

A Linguistic Analysis Of Halliday's Systemic-Functional Theory In Political Texts

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Abstract:

This paper investigates the linguistic analysis of Halliday's Systemic-Functional Grammar Theory in political texts in 2012. M.A.K .Halliday's Systemic-Functional Grammar has been adopted for analyzing the speeches of the president Barack Obama on election campaign in 2012, and David Cameron's Conservative Party Conference speech, so as to identify the appealing processes of the transitivity system obtained from the analysis of these two texts.

The study aims at identifying the linguistic choices made in the speech of Obama according and David Cameron to Halliday's model. It tries to answer the following questions: What are the linguistic choices of the transitivity system which occur in both Barack Obama speech on election campaign in 2012 and David Cameron's Conservative Party Conference speech in 2012?. What are the frequent processes found in Barack Obama and David Cameron speeches?. The objective of this study is to characterize and describe the six process types and identify the more frequent processes that Barack Obama and David Cameron used in their speeches.

The study concludes that the analysis of the process types in Barack Obama and David Cameron speeches in 2012 shows that the most frequent types are material processes for both speeches. The analysis shows that this theory is applicable to all cultures, all situations, and to any time.

Key words: Transitivity, Halliday's Systemic-Functional Grammar, the linguistic choices.

تحليل النصوص السياسية باستخدام نظرية هالدي

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المخلص:

يهدف البحث إلى اعتماد التحليل اللغوي لنظرية القواعد النظامية لهالدي في تحليل النصوص السياسية نحوياً. اعتمد نموذج أم كي هالدي لتحليل خطابات الرئيس باراك أوباما في الحملة الانتخابية في عام ٢٠١٢، ومؤتمر حزب المحافظين ديفيد كاميرون خطاب، وذلك لتحديد العمليات اللغوية والتي تم الحصول عليها من تحليل هذين النصين.

كما تهدف الدراسة إلى التعرف على الخيارات اللغوية الواردة في خطاب أوباما وديفيد كاميرون باستخدام نموذج هالدي. ويحاول الإجابة على الأسئلة التالية: ما هي الخيارات اللغوية للنظام transitivity التي تشخص في كل خطاب باراك أوباما في الحملة الانتخابية في عام ٢٠١٢، وخطاب مؤتمر حزب المحافظين ديفيد كاميرون في عام ٢٠١٢؟ ما هي العمليات المتكررة التي وجدت في خطاب باراك أوباما وديفيد كاميرون؟ الهدف من هذه الدراسة هو إيجاد وتحديد العمليات متكررة الحدوث والأكثر استخداماً في خطاب باراك أوباما وديفيد كاميرون.

وتخلص الدراسة إلى أن تحليل أنواع العمليات الوظيفية في خطاب باراك أوباما وديفيد كاميرون في عام ٢٠١٢ تظهر بأن الأنواع الأكثر شيوعاً هي عمليات المادية لكل من الخطب. يبين التحليل أن هذه النظرية تنطبق على جميع الثقافات وجميع الحالات، وفي أي وقت.

1. Introduction:

When people need to express their opinions or thoughts to others, they use language whether written or spoken as a tool to accomplish most of these things. Language is considered as a main means of communication, because, through language one can share ideas and express thoughts. It plays a crucial role in one's participation with other human beings. Halliday (1978:14) points out that through language, individual human beings becomes a part of a group. It is impossible for people to communicate without language. Additionally, people need to arrange or order their speech in order to attract other's attention and to transfer their speech in a clear and simple way. For this reasons they need to use functions of language to express meaning. According to Halliday (1985, 1994), there are three functions or meta functions of language, they are 1. ideational function 2. interpersonal function and 3. textual function. These functions represent the main topics in Halliday's theory of systemic functional Grammar who considers language as a basic resource of making meaning. In this study, the main objective is to conduct a linguistic analysis on Barack Obama and David Cameron speeches, in particular. The purpose of this is to reveal how the different process types are utilized by the two speeches by using Halliday's systemic functional grammar .

2. Meta-functions of Language

According to Halliday (1978), there are three Meta-functions of language. These functions are used in different senses in the literature of linguistics. they are:

A. Ideational Function

This function is concerned with the relationship between the external world and the internal world of our experience of the world. It reflects the speaker's experience of both the inner and the outer world through language use. It is the content function of language through which language encodes the cultural experience, and the individual's experience as a member of the culture (Halliday, 1978: 112).

The experiential function and the logical function are two sub functions of the ideational function. The experiential function is concerned with thoughts in general while the logical function is concerned with the relationship between these thoughts. The ideational function is reflected and realized through the transitivity system of language. Halliday (1994) states that "transitivity translates the world of experience into a manageable set of process types"(p.107). According to Richardson (2007) "the essence of representation is in the relationship of 'who is doing, what to whom'(p.

54). Halliday (1978) says that "transitivity is the key to understand the ideational meaning of texts"(p. 132). According to Halliday's theory, there are six process types in the transitivity system of English: *1-Material; 2-Mental; 3- Relational; 4- Behavioural; 5-Verbal; and 6-Existential.*

He also distinguishes the process into three types

1. The process
2. The participants
3. The circumstances associated with the process.

B. Interpersonal Function

The interpersonal function is concerned with the relationship between the speaker and the hearer. It represents the component through which the speaker intrudes himself into the context of the situation, "both expressing his own attitudes and judgments and looking for to influence the attitudes and behavior of others" (Halliday, 1978: 112). This function is concerned mainly with clauses as exchanges. In analyzing a clause as an exchange of event, Halliday specifies two components in a clause: the mood and the residue. The mood is carrying the syntactic burden of the exchange and carries the argument forward (Halliday, 1994:71).

