

Sundanese Verbs in Mental Processes: A Systemic Functional Linguistics Approach

Eva Tuckyta Sari Sujatna

Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Padjadjaran

Jl. Raya Bandung Sumedang Km.21 Jatinangor, Sumedang, Indonesia

Tel: 62-227-796-482 E-mail: evatuckyta@unpad.ac.id

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Abstract

Although Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) approach is commonly applied to West Germanic languages, there is limited study has been conducted to apply this approach to Austronesian languages, especially Sundanese language. In this study, the present writer figures out the Sundanese verbs, as one of the Austronesian languages, in mental processes and their clause constructions based on clause as representation and clause as exchange. This study employs verbs as the central of the processes to investigate the mental process in Sundanese clauses. The study shows that the selected Sundanese verbs could be found in mental processes and the four sub-types of process of sensing in mental processes do occur in Sundanese clauses.

Keywords: Sundanese verbs, Systemic functional linguistics, Clauses as representation, Clause as exchange, Mental processes

1. Introduction

M.A.K. Halliday established Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). His argumentation was written on his well-known book, *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*, and it was published in 1985, and being revised in 1994 as the second edition and 2004 as the third edition (with Matthiessen). This approach firstly was being introduced by Halliday in 1961 (see Teich, 1999, p. 1) and rooted by Firth (1957) and Malinowski (1937).

Halliday introduces SFL as an approach views language as a resource for making meaning, attempts to describe language in actual use and so focus on texts and their contexts, and also concerns not only with the structures but also with how those structures construct meaning. According to Gerot & Wignell (1995, p. 22) in line with Halliday, there are three kinds of metafunction meanings: textual, interpersonal, and ideational. Textual relates to clause as message, interpersonal relates to clause as representation, and ideational relates to clause as exchange. Clause as message discusses theme and rheme in clauses. Clause as exchange discusses mood and residue and clause as representation discusses transitivity; process, participants, and circumstance. The last metafunction, clause as representation or transitivity is the focus of this study.

English as one of the member of the West Germanic languages has similarity with other European languages. It is different from Sundanese as one of Austronesian languages. Although Systemic Functional Linguistics approach is commonly applied to West Germanic languages, limited study has been conducted to apply this approach to Austronesian languages, especially Sundanese language.

As a preliminary study, this research tries to describe the Sundanese verbs in mental processes and their four sub-types process of sensing: verbs of perception, verbs of cognition, verbs of desideration, and verbs of emotion as well. The present writer tries to describe the four sub-types as well on *Sundanese* as one of three major vernacular languages in Indonesia. As the second rank of population in vernacular languages, after Javanese, Sundanese is spoken by 27 million people or about 11.25% of Indonesia population. By the amount of the speakers above, it has not found yet the study of the four sub-types: verbs of perception, cognition, desideration, and emotion based on SFL approach on Sundanese clauses. These reasons are carried out as the background of the study to figure out the Sundanese verbs found in the mental processes.

In Sundanese language, similar to Bahasa Indonesia, they have two different types of clauses: verbal and non-verbal clauses (Sujatna, 2012, pp. 134-146). Predicate in both Basa Sunda and Bahasa Indonesia can be verbal and non-verbal. The transitivity could not be applied to non-verbal clauses since they have no finite in the clauses. The non-verbal predicate in Sundanese clauses can be filled by noun, adjective, or prepositional phrase as shown in the following clauses:

(1) *Manehna guru.*

she teacher

‘She is a teacher’

The example (1) shows that in Sundanese clause, the predicate can be a noun, *guru*, without being preceded by a verb. This is not similar to English clauses; every predicate should contain verb(s) as being shown the predicate in English is represented by the verb *is*.

(2) *Awakna kuru.*

body his thin

‘He is thin’

The second example shows that predicate could be filled by an adjective, *kuru*, which is not preceded by a verb as being shown the predicate in English is represented by the verb *is*.

