
The portrayal of female character in John Steinbeck's *The Chrysanthemums*: A stylistic analysis**Elisa Debora Silalahi* & Almira Ghassani Shabrina Romala**

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ABSTRACT

This research presents a stylistic analysis of a short story entitled *The Chrysanthemums* by John Steinbeck. At the grammatical level, transitivity is employed to achieve the objective of this research. This research is conducted to observe the transitivity process in the short story. By using the transitivity process, this research reveals the portrayal of the main female character. This research applies a qualitative method based on the type of data collected in this research. Based on the findings, there are six types of transitivity processes found, they are material, mental, relational, verbal, existential, and behavioural. Material process portrays the masculine manner of Elisa Allen, Mental process shows the boundaries between Elisa and her husband in their productive outlet, Relational process represents the masculinity in Elisa's appearance, Verbal process represents Elisa as a straightforward person, Existential process expresses Elisa's responsibility in fulfilling her husband's needs, and Behavioral process represents Elisa as a sensitive figure. The dominance of the material process emphasizes Elisa's way of defending herself from an environment that does not value her. Thus, the research findings concluded that Elisa Allen represents a woman who tries to express herself but is often not appreciated in a world dominated by men.

Keywords: female character, SFL, stylistics, transitivity

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INTRODUCTION

Literary work can be defined as human creativity that utilizes language to express certain social phenomena. Even though literature's topic is boundless, literary authors relatively reflect on actual issues. Abdullah (2018) mentioned some social phenomena primarily used as the theme in literary works, one of them being gender inequality (p. 700). Gender inequality has evolved with the times, yet it remains a social concern in various countries. Gender inequality is defined as the unequal treatment of people based on their gender. It derives from socially established gender roles based on cultural differences (Wani & Dastidar, 2019). Moreover, as one of the leading authors of the twentieth century, John Steinbeck raised gender inequality as the central theme in his short story entitled *The Chrysanthemums*. In John Steinbeck's *The Chrysanthemums*, the issue of gender inequality influenced the portrayal of the main female character named Elisa Allen. It is found that the depiction of the roles of women and men in everyday life was differentiated.

In American literature, it is known that John Steinbeck is a well-known author in the twentieth century since his works involve new forms of writings to express his social perception of human connections and sensitivity (Jones, 2021). Therefore, he received The Nobel Prize in Literature in 1962 for his realistic and inventive compositions in demonstrating his social insight. One of Steinbeck's highly known works is *The Chrysanthemums* which raised the issue of gender inequality. It features Elisa Allen as the main female character who fails to express herself in a society that considers women the submissive figure. Moreover, Renner (1985) stated that *The Chrysanthemums* conveys a story of a woman who is prevented from achieving both social and personal fulfilment by the dominant view of a woman's position in a male-dominated world (p. 306).

If examined further, the issue of gender inequality in America has been a social problem since the Great Depression. During this era, the industrialized world underwent its worst economic downturn. Specifically, the stock market crash in October 1929 resulted in a financial weakness in industrial output. This issue had a significant impact on women's roles in society. Women and men were treated differently throughout the Great Depression, especially in the workplace. Moreover, it is known that the increase in women's employment did not meet with widespread approval. Thus, the salary scales for female employees were decreased. Moreover, women's work is devalued in American culture. Critics sized up that women were allegedly taking occupations that should have been reserved for men. In addition, The Roosevelt administration intended to promote masculinity in American culture by depicting several images of 'hard' bodies at the labour that could be found in numerous New Deal public murals (Armengol, 2014).

In *The Chrysanthemums*, it could be seen that Elisa attempts to express herself in a male-dominated culture by emphasizing her masculine side. Specifically, the author indicates her masculinity by describing his physical action and appearance with attributes that are relatively associated with men. For instance, Elisa shows that she can do the same thing as men as stated in the clause "I can sharpen scissors too". It shows Elisa's desire to be recognized as equal to men. However, Elisa is often underestimated, especially in the field that she is engaged in, which is her chrysanthemums. It was done by two characters represented by men, which is the dominating figure in the society at that time. For example, Henry Allen as her husband stated that "I wish you'd work out in the orchard and raise some apples that big". Through the verb *wish*, Henry showed his dissatisfaction with Elisa and stated what he considered more useful.

As stated in the example above, the representation of Elisa Allen as the main female character provokes this current research. Specifically, it could be seen that Elisa's experiences describe the way words are arranged to form clauses or sentences could be analyzed to produce an objective interpretation. Therefore, the research was motivated to analyze the short story based on the linguistic description of the language used.