C. Textual Function

This function deals with the text forming and the flow of information in a text through which language relates to the verbal world and the context of situation. It is concerned with clause as a message. Halliday (1994:97) describes it as 'relevance'. According to him, a clause consists of a theme accompanied by a Rhyme. Eggins (1994) mentions that "the theme is typically contains familiar, or given information which has been given somewhere in the text, or is familiar from the context" (p. 275). In Halliday's words, "the 'speaker's text-forming potential; it is that which makes language relevant" (Halliday ,1978: 112).

It expresses the relationship between the language and its environment including both the verbal environment and the non-verbal. It is worth mentioning that the researcher will confine herself with one function only that is 'Ideational Function'.

3. Halliday's Theory: Six Process Types

Six process types are recognized via mental, material, behavioural, relational, verbal and existential. At first, Halliday recognizes the process of material, mental and relational as the three main process types in the

English transitivity system and then finds the other three processes, which are located at the borderlines of the first three (Halliday: 2004).

1. **Material process clause** is the process of doing and happening. According to Halliday (2004), a "'material' clause construes a quantum of change in the flow of events as taking place through some input of energy"(p.179). He adds "Material clauses construe figures of 'doing-&-happening'(ibid). They express, according to Halliday (1985), "the notion that some entity 'does' something which may be 'to' some other entity" (p.103). Halliday (2004) sees that 'material' clauses are concerned with our experience of the material world. Material clauses do not represent concrete, physical events only. They may represent abstract doings and happenings.

2. **Mental process clause**, i.e. the process of sensing. According to Halliday (2004)," mental clauses are concerned with our experience of the world of our own consciousness"(p.197). He (ibid) claims that these processes may represent abstract doings and happenings. Verbs like (*feel, want, like, hate, know, think, fear, see, etc.*) recognize these processes. This kind of process construes either flowing from a person's consciousness or impinging on it.

3. **Relational process clauses** are processes of being and having. The relational clause is the third type of process. Halliday (2004) states that "Relational clauses serve to characterize and to identify"(p.210). The relational clause is realized by the verb 'Be' in the simple present or past. There are three main types of relational clauses which are intensive', 'possessive' and 'circumstantial. These types come in two modes: of being, attributive and identifying. The attributive clauses construe class-membership by ascribing an attribute to some entity (the Carrier and the attribute). The identifying clauses convey some attribute to an identity. (for more information see Halliday, 1994; Halliday, 2004; Eggins, 2004)

4. **Behavioural process clauses**. According to Halliday (1994), behavioural clauses are "processes of (typically human) physiological and psychological behaviour, like breathing, coughing, smiling, dreaming and staring" (p. 139). He (2004) adds "they are partly like the material and partly like the mental" (p.250). These clauses have two participant roles. They are 'Behaver' and the 'Behaviour'.

5. **Verbal processes**, i.e. processes of saying. These process clauses are an important resource in various kinds of discourse. They contribute to the creation of narrative by making it possible to set up dialogic passages. Halliday (2004) states that "Verbal clauses, in news reporting, allow

reporter to impute or assign information to sources, including officials, experts and eye witnesses" (p.252), as in the following extract from a report of a Ferry disaster:

1- *Several of the 18 survivor's said the vessel, which appeared to be overloaded, lacked life vests and other safety equipment.*

2- *'In less than one minute, everything was gone,' survivor Somsak Thongtraipop told Thailand's *The Nation* newspaper.*

3- *He had heard the captain on the radio being warned by a crew member from another boat that there were big waves ahead and he should turn back.*

6. Existential clauses, the process of exists or happens. Existential clauses are not regular in discourse, but they provide an important contribution to different types of texts. In narrative, for instance, these clauses are used to introduce different participants. '**There**' when used in existential clauses enables the addressee to prepare for something which represents new information that is about to be introduced. Notice the following example.

4- *There was a historical city near the sea.*

This is why "existential clauses have been interpreted as 'presentative' constructions (Halliday, 2004:257).

There in such clauses has no representational function in the transitivity structure of the clause. It is neither a participant nor a circumstance, but it is used to indicate the feature of existence. Below is a table which is adopted from Halliday(2004: 171).

Table (1) Six Processes of Halliday's Theory

Process type	Example (Process + participants underlined; process in bold; circumstances in italics)
Material	<i>During the European scramble for Africa, <u>Nigeria fell</u> to the British and <u>the British ruled it until 1960</u></i>
Behavioural	<u>People are laughing</u>
Mental	<u>The Ibos did not approve of kings</u>
Verbal	<u>So we say that every fourth African is a Nigerian</u> <u>Can you tell us about the political and cultural make-up of Nigeria?</u>

Relational	That <u>every fourth African is a Nigerian</u>
Existential	So <u>today there's Christianity in the south</u>

In the current study, the researcher believes that it is necessary to apply all six processes of Halliday's Theory to this study i.e. to analyze the two political speeches by applying Halliday's Theory. This will help to specify which linguistic choices is used more than the other.

4. Participants

According to Halliday(2004) "participants are inherent in the process: every experiential type of clause has at least one participant and certain types have up to three participants"(p.175). As shown previously, a process is realized by the verbal group. Participant is realized by nominal group. The table below is adopted from (Halliday,2004:177).

Table (2) The Process Clauses of Halliday's Theory

Type of element	Typically realized by
Process	(Verbal group)
Participant	(Nominal group)
Circumstance	(Adverbial group or prepositional phrase)

There is more than one type of participants in process clauses. To begin with material process, there are many types of participants .The first one is what Halliday called 'Actor'. He (2004) states that "The Actor is an inherent participant in both intransitive and transitive material clauses" (p.190).