(3) *Manehna di imah.*

she at home

‘She is at home’

The example (3) shows that prepositional phrase, *di imah*, is the predicate. Based on the three examples above, they are shown that predicate in Sundanese clauses could be without a verb or sometimes could be called as non-verbal clauses.

In this article, the present writer tries to describe the Sundanese clauses, especially the verbal clauses since the non-verbal clauses could not be analyzed by transitivity. This study implements the SFL approach in analyzing Sundanese clauses, especially in verbs of perception, verbs of cognition, verbs of desideration, and verbs of emotion that relate to mental process. So that, this study tries to figure out the Sundanese verbs in mental processes that relate to kind of perception, cognition, desideration, and emotion verbs that involves in that processes.

2. Sundanese Verbs in Mental Processes

Clauses, based on SFL approach, could be analyzed by three metafunction meanings: clause as message, clause exchange, and clause as representation. Firstly, clause as message refers to theme and rheme, secondly, clause as exchange refers to mood and residue, and the last clause as representation refers to processes, participant, and circumstance. The clause as representation, particularly the processes, is the highlight of this study. Besides the process, mainly mental processes, this study also focuses on Sundanese verbs.

Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, p. 171) in line with Bloor & Bloor (2004, p. 132) and Deterding & Poedjosoedarmo (2001, p. 112) claim there are six different types of processes. They are material process (process of doing and causing), verbal process (process of saying), behavioral process (typically human, physiological and psychological behavior), existential process (process of existing), and the last two processes as the focus of this article: mental process (process of perceiving, thinking, feeling) and relational process (process of being and becoming) as seen in diagram 2.1.

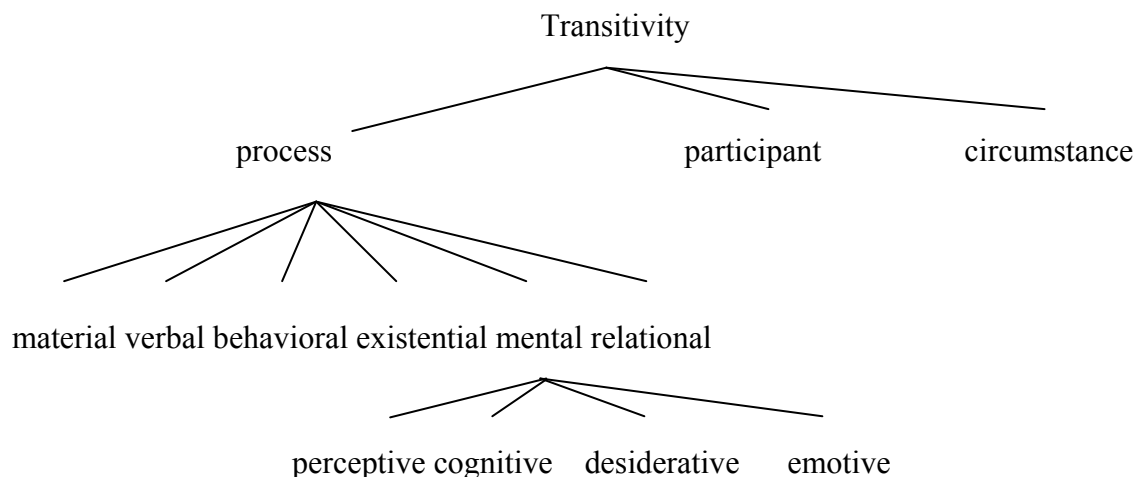


Diagram 2.1

Mental process as one of the six processes, relates to process of sensing. There are four different sub-types of sensing: ‘perceptive’, ‘cognitive’, ‘desiderative’, and ‘emotive’ (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004, p. 208). In mental process, it involves three main elements; process, participants, and circumstances. Participants involve in this process are sensor (or experience) and phenomenon. Process as the center of transitivity is always represented by verbs. Verbs that relate to this study are verbs of perception, cognition, desideration, and emotion (as seen in diagram 2.1).

