

Transitivity Analysis of Presidents' Speech on Economy

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to identify the types of transitivity process found in Jokowi and Joe Biden's Speech on economy and to identify the similarities and differences in transitivity processes, used by the two presidents. The methodology that was used in this study was qualitative research method, and the research design is case study. The instrument was the researcher. This study found 67 major clauses in Jokowi's speech and 244 major clauses in Joe Biden's speech. Then the clauses were identified into six transitivity processes, in Jokowi's speech only 5 of the 6 transitivity processes were found, there's no behavioral process in it. Meanwhile, in Joe Biden's speech all of the process types were found. The similarities were the dominant process which was material process and existential processes as the least process. The differences were there's no behavioral process in Jokowi's speech and huge gap of the using of mental process. The result can be interpreted that the goal of politics is to gain authority to implement certain political, economic, and social concepts. Here, language plays a major role in how each politician uses language to advance their political agenda through speech.

INTRODUCTION

President is the head of state and head of government. Joko Widodo better known by the name Jokowi is the 7th president of Indonesia. On June 7th, 2023, Jokowi delivered a speech in front of foreign investors to promote the project construction of IKN. Ibu Kota Negara (IKN) Nusantara is one of the national strategic projects launched by the Indonesian government. Director of the Center of Economic and Law Studies (Celios) explained that no foreign investors have entered IKN because they are still uncertain about the development plan. Investors will enter a project if the calculations are clear, they will definitely make a feasibility test first and if the plan still has many doubts, they will postpone entering IKN (Pratama, 2023).

According to data from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), among the countries that received the most investment in 2022 the United States is in the first position because it received US\$285 billion in foreign investment. President Joe Biden the current president of America successfully attracts investors to invest in America.

This research aimed to analyze How these two leaders expressed their views and opinions through language by using transitivity. The verbal representation and expression of actions, events, and experiences in many situations can be understood through the application of transitivity analysis

(EL Hadifi, 2023). To analyze what types of transitivity process and kinds of similarities and differences arise when two political figures speak about the same purpose of topic .

Transitivity is one of the clause analysis techniques used in experiential meaning (Rizkiani, 2023). A sentence is examined in three main ways using the transitivity analysis method: process, participant, and circumstance. Participant involvement in the process is required at all times. Participant stands for the entity involved in the process. Following this, circumstances can occasionally be used as a supporting element to a clause in order to provide a clear concept (Rizkiani, 2023).

The division of the process itself is into Non-Relational Processes: Relational and Processes of Doing: Being and Having Processes. The four types of non-relational processes are verbal, behavioral, mental, and material processes. Additionally, relational and existential processes make up the processes of being and having (Nugraha & Wihadi, 2024).

Previous studies have shown that political speeches often use material processes to depict the actions of the speaker, reinforcing their authority and power. This aligns with the idea that political speeches are tools for gaining support and demonstrating leadership (Maledo & Edhere, 2021). Understanding how transitivity is used in political discourse, particularly in speeches by world leaders, helps clarify how language reflects and influences political ideologies and practices. As such, this research contributes to the broader field of applied linguistics by offering insights into the relationship between language use and political strategy, particularly in the realm of international relations and economic development.

METHOD

This study used a descriptive qualitative technique. The research design that was used in this research was case study. A case study is a type of inquiry in which a researcher provides a detailed analysis of a case, which is usually a program, event, activity, process, or one or more individuals. This type of inquiry is common in many fields, including evaluation (Creswell, 2018).

The main data used in this research was taken from Cabinet Secretariat of The Republic of Indonesia website for the Jokowi speech in Ecosperity Singapore on 7th june 2023. Joe Biden’s speech in CEO Summit on 16th November 2023 was taken from The White house official website.

Data analysis procedures

In analyzing & collecting the data, the researcher used three stages by Miles & Huberman (Supatmiwati et al., 2022). The three stages are data reduction, data display, the last is drawing and verifying conclusion.