There is one 'Actor' in material clause. The actor "brings about the unfolding of the process through time, leading to an outcome that is different from the initial phase of the unfolding"(ibid). The outcome may be restricted to the actor itself; in this case there is only one participant inherent in the process. In such case a 'material' clause represents a happening and it is called intransitive material clause. When the process is extended to another participant, it is called 'Goal', the outcome impacts on it rather than on 'Actor'. Such a 'material' clause represents a doing and it is called transitive. For example

5- The lion sprang

6- The lion caught the tourist

The first one 'the lion' is the Actor, 'sprang' is a material process. It is called happening represented by an intransitive material clause. The second, the lion is the Actor', 'caught ' is a material process. 'The tourist' is the 'Goal'. It

is called doing represented by a 'transitive' material clause. According to Eggins (2004), "the goal is that participant at whom the process is directed, to whom the action is extended"(p.216).

Additionally, there are other types of participant roles which are involved in the clauses of material process. These are: Scope, Recipient, Client and Attribute. As denoted earlier, the Goal is affected by the process of material, but the Scope of a 'material' clause is not in any case affected by the process's performance. the Scope is restricted to 'intransitive' clauses (Halliday, 2004:192).

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According to Halliday(2004), there are two types of **Scope**

1. The Scope may construe an entity which exists independently of the process. It indicates the domain over which the process takes place. For instance

7 - *You will be crossing some lonely mountains, so make sure you have enough petrol.*

In the example above, 'mountains' exist as an entity whether anyone crosses them or not.

2. The Scope may not be an entity at all but rather another name for the process; for example

8- *I play tennis.*

In this example, it is noticed that 'tennis' is the Scope of the process, and it is clear that 'tennis' is not an entity which exists alone. It represents a name of one kind of game. For that "this structure enables us to specify further the number or kind of processes that take place"(Halliday, 2004:193). The main types of 'process Scope' are as follows

General:	they played <u>games</u>
Specific: quantity	they played <u>five games</u>
Specific: class	they played <u>tennis</u>
Specific: quality	they played <u>a good game</u>

The above types may be combined to one sentence as in:

9- *They played five good games of tennis.*

The other two participants are 'Recipient' and 'Client'. They both have a benefactive role and they represent a participant that is benefiting from the performance of the process. The Recipient is one that goods are given to; the Client is one that services are done for (ibid:191). These two participants are either come with preposition or without. The preposition (*to*) is with 'Recipient' and (*for*) with 'Client'. For example

10- *She sent her best wishes to John.* {to John is Recipient}.

11- *Fred bought a present for his wife.* {for his wife is Client}.

All of the Goal, Recipient and Client are affected by the process of the clause, but while the Goal represents the participant that is affected by the process, the Client or Recipient is the one that benefits from it. At last, the nominal group denoting to a human being (especially personal pronoun) is the domain which Recipient' and Client are realized typically (Halliday, 2004:192).

Finally, the last function of the participant which accompanies the material process clause is the 'Attribute'. Although this function belongs to the 'relational' process clauses, it also enters into the 'material' process clause. Halliday (2004) states that "the Attribute may be used to construe the resultant qualitative state of the Actor or Goal after the process has been completed" (p,195). For instance

12- *They stripped her clean of every bit of jewelers she ever had.*

where *clean* is an 'Attribute' participant describing the resultant state of the Goal *her*. The 'Attribute' participant in material clause is always an optional added specification, while it is an inherent part of a relational clause.

As it is said previously, mental clauses represent the inner world of experience. There are two types of participants related or accompanied with mental process. They are called 'Senser' and 'Phenomenon'. For example:

13- *Mary liked the gift*

14- *The gift pleased Mary.*

Senser represents the one that 'senses' ,i.e., thinks, feels, wants or perceives (Halliday, 2004: 201); as in the example above 'Mary'. Senser is the one which is interacting, thinking, etc. In grammatical terms, Halliday (2004) refers to, 'Senser' as "the participant that is engaged in the mental process is one that is referred to pronominally as he or she, not as it"(ibid). The participant in a mental clause should be human, while this feature is not

required in material clause. According to Eggins (2004), one "participant in the mental process clause must be a conscious human participant" (p. 227).

The other main element in the mental process clause is called the 'Phenomenon'. The phenomenon is that which is thought, felt, wanted or perceived by the 'Senser'. The set of things that can take on this role in the clause is in fact wider than the set of possible participants in a 'material' clause. It is not only a thing, but also an actor is a fact. In a material clause, every participant is a thing; it is a phenomenon of our experience. It includes our inner experience or imagination — some entity like (person, creature, institution, object, substance or abstraction). These 'things' may be the object of consciousness in a mental clause (Halliday, 2004: 203) for example:

15- *You recognize her?*

16- *I learned that lesson a long time ago.*

17 - *she believed his cases.*

In relational clauses, there are two inherent participants, attributive and identifying clauses. In attributive clauses, the attribute is assigned to a participant who is called Carrier, e.g.

18 - *She is atrocious.*

In this example, (*she*) is considered as a (Carrier) which means that she carries the attribute (atrocious). In identifying clauses, they define a participant, they do not classify or ascribe participant to attribute. For example:

19- *The one in the back row must be you.*

In this identifying clause, *the one in the back row* is identified while *you* is the identifier.