2.1 Sundanese Verbs of Perception in Mental Processes

As we know, the verbs, according to Quirk et al. (1992, pp. 201- 203) divide into stative and dynamic verbs. In the sphere of perception, stative meaning can be expressed in two ways: we can either place the perceiver in subject position (1), or we can place the percept (or ‘thing perceived’) in subject position (2).

In English, for examples, it is found the verb of perception *saw* in *He saw the accident*, the verb of cognition *knew* in *They knew the bad news*, the verb of desideration *wants* in *He wanted to buy the car*, and the verb of emotion *like* in *I like the gift*. In this article, the present writer tries to figure out the verbs of perception, cognition, desideration, and emotion that relate to mental process in Sundanese clauses as following data:

(4) <i>Si Adi</i> Adi	<i>nempo</i> saw	<i>tabrakan kareta</i> <i>api</i> crash train	<i>nu di Cianjur kamari isuk</i> which at Cianjur yesterday morning
Participant: Sensor (S)	Process: mental Vperception (Vp)	Participant: Phenomenon (P)	Circumstances (Circms)
‘Adi saw the train crash accident yesterday morning.’			

The data (4) describes the process is mental process. It has two participants; *Si Adi* as the sender and *tabrakan kereta api* as the phenomenon. The verb in the process is *nempo* ‘saw’ it means that *Si Adi* as the perceiver is placed in the subject position so that the verb *nempo* can be categorized as one of the verbs of perception. The construction of the clause is S+Vp+P+Circms.

(5) <i>Amir, adina Sarip,</i> Amir brother Sarip	<i>lalajo</i> watched	<i>maen ball</i> match football	<i>nepi ka jam 5 sore.</i> up to clock 5 afternoon
Participant: Sender	Process: mental	Participant: Phenomenon	Circumstances
‘Amir, the young brother of Sarip, watched the football match up to 5 o’clock in the afternoon.’			

Besides the verb *nempo* in data (4), data (5) describes that the verb *lalajo* ‘watched’ is also categorized into verbs of perception. According to Deterding and Poedjosoedarmo (2001, p. 118) both of the sender types (in (4) and (5)) are different. The sender, or sometimes-called experiencer, in data (4) is called recipient experiencer while the experiencer in data (5) is called agentive experiencer. The recipient experiencer in (4) is similar to data (6). In this case, the agentive experiencer is more active while the recipient experiencer is more passive. The construction of the clause in data (5) is similar to data (4): S+Vp+P+Circms.

(6) <i>Saanggeus</i> after	<i>manehna</i> he	<i>ngadenge</i> hear	<i>kabar</i> kacalakaan	<i>manehna</i> he	<i>ceurik.</i> cry
Conjunction (Conj)	Participant: Sender (S)	Process: mental Vperception (Vp)	Participant: Phenomenon (P)	Participant: behavior (B)	Process: behavioral (Vb)
‘After hearing the bad news he cried.’					

Data (6) is a complex clause. It has two clauses: *Saanggeus manehna ngadenge kabar* and *manehna ceurik*. The verb *ngadenge* in the first clause is categorized into mental process and the verb *ceurik* in the second clause is behavioral process, so that the verb in the first clause of data (6) is categorized into verbs of perception since the perceiver is in the subject position.

The three data above describe that the verb *nempo*, *lalajo*, and *ngadenge* are categorized into verbs of perception in mental process. The construction of the clause in data (6) is different

from data (4) and (5). The construction is Circumstance + S + Vp (the first clause containing mental process).

2.2 Sundanese Verbs of Cognition in Mental Processes

Besides the perceptive verbs, the cognitive verbs are also found in mental processes. The word cognitive, according to Merriam Webster, relates to, being, or involving conscious intellectual activity (as thinking, reasoning, or remembering). The followings are the data of cognitive verbs in Sundanese clauses.