The use of the linguistics methods in analyzing the reference language of literary works is the principle of stylistics. Barry (2009) stated that stylistics is an approach which tries to back up the interpretation of common readers with hard linguistic data (p. 203). Therefore, stylistics is required to establish an objective interpretation. Moreover, to make stylistics analysis more principled and well-organized, Simpson (2004) proposed seven levels of language, one of which is syntax (p. 5). At this level, one tool for revealing the influence of linguistic features in literary works is transitivity analysis.

According to SFL, humans use language based on three functions of language known as metafunction, which include interpersonal, textual, and ideational metafunction. Specifically, the role of language in communicating people's interpretations of the world is addressed in ideational metafunction (Downing, 2015). Moreover, Halliday (2014) stated that the ideational metafunction is distinguished into two components, they are experiential and logical (p. 30). Isti'anah (2018) added that grammar is employed in experiential meaning to identify how messages are arranged in specific processes as seen through transitivity analysis (p. 2). Moreover, transitivity could express the representational meaning of the clause which is following the ideational metafunction principle that considers the clause as representation. Transitivity is a grammatical system which elaborates particular events into a manageable set of process types that must be contained a figure, such as a figure of happening, doing, sensing, saying, being or having (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Particularly, there are six types of the process proposed by Halliday, they are material, behavioural, mental, verbal, relational, and existential.

The employment of transitivity to observe literary works has triggered scholars. A stylistic analysis portraying an Afghan wife in Åsne Seierstad's *The Bookseller of Kabul* conducted by Isti'anah (2018) shows that transitivity can reveal the effect of a particular verb in portraying the female character as a wife. This study shows that the representation of the female character is impacted by society's portrayal of women as powerless and submissive figures. The analysis reveals that Sharifa is a submissive, yet devoted character as the Afghan wife (Isti'anah, 2018).

The analysis of the female character in Olsen's *I Stand Here Ironing* conducted by Nurhayati (2018) shows that transitivity analysis could reveal the interpretation of the author's messages through the characterization of the character. The findings show that the domination of material

process indicates the activeness of the main character in the domestic work and physical domain. Thus, it could be seen that the main character acts as the representation of working women in the Great Depression Era. In addition, the findings show that the characterization of the main character is developed by the author to criticize the patriarchal system that dominated the society of the United States.

The analysis of Oscar Wilde's *The Happy Prince* conducted by Sari & Yulianto (2019) proves that transitivity could reveal how each process type could influence the writing style of the author in developing the story. Moreover, it is found that seven types of transitivity process in the short story provides different portrayal and reveal the context of the situation in the short story. As the result, the researchers found that Wilde's writing style consists of vivid descriptions, aesthetic appearance, conversational style, repetitive patterns, and simple and clear language (Sari & Yulianto, 2019). Moreover, it can be concluded that the employment of each process reveals different descriptions, thus the short story not only shows explicit content but also builds aesthetic values.

A transitivity analysis in Shirley Jackson's *The Lottery* conducted by Nugraha & Mahdi (2020) shows that transitivity process could reveal the characterization of Mr Summers. Moreover, Nugraha & Mahdi (2020) stated that each types of transitivity process in the story is essential in developing both characters and characterization. Based on the findings, the domination of verbal process in the findings develops the main character through the verbiage as the participant of the process, material process indicates the character's activities in the domestic domain, relational process is used to describe the character explicitly, mental process to portray the character's cognition, and behavioural process is applied to a common activity.

Similar to the studies previously mentioned, this current research observes how the author portrays the main female character through the narrator and characters' utterances. Thus, there are two objectives of this research. First, this research aims to find out the linguistic features, specifically the transitivity process in the narrator and characters' utterances in John Steinbeck's *The Chrysanthemums* which is related to the main female character named Elisa Allen. Second, this research aims to figure out the representation of the main female character by using the transitivity process. Hence, this research is expected to be a reference for analyzing literary work from a linguistic point of view. Moreover, this research also invites other researchers to compare the portrayal of men and women characters in John Steinbeck's *The Chrysanthemums*.

METHOD

Stylistics is employed as the approach of this study. Specifically, stylistics is a critical approach that can reveal how specific language features could lead to specific interpretations of particular texts (Simpson, 2004). Moreover, Simpson (2004) proposed seven levels of language, that consist of phonology, graphology, morphology, syntax, lexical, semantics, and pragmatics (p. 5). In this research, the level of language employed is the syntax level that observes the structure of the clause. In this level, the researchers choose transitivity analysis under the Systemic Functional Grammar point of view to figure out the effects produced by the participants of clause structure in revealing the main female character.