20- *Tom is the treasurer.*

21- *Tom is the tall man.*

In the first identifying clause, *Tom* is assigned by *Treasurer* a 'Value', while in the second one *Tom* is identified by assigning a 'Token' to him. 'Token' is the participant (that which is being defined). 'Value' is the participant (that which defines). So, in the first sentence *Tom* is 'Identified/Token' and the *treasure* is 'Identifier/Value'. In the second one, *Tom* represents as 'Identified/Value' and *the tall man* is 'Identifier/Token'.

In other words, "the identity either decodes the Token by reference to the Value or it encodes the Value by reference to the Token"(Halliday, 2004:230).

The behavioural process clauses locate on the borderline between material and mental process and as we mentioned before, "they are partly like the mental and partly like the material"(ibid: 250), which means their meanings are in mid way between material on the one hand and mental on the other. There are two participants associated with behavioural process (Behaver and Behavior). Halliday (ibid) says that "The participant who is 'behaving', labeled Behaver, is typically a conscious being, like the Senser". e.g.

22- She is laughing.

In this example *she* is 'Behaver' and *is laughing* is behavioural process . while the behaviour is dressed up as if it was a participant, is called 'Behaviour' (Halliday, ibid:251).For example:

23- *She sang a song*

24- *He gave a great yawn*

In the verbal clause, there are four types of participants. The first one is the 'Sayer'; the person who is speaking, which means that 'Sayer' is restricted or limited to the speaker or writer, e.g.

25- John said 'I am hungry'

In functional grammar, the example above consists of two clauses: primary clause '*john said*' and secondary clause '*I am hungry*'. It functions as a secondary clause being either directly quoted, as in '*I am hungry*', or indirectly reported, as in '*he was hungry*' in the following example.

26- He said 'he was hungry'.

The primary clause represents the verbal one while the other may represent a process type of any kind. The other participant function is 'Receiver'. It represents the person to whom the process is directed. Halliday (2004) says that "The Receiver is the one to whom the saying is directed"(p. 255). For example:

27- Tell me the whole truth?

28- Did you repeat that to your parents?

29- Describe to the court the scene of the accident?

The 'Verbiage' is the participant that matches to what is said, representing it as a class of thing rather than as a report or quote. Verbiage could be either the content of what is said. For example:

30- *Can you explain the plan for me*

Or it may be the name of the saying, e.g.

31 - *Let me ask you a question*

Finally, the 'Target' is the fourth participant; this function occurs only in a sub-type of 'verbal' clause. This type construes the entity that is targeted by the process of saying. For example:

32- *He also accused Krishan Kant.*

33- *She always blamed him.*

The last type of process which is called existential process has just only one participant. Halliday (2004) claims that "The entity or event which is being said to exist is labeled, simply, Existent"(p. 258). For example

34 - *There was an old person of Dover.*

35- *There was a storm.*

It is necessary to explain the units that realize the process, participant, and circumstance elements of the clause which make distinct contributions to the modeling of a quantum of change. The process and the participants involved in it explain complementary facets of the change. These two facts are transience and permanence.

it has been suggested that '**transience**' is the experience of unfolding through time. '**permanence**' is the experience of lasting through time and being located in (concrete or abstract) space. Thus participants are relatively stable through time (Halliday, 2004:177). The following example is adopted from Halliday to clarify the information that participants can take place in many processes.

36- *During the first part of the nineteenth century, there was a lighthouse keeper who was in charge of the lighthouse. His name was Felipe. He was a brave young man, very dedicated to his work. He lived very happily in the lighthouse with his wife, Catalina, and his little daughter Teresa. He loved them both very much.*

In this example, there are many types of processes as in {there was} is process of existence. But there was one participant in all the clauses.

Accordingly, Change is construed as involving both transience and permanence, and the phenomena of experience are construed either as transient processes or as permanent participants. The concepts of process, participant and circumstance are semantic categories. Generally speaking, these illustrate how phenomena of our experience of the world are construed as linguistic structure. (See table 3).

Table (3) A Summary of all the Types of Process and Their General Category Meaning.

Process type	Meaning	Direct participants	Oblique participants
Material: Action Event	Doing Doing happening	Actor, Goal	Recipient, Client, Attribute
Behavioural	Behaving	Behaver	Behaviour
Mental: perception cognition desideration emotion	Sensing, seeing thinking, wanting feeling	Senser, Phenomenon	
Verbal	Saying	Sayer, Target	Receiver, Verbiage
Relational: Attribution Identification	Being attributing identifying	Carrier, Attribute Identified, Identifier, Token, Value	Attributor Assigner
Existential	Existing	Existent	

(Halliday, 2004: 260)

5. Data Analysis

1. Barack Obama's Speech in Election Campaign in 2012

1. Tonight, more than 200 years after a former colony (**Actor**) won (**Material**) the right (**Goal**) to determine (**Material**) its own destiny (**Goal**), the task (**Actor**) of perfecting our union moves (**Material**) forward. (Cheers, applause.)

2. It (**Actor**) moves (**Material**) forward because of you. It (**Actor**) moves (**Material**) forward because you (**Senser**) reaffirmed (**Mental**) the spirit (**Phenomenon**) that has triumphed(**Material**) over war and depression(**Goal**), the spirit (**Actor**) that has lifted (**Material**) this country(**Goal**) from the depths of despair to the great heights of hope, the belief that while each of us (**Senser**)will pursue (**Mental**) our own individual dreams (**phenomenon**), we are (**Relational**) an American family, and we (**Actor**) rise(**Material**) or fall (**Material**) together as one nation and as one people. (Cheers, applause.)

3. Tonight, in this election, you, the American people, reminded (**Verbal**) us that while our road has been (**Relational**) hard, while our journey has been (**Relational**) long, we (**Actor**) have picked (**Material**) ourselves (**Goal**) up, we (**Actor**) have fought (**Material**) our way back(**Goal**), and we (**Senser**) know (**Mental**) in our hearts that for the United States of America, the best is yet to come.

