

Original Article

Analysis of Transitivity in Joe Biden's 2023 Speech on United State of America Support for Israel and Ukraine

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Dikirim: July 7th, 2025

Direvisi: August 10th, 2025

Diterima: September 25th, 2025

Academic Editor: Tamar Law

Publisher's Note: Lembaga Penelitian dan Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat (LP2M), Universitas Mulawarman remains neutral With respect to jurisdictional claims in the figures or designs published in this journal.



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ABSTRACT: The language used by a head of state is not merely a means of communication but also an instrument for conveying political stance and policy. Therefore, Joe Biden's speech regarding U.S. support for Israel and Ukraine becomes a crucial point in global geopolitical dynamics. This study analyzes the transitivity processes in Joe Biden's speech, Remarks on the U.S. Response in Support of Israel and Ukraine (2023), to uncover the underlying thoughts and objectives using Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework. This research employs a qualitative method, with text analysis of Joe Biden's statements containing transitivity processes as the primary data source. The researcher found that Biden predominantly utilized material, mental, and relational processes to emphasize the United States' active involvement in military, diplomatic, and humanitarian efforts. The dominance of material, mental, and relational processes indicated Biden's active role in implementing policies, deploying military aid, expressing convictions and empathy, and constructing ideological values—thus reinforcing the United States' image as a decisive, morally grounded, and globally engaged actor.

KEYWORDS: transitivity process; political speech; Joe Biden; discourse analysis; SFL.

1. INTRODUCTION

In communication, individuals rely on a medium to convey messages, and this medium is known as language. Language can be utilized in two primary forms: direct and indirect communication. Direct communication refers to interactions where no intermediary is involved—typically occurring through spoken or oral language (Pasande et. al., 2022). Spoken language is most prominently manifested through speech, which refers to the structured articulation of thoughts using verbal expression, typically directed toward an audience or social group. As a fundamental medium of communication, language plays a crucial role in conveying clear and purposeful messages, thereby facilitating mutual understanding, promoting social cohesion, and strengthening interpersonal relationships. Keraf (1994) underscores the significance of language in the process of social integration, emphasizing its function in enabling individuals to interact effectively within social structures and coordinate actions while minimizing potential conflicts. Speech, as a communicative act, primarily serves three core functions: the dissemination of information, the persuasion and shaping of public opinion, and the provision of entertainment. A paradigmatic example of speech serving persuasive and motivational purposes is the political campaign speech. The connection between language and politics is anchored in the recognition of language as a strategic instrument employed to achieve specific socio-political objectives. Furthermore, political speeches are instrumental in stimulating civic participation, enhancing public comprehension of critical societal issues, and articulating proposed solutions. Moreover, it serves as a vital mechanism through which political actors seek to influence public sentiment, mobilize support, and align audiences with their ideological positions and policy agendas (Guswita & Suhardi, 2020).

How to cite this article: Utami NF, Alamsyah. Analysis of Transitivity in Joe Biden's 2023 Speech on United State of America Support for Israel and Ukraine. *Mulawarman J Soc Sci.* 2025; 1(1): 40-49.

Lembaga Penelitian dan Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat,
Universitas Mulawarman
ISSN: xxxx-xxxx

In a speech on October 20, 2023, Joe Biden emphasized his administration's support for Israel and Ukraine amid ongoing crises. He highlighted military aid, humanitarian assistance, and diplomatic backing, as well as foreign policy achievements in upholding democratic values and fostering global stability. Biden's vision for U.S. involvement in international affairs focused on safeguarding democracy and promoting peace through strategic partnerships. His leadership style, characterized by unity and a steady tone, sought to rally both Americans and the global community around shared values and goals. Biden's speech likely employed language that reflected his views on international cooperation, democracy, and the United States' role in global security.

Transitivity theory, a Systemic Functional Linguistics framework, can be used to analyze Biden's speech, which emphasized his administration's response to the Israel and Ukraine crisis. Biden highlighted military aid, diplomatic efforts, and economic sanctions, highlighting the United States' role in defending democratic values and providing assistance during conflict. The speech included participants from the United States, Israel, Ukraine, and their perspectives on governments and citizens.