This research applied a qualitative method based on the types of data that were collected in this study. Qualitative research focuses on qualitative phenomena, specifically the observation of the reasons for human behaviour (Kothari, 2004, p. 3). Moreover, in collecting the data, the researchers chose a library research method. Furthermore, a population method was applied in this study. According to Mishra & Alok (2017), the population method allows the researchers to involve the entire data obtained to be analyzed (p. 8).

This study took the main data from a short story entitled *The Chrysanthemums* written by John Steinbeck in 1938. As transitivity analysis deals with the analysis of the clause, this research chose clauses as the linguistic unit to be analyzed. Specifically, the researchers purposively and selectively selected the clause that represents Elisa Allen as the main female character. The data were analyzed in three steps. First, the researchers read the short story and sorted the clauses that describe the representation of the main woman character in the form of narrator and characters utterances. Second, the researchers analyze the verb in the clause by using SFL and also paid attention to the context. It was done to determine the transitivity process of each clause. Third, the researchers interpreted the representation of the main female character based on the findings of the transitivity process by

analyzing the relation between the process and each participant of the clause.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Results

Based on the analysis done by the researchers, Elisa Allen is represented in various types of processes, participants, and circumstances. Moreover, it is found that material process dominates.

Table 1. Frequency and percentage of transitivity process types

Transitivity Process Type	Clause Frequency	Percentage
Material	94	56%
Mental	33	19%
Relational	28	16%
Behavioural	8	5%
Verbal	5	3%
Existential	1	1%
Total	169	10%

The material process portrays Elisa Allen as an active woman in a masculine manner, as well as the relational process which describes Elisa's masculine side based on her appearance. Moreover, the dominance of the material process emphasizes Elisa's way of defending herself from an environment that does not value her. Mental process portrays the differences between Elisa and Henry in terms of their productive outlet, while verbal process describes the way Elisa speaks as a straightforward person. Moreover, the behavioural process reveals Elisa's sensitivity in responding to events around her and existential process expresses Elisa's responsibility in fulfilling her husband's needs.

Specifically, in John Steinbeck's *The Chrysanthemums*, the depiction of the patriarchal system is applied through the narrator and characters' utterances. It is known that the economic crisis in Great Depression Era makes everyone have to work hard to survive. In some cases, it is found that women were the sole breadwinners in many families during the Great Depression. Women show their abilities in various industries. However, American society continued to look down on women's work, which could be seen through some phenomena, such as the pay scales for women workers reduced and women's colleges that explicitly advised women not to pursue employment after graduation to give more space for men to get jobs.

Similar to the case in *The Chrysanthemums*, Elisa tries to get recognition of equality with men by acting and dressing that are relatively considered masculine. However, he was repeatedly looked down upon by the male character who in that era was regarded as dominant. In addition, it shows Elisa's failure to against the culture recognized by society at that time. Further explanation regarding the portrayal of Elisa Allen through transitivity processes is presented as follows.

Discussion

Material process represents Elisa Allen's masculine manner

Based on Table 1, the most used process is material process accompanied by Elisa as the Actor. Material process is the process of doing and happening (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). In this case, material process is employed to describe Elisa's movements through each verb that represents physical action. In material process, there is one participant who is inherent since doing the action, which is the Actor. Then, Goal is the one who undergoes the action. The other participant that appears in the finding is Recipient, who creates a benefactive role, especially in the form of goods.

Specifically, the author portrays Elisa as a strong female character through her actions in her chrysanthemum garden using material processes. Furthermore, the author typically employs Elisa Allen and her body parts as the Actor. In fact, the Actor is the inherent participant in material process. As the result, the author emphasizes the descriptions of Elisa Allen through her physical actions or each action that occurs in Elisa's activities. In the story, Elisa depicts as a knowledgeable and skillful woman in her cultivation of chrysanthemums. Moreover, in Elisa and Henry's household, she has no control except the chrysanthemums. Elisa Allen selected gardening as a productive outlet, which is

typically regarded as a feminine occupation, yet the persistence with which she completes her activity could be regarded as traditionally masculine. It is recognized that masculinity could be described as possessing features or a look that is considered typical of men (Oxford English Dictionary, n.d.). Furthermore, the description of Elisa’s activity through each participant in the material process displays the strength that is generally associated with men.