4. (Cheers, applause.) I (**Senser**) want (**Mental**)to thank (**Mental**) every American (**Actor**) who participated (**Material**) in this election. (Cheers, applause.) Whether you (**Actor**) voted (**Material**) for the very first time (cheers) or waited (**Material**) in line for a very long time (cheers) – by the way, we have to fix that – (cheers, applause) – whether you (**Actor**) pounded (**Material**) the pavement (**Goal**) or picked up (**Material**)the phone (**Goal**) (cheers, applause), whether you (**Actor**) held (**Material**) an Obama sign or a Romney sign(**Goal**) , you (**Actor**) made (**Material**)your voice heard (**Goal**)and you (**Actor**) made (**Material**)a difference. (Cheers, applause.).

5. I just spoke (**Verbal**) with Governor Romney and I congratulated (**Verbal**) him and Paul Ryan on a hard-fought campaign. (Cheers, applause.) We (**Actor**) may have battled (**Material**) fiercely, but it's only because we (**Senser**) love (**Mental**)this country (**phenomenon**) deeply and we (**Senser**) care (**Mental**) so strongly about its future (**phenomenon**). From George to Lenore to their son Mitt, the Romney family (**Actor**) has chosen (**Material**) to give back to America through public service. And that is a legacy that we honour (**Mental**) and applaud (**Behavioural**) tonight. (Cheers, applause.) In the weeks ahead, I (**Senser**) also look (**Mental**) forward to sitting down with Governor Romney to talk (**Verbal**) about where we (**Actor**) can work (**Material**)together to move(**Material**) this country(**Goal**) forward. (Cheers, applause.)

6. I (Senser) want (Mental) to thank (Mental) my friend and partner of the last four years, America's happy warrior, the best vice-president anybody (Senser) could ever hope (Mental) for, Joe Biden. (Cheers, applause.)

7. And I wouldn't be (Relational) the man I am (Relational) today without the woman (Senser) who agreed (Mental) to marry (Material) me (Goal) 20 years ago. (Cheers, applause.) Let me say (Verbal) this publicly. Michelle, I (Senser) have never loved (Mental) you more. (Cheers, applause.) I (Senser) have never been prouder (Mental) to watch (Mental) the rest of America (Senser) fall in love (Mental) with you too as our nation's first lady. (Cheers, applause.)

8. Sasha and Malia – (cheers, applause) – before our very eyes, you' (Actor) re growing up (Material) to become (Relational) two strong, smart, beautiful young women, just like your mom. (Cheers, applause.) And I am (Relational) so proud of you guys. But I will say (Verbal) that, for now, one dog's probably enough. (Laughter.)

9. To the best campaign team and volunteers in the history of politics – (cheers, applause) – the best – the best ever – (cheers, applause) – some of you were (Relational) new this time around, and some of you have been (Relational) at my side since the very beginning.

10. (Cheers, applause.) But all of you are (Relational) family. No matter what you do or where you go from here, you (Senser) will carry (Mental) the memory (phenomenon) of the history we (Actor) made (Material) together. (Cheers, applause.) And you (Senser) will have (Material) the lifelong appreciation of a grateful president. Thank you for believing all the way – (cheers, applause) – to every hill, to every valley. (Cheers, applause.) You (Actor) lifted (Material) me (Goal) up the whole day, and I will always be (Relational) grateful for everything that you (Actor) have done (Material) and all the incredible work that you (Actor) have put (Material) in. (Cheers, applause.)

11. I (Senser) know (Mental) that political campaigns can sometimes seem (Mental) small, even silly. And that provides (Material) plenty of fodder for the cynics who tell (Verbal) us that politics is (Relational) nothing more than a contest of egos or the domain of special interests. But if you ever get the chance to talk (Verbal) to folks who turned out (Material) at our rallies and crowded (Behavioural) along a rope line in a high school gym or – or saw folks working late at a campaign office in some tiny county far away from home, you (Senser) will discover (Mental) something else.

12. You will hear (**Behavioural**) the determination in the voice of a young field organizer (**Actor**) who's working (**Material**) his way (**Goal**) through college and wants (**Mental**) to make sure (**Mental**) every child has (**Relational**) that same opportunity. (Cheers, applause.) You'll hear (**Behavioural**) the pride in the voice of a volunteer (**Actor**) who's going (**Material**) door to door because her brother was finally hired (**Material**) when the local auto plant (**Actor**) added (**Material**) another shift. (Cheers, applause.)

13. You'll hear (**Behavioural**) the deep patriotism in the voice of a military spouse (**Actor**) who's working (**Material**) the phones (**Goal**) late at night to make sure (**Mental**) that no one (**Actor**) who fights (**Material**) for this country ever has to fight (**Material**) for a job or a roof over their head when they (**Actor**) come (**Material**) home (**Goal**). (Cheers, applause.)

14. That's why we (**Actor**) do (**Material**) this. That's what politics can be. That's why elections matter. It's (**Relational**) not small, it's (**Relational**) big. It's (**Relational**) important. Democracy in a nation of 300 million can be (**Relational**) noisy and messy and complicated. We (**Senser**) have (**Mental**) our own opinions. Each of us (**Senser**) has deeply held (**Mental**) beliefs. And when we (**Actor**) go (**Material**) through tough times, when we (**Actor**) make (**Material**) big decisions (**Goal**) as a country, it (**Actor**) necessarily stirs (**Material**) passions (**Goal**), stirs up (**Material**) controversy. That won't change (**Material**) after tonight. And it shouldn't. These arguments we have are (**Relational**) a mark of our liberty, and we (**Senser**) can never forget (**Mental**) that as we (**Sayer**) speak (**Verbal**), people (**Actor**) in distant nations are risking (**Material**) their lives (**Goal**) right now just for a chance to argue (**Mental**) about the issues that matter – (cheers, applause) – the chance to cast (**Material**) their ballots like we did today.