A former study that has employed a similar approach to uncover the implications of transitivity processes in political speech is *Transitivity of President Jokowi's Speech Text at the G20 Event: Systemic Functional Linguistics Study* by Siska Hardiyanti et.al. (2023). The analysis revealed the presence of mental, relational, behavioral, and verbal processes, with material processes being the most dominant. Participants roles included both humans (Participant I) and abstract entities (Participant II). Among the various types of circumstances identified—extent, cause, matter, and function—manner was the most frequently occurring.

Another notable study on political speech using transitivity analysis is *Transitivity Analysis of Systemic Functional Grammar on Indonesian State Speech of Joko Widodo* by Margaret Stevani et.al. (2023). The analysis of President Joko Widodo's speech revealed the use of five process types: material, relational, mental, verbal, and existential, with material processes being the most dominant. Additionally, the speech prominently featured Marked Themes, indicating a deliberate emphasis on specific subjects to highlight key messages and priorities. Previous studies have consistently demonstrated that political speeches often utilize material processes to foreground the actions undertaken by the speaker, thereby reinforcing their authority, agency, and political influence. A transitivity analysis within the framework of systemic functional linguistics allows for a nuanced understanding of how political discourse constructs and conveys power relations. In particular, examining the use of transitivity in the speeches of global political leaders reveals how linguistic structures are strategically employed to reflect and propagate specific ideological positions

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Critical Discourse Analysis

Fairclough et.al. (in Catalano & Waugh, 2020) emphasize the significance of studying the relationship between language, ideology, power, and social structure, particularly social inequality, in language and communication. Critical Discourse Analysis critically examines discourse, with a focus on its influence on power and ideology, which shape its use, effects, and reflect the interests, positions, perspectives, and values of those in power. Critical Discourse Analysis typically adopts a normative stance, assessing what is right and wrong and addressing social injustices in their discursive aspects, as well as exploring possible ways to rectify or mitigate these issues. Fairclough (2010) underscores the importance of uncovering the hidden effects of discourse to promote social change and justice.

Unlike other sociolinguistic approaches, Critical Discourse Analysis is rooted in context, drawing on extra linguistic factors such as social processes and structures (Wodak & Myers, 2001). Myers emphasizes that CDA's findings are both practical and relevant, making it a valuable tool for understanding discursive practices. Critical Discourse Analysis refers to a methodological approach that explores the connection between language and social structures, focusing on the ways in which discourse constructs and reflects societal realities. Therefore, analytical studies and scholarly articles should prioritize the examination of linguistic elements as a core aspect of their analysis (Yasmin & Alamsyah, 2024). It highlights the role of language in shaping social power relations, identifying disparities in power and knowledge due to unequal access to linguistic resources, such as higher education, and illustrating how these imbalances can be detected through language analysis. This approach allows for inferences the speaker's objectives, which may not be evident without considering the broader social context.

2.2. Systemic Functional Linguistics

Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is a problem-oriented theory designed to identify and address external linguistic issues rather than merely generating problems within its own theoretical framework. This approach bridges the divide between theoretical and applied linguistics, thereby enhancing the understanding of language and its practical applications (Halliday, 2009). Systemic Functional Linguistics is a functional approach to linguistics that focuses on how meaning is constructed and interpreted within specific social and cultural

contexts. Systemic Functional Linguistics emphasizes the importance of context in understanding a text. Text is a functional language unit within a social context, which is determined by the text. To fully comprehend a text, it is crucial to understand the situational and cultural contexts. Situational context refers to the environment in which a text is used, while cultural context refers to the presentation environment (Hardiyanti et al., 2023).