FINDINGS

The distribution of process types of transitivity analysis that appear in Jokowi and Joe Biden's speech can be seen in the table below:

Table 1. Occurrences of Process Types in Jokowi and Joe Biden's speech

Types of Process	Jokowi	Percentage	Joe Biden	Percentage
Material Process	31	46.3%	142	58.2%
Mental process	11	16.4%	15	6.1%
Verbal process	3	4.5%	28	11.5%
Behavioral process	-	-	5	2.1%

Relational process	19	28.3%	51	20.9%
Existential process	3	4.5%	3	1.2%
Total	67	100%	244	100%

Based on the data, this study found that there were 67 major clauses in Jokowi's speech and there were 244 major clauses in Jo Biden's speech. The process types that were found in both speeches are material, mental, relational, verbal, existential, and behavioral process was only found in Joe Biden's speech.

Transitivity in Jokowi's Speech

1. Material Process

Table 2. Example of Material Process

We	will facilitate	it	as best as we can
Actor	Material Process	Goal	Circ: Manner

We is the actor cause it is the one who did it, **will facilitate** is the material process cause it represents the happening and word **it** as the goal of what the actor did and the last **as best as we can** is the circumstantial manner or how the actor did. This clause is the representation of material process.

2. Mental Process

Table 3. Example of Mental Process

Because we	believe	economic success
Senser	Mental: Cognition	Phenomenon

We act as the senser, or the conscious one that senses, and **believe** is the mental process that represents cognition, and the last is **economic issues** as the issues that the senser senses or believes. This statement is mental process.

3. Verbal Process

Table 4. Example of Verbal Process

So I	suggest	you	don't wait too long
Sayer	Verbal Process	Receiver	Verbiage

Word **I** represents the one who says or sayer, **suggest** is the verbal process of saying. The word **you** is the receiver or the one who receives the words, and **don't wait too long** is verbiage or the words it selves. This message is a verbal process.

4. Relational Process

Table 5. Example of Relational Process

We	have	4400 potential rivers
Token	Identifying: Possessive	Value

We is the token or the participant for this relational process in this context is Indonesia so Jokowi called it we as representing him and the Indonesian people, The word **have** is the identifying that represents possessive or the action of having something that the token is having. The last is **4400 potential rivers** is the value that the token or Indonesia and Jokowi is having to offer to the audiences. This is representing relational process.

5. Existential Process

Table 6. Example of Existential Process

Then there	is	another question	about incentives
	Existential	Existence	Circ: Matter

The word **is** is existential, a verb that expresses an existential of something that exists, and the word **another question** is existent or the participant that exists in this clause. The last is about incentives as the circumstance matters or the matter that this existential talks about.

Transitivity in Joe Biden’s Speech

1. Material Process

Table 7. Example of Material Process

And	the bridges	that connect	our people
	Actor	Material Process	Goal

The example showed word **the bridges** as the actor that act as the one who takes the action and **that connect** as the material process or the happening that shows us what is the actor did and **our people** as the goal that affected by the actor which is connecting. This statement is a material process.

2. Mental Process

Table 8. Example of Mental Process

Folks-we’re	already seeing	the results
Senser	Mental Process	Phenomenon

Word **folks** and **we're** (we are) is the senser of the action, and **seeing** is the mental process because seeing is one of our five senses, and the last is **the results** as the phenomenon that been sensed. This Joe Biden’s speech is a mental process.

3. Verbal Process

Table 9. Example of Verbal Process

He	had asked	me	before
Sayer	Verbal Process	Receiver	Circ: Time

Word **he** is the sayer in this context Xi Jin Ping the president of China is the participant who says, **had asked** is the verbal process or the action of saying that president Xi Jin Ping is delivering a question. The receiver is **me** in this context is Joe Biden who receives the question that asked by president Xi Jin Ping. **Before** has mentioned by Joe Biden for showing the circumstantial time of when this verbal process is happening.

4. Behavioral Process

Table 10. Example of Behavioral Process

And	the wealthy	still do very well
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Behaver	Behavioral
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The **wealthy** is the behavior because it is the conscious one that behaves which is American rich people, and the word **still do very well** is the behavioral process because word "do" is represents human behavior. This argument is a behavioral process.

