TRANSITIVITY PROCESSES IN BON JOVI'S SELECTED SONG LYRICS

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Abstract

The focus of this research is to find the usage of the transitivity processes in Bon Jovi's selected song lyrics. This research is descriptive qualitative research. This research aims to discover and examine types of the transitivity processes used in Bon Jovi's selected song lyrics. The source data of this research are the twenty selected song lyrics of Bon Jovi. Meanwhile, the data of this research are the clauses that used transitivity processes in Bon Jovi's selected song lyrics. The data of this research are analyzed by using the interactive model. The result of this research shows that all of the six types of transitivity processes are found in Bon Jovi's selected song lyrics, namely: material processes, mental processes, relational processes, verbal processes, behavioral processes, existential processes. It shows that Bon Jovi, in realizing the song, applied the six types of transitivity processes. From the six types of transitivity processes that are found, the material process is dominantly used in Bon Jovi's selected song lyrics. It indicates that Bon Jovi's selected song lyrics are related to the physical activity that happens in the social phenomena. It is helpful for the readers to know transitivity processes in understanding the message of the song. Besides it, it also gives advantages for the songwriter in writing song lyrics to provide the varieties of wording in the songs.

Keywords: transitivity processes, song lyrics, systemic functional linguistics.

Introduction

A song is one of the sources of entertainment that could be used to brighten a person's mood by listening to pleasant songs. Through song, listeners can obtain information and knowledge by interpreting the words in the lyrics of the song and exploring the meaning contained in the lyrics of the song. Songwriters usually have different lyrics and have different goals. Some songwriters focus their songs on romance, religion, criticism, and so on. In creating song lyrics, a songwriter needs language. As it is known that language is a means of conveying information. This research focuses on the analysis of the transitivity processes used by songwriter of Bon Jovi on each song lyrics created. The transitivity processes are concerned with the realization of the use of verbs in clauses in each song's lyrics.

Halliday (2014) stated that there are six types of transitivity processes, namely: material processes, mental processes, behavioral processes, relational processes, verbal processes, and existential processes. All the processes are related to a verb that is used in clauses. The use of transitivity processes in every field is different from each other, for example, song and speech will have different types of transitivity processes. The language of a song is usually created and written indifferently from the ordinary language in different fields. In other words, some song listeners sometimes have difficulties understanding the meaning or goals of the song as the song is the expression of feelings of the songwriters. As a result, language song analysis is both interesting and necessary to be analyzed.

Bon Jovi is a rock band from Sayreville, New Jersey, United States. This rock band is a famous rock band since 1983 with members are: Jon Bon Jovi as the vocalist, David Bryan as the keyboardist, Tico Torres as the drummer, Phil X as the guitarist, and Hugh McDonald as the Bassist. The reason why the researcher wants to do the analysis of Bon Jovi's selected song lyrics is that is one of the popular rock bands in this world. There are so many song lyrics that

have been created by Bon Jovi and also there are so many fans of Bon Jovi in this world. The research problems of this study are what are the types of transitivity processes used in Bon Jovi's selected song lyrics and how its realization in each clause in Bon Jovi's selected song lyrics. The value of this research is the readers and the song listeners can be easier understand each lyric in a song that is heard by them. Besides that, the songwriters should be considered the usage of types of transitivity processes in writing song lyrics in order to give an easier understanding for the song listeners.

Some scholars had already conducted researches on transitivity and song analysis (Zahoor in 2016; Setiawati in 2018; Isti'anah in 2019; Sihura in 2019; Pasaribu in 2020; Yanti in 2020; Afri in 2021 and Fajrin in 2021). There is no single study about the analysis of transitivity in Bon Jovi's songs, as evidenced by the eight studies cited. As a result, this study fills in the gaps and contributes to the understanding of six types of transitivity processes in songs.

Literature Review

In systemic functional linguistics, the transitivity system is one of the aspects of the ideational function in metafunction. There are three categories of transitivity systems: transitivity process, transitivity participant, and transitivity circumstance. The uses of verb phrases are the realization of the transitivity process. Transitivity participants are realized by the doer and it is affected by the processes then it is usually realized by noun phrases. Meanwhile, transitivity circumstances are the realization of the adjunct component such as adverbial phrases. The clauses of sentences are formed by this transitivity system. Halliday (2014) has identified that there are six types of transitivity processes, namely: material processes, mental processes, relational processes, behavioral processes, verbal processes, existential processes.