Table 2. Example of material process

Code		Clause			
TC/N/P7/60	with her strong fingers	she	pressed	them	into the sand
	Circumstance; Means	Actor	Process	Goal	Circumstance; Place

This clause is categorized as a material process since the use of the verb *pressed* indicates a physical action. Through this clause, the author incorporates Elisa’s actions into the operation of the masculine world. The Actor she who refers to Elisa did the Process by pressing her bodily part, specifically her fingers. Furthermore, the author employs the attribute *strong* in the Circumstance to characterize Elisa’s fingers. It could be seen that the author emphasized Elisa’s strength. Another example that portrays her strength is presented as follows.

Table 3. Example of material process

Code		Clause		
TC/C/P8/154	I	can sharpen	scissors	too
	Actor	Process	Goal	

The second example of material process is seen in Elisa’s utterance to a character, the tinker. Specifically, the use of the verb *sharpen* indicates the material process. Moreover, the modal *can* shows the possibility of this process. Because one of the tinker’s jobs is *to sharpen the scissors*, the Actor *I* which refers to Elisa states that she is also capable of doing so as a kind of validation that she is capable of doing the same thing. In addition, Elisa mentions another tinker job that she can perform. The clause is described as follows.

Table 4. Example of material process

Code		Clause			
TC/C/P8/155	and	I	can beat	the dents	out of little pots
		Actor	Process	Goal	Circumstances

The third example of material process is also seen in Elisa’s utterance to the tinker. The verb *beat* exemplifies the physical action as the material process. In addition, the modal *can* also emphasizes the possibility of the process. Elisa speaks to the tinker to explain that she is capable of accomplishing the same things as males. Furthermore, Elisa demonstrates that women can use their powers as males. As a result, Elisa demonstrates that there are no disparities in men’s and women’s strengths.

Mental process represents the boundaries between Elisa and Henry

The second process that dominates in the findings is the mental process. Mental process exemplifies the process of cognition, perception, desideration, and affection (Downing, 2015). Two participants in mental process are Senser and Phenomenon. Senser is the participant who thinks, feels, sees, and the other senses, while the Phenomenon is the thing that is perceived, liked, known, etc. Based on the findings, there are two Senser found in the narrator’s utterances, which are she and Elisa as the main female character. Moreover, in the characters’ utterances, there are two Senser, they are I which refers to Henry and Elisa, she, and you.

Specifically, mental process is the mechanism that allows us to coordinate our mental interactions with the outer environment, which includes human cognition, perception, affectivity,

and desideration. In the findings, the author creates the mental process through the use of the verb, such as look, watch, felt, and heard. Halliday (2014) stated that there are four types of verbs as Processes in the mental clause, which are perceptive, cognitive, desiderative, and emotive (p. 256). It is found that the fourth subtype of mental process found in the short story. The example of the mental process is described as follows.

Table 5. Example of mental process

Code		Clause		
TC/N/P1/04	Elisa	watched	them	for a moment
	Senser	Process	Phenomenon	Circumstances

In the example above, Elisa acts as the Senser who did the mental process that is indicated by the verb *watched*. Moreover, this verb is categorized as a perceptive mental process. The Phenomenon *them* refers to Henry and Henry’s client who buy his steers. They were characterized as two males dressed in business clothes who discussed machines. In addition, the Circumstance describes the information of Duration. Specifically, based on the verb *watched*, Elisa is not attempting to be involved in Henry’s business. Likewise, Henry seemed to be on his own business and did not invite Elisa to join him. In addition, the author also uses the verb *saw* to describe Elisa’s behaviour while dealing with Henry’s ranch. Therefore, through this clause, Elisa seems to use his perspective when it relates to the ranch business which is relatively managed by Henry.

Furthermore, the mental process reveals Henry’s utterance as a form of disrespect for Elisa’s interest. Elisa is described as a woman who has a passion for the cultivation of chrysanthemums. However, Henry consciously suggests Elisa change over to orchards and plant apples instead of planting flowers. The clause is presented as follows.

Table 6. Example of mental process

Code		Clause	
TC/C/P2/139	I	wish	you’d work out in the orchard
	Senser	Process	Phenomenon

Based on the example above, *I* refers to Henry’s role as the Senser who did the mental process that is indicated by the verb *wish*. Moreover, this verb is categorized as a desiderative mental process. Based on the verb *wish*, Henry expects Elisa to work on another outlet that he considered more useful, such as orchards and apples as productive outlets. It was clear that Henry was dissatisfied with Elisa. However, Henry’s statements inadvertently make Elisa feel undervalued especially towards her passion and productive outlet in the chrysanthemums.