But despite all our differences, most of us (**Senser**) share (**Mental**) certain hopes (**phenomenon**) for America's future.

15. We (**Sayer**) want (**Mental**) our kids to grow up in a country where they (**Actor**) have access (**Material**) to the best schools and the best teachers – (cheers, applause) – a country (**Actor**) that lives up (**Material**) to its legacy as the global leader in technology and discovery and innovation – (scattered cheers, applause) – with all of the good jobs and new businesses that follow.

16. We (**Senser**) want (**Mental**) our children (**Actor**) to live (**Material**) in an America that isn't burdened (**Mental**) by debt, that isn't weakened

up(**Mental**) by inequality, that isn't threatened (**Mental**) by the destructive power of a warming planet. (Cheers, applause.)

17. We want (**Mental**)to pass on (**Material**) a country that's safe and respected(**Behavioural**) and admired (**Mental**)around the world, a nation that is defended (**Material**) by the strongest military on Earth and the best troops this – this world has ever known(**Mental**) – (cheers, applause) – but also a country (**Actor**)that moves(**Material**) with confidence beyond this time of war to shape (**Material**) a peace that is built(**Material**) on the promise of freedom and dignity for every human being.

18. We (**Senser**) believe (**Mental**)in a generous America, in a compassionate America, in a tolerant America open to the dreams of an immigrant's daughter (**Actor**) who studies(**Material**) in our schools and pledges (**Mental**) to our flag – (cheers, applause) – to the young boy on the south side of Chicago who sees (**Behaviourl**)a life beyond the nearest street corner – (cheers, applause) – to the furniture worker's child (**Senser**) in North Carolina who wants (**Mental**)to become a doctor or a scientist, an engineer or an entrepreneur, a diplomat or even a president. That's the – (cheers, applause) – that's the future we (**Senser**) hope **Mental** for.

Table (1) Transitivity Analysis of Barak Obama Speeches (2012)

President's Speeches 2012	Material process	Mental process	Relational process	Behavioural process	Verbal process	Existential process	Total number
Par 1	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Par 2	6	2	1	0	0	0	9
Par 3	2	1	2	0	1	0	6
Par 4	8	2	0	0	0	0	10
Par 5	4	4	0	1	3	0	12
Par 6	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Par 7	1	5	2	0	1	0	9
Par 8	1	0	2	0	1	0	4
Par 9	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Par10	5	1	2	0	0	0	8
Par 11	1	3	1	1	2	0	8
Par 12	4	2	1	2	0	0	9
Par 13	4	1	0	1	0	0	6
Par 14	8	5	5	0	1	0	19
Par 15	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
Par 16	1	4	0	0	0	0	5
Par 17	5	3	0	1	0	0	9
Par 18	1	4	0	1	0	0	6
total	57	41	18	7	9	0	132

Table (2) The Percentages Processes

Process	The Percentage
Material	43%
Mental	31%
Relational	13%
Behavioural	5%
Verbal	6.8
Existential	0%

The results of transitivity analysis about the speech of Barak Obama in 2012 show differences in the process types. As shown, Material processes are the most common or frequent with percentage of 43%, followed by Mental processes with 31%, then Relational processes with 13% ,Verbal processes with 6.8%, and Behavioural processes with 5%.

2. David Cameron's Conservative Party Conference Speech: in Full

1. In May 2010, this party (**Actor**) stood (**Material**) on the threshold of power for the first time in more than a decade. We (**Senser**) knew (**Mental**) then that it was (**Relational**) not just the ordinary duties of office that we (**Senser**) were assuming (**Mental**). We (**Actor**) were entering (**Material**) into Government at a grave moment in the modern history of Britain.

2. At a time when people (**Senser**) felt (**Mental**) uncertainty, even fear. Here was (**Relational**) the challenge: To make (**Material**) an insolvent nation solvent (**Goal**) again. To set (**Material**) our country (**Goal**) back on the path to prosperity that all (**Actor**) can share (**Material**) in. To bring (**Material**) home our troops (**Goal**) from danger while keeping our citizens safe from terror. To mend (**Material**) a broken society (**Goal**).

3. Two and a half years later of course I (**Sayer**) can't tell (**Verbal**) you that all is (**Relational**) well, but I (**Sayer**) can say (**Verbal**) this: Britain is (**Relational**) on the right track.

4. As Prime Minister (**Sayer**) it has fallen to me to say (**Verbal**) some hard things and to help (**Material**) our country (**Actor**) face (**Material**) some hard truths. All of my adult life, whatever the difficulties, the British people have at least been (**Mental**) confident about one thing. We (**Senser**) have thought (**Mental**) we (**Actor**) can pay (**Material**) our way. That we (**Actor**) can earn (**Material**) our living as a major industrial country...and we (**Senser**) will always remain (**Mental**) one.

5. It has fallen to us (**Sayer**) to say (**Verbal**) - we (**Senser**) cannot assume (**Mental**) that any longer. Unless we (**Actor**) act (**Material**), unless

we (**Actor**) take (**Material**) difficult, painful decisions, (**Goal**) unless we (**Senser**) show (**Mental**) determination and imagination, Britain may not be in the future what it has been (**Relational**) in the past. Because the truth is (**Relational**) this. We are (**Relational**) in a global race today. And that means an hour of reckoning for countries like ours. Sink (**Material**) or swim (**Material**). Do (**Material**) or decline (**Material**).