Material processes concern with the processes of happening or doing that relates to the human's physical. Mental processes represent the processes of sense that relate to human psychology. Relational process reflects the connection between two entities which is categorized into attributing, identifying, and symbolizing. Behavioral processes are the processes of an entity's behavior and represent psychological or physiological behavior. The act of saying or the process of stating some information is referred to as verbal processes. Existential processes imply the existence of an entity. Table 1 below shows the types of processes, the construing of the processes, and a sample of the processes.

Table 1. Transitivity Processes

No.	Types of Processes	Construing	Sample of Verbs
1.	Material	creating, changing, doing (to), acting	reading, giving, choosing
2.	Mental	seeing, feeling, thinking	loving, thinking, believing, knowing, forgetting, admiring
3.	Verbal	saying	expressing, stating, saying, telling, pledging
4.	Relational	attributing, identifying, symbolizing	to be, linking verbs, have, has, own
5.	Behavioural	behaving	smiling, dreaming, staring, breathing, coughing
6.	Existential	existing	to be (is, am, are)

Source: Halliday (2014: 213 – 217)

Research Method

This research is descriptive qualitative research. This research is based on systemic functional linguistics, specifically the types of the transitivity processes as part of metafunction in systemic functional linguistics. The analysis of this research is focused on the types of transitivity processes in the song lyrics of Bon Jovi. There are twenty song lyrics in this research, namely: 1) Livin On A Prayer; 2) It's My Life; 3) Always; 4) You Give Love A Bad Name; 5) Bed of Roses; 6) I'll Be There For You; 7) Wanted Dead or Alive; 8) Never Say

Goodbye; 9) Thank You For Loving Me; 10) Have A Nice Day; 11) Run Away; 12) This Ain't A Love Song; 15) Bad Medicine; 16) Miracle; 17) In These Arms; 18) Story of My Life; 19) Limitless; 20) All About Lovin' You. The data analysis technique used and interactive model data analysis suggested by Miles, Hubberman, and Saldana (2014:10), which is seen in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Interactive Model Data Analysis
 (Miles, Hubberman & Saldana, 2014:10)

In investigating the types of transitivity processes in Bon Jovi's selected song lyrics, the four steps of the interactive model data analysis are applied in this research. In conducting the analysis, the four processes are interconnected.

Results and Discussion

It is found that there are 755 transitivity processes used in the twenty selected song lyrics of Bon Jovi. The occurrences of each type of the transitivity processes used in Bon Jovi's selected song lyrics differ from one another. From the analysis that has been done, it shows that the six types of transitivity processes are realized in the twenty selected song lyrics of Bon Jovi, namely: material processes, mental processes, relational processes, behavioral processes, verbal processes, and existential processes. The occurrences and percentage of each type of transitivity process in the twenty selected song lyrics of Bon Jovi are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Occurrences and Percentage of Types of Transitivity Processes

Types of Transitivity Processes	Occurrences of Processes	Percentage
Material	333	44,1%
Mental	190	25,2%
Relational	97	12,8%
Verbal	64	8,5%
Behavioral	51	6,8%
Existential	20	2,6%
Total	755	100

Table 2 shows that material processes are the most commonly used with the occurrences of processes is 333 data and the percentage is 44,1%. The second domination is mental processes with the occurrences of processes is 190 data and the percentage is 25,2%. The third domination is relational processes with the occurrences of processes is 97 data and the percentage is 12,8%. The fourth domination is verbal processes with the occurrences of processes is 64 data and the percentage is 8,5%. The fifth domination is behavioral processes with the occurrences of processes is 51 data and the percentage is 6,8%. The sixth domination is existence processes with the occurrences of processes is 20 data and the percentage is 2,6%. According to the findings, Bon Jovi's selected song lyrics pay more attention to the physical activities of a human being (material processes) when confronted with social phenomena followed by processes of seeing, feeling, and thinking (mental processes); processes of connecting from one entity to another entity (relational processes); processes of saying (verbal processes); processes of human's physiological activities (behavioral processes) and the processes of entity's existence (existential processes).