Halliday (1994) argues that language serves three primary metafunctions: ideational, interpersonal, and textual. However, this study specifically concentrates on the transitivity system, which represents the ideational function—also known as the experiential or representational function—used to uncover meaning grounded in the speaker's personal experiences. The ideational metafunction conceptualizes the clause as a representation of reality, encompassing the speaker's experience of both external realities and internal consciousness, including reactions, cognitions, perceptions, and linguistic acts. The interpersonal metafunction focuses on establishing and maintaining interaction between the speaker and the listener, emphasizing the use of language as an instrument of exchange. This metafunction involves the speaker's engagement in speech events, the expression of attitudes, evaluations, and comments, and the establishment of relationships with the listener. Lastly, the textual metafunction concerns the organization and structuring of ideational and interpersonal meanings within a coherent text, shaping the clause as a message.

2.3. Transitivity Process

The transitivity system is part of the experiential metafunction, which operates at the clause level, where clauses represent human experience through processes such as doing, happening, feeling, or being (Halliday, 1985). Transitivity involves analyzing a text through the lens of the experiential function, focusing on how language represents actions, processes, and experiences. It examines the grammatical choices made—such as the selection of process types, participants, and circumstances—to understand how meaning is constructed and how experiences are encoded in language (Lubisa et al., 2023). Moreover, Eggins (2004) states that transitivity is related to the choice of the type of process and the role of the participant that is realized into the reality of experience. There are three major types in English: material processes, mental processes, and relational processes. Additionally, there are three minor process types: behavioral processes, verbal processes, and existential processes (Halliday & Matthiesen, 2004).

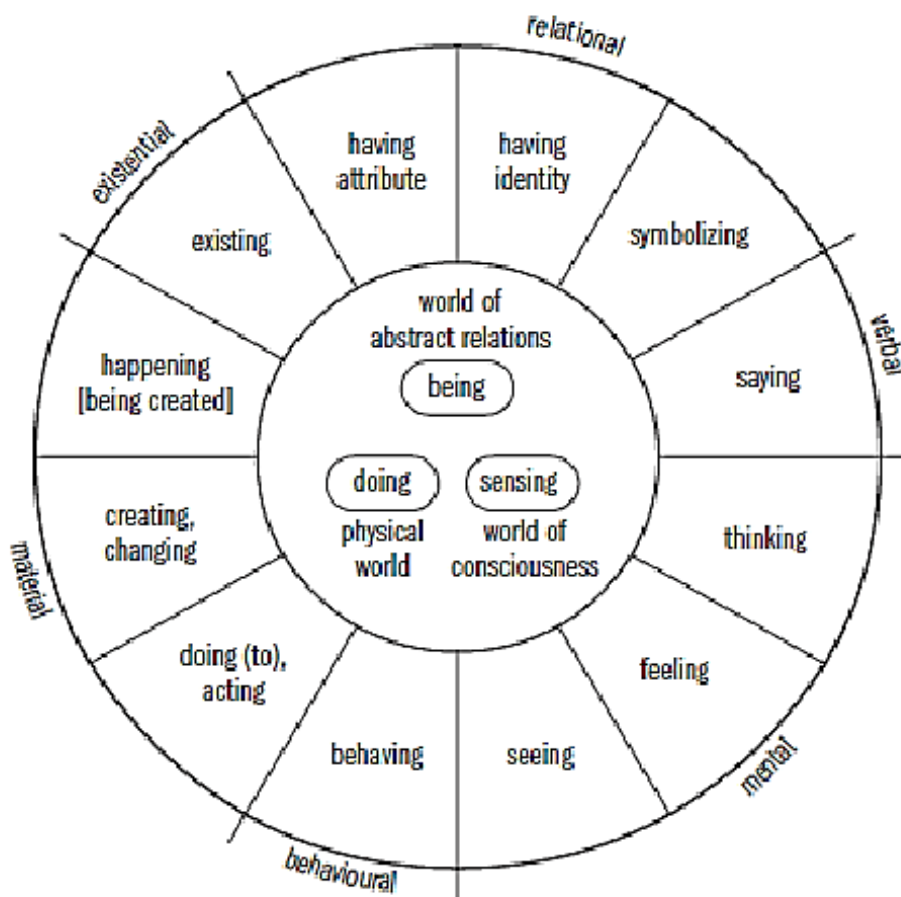


Figure 1. Types of process in English (Halliday, 2004).