To take office (**Material**) at such a moment is (**Relational**) a duty and an honour...and we (**Senser**) will rise (**Mental**) to the challenge.

6. Today I'm (**Actor**) going (**Material**) to set out (**Material**) a serious argument (**Goal**) to this country about how we (**Actor**) do (**Material**) that. How we in this world...how we (**Senser**) can make sure (**Mental**) in this century, like the ones before, Britain is (**Relational**) on the rise. Nothing matters more. Every battle we (**Actor**) fight (**Material**), every plan (**Goal**) we (**Actor**) make (**Material**), every decision we (**Senser**) take (**Mental**) is (**Relational**) to achieve (**Material**) that end...Britain on the rise.

7. Though the challenge before us is (**Relational**) daunting, I have (**Mental**) confidence in our country. Why? Because Britain (**Actor**) can deliver (**Material**). We (**Actor**) can do (**Material**) big things (**Goal**). We (**Senser**) saw (**Mental**) it this summer. The Jubilee, the Olympics, the Paralympics...

...the best country in the world...and let's say (**Verbal**) it: with our Queen, the finest Head of State on earth.

8. I (**Senser**) was trying (**Mental**) to think (**Mental**) of my favourite moment. Was it telling (**Verbal**) President Hollande that no, we (**Senser**) hadn't cheated (**Mental**) at the cycling, we (**Senser**) didn't have (**Mental**) rounder wheels, it was (**Relational**) just that we (**Actor**) peddled (**Material**) faster than the French? No... for me (**Senser**) it was seeing (**Mental**) that young woman (**Actor**) who swam (**Material**) her heart (**Goal**) out for years...nine training sessions a week, two hours a time.

9. My best moment was putting (**Material**) that gold medal (**Actor**) around the neck of Ellie Simmonds. And I am (**Relational**) so grateful for what all those Paralympians did. When I (**Senser**) used to (**Mental**) push (**Material**) my son Ivan (**Goal**) around in his wheelchair, I (**Senser**) always thought (**Mental**) that some people saw (**Behavioural**) the wheelchair, not the boy. Today more people would see (**Behavioural**) the boy and not the wheelchair – and that's because of what happened here this summer.

10. And the Olympics showed (**Mental**) us something else. Whether our athletes were (**Relational**) English, Scottish, Welsh or from Northern Ireland ...they (**Actor**) draped (**Material**) themselves in one flag. Now, there's (**Relational**) one person who didn't like (**Mental**) that ...and he's called Alex Salmond. I'm (**Actor**) going to (**Material**) see (**Behavioural**) him on Monday to sort (**Material**) that referendum on independence by the end of 2014.

11. There are many things I (**Senser**) want (**Mental**) this coalition to achieve (**Material**) but what could matter more than saving our United Kingdom ...let's (**Sayer**) say (**Verbal**) it: we're (**Relational**) better together and we (**Senser**)'ll rise(**Mental**) together – so let's (**Actor**) fight (**Material**) that referendum with everything we (**Senser**)'ve got (**Mental**) .

12. There are so many people to thank (**Mental**) for this summer. Those (**Actor**) that won (**Material**) the bid, those (**Actor**) that built (**Material**) the stadia (**Goal**), that ran (**Material**) the Games ...and of course: the man (**Senser**) who put (**Mental**)a smile on our faces...
...the zinger on the zip-wire... ...the Conservative Mayor of London: our Boris Johnson. And those Games-Makers.

13.You (**Senser**) know (**Mental**), I (**Senser**) have spent (**Mental**) three years trying to explain (**Material**) the Big Society ...they(**Actor**) did (**Material**) it (**Goal**) beautifully in just three weeks.

14.There is another group of people (**Actor**) who stepped into (**Material**) the breach (**Goal**) this summer – and we (**Senser**) in this party never forget (**Mental**) them. Our armed forces (**Actor**) have been (**Material**) on the ground in Afghanistan for over ten years now. 433 men and women (**Actor**) have made (**Material**) the ultimate sacrifice. Just last weekend there was a memorial service for one of the fallen, and the eulogy said (**Verbal**) this:“All that they had they (**Actor**) gave (**Material**). All that they might have had. All that they had ever been. All that they might ever have become.”

15. For all those (**Actor**) who serve(**Material**), and their families, I (**Sayer**) repeat (**Verbal**)the commitment I made (**Material**) when this Government(**Actor**) came(**Material**) to office. By the end of 2014, all UK combat (**Actor**)operations in Afghanistan will have come (**Material**) to an end. Nearly all our troops (**Actor**) will be (**Material**) home – their country proud, their duty done ...and let everyone in this hall stand (**Behavioural**) and show (**Mental**) how profoundly grateful we are (**Relational**) for everything they do (**Material**).

16. To meet (**Mental**) the challenges our country(**Actor**) faces (**Material**), we (**Senser**) must have (**Mental**) confidence in ourselves... confidence as a party. We (**Actor**) have been (**Material**) in office two and a half years now – and we (**Actor**) have done (**Material**) some big, life-changing things(**Goal**).

