



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Transitivity Analysis on "Maria" in "Clay" by James Joyce

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ABSTRACT

In the proposed study, the researchers seek to examine that how they construct the personality through Transitivity analysis. Researcher's main objective is to explain the main character's personality named as "MARIA" from a short story "The Clay" by James Joyce. Researchers have divided the whole text into chunks and then take those lines which are explaining the character of "Maria". Then applied the transitivity analysis (processes, participants and circumstances) there are six processes like as; material process, mental process, verbal process, behavioral process, relational process and existential process. The goal is to explain the personality of "Maria and how she is portrayed and represented through language in Clay. The result of this analysis is that Maria is really a well-natured.

Key words: Clay, Transitivity Analysis, Chunks, Maria, Process, Participant, Circumstance, Well natured.

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LITERATURE REVIEW

Transitivity analysis has been widely used to understand the language of speaker and writer. The concept of transitivity in Halliday's grammatical system is a powerful tool in the analysis of the meanings expressed in clauses. The term transitivity has a broader and narrower meaning. In the SFL model, a representation of experience consists of; Processes, participants and circumstances.

Processes: what kind of event/state is being described?

Participants: the entities involved in the process, e.g., Actor, Sayers, Sensor, etc.

Circumstances: specifying the when, where, why and how of the process. SFL typically recognizes 6 types of process.

Processes:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Material process | 2. Mental process | 3. Relational process |
| 4. Behavioral process | 5. Verbal process | 6. Existential process |

Material Processes of transitivity are process of doing, usually physical and tangible actions. Halliday calls them action clauses expressing the fact that something or someone undertakes some action or some entity does something- which may be done some other entity. These processes can be probed by asking what did x do. Two essential participants usually appear in material process are the Actor- the doer of the process- and the goal-the person of entity affected by the process. Mental Processes usually encode mental reactions such as perception, thoughts and feelings mental processes give an insight into people's consciousness and how they sense the experience of the reality. These can be probed by asking what you think about. Mental processes have two participants the Sensor the conscious being who is involved in a mental process- and the Phenomenon- which is felt, thought, or seen by the conscious Sensor.

Relational Processes construe the relationships of being and having between two participants. There are two different types of Relational processes; one is called

identifying Relational which serves the purpose of defining and the participants involved are Token and Value. Thus the Value serves of define the identity of the token. The other types of Relational process are the attributive Relational which serves to describe. The participants associated with it are the Carrier and the Attribute and we can say that the X (carrier) is the member of the class Y (attribute).

Behavioral Processes usually have one participant who is typically a conscious one, called the Behavior. Verbal Processes are which represent the art of saying and its synonyms. Usually three participants are involved in verbal processes: the Sayers are responsible for verbal process; the receiver is the person at whom the verbal processes are directed; and the verbiage is the nominalized statement of the verbal process.

Existential Processes which prove states of being, existing and happening. Existential processes typically employ the verb be or its synonyms such as *exist, arise, occur*. The only participant in this process is Existent which follows the *there is/are* sequences.

These are types of process, through this processes we analyze the character of Maria by applying them on the dialogues which relates with her character.

INTRODUCTION OF CLAY

Maria, a spinster with a minor job, in a rescue mission is looking forward to a holiday evening at the house of Joe, whom she nursed when he was a boy and of whom she is still very fond. She went to buy cakes for the Halloween party. At the bakery, Maria is teased by the clerk, who asks whether she wishes to buy a wedding cake. After this Maria has a shy encounter with an elderly and drunken man who chats with her. She is welcomed warmly at the house by Joe's family, but she is saddened and ashamed to realize that she has left the plum cake she bought for Joe and his wife in the bakery due to "flirting" with the man. Maria is soon enticed into playing a traditional Hallow Eve game. There were different objects at the party each having a prophetic significance. One of the objects in the game is a ring, standing for marriage, which Maria failed to get during a similar game back at the laundry. At Joe's, Maria once again misses the ring and instead chooses a lump of clay. Everyone goes quiet, because clay stands for death. Maria is allowed to choose again, however, and this time fetches the prayer-book, indicating a life of spiritual vocation. After drinking some wine, Maria sings the aria "I Dreamt That I Dwelt in Marble Halls" from the opera *The Bohemian Girl* by Michael Balfe. She makes what the text refers to as "a mistake" by singing the first verse twice, but nobody corrects her. The story ends with a description of how Joe has been "very much moved" by her song.

SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

Through the analysis of the character "Maria", the hidden meaning of her personality will be revealed among the readers. The main objective is to show her character traits through transitivity analysis. It would not only help the researcher but also the readers to understand that how can one show the character traits of someone using this method "transitivity analysis".

METHODOLOGY

A literary text is chosen because of interest. A Short story was chosen, named "Clay" by James Joyce. Joyce's conscious writing style makes us able to select his work. His every word conveys a message. Clay is about a woman, her name is Maria. She is a participant in this short story. In this research, the researchers decide to analyze her character through "transitivity analysis". Dialogues of the main character "Maria" are analyzed by different processes in the transitivity analysis. To judge she is really a well natured, a peace maker or not.