The realization of each type of transitivity process in the twenty selected song lyrics of Bon Jovi is shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Realization of Types of Transitivity Processes

No.	Song's Title	Material	Mental	Behavioral	Relational	Verbal	Existence
1.	LIVIN ON A PRAYER	14	2	-	-	4	-
2.	IT'S MY LIFE	9	3	4	4	3	-
3.	ALWAYS	22	14	6	9	9	-
4.	YOU GIVE LOVE A BAD NAME	19	-	1	3	3	1
5.	BED OF ROSES	26	14	7	6	4	2
6.	I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU	13	15	2	7	6	5
7.	WANTED DEAD OF ALIVE	11	2	4	5	1	-
8.	NEVER SAY GOODBYE	13	10	2	2	9	1
9.	THANK YOU FOR LOVING ME	16	14	2	3	9	1
10.	HAVE A NICE DAY	12	8	6	3	3	1
11.	RUN AWAY	13	7	2	4	1	1
12.	THIS AIN'T A LOVE SONG	17	12	3	7	2	1
13.	HALLELUJAH	18	12	1	10	-	2
14.	BORN TO BE MY BABY	25	6	3	3	-	1
15.	BAD MEDICINE	37	24	-	17	1	-
16.	MIRACLE	15	9	2	1	3	-
17.	IN THESE ARMS	8	12	1	1	3	3
18.	STORY OF MY LIFE	14	6	-	10	1	-
19.	LIMITLESS	16	4	3	-	-	-
20.	ALL ABOUT LOVIN' YOU	15	16	2	2	2	1
TOTAL		333	190	51	97	64	20

Table 3 shows that from the twenty selected song lyrics of Bon Jovi, the realization of the types of transitivity processes are different in each selected song lyrics. Song's title 'LIVIN ON A PRAYER' shows that only three types of transitivity processes in the song lyrics, they are: material processes, mental processes, and verbal processes. Song titles 'IT'S MY LIFE', 'ALWAYS', 'WANTED DEAD OF ALIVE', and 'MIRACLE' show only five types of transitivity processes in the song lyrics, namely: material processes, mental processes, behavioral processes, relational processes, and verbal processes. The song title 'YOU GIVE LOVE A BAD NAME' shows only five types of transitivity processes in the song lyrics, namely: material processes, behavioral processes, relational processes, verbal processes, and existence processes. Song titles 'HALLELUJAH' and 'BORN TO BE MY BABY' show only five types of transitivity processes in the song lyrics, namely: material processes, mental processes, behavioral processes, relational processes, and existence processes. Song's titles 'BAD MEDICINE' and 'STORY OF MY LIFE' show only four types of transitivity processes in the song lyrics, namely: material processes, mental processes, relational processes, and verbal processes. Song's title 'LIMITLESS' shows only three types of transitivity processes in the song lyrics, namely: material processes, mental processes, and behavioral processes. Meanwhile, the song's titles 'BED OF ROSES', 'I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU', 'NEVER SAY GOODBYE', 'THANK YOU FOR LOVING ME', 'HAVE A NICE DAY', 'RUN AWAY', 'THIS AIN'T A LOVE SONG', 'IN THESE ARMS' and 'ALL ABOUT LOVIN' YOU' shows

that all the six types of the transitivity processes in the song lyrics, they are: material processes, mental processes, behavioral processes, relational processes, verbal processes, and existential processes. Table 4 shows some of the examples of the transitivity processes analysis in each song's lyrics.

Table 4. Examples of Transitivity Processes Analysis

Song's Title	Clause of the Song Lyrics	Types of Transitivity Processes
LIVIN ON A PRAYER	Tommy used to work on the docks	Material processes
	Union	
IT'S MY LIFE	Tommy whispers ; Baby it's okay	Verbal processes
	When she cries in the night	Mental processes
	I did it my way	Material processes
	You're gonna hear my voice	Mental processes
	But I ain't gonna live forever	Behavioral processes
ALWAYS	And it is now or never	Relational processes
	When I shout it out loud	Verbal processes
	That this old dog kicked up	Material processes
	And I will love you baby	Mental processes
	Some that made us laugh	Behavioral processes
YOU GIVE LOVE A BAD NAME	It is nothing but some feelings	Relational processes
	I can't sing a love song	Verbal processes
	You play your game	Material processes
	You can't break free	Behavioral processes
	You are a loaded gun	Relational processes
BED OF ROSES	You promise me heaven	Verbal processes
	There is nowhere to run	Existential processes
	Sitting here wasted	Material processes
	As I dream about movies	Mental processes
	I'll sleep on a bed of nails	Behavioral processes
I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU	For it is you	Relational processes
	While we're talking	Verbal processes
	She is still in my bed	Existential processes
	And now you're swimming for the shore	Material processes
	You know my hands are dirty	Mental processes
WANTED DEAD OF	When you breathe	Behavioral processes
	When you were down	Relational processes
	I swear to you	Verbal processes
	I wasn't there	Existential processes
	I'd drive all night	Material processes