(7) <i>Geus sabulan di</i> Jakarta After a month in Jakarta	<i>manehna</i> He	<i>inget</i> remember	<i>indungna.</i> his mother
Circumstance (Circms)	Participant: Senser (S)	Process: Mental Vcognitive (Vc)	Participant: Phenomenon (P)
‘After a month in Jakarta he remembered his mother’			

Data (7) describes that the clause is began by circumstance *geus sabulan di Jakarta* ‘After a month in Jakarta’ followed by the participant *manehna* ‘he’, the mental process, as the verb of cognition *inget* ‘remembered’ and phenomenon *indungna* ‘his mother’. The construction of the clause in data (7) is Circms + S + Vc + P.

Besides the Sundanes verb *inget*, the verb *percaya* could also be categorized into Sundanese verbs of cognition as the following data.

(7) <i>Amir</i> Amir	<i>teu percaya kana</i> not believe in	<i>tahayul.</i> myth
Participant: Senser	Process: Mental	Participant: Phenomenon
‘Amir does not believe in myth’		

The clause in data (7) shows that the clause does not contain a circumstance, the construction of clause is S + Cog. V + P.

2.3 Sundanese Verbs of Desideration in Mental Processes

Desiderative verbs, as the third sub-type, could be found in Sundanese clauses. The word desiderative means related in form to another verb and expressing the subject’s desire or

intention to perform the act denoted by the other verb. The Sundanese verb *satuju* in data (8) and *nolak* (in data 9) are categorized into desiderative verbs as the following description.

(8) <i>Yayasan</i> <i>The foundation</i>	<i>satuju kana</i> agree with	<i>pamenta guru-guru.</i> request teachers
Participant: Senser (S)	Process: Mental Vdesideration (Vd)	Participant: Phenomenon (P)
‘The foundation agreed with the teachers’ request’		

(9) <i>Yayasan</i> <i>The foundation</i>	<i>teu tiasa nolak kana</i> could not refuse to	<i>pamenta guru-guru.</i> demand teachers
Participant: Senser (S)	Process: Mental Vdesideration (Vd)	Participant: Phenomenon (P)
‘The foundation could not refuse the teachers’ request’		

Both of the clauses in data (8) and (9) contain the verbs of desiderative: *satuju* ‘agree’ and *nolak* ‘refuse’. The participants of the two clauses are senser and phenomenon and both of them have no circumstances. The both constructions described are similar, it is S + Vd + P.

2.4 Sundanese Verbs of Emotion in Mental Processes

Emotive verb is the fourth sub-types of the verbs of sensing. The word emotive refers to oxford dictionary is “arousing or able to arouse intense feeling”. In English verbs, verbs like and love are the examples of emotive verbs. The followings are the example of Sundanese emotive verbs in mental processes, as the description in data (10) and (11).

(10) <i>Adina</i> Adina	<i>teu resep</i> does not like	<i>ka babaturanna nu gede ambeuk.</i> to her friends which bad temper
Participant: Senser (S)	Process: Mental Vemotion (Ve)	Participant: Phenomenon (P)
‘Adina does not like to her bad temper friends’		

(10) <i>Usep</i> Usep	<i>bogoh</i> love	<i>ka babaturan adina.</i> to her friend sister
Participant: Sener (S)	Process: Mental Vemotion (Ve)	Participant: Phenomenon (P)
'Usep loves her sister's friend '		

Both of the data (10) and (11) show that the verbs *resep* and *bogoh* could be classified into verbs of emotion in mental processes. The two verbs, *resep* and *bogoh*, need two participant of each clause: sener and phenomenon. The two clauses construction are similar, S + Ve + P.

3. Conclusion

Based on the study, it is shown that the selected Sundanese verbs could be found in mental processes and the four sub-types of process of sensing in mental processes do occur in Sundanese clauses.

The four sub-types processes of sensing do occur in Sundanese clauses are verbs of perception, verbs of cognition, verbs of desiderative, and verbs of emotion.

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