DATA ANALYSIS

Researchers have collected lines from the story which show about characters like what kind of transitivity element (process, participant, circumstances) is present in their respective dialogues. These are the following lines-

1. MATERIAL PROCESS

These lines are related to material process and also show the character of Maria.

1. Joe had brought [the purse] to her

Actor: Joe **Process:** had brought **Goal:** the purse **Beneficiary:** her

2. The boys had got her the position

Actor: the boys **Process:** had got **Goal:** the position **Beneficiary:** her

3. An elderly gentleman made room for her

Actor: An elderly gentleman **Process:** made **Goal:** room **Beneficiary:** her

4. The matron had given her leave to go out (although it is not mentioned here, so the beneficiary is Maria).

Actor: the matron---**Process:** had given---**Goal:** her leave to go out

Beneficiary: Maria

The researchers find in these lines that Maria has the beneficiary role. Something has been done for her favor. The researchers also find that people love Maria. And each time in story it is analyzed that every time Maria is delightful for these favors.

There are some other lines showing the material process.

5. Joe made her sit down.

Actor: Joe **Process:** made **Goal:** her **Process2:** sit down

6. Joe made Maria take a glass of wine.

Actor: Joe **Process:** made **Goal:** her **Process2:** take **Goal2:** a glass of wine

They analyzed through the lines that Maria is treated kindly with others. Such treatments are especially from Joe that makes Maria surprised in the story. The researcher found through lines that Maria is the actor:

Actor: Maria **Process:** had cut **Goal:** them.

Actor: She **Process:** took out **Goal:** her purse

Actor: She **Process:** Bent **Goal:** Her tiny head

Actor: She **Process:** moved **Goal:** her hand

In these lines, the researchers found that Maria is the actor almost throughout the short story. She does not have any effect on people or if she has as it is a serving. They proved that throughout the short story she is serving others.

Actor: Maria **Process:** gave **Beneficiary:** to the eldest boy **Goal:** the bag of cakes. The researchers investigated her kindness in the mentioned line and gentleness toward others.

2. MENTAL PROCESSES

Some mental processes are directly related to Maria. Through this the researchers can better understand the thinking process of the Maria.

There are more mental processes than material processes. It shows that Maria thinks about different things more than doing anything else. The researchers can see that mostly they have the item thought. Moreover, the researchers found that whenever she thought, she always thought for good.

In the processes, the researchers cannot find the word hate or dislike but we can see items such as like, hope and looking forward to. They show the mental innocence of the character, Maria, to us. Throughout these sentences there is no bad feeling or hatred toward anybody, and it shows the beautiful nature of Maria to us.

Sensor: Maria **Process:** looked forward to **Phenomenon:** her evening out

Sensor: she **Process:** liked **phenomenon:** it.

Sensor: She **Process:** felt **Phenomenon:** herself **Circumstances:** in the way.

Sensor: She **Process:** arranged **Process:** all she was going to do.

Sensor: She **process:** decided **phenomenon:** to buy some plum cakes.

Sensor: She **Process:** thought **Phenomenon:** of how she used to dress for mess.

Sensor: She **Process:** hoped **Phenomenon:** they would have a nice evening.

Sensor: She **Process:** found **Phenomenon:** it **Circumstances:** a nice tidy little body.

Sensor: She **Process:** knew **Phenomenon:** that Mooney meant well.

Sensor: She **Process:** thought **Phenomenon:** that they were nice people.

3. RELATIONAL PROCESS

Through relational process we see that she is not attractive but she had a great soul.

Carrier: Maria **Process:** was **Attribute:** a very small person

Carrier: She **Process:** had **Attribute:** a long nose.

Carrier: Maria **Process:** is **Attribute:** my proper mother.

This line shows her childish nature that shows that she is innocent inner self.

Carrier: She **Process:** was **Attribute:** glad of her own rain cloak.

4. VERBAL PROCESS

In the verbal process which shows the character of Maria, we find that she is very careful about the way she did not want to irritate people by her words; for example-

Maria did not understand why Joe laughed so much over the answer he had made but she said that the manager must have been a very overbearing person to deal with.

She doesn't know why Joe is laughing she just agrees with him.

They took her humble nature, when she says they don't have to worry about her and she doesn't want anything. They analyzed the speaking characters are nice to her, John was very nice with her except that stylish woman; and that's why they get a negative effect about her character, and it is important in comparing her stylish manner with Maria's simple one.

5. BEHAVIORAL PROCESS

The researchers found out the behavioral process related to Maria character.

Behavior: Maria **Process:** Laughed

Through this line they also found her well natured and she is actually a peace maker not a quarrel woman.

CONCLUSION

Through the transitivity analysis of the text of short story the researchers find that Maria who is the main characters of the short story "Clay" is actually a well natured and kind woman who is considered as peace maker. Throughout the story this character is playing a role of a beneficiary, she is continually benefitting others and receiving the advantage. She is always hopeful and sees the brighter sides of the things. Her personality traits are revealed through the application of various processes in transitivity analysis. The researchers concluded that Maria is magnificent, modest, hornless and a great soul.

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