



RESEARCH PAPER**Ambiance of Ideational Meta-function in the Short Stories 'The Tell-Tale Heart' and 'The Necklace'**

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ABSTRACT

This study is aimed at describing the ideational function in Edger Allan Poe's *The Tell-Tale Heart* and Guy De Maupassant's *The Necklace*. It delves deep into exploring the lexico-grammatical strategies used in these short stories to convey the style of the author as his representation. The grammar of clauses as transitive patterns encodes ideational meanings about the participants' role, experience, processes and circumstances. By finding transitive patterns in the clauses of the text, we can describe in detail how different fields of situations are being constructed. In this way, the researchers propose a reading demonstration/observation of the texts of the two writers from two different eras in the history of English literature. The researchers are intended to point out the patterns of ideational function pervading in the lexico-grammatical structures of Edgar Allan Poe's *The Tell-Tale Heart* and Guy De Maupassant's *The Necklace* to highlight authors' techniques of foregrounding the ideational meta-function with varying styles and frequencies.

KEYWORDS Ideational Meta-Function, Lexico-Grammatical Structure, Short Story

Introduction

In the realm of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), the identification of the intricate relationship between society and language dates back to its inception. As early in 1964, Halliday, Macintosh, and Suevens drew attention to language as a form of activity of human beings in societies. They dedicated the whole chapter to 'Users and Uses of language' and introduced the concept of register variation alongside the dialect variation. While their insights may seem commonplace now, they were groundbreaking in the 1960s. What mattered the most was not just the characterization of language itself, but how this observation shaped unique research trajectory of SFL, enabling a scientific description of "how language works" considering both its internal structure and external relations to crucial phenomena. The study of language intertwines closely with the use of language and how it functions differently. Language scrutinizes how meaning or ideas influence individuals and groups in society, with language serving as its primary medium. This connection has allowed the analysis of language to merge with linguistic studies, bridging theories on language's nature and meaning with those applied to literary texts and social interactions. Understanding ideology necessitates an integrated approach to comprehending language in the social realm. Systemic Functional Linguistics, notably through the work of Halliday and his associates, has emerged as a valuable structure for understanding language as a tactical or strategic tool for interpretation. Halliday's contribution lies in unveiling the synchronic or simultaneous connection of meanings expressed in clause's structures, categorized into three meta-functions: interpersonal, ideational, and textual. Ideational function delves into the content of discourse, exploring activities, participant descriptions, classifications, and

compositions, ultimately shaping how people's experiences of the reality, both symbolic and material, are constructed in the discourse.

This study primarily aims at exploring the construction and interpretation of meanings through the application of meta-functions in Edgar Allan Poe's *The Tell-Tale Heart* (1843) and Guy De Maupassant's *The Necklace* (1884) while comparing their ideational functions. Broadly speaking, this study investigates functional aspects of literary texts, particularly short story, and their role in conveying ideology to readers. It also delves into exploring the role of literature in the cultural, social and political fabric of the society.

Literature Review

Systemic Functional Linguistics

Halliday's linguistic approach, as outlined by Richards et al. (1992), perceives language within a social framework. They argue that this approach emphasizes on functionality over formality viewing language as a tool for communication rather than a rigid set of rules. In essence, Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) asserts that meanings are shaped by the specific context in which language is used.

Meta-functions of Language in SFL

Meta-functions of Language in SFL are categorized into three meta-functions: interpersonal, ideational, and textual. This framework elucidates how different strands of meaning interpersonal, ideational, and textual are conveyed through varying structures of clause. All these three dimensions of meanings are vital for comprehending both interpersonal communication and the representation of our experiences and interactions with the world. Regardless the context, language serves as a medium "to convey actions and entities" (Halliday, 2003, p. 15)

Ideational Meaning/function

Ideational meanings refer to how language represents our experiences. Regardless the context in which language is used, it invariably involves describing actions performed by someone or something in transitivity structures that transport representational meanings embedded in a clause, termed as "Clause Representation" by Halliday (1994, p. 106). Ideational meanings specifically pertain to how the speakers articulate their experiences using language. Liggins (2004) elucidates that ideational meaning comprises of two main parts: experiential meaning in clauses and logical meaning among clauses within the clause system. Experiential meaning is conveyed through different processes in transitivity system, where the selection of a types of processes implies specific participant roles and the compositions.

