12(1), 1. <https://doi.org/10.33394/jollt.v12i1.8779>
- Sylvester, C. (2009). *Art/Museums: International Relations Where We Least Expect It*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers.
- Thompson, G. (2014). *Introducing functional grammar*. (3rd ed). London & New York: Routledge.
- Wimmer, R. D. & Dominick, J. R. (2012). *Mass media research* (7th. ed.). New York: Cengage Learning.