Material processes refer to actions or activities performed by an entity. Fundamentally, these processes indicate that a participant engages in a specific action or undertaking. Such action involves distinct participants, which are typically represented by nominal groups (Eggins, 2004). In material clauses, a key participant is the Actor, who performs the action, and the Goal, which represents the entity affected by the action—essentially the extension or outcome of the process. In many transitive clauses, a Recipient may also be present, indicating the one who benefits from or receives the outcome of the action. These roles help clarify who is doing what to whom, and how the process unfolds within the clause (Ali et.al., 2021).

Mental processes are those representing cognition, emotion, and perception, distinguishing them from material processes by their focus on mental responses rather than physical actions. According to Halliday (in Eggins, 2004), mental process verbs are divided into three types: cognition, affection, and perception. In mental processes, there must be at least one conscious participant—usually a human or an anthropomorphized entity—known as the Senser. The Senser is the one who experiences, feels, thinks, or perceives something. The second participant is the Phenomenon, which refers to the entity, idea, or experience that is being mentally processed, emotionally felt, or perceptually noticed by the Senser (Eggins, 2004).

Relational process is a fundamental component of the transitivity system that signifies relationships between entities, often involving attributes or identities. This process is broadly categorized into two types: attributive relations, which associate a subject with its attribute, and identifying relations, which establish equivalence between two entities (Eggins, 2004). In relational attributive clauses, the typical participant roles are the Carrier (the entity being described) and the Attribute (provides information about its quality, classification, or identity). In contrast, relational identifying clauses usually involve the roles of Token (the entity being identified) and Value (defines or specifies what the Token is) (Ali et.al., 2021).

Behavioral processes typically represent physiological and psychological behaviors. These processes involve a conscious being but do not project ideas (Eggins, 2004). Behavioral clauses are considered an intermediate type in the transitivity system, exhibiting characteristics that blend both material and mental processes. The participant in these clauses is usually referred to as the Behaver, who is the conscious entity performing the behavior (Ali et.al., 2021).

Verbal processes refer to verbal actions, including speech, communication, and symbolic exchanges of meaning (Eggins, 2004). However, verbal processes encompass more than just direct acts of speaking. They include various modes of saying, such as asking, commanding, offering, and stating. Additionally, verbal processes cover semiotic processes—forms of meaning-making that may not involve spoken language. These can include showing, indicating, or signaling, where communication occurs through signs, gestures, or other non-verbal means, yet still conveys intended meaning within an interactional context. The central participant is the Sayer, the entity responsible for producing the verbal or semiotic message. Other participants may also be involved are the Receiver, refers to the individual or group to whom the message is directed—the addressee, and the Target, refers to the entity that is affected by the speech act, often the person or thing being talked about or acted upon through language (Ali et.al., 2021).

Existential processes construct experience by asserting the existence of an entity or event, typically through the structure “there was/is something”. These processes are identifiable by the presence of the word “There”, which, in this context serves a grammatical rather than a representation function, fulfilling the syntactic requirement for a subject in English clauses (Eggins, 2004). Existential clauses share some similarity with relational clauses in that they both express a kind of being or existence. However, they differ fundamentally in structure and function. Existential clauses typically involve only one participant, known as the Existent, which refers to the entity that is said to exist or occur (Ali et.al., 2021).

3. MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

Describe systematically the implementation of service activities, the writing is made concisely and the implementation system used can be understood and applied by the reader. The method employed in this study adopts a qualitative descriptive approach. According to Bogdan and Taylor (1992), qualitative research generates descriptive data from individuals and behaviors through written or spoken words, with an emphasis on understanding holistic settings and contexts. Cresswell (2014) underscores the significance of the descriptive qualitative approach in research, highlighting its ability to investigate social phenomena and human problems. This methodology prioritizes the exploration of reality and the close relationship between the researcher and the subject, with the aim of understanding the meanings individuals or groups ascribe to social or human issues. The source of data in research is where the data is obtained. The data source for this study is the textual transcript and video of Joe Biden's speech, retrieved from the Miller Center website: <https://millercenter.org/the-presidency/presidential-speeches/october-20-2023-remarks-us-response-support-israel-and-ukraine>. The researcher specifically selected one speech, titled *Remarks on the U.S. Response in Support of Israel and Ukraine*, delivered on Friday, October 20, 2023. The data analysis for this study focuses on the narrative structure and

linguistic features of Joe Biden's speech. In qualitative research, the researcher plays a central role as the main instrument. The researcher defines the focus, collects and analyzes data, and draws conclusion. According to Bogdan & Biklen (1998), the researcher serves as the principal tool for data collection, emphasizing the importance of the researcher's skills, intuition, and ability to engage with participants. The analysis in this study was grounded in Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), with a particular focus on the transitivity system, which explores how language represents processes of doing, thinking, being, and saying. This study investigates transitivity process in Joe Biden's speech using a structured data collection approach. The researcher reviewed the full transcript, identified relevant excerpts, and organized the data based on transitivity theory for detailed analysis.

4. RESULT

The findings of this study were obtained by analyzing the data using Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework, which focused on the six types of transitivity processes: material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal, and existential. From the overall analysis, it was found that the most dominant transitivity process was the material process, followed by the mental process, relational process, verbal process, existential process, and behavioral process.

Table 1 Percentage of Number of Appearances of Process Type

No	Process	Number of occurrences	Occurrence percentage
1	Material process	40	35.4%
2	Mental process	25	22.12%
3	Relational process	23	20.35%
4	Verbal process	18	15.93%
5	Existential process	4	3.54%
6	Behavioral process	3	2.65%
Amount		113	100%

The dominance of material process indicated Biden's emphasis on concrete actions, such as military support, humanitarian assistance, and proactive foreign policy. The frequent use of mental processes reflected his attempt to convey emotion, conviction, and moral positioning to his audience, while relational processes were employed to construct national identity and reinforce ideological values. Furthermore, the presence of verbal processes showed the significance of communication and diplomacy in his rhetoric. Although existential and behavioral processes were less frequent, they contributed to the discourse by asserting the presence of significant issues and expressing human reactions to conflict.

4.1. Material Process

Material processes pertained to actions and activities, representing processes of doing. These processes typically involved concrete and tangible actions, emphasizing observable physical activities (Eggs, 2004). In the speech, Biden frequently used material processes to describe actions and events related to U.S. military aid and humanitarian support, emphasizing the U.S. and its allies' active role in global crises. The examples of the type of material processes found are:

E1. "I returned from Israel."

<i>I</i>	<i>returned</i>	<i>from Israel</i>
Actor	Process: Material	Goal

The pronoun "I" in this context referred to the "actor", the individual who performed the action. The verb "returned" functioned as a material process, indicating movement from one place to another. The verb "return" signified a physical action undertaken by the subject "I", indicating a change in their location. Meanwhile, the phrase "from Israel" served as a circumstantial element, providing additional details about the location and the starting point of the return journey.

E2. "I met with the Prime Minister and members of his cabinets."

<i>I</i>	<i>met</i>	<i>with the Prime Minister and members of his cabinets</i>
Actor	Process: Material	Goal

The sentence "I met with the Prime Minister and members of his cabinet" presented a complex case within Halliday's Transitivity framework, as the verb "meet" had both material and mental connotations. While it might have involved relational aspects, its primary meaning in this context was material, specifically denoting an action

of convening or engaging in discussion. The phrase “met with” signified a purposeful interaction, such as discussion, negotiation, or exchange of information. It did not merely indicate the state of being in someone's presence but rather an active engagement in a shared activity.