Process Types

The analysis focuses on describing various types of processes and their corresponding roles, necessitating attention to the diversity these processes utilized. Within the transitivity system, the processes and their related participants are depicted as follows:

- **Material Process:** Material +Actor +goal +Range +Beneficiary
- **Mental Process:** Mental +Senser +Phenomenon

- **Verbal Process:** Sayer +Receiver +Verbiage
- **Behavioral Process:** Behavior +Behavior +Phenomenon
- **Existential Process:** Existential + Existent + Circumstances
- **Relational Process:**
 - a. identifying: Token +Value
 - b. attributive: Carrier +Attribute

Material Processes

As per Eggins (2004, p. 215), material processes encompass activities or actions, typically tangible and concrete in nature. This processes conveys the idea that a specific object engages in an action, which may affect another object. Actor or participant represented by nominal group entails different actions.

Mental Processes

At times, we observe that conversations extend beyond concrete actions and delve into discussions about thoughts, feelings, or perceptions rather than physical activities. Halliday (1994) categorizes processes that convey meanings related to observing, feeling, thinking or perceiving as mental processes. Upon closer examination, it is realized that inquiries often revolve around mental reactions concerning thoughts, emotions, and sensory experiences, rather than tangible actions. Mental processes are classified into three verb categories by Halliday (1994, p.118): cognition (verbs that denote thoughts, knowing, and understanding); affection (verbs that express the liking, fearing); and perception (verbs that represent seeing, hearing). In clauses involving mental processes, there is invariably a participant as a conscious being, referred to as the Senser (Halliday, 1994; Eggins, 2004) who perceives, feels, or experiences the mental activity.

Behavioral Processes

Halliday (1994) termed the third kind of process as behavioral process that is semantically described as a transitional stage among the material and mental processes. In essence, the meanings conveyed by behavioral processes lie midway between material actions and mental activities. These processes entail actions that are experienced by a conscious being, focusing primarily on physiological and psychological behaviors. Behavioral processes mostly involve one participant, expressing form of action that typically does not involve other participant.

Verbal Processes

According to Halliday (1994, as cited in Eggins, 2004), a verbal process generally involves three participants: the Sayer, the Receiver, and Verbiage. The Sayer, initiates the verbal process, not necessarily a conscious object (though typically it is), but rather anything capable of emitting a signal. The second one refers to the individual to whom the verbal process is directed, serving as the recipient of the verbal process or message with or without a preposition depending on its own position within the clause. The last participant represents the nominalized statement of verbal process, specially a noun that describes some forms of verbal behavior.

Existential Process

Halliday (1994) outlines all the structures of process types related to actions. However, within English, there exists a significant category of processes that does not convey action but instead denotes states of being. These being processes can be broadly categorized into two main types: Existential Processes, which simply affirm the existence of things, and Relational Processes, which establish the existence of things in relation to other entities, attributing qualities or two CV identities to them.

Relational Processes

The relational process category encompasses various methods of expressing existence in English clauses. Eggins (2004) differentiates between Attributive and Identifying processes, highlighting their fundamental structural distinctions. Additionally, there are other two types of relational processes, the first one is possessive and the second one is circumstantial. Meanings of ownership are conveyed by possessives and the possession in between the clausal participants.