17. Just ask Clive Stone, who you saw (**Behavioural**) in a film earlier. I (**Actor**) met (**Material**) him (**Goal**) years ago, when we were (**Relational**) in Opposition. He had cancer and he (**Sayer**) said (**Verbal**)to me: the drug I need – it's out there but they (**Actor**) won't give (**Material**) it (**Goal**) to me because it (**Relational**) is too expensive ...please, if you get in, do something about it. And we have. A new cancer drugs fund that has got (**Material**) the latest drugs to more than 21,000 people and counting. There was a reason we could do (**Material**) that. It's because we (**Actor**) made (**Material**) a big decision (**Goal**) to protect(**Material**) the NHS from spending cuts. No other party(**Actor**) made (**Material**) that commitment. Not Labour. Not the Liberal Democrats. Just us – the Conservatives.

18. To all those people (**Sayer**) who said (**Verbal**) we (**Actor**)'d bring (**Material**) the NHS down ... I (**Sayer**) say(**Verbal**) ...well, yes, you (**Senser**) have got(**Mental**) a point. I (**Sayer**) will tell (**Verbal**) you what is down. Waiting lists – down. Mixed wards – down. The number of managers – down. Bureaucratic targets – down. Hospital infections – down. And what's up? The number of doctors, the number of dentists, the number of midwives, the number of operations carried out (**Material**) in our NHS. So be in no doubt: this is the party of the NHS and that's the way it's going to (**Material**) stay (**Material**).

Table (3) Transitivity Analysis of David Cameron Speech in (2012)

President's Speeches 2012	Material process	Mental process	Relational process	Behavioural process	Verbal process	Existent-Tial process	Total Number
Par 1	2	2	1	0	0	0	5
Par 2	5	1	1	0	0	0	7
Par 3	0	0	2	0	2	0	4
Par 4	4	3	0	0	1	0	8
Par 5	7	3	4	0	1	0	15
Par 6	5	2	2	0	0	0	9
Par 7	2	2	1	0	1	0	6
Par 8	2	5	1	0	1	0	9
Par 9	2	2	1	2	0	0	7
Par10	3	2	2	1	0	0	8
Par 11	2	3	1	0	1	0	7
Par 12	4	1	0	0	1	0	6
Par 13	6	1	1	1	1	0	10
Par 14	3	2	0	0	0	0	5
Par 15	7	0	2	1	1	0	11
Par 16	4	1	0	0	3	0	8
Total	58	30	19	5	13	0	125

Table (4) The Percentages Processes

Process	The Percentage
Material	46%
Mental	24%
Relational	15%
Behavioural	4%
Verbal	10
Existential	0%

The results of transitivity analysis about the speeches of David Cameron in 2012 present differences in the process types. As shown, Material processes are the most common with percentage of 46% followed by Mental processes with 24%, then Relational processes with 15% ,Verbal with 10% and Behavioural processes with 4%.

6. Discussion:

Material processes according to Halliday's theory are processes of doing and happening such as play, write, do, work etc. Material processes deal with the idea that somebody or something does something to some entity. That somebody expresses events in the outside world. That is why material processes are frequently occurred. Material processes indicate activities which occur in real world. That is why material process is the most frequent in Barak Obama's speech and David Cameron's speech. In his speech, it is found that Obama asks or invites his people to take part and improve the economy of their country. Obama does not give any promise in his speech. Obama tells American people to participate in every real action. He, in most of his speech, uses the participant "we" which means that Obama wants every American to improve and develop his\her country together with others. In Cameron's speech, one can note that he speaks about his party achievement. He tries to make people share and participate in every action that improve their life more and more.

Mental process is the process of feeling and thinking such as love , hate, hope etc. It represents states of consciousness. The tables show that mental processes are in the second stage for both characters. It is very clear that the percentages of both material and mental are close in the two political speeches. They usually use the speech that have materialistic events rather than mental one to convey the real message of the external world. It is worth mentioning, in this regard, that the results reveal the way Obama and Cameron think about the outer world.

In Halliday's theory, relational process deals with the relationship between entities. It is a type of being, such as words like (resemble, become, remain, be, turn, have, look, grew, ... etc). These words are used to realize the relational process. It is important to indicate that relational process is different from existential process. Relational processes include the verb become, turn, and verb to be (**is**) and not (**There is**) as in the existential process. Relational processes deal with the concept of changing, and developing. Thus, experience, that Obama and Cameron have, is considered a critical factor in manipulating a various processes whenever required.

Behavioural processes in the Halliday's transitivity system are concerned with the particular types of action which are known as psychological and physiological behaviour such as, breath, cry, look at, stare, dream, smile, and listen ... etc. Behaviour pattern is used in a small percentage. This belongs to the fact that Barack Obama and David Cameron may pay remarkable consideration to what is concrete rather than psychological and physiological action. Moreover, speeches in such events, do not require manipulating behavioural and psychological attitudes because of the nature of such event. They also do not use verbal process in a large percent. The reason is that, this kind of process is used in the situation when writers or speakers try to take advantages of others' views and opinions to set the real scene of the event. It links between mental and relational processes by certain actions of saying, and talking.

7. Conclusion

Based on the discussion above, there are some characteristics in Barak Obama and David Cameron political speeches. These characteristics are identified according to the transitivity system of Halliday's Theory of Systemic Functional Grammar. From the results obtained, one can arrive to some conclusions. First, process types for Obama and Cameron's speeches show that the most frequent types are material processes. Obama in his speech, tries to make a relationship with his people through using strong sentences which help to add more confidence from his people towards him and to his government's achievements. In the same vein, Cameron uses expressions and tells stories to attract his people attention and make them have trust on him. Second, Obama Clarifies what the government will do in the future and this is exactly what Cameron strives in his speech. Third, although Obama and Cameron use simple and clear sentences but they are profound in meaning. They succeed to build a confidence and to persuade the audience to support them more for the sake of their country. A linguistic analysis is the fundamental objective to

connect the semantic and grammatical aspects together to get the meaning required.

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