E3. “We will defend every inch of NATO”

<i>We</i>	<i>will defend</i>	<i>every inch of NATO</i>
Actor	Process: Material	Goal

The phrase “will defend” served as the material process because “defend” was the core of the clause, representing a physical action that also involved strategic and tactical considerations. In this sentence, “we” functioned as the “actor”, referring to the entity that carried out the action. The phrase “every inch of NATO” functioned as the “goal”, representing the entity that was defended or affected by the action. The verb “every inch” metaphorically emphasized that the entirety of NATO's territory was included in the defense.

4.2. Mental Process

According to Eggins (2004), individuals did not exclusively engage in discussions about concrete processes of doing. Instead, they frequently focused on thoughts and emotions rather than physical actions. Biden's mental processes showcased his emotional appeal, expressing intentions, empathy, and shared values, thereby connecting with both American citizens and global audiences. Examples of the types of mental processes found in data are:

E4. “We have to be honest with ourselves.”

<i>We</i>	<i>have to be honest</i>	<i>with ourselves</i>
Senser	Process: Mental	Phenomenon

In this sentence, “we” functioned as the “senser”, the phrase “have to be honest” referred to a cognitive mental process, and the phrase “with ourselves” served as the “phenomenon”. This sentence conveyed the idea that the subject (we) had to recognize the truth and be honest with themselves, which was a reflective mental activity. Although the verb phrase “have to be” structurally appeared similar to a relational process, its meaning was actually closer to a mental process because it involved awareness or introspection.

E5. “I am heartbroken by the tragic loss of Palestinian life.”

<i>I</i>	<i>am heartbroken</i>	<i>by the tragic loss of Palestinian life</i>
Senser	Process: Mental	Phenomenon

In this context, “I” was the one experiencing heartbreak or feeling the emotion. The verb “am heartbroken” referred to an internal emotional state rather than an external action, as it aligned with affective mental processes, which described emotions like happiness, sadness, love, anger, and grief. The verb “am” in this context signified the emotional state attributed to the speaker. The “phenomenon” triggered an emotional reaction and referred to the event or experience to which the speaker responded. The “tragic loss of Palestinian life” was the external event that triggered the emotion.

E6. “I felt something I've always believed more strongly than ever before.”

<i>I</i>	<i>felt</i>	<i>something I've always believed</i>	<i>more strongly than ever before</i>
Senser	Process: Mental	Phenomenon	Circumstance

In this context, “I” is the “senser”, the participant who senses or realizes something. The verb “felt” represented an internal experience, referring to a realization or a strengthening of belief. Specifically, it constituted a mental process of perception, in which the speaker became aware of something. The phrase “something I've always believed” represented the “phenomenon”. It was not merely “something”, but the entire idea of the belief being held more strongly. The phrase “more strongly than ever before” emphasized the intensity of the mental experience, indicating that the belief had been felt with greater strength than before. This modification reinforced the idea that the process was cognitive or emotional, rather than physical.

4.3. Relational Process

Relational processes functioned to characterize and identify entities. Within these clauses, the concept of “being” comprised two components, wherein one entity was defined or associated with another. In other words, they established a relational link between two distinct entities (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004). Relational

processes were utilized to establish connections, establish ideological stances, and underscore the values that underpinned U.S. policies. The examples of the type of relational processes found are:

E7. *"Israel is stronger than ever."*

<i>Israel</i>	<i>is</i>	<i>stronger than ever</i>
Carrier	Process: Relational	Attribute

In the transitivity structure, "Israel" functioned as the "carrier", possessing a certain quality or state associated with it. The verb "is" represented as an attributive relational process, linking the "carrier" to the "attribute" without implying any active action performed by Israel. Meanwhile, "stronger than ever" acted as the "attribute", describing the quality or state attributed to the "carrier", emphasizing that Israel had become stronger. Additionally, the phrase "than ever" served as a "circumstance of degree", indicating that Israel's condition was stronger compared to previous times, thereby reinforcing the notion of significant improvement.

E8. *"We're a nation of religious freedom."*

<i>We</i>	<i>are</i>	<i>a nation of religious freedom</i>
Token	Process: Relational	Value

In this clause, "we" functioned as the "identified/token", referring to a group—specifically, the nation or country that was represented