Material and Methods

Research Design

The study adopts both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. As mentioned in the first section, the analysis of the text will be conducted within the framework of meta-function, specifically focusing on the Ideational meta-function. The data will be meticulously examined based on categories that contribute to the representation of the text. However, the primary aim of this study is to explore the order of clauses within a short story, viewed as a literary writing, to find different ideational meanings and how reality is depicted through the interplay of language. Consequently, the clause serves as the fundamental unit of analysis. Drawing upon Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (2004), particularly within the ideational meta-function, this study utilizes it both as a reference point and a practical theoretical structure for analyzing the different process types of its clauses in order to discern the underlying ideas of author. Adapting Halliday's SFL (2004) approach to text analysis and adhering to the principle of 'who does what to whom in what circumstances' (Halliday, 1985), every clause within the text will undergo a detailed breakdown into its individual parts.

Selected Text

Genre provides readers with a set of expectations regarding content and form, allowing them to interpret and appreciate a work within its specific literary tradition. The literary piece *The Tell-Tale Heart* falls under the genre of Gothic fiction, characterized by its psychological depth, eerie atmosphere, and elements of suspense and terror. The story revolves around a narrator who obsessively insists on his sanity while recounting his murder of an old man, haunted by the sound of his beating heart. The short story *The Necklace* falls under the genre of realism exploring themes of social class, vanity, and the consequences of deceit. Its narrative revolves around the heroine's desire for high status and wealth in her social circle. After borrowing a necklace from a friend and losing it, she experiences a downward spiral. The story is renowned for its ironic twist, revealing the fakeness of necklace. It serves as a critique of societal values and the pursuit of material wealth.

Results and Discussion

Qualitative Analysis

Text # 01 (*The Tell-Tale Heart*)

The complete narrative of the story was chosen for analysis, focusing on the transitive patterns of the clauses, following Halliday's (1985) framework. Tables and figures are used to illustrate the frequency and distribution of process types, participant roles, and circumstances. Additionally, the temporal construct was examined to foreground the story logically and critically evaluate its representation.

Material Process

I	went down to open	the door
Actor: Animate	Process: Material (action)	Goal

Mental Process

I	did not hate	the old man.
Senser	Process: Mental	Phenomenon

Relational Process

I	have been	ill,	very ill.
Carrier	process: Relational	Attribute	Circumstance

Verbal Process

I	asked	the policeman	to come in.
Sayer	Process: Verbal	verbiage	circumstance

Behavioral Process

I	stood up and walked	quickly around the room.
Behaver	Process: Behavioral	behaviour

Existential Process

There	was	no	sound
Process: Existential	circumstances	Existent	

Text #2 (*The Necklace*)

Material Process

She	tore	the paper	sharply
Actor	process: Material	goal	circumstance

Mental Process

She thought of the dainty dinner
 Sensor process: mental circumstances phenomenon

Behavioral Process

She looked at him.
 Behavior process: behavioral Circumstantial

Existential Process

The whole official world will be there.
 Circumstances Existent process: existential

Relational Process

She had no dresses, no jewels, nothing.
 Carrier process: relational attribute

Verbal Process

She said impatiently,
 Sayer process: verbal verbiage

Quantitative Analysis of the texts

Process types

Table 1
Process types in the Text # 1 and Text # 2

Process Types	Text # 1		Text # 2	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Material Process	11	5.7%	24	6.8%
Mental Process	34	17.7%	57	16.3%
Verbal Process	18	9.3%	30	8.6%
Behavioral Process	65	33.8%	140	40.2%
Relational Process	63	32.8%	92	26.4%
Existent Process	11	5.7%	05	1.4%
Total	202	100%	348	100%

Participant Roles

Table 2
Participant Roles in the text # 1 and text #2

Participant/ Roles	Text # 1		Text # 2	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Actors	11	5.4%	24	6.6%
Senser	34	16.8%	57	16.1%
Sayer	18	8.9%	30	8.6%

Behaver	65	32.1%	140	40%
Carriers	23	11.3%	48	14 %
Identified	40	19.8%	44	12.6%
Existent	11	5.7 %	05	1.4 %
Total	202	100%	348	100%