ALIVE	All you do is think Sometimes I sleep I am a cowboy	Mental processes Behavioral processes Relational processes Verbal processes
NEVER SAY GOODBYE	Sometimes you tell the day As I sit in this smokey room Hoping it would never end We danced so close We had a fight Never say goodbye And being cool	Material processes Mental processes Behavioral processes Relational processes Verbal processes Existential processes
THANK YOU FOR LOVING ME	You ring the bell That you believed my lies When I couldn't breathe I had a dream It's hard for me to say the things There is no one here	Material processes Mental processes Behavioral processes Relational processes Verbal processes Existential processes
HAVE A NICE DAY	Standing on the ledge Mama, can you hear me? My daddy lived a lie Let me be the first And who are you to tell me? If there is one thing	Material processes Mental processes Behavioral processes Relational processes Verbal processes Existential processes
RUN AWAY	I was painting a picture I saw a piece of heaven I was dancing in the rain I had a dream I can't complain You were here	Material processes Mental processes Behavioral processes Relational processes Verbal processes Existential processes
THIS AIN'T A LOVE SONG	You're standing tall I should have seen it coming I cried I was blind When you said good night There were nights	Material processes Mental processes Behavioral processes Relational processes Verbal processes Existential processes
HALLELUJAH	And she tied you to her kitchen You saw her bathing I used to live alone	Material processes Mental processes Behavioral processes

	It is a broken Hallelujah	Relational processes
	There is a God above	Existential processes
BORN TO BE MY BABY	We worked all day	Material processes
	God would know the reasons	Mental processes
	In my heart till the day that I die	Behavioral processes
	It is a bumpy ride	Relational processes
	There is a chance	Existential processes
BAD MEDICINE	Shake it up just like bad medicine	Material processes
	What you get for falling in love	Mental processes
	Bad medicine is what I need	Relational processes
	And I got all the symptoms count ‘em 1,2,3	Verbal processes
MIRACLE	They drive you right back down	Material processes
	I know you think you’re going crazy	Mental processes
	A man has to die	Behavioral processes
	And I know the dam is busted	Relational processes
IN THESE ARMS	They promised us truth	Verbal processes
	They burn with fire	Material processes
	Baby I want you like the roses	Mental processes
	I’d die to have you	Behavioral processes
	And these were our words	Relational processes
	I’d tell you	Verbal processes
	If you were in these arms	Existential processes
STORY OF MY LIFE	And I write it every day	Material processes
	You know I’m not all right	Mental processes
	That is the story of my life	Relational processes
	I swear	Verbal processes
LIMITLESS	Everybody wake up	Material processes
	You know the song	Mental processes
	Better not forget to breathe	Behavioral processes
		processes
ALL ABOUT LOVIN’ YOU	And all the things I didn’t do	Material processes
	Baby, I see something new	Mental processes
	I don’t wanna sleep tonight	Behavioral processes
		processes
	You are always my best friend	Relational processes
		processes
	Ask me how we’ve come this far	Verbal processes
	You were there to pull me through	Existential processes
		processes

Conclusion

It is determined that there are 755 transitivity processes used in numerous occurrences of each type of the transitivity processes from the twenty selected song lyrics of Bon Jovi. It has been determined that nine of the twenty song lyrics chosen by Bon Jovi used all six types of transitivity processes, whereas the other song lyrics used only some of the transitivity processes. Based on the findings of this research, material processes are dominantly used, followed by mental processes, relational processes, verbal processes, behavioral processes, and existential processes. This means that Bon Jovi's songwriter is most concerned with describing physics activities in the song lyrics, such as work, running, standing, and so on through the material processes. The message of Bon Jovi's selected song lyrics is expressed not only through material processes but also through mental processes such as love, see, hear, need, cry and so on; relational processes that realize by the using of 'to be' such as: be, is, was; verbal processes that realize by a shout, said, calling, sing; behavioral processes that are realized by a laugh, die, sleep and so on. Meanwhile, existential processes are the types of transitivity processes that are rarely used in the selected song lyrics of Bon Jovi. Existential processes are realized by the using of verbs 'be' to show the existent of one entity for example there is, being cool, you were here, and so on. In other words, it is concluded that the realization of each type of the transitivity processes in selected song lyrics of Bon Jovi is diverse. This is to provide the variation of the wording used in each song's lyrics to entertain the song listeners, particularly the fans of Bon Jovi.

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