Relational process represents Elisa Allen’s masculine appearance

The third process type found in the findings is the relational process. Relational process uses to identify and characterize (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). In this research, the relational process focuses on portraying the masculine appearance of Elisa Allen through each attribute attached to Elisa as the Carrier. Based on the findings, both patterns of relational process, which are Attributive and Identifying found in the findings. Moreover, there are two relations of Attributive pattern found, they are Intensive and Possesive. Furthermore, intensive identifying was also found.

In the attributive pattern, the Carrier is one participant who represents an entity. Another participant is Attribute, which characterises the Carrier. The example is presented below.

Table 7. Example of relational process

Code		Clause	
TC/N/P2/14	Her face	was	eager and mature and handsome
	Carrier	Process	Attribute

The clause above is uttered by the narrator to portray the physical appearance of Elisa Allen. In this clause, the narrator applies a masculine-related adjective, instead of the feminine one to describe Elisa’s face. For example, rather than using *beautiful*, the narrator chooses *handsome* to describe Elisa’s face. The clause that was previously explained describes the body part of Elisa, especially her face. The description of Elisa Allen’s masculine manner also appears in another clause as written as follows. Specifically, the narrator also describes the masculine appearance of Elisa Allen through her actions. Again, the author also portrays Elisa’s face by using another adjective as the attribute. The example is written as follows.

Table 8. Example of relational process

Code		Clause		
TC/N/P1/07	Her face	was	lean and strong	
	Carrier	Process	Attribute	

The clause above describes the physical appearance of Elisa Allen. The narrator attached Elisa Allen, which is the main woman character with the attribute *strong* which is relatively known as masculine qualities. The description of Elisa Allen’s masculine manner also appears in another clause as written as follows. Specifically, the narrator also describes the masculine appearance of Elisa Allen through her actions. The example is written as follows.

Table 9. Example of relational process

Code		Clause		
TC/N/P2/15	even her work	with the scissors	was	over-eager, over-powerful
	Carrier	Circumstances	Process	Attribute

In the clause above, the author describes the way Elisa works in her chrysanthemums. By utilizing the adjectives *over-eager* and *over-powerful* in this paragraph, the narrator clearly described Elisa’s method of working on her chrysanthemums. Apart from the narrator’s statement, the author also reveals the masculine side of Elisa through the characters’ utterances, which are Henry and Elisa.

Table 10. Example of relational process

Code		Clause		
TC/C/P10/160	You	look	strong enough	to break a calf over your knee
	Carrier	Process	Attribute	Circumstances

It could be seen that even Elisa’s husband expressed his acknowledgement regarding Elisa’s power of doing things. Henry specifically mentions Elisa’s physical part, her knee, to specify Elisa’s strength. Furthermore, Henry describes the object that Elisa may destroy with her power, which is *a calf*. Furthermore, Elisa agrees with Henry’s assessment that she is indeed a strong female figure.

Table 11. Example of relational process

Code		Clause		
TC/C/P10/161	I	‘m [am]	strong enough	
	Carrier	Process	Attribute	

In the clause above, it could be seen that Elisa consciously receives the attribute *strong* for herself. In addition, the attribute *strong* emphasizes the way Elisa does her work and the action that she takes.

Verbal process represents Elisa Allen as a straightforward person

The fourth process type found in the findings is the verbal process. A verbal process could be defined as the process of communicating and saying (Downing, 2015). Sayer acts as the one who

sends out a communicative signal, otherwise, Recipient is the one who receives the communicative signal. Moreover, Verbiage is the communicative signal itself. Sayer acts as the one who sends out a communicative signal, otherwise, Recipient is the one who receives the communicative signal. Moreover, Verbiage is the communicative signal itself.

Based on the findings, the author relatively uses the verbal process to describe how Elisa talks to other characters by using the verb said through the narrator's utterances. Moreover, the way Elisa speaks to other characters which are encoded by the use of Circumstance represents Elisa as a straightforward person.

Table 12. Example of verbal process

Code		Clause	
TC/N/P3/29	She	said	breathlessly
	Sayer	Process	Circumstances

In the clause above, the narrator explained the manner of speaking done by Elisa to her husband named Henry Allen. Moreover, the narrator uses the adverb *breathlessly* to describe it. Specifically, it is used to describe Elisa's rejection of her husband's invitation to go to the fights. He unhesitatingly said 'no' and stated that he was not interested. Furthermore, Elisa also has this manner when talking to the tinker.