Circumstance Types

Table 3
Circumstance Types in the Text # 1 and text # 2

Circumstances types	Text #1		Text #2	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Manner	42	39.6%	116	27.7%
Location (Space)	22	20.7%	69	16.5%
Location (Time)	11	10.3%	58	13.8%
Comparison	15	14.1%	35	8.3%
Cause	11	10.3%	81	19.3%
Accompaniment	02	1.8%	39	9.3%
Role	01	0.9%	18	4.3%
Matter	02	1.8%	2	0.4%
Total	106	100%	428	100%

Discussion

The process, as indicated by the verb phrase within the clause, encompasses the actions and the activities undertaken. The quantitative analysis of the data reflects that Behavioral Processes is the most frequent process type with highest frequency and percentage in both the texts mounting to 33% and 40% instances in the data. Relational process is marked as the second most frequent process type with 32% and 26% occurrence in both the texts under analysis. The third most frequent process type is Mental process with carrying 17% and 16% instances of occurrence in the selected texts. Material process denoting actions carried out by animate actors represents 5% and 6% occurrence in the data. Among the verbal processes, 14 are instigated by the protagonist, indicating his pivotal role in the narrative's discourse. Despite this dominance, only 4 personal verbal processes suggest a focus on the ideological representation rather than the direct speech. No doubt, the least frequent process type is existent in the texts, yet these texts have varying percentage i.e 5% and 1% occurrence in the data.

The individuals or entities engaged in these process are delineated by the noun phrases within the clause, portraying their respective roles and involvement. The in-depth analysis of the processes embedded in the clauses of the texts under investigation mirror certain parallel traces of the participant roles. Participant role of Behavior goes parallel to process of behavior having 32% and 40% occurrence. Identified and carrier are the second most frequent participant role with 30% and 26% instances in the data. These roles serve to distinguish characters and attribute qualities to them through identifying relational process verbs. With sensory roles comprising of 16 % of the total data are marked by reaction verbs prevalent to illuminate characters' responses to events, their self-perceptions, and their assumptions about others' perceptions of their actions, thus contributing to the narrative's emotional depth and character development.

The circumstances are represented with the processes, which are typically conveyed through adverbial and propositional phrases in the clause. The quantitative illustration in the previous section manifests that Adverbs of manner is the most frequent circumstance type 40% and 28% occurrence in both the texts. However, text #1 and text #2 differ from each other in case of second and third most frequent circumstance type. Circumstance of Location (space) is the second most frequent in text1 with 20% instances and circumstance of cause is the 2nd most frequent have 20% occurrence in text #2. Circumstance of Comparison is 14% in text #1 and location (time) is 16% in 2nd text. Circumstance of Matter is the least common in both the texts.

Conclusion

Adapting Halliday's (2004) SFL approach, particularly within the ideational meta-function, also referred to as representational meaning in language, and adhering to the principle of 'who does what to whom in what circumstances' (Halliday, 1985), every clause within the text underwent a detailed breakdown into its individual parts. The in-depth exploration delving into the intricate relationship between language and ideology across short stories by two different writers *The Tell-Tale Heart* and *The Necklace* encompasses an examination of verbal acts, participants' roles, patterns of verb, and other linguistic components of adverbs to dissect the ideologies conveyed by the authors. This study concludes that both the short stories have similar and parallel foregrounded ideational metafunction in spite of being written by different writers in different eras. Both the texts have behavioral process as the most frequent process type to show responses, attitudes, and reactions of the protagonists of the narrative towards an entity, event, or being assisted by adverb of manner. Moreover, the frequent foregrounding of mental process also highlights that psychological working in the characters/protagonists is pervasive in the narrative of the texts. The researchers conclude that the narrative of both the texts of the genre of short story *The Tell-Tale Heart* and *The Necklace* is knit with similar threads of ideational metafunction.

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