5. Relational Process

Table 11. Example of Relational Process

It	's	a city
Token	Identifying: Intensive	Value

Word **it** as the token or the one that identified in this context is a region in America that being identified here, **'s (is)** as the identifying: intensive that functions to identify the token. And **a city** as the value of the token which means the token is valued as a city.

6. Existential Process

Table 12. Example of Existential Process

And there	are	many challenges
	Existential	Existent

Word **are** as the existential that expresses there is an existence of something, and **many challenges** as the existent or the participant that exist that was mentioned by the existential. This statement is an existential process.

Juxtaposition

1. Similarities

The dominance process in both speeches is material process. This suggests that the construction of meaning in these speeches is mainly achieved through the depiction of past activities or what the presidents have done in the past to prove their ability in building an economy and persuade the listener to invest in the upcoming projects.

The least transitivity process that were found in both speeches is existential process. In this social context Jokowi and Joe Biden were positioned themselves as the one who holds power, so existential process was barely used in their speeches.

2. Differences

There's no behavioral process in Jokowi's speech. From the view of social culture or genre, this result can be influenced by how the two presidents had a different background of culture. As known that Joe Biden is a native speaker and Jokowi is not a native speaker. The fact that Jokowi lives in a country where English is not a first language, his behavioral environment doesn't support him to use behavioral process in his speech.

There is a huge gap of the use of mental process in the two speeches. This indicated that the use of mental process in Jokowi's speech was to gain the feelings of the listeners to be further encouraged and prepared to dedicate themselves to upholding the ideals, unity, freedom, democracy, justice, equality in the economy. In the Joe Biden's speech, mental process, which is a sensory process, connects the audience's shared political ideas, aspirations, expectations, and hopes by appealing to their innermost feelings.

DISCUSSION

Based on the research's findings, it could be interpreted that Jokowi and Joe Biden used material process the most in their speech. This result is similar to several other previous studies that also analyzing transitivity system in speech especially in politician. Some source stated that it is because material process set the participant as the actor who takes the act so it can be interpreted that the actor wants to show that they are in power so they can persuade the audiences.

Previous studies support this finding, with Nugraha and Wihadi (2024) and Maledo and Edhere (2021) noting that political leaders frequently use material processes to project strength and control. In their analysis, the frequent use of material processes in political speeches helps present the leader as the driving force behind national developments. Similarly, Rizkiani (2023) emphasizes that material processes are used to persuade the audience of the leader's capability to deliver on promises, an essential aspect of public speaking in politics.

Furthermore, material processes are often a rhetorical strategy to inspire confidence in a leader's ability to take decisive actions. This is consistent with findings from Supatmiwati et al. (2022) and EL Hadifi (2023), who argue that political leaders use material processes not only to assert power but also to demonstrate their capacity for action. Both Jokowi and Biden's use of material processes in their speeches aims to convince their audiences of their leadership and ability to lead significant national projects, reinforcing their persuasive communication strategies in the political arena.

CONCLUSION

This study found 67 major clauses in Jokowi's speech and 244 major clauses in Joe Biden's speech. Then the clauses were identified into six transitivity processes, in Jokowi's speech only 5 of the 6 transitivity processes were found, namely material, mental, relational, verbal, and existential processes. The percentages are, material process 46.3% with 31 clauses, mental process 16.4% with 11 clauses, verbal process 4.5% with only 3 clauses, relational process 28.3% with 19 clauses, and finally existential process 4.5% with 3 clauses. Meanwhile, in Joe Biden's speech, material processes were found 58.2% with 142 clauses, mental processes 6.1% with 15 clauses, verbal processes 11.5% with 28 clauses, behavioral processes 2.1% with 5 clauses, relational processes 20.9% with 51 clauses, and existential processes 1.2% with only 3 clauses.

The result can be interpreted that both of Jokowi and Joe Biden used material process as the dominant process in their speech because The goal of politics is to gain authority to implement certain political, economic, and social concepts. Here, language plays a major role in how each politician uses language to advance their political agenda through speech.

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