Table 13. Example of verbal process

Code		Clause	
TC/N/P4/47	She	said	quickly
	Sayer	Process	Circumstances

The clause above is uttered by the narrator to describe how Elisa responds to the tinker's question. By using the adverb *quickly* the narrator portrays the way she talks to the tinker. In the story, Elisa does not hesitate to turn down the tinker's offers to fix the pots or sharpen scissors and knives. Apart from having nothing for the tinker to do, she believes she can do the job the tinker does.

Behavioural process represents Elisa's sensibility

The fifth process type found in the findings is the behavioural process. Behavioural process represents a transitional area between mental and material processes (Downing, 2015). Furthermore, the participant included in this process is Behaver, the one who acts in the process. Specifically, the behavioural process encodes physiological and psychological behaviour, therefore this process is relatively done by a human being. In the short story, the narrator relatively uses a behavioural process to portray the sensitivity of Elisa's psychological state.

Table 14. Example of behavioural process

Code		Clause	
TC/N/P12/135	She	was crying	weakly—like an old woman
	Behaver	Process	Circumstances

This example is uttered by the narrator to describe Elisa's psychological state when she found that the chrysanthemums seed that she gave previously to the tinker was thrown away on the road. Moreover, a cry can be defined to elicit tears from your eyes because you are sad or upset (Oxford English Dictionary, n.d.). Therefore, it could be seen that Elisa Allen expresses her disappointment with the tinker by crying. It could be understood that her sensitivity and feelings to an event are revealed through her behavioural state which represents through the verb *cry*.

Table 15. Example of behavioural process

Code	Clause		
TC/N/P6/53	Her eyes		shone
	Behaver		Process

Specifically, the clause above is uttered by the narrator to describe the behavioural state of Elisa while the tinker expresses his interest in Elisa’s Chrysanthemums. It made Elisa feel appreciated, therefore her eyes shine, which could be understood as the manifestation of her psychological state.

Existential process represents Elisa’s responsibility to her husband’s need

Existential process has the least amount in the findings. An existential process is a process which concerns the happening or existing (Downing, 2015). In other words, the existential process specifies the existence of certain objects. Existential process has a basic structure which is indicated by the presence of there in a clause, such as “there was a loud bang”. However, there is not categorized as a participant, since it does not have semantic content. In this process, there is a participant called an Existent, which refers to the entity or event that exists. Based on the findings, one utterance spoken by Elisa describes the implementation of her responsibilities toward her husband’s needs.

Table 16. Example of existential process

Code	Clause			
TC/C/P10/158	There	is	hot water	for your bath
		Process	Existent	Circumstances

Through this clause, Elisa shows her participation in the household chores. She stated this clause to her husband named Henry Allen. This clause shows Elisa’s participation in taking care of the things needed by her husband. Furthermore, this clause also shows Elisa’s responsibility for her husband’s needs.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings, stylistics could reveal how the main female character is portrayed in the short story through hard linguistics data, specifically transitivity process. In order to figure out the transitivity process in the short story, the representation of Elisa Allen is observed using the ideational metafunction based on Systemic Functional Grammar. As shown in the results and discussion section, each participant of the transitivity process discloses the main female character by depicting each action and utterance of the narrator and characters complemented with the circumstances that presents specific information.

It could be seen that the way Elisa works and the attributes attached to her portray Elisa’s masculine manner as manifested in the material and relational processes. Moreover, Elisa is described as a straightforward female figure through verbal process. Moreover, mental process, which depicts the boundaries between Elisa and her husband in their productive outlet expresses Elisa’s failure to achieve equality, in fact she is not appreciated by the men characters around her. In addition, the behavioral process depicts the opposite side of masculine acts depicted in the material process. The behavioral process portrays Elisa as a female character who has a high sensibility to people's treatment of her. Furthermore, existential process portrays Elisa as a wife who responsible to fulfill her husband's needs.

This research interprets that Elisa Allen is a woman who tries to express herself, but is often not appreciated in a world dominated by men. Moreover, Elisa’s efforts to be considered as having the same ability show failure. As this research conducts a stylistics analysis only at the grammatical level, it is suggested to other scholars to conduct a stylistics analysis in another level of languages, such as semantics and pragmatics to fully comprehend the main woman character in the short story based on the way characters utilize words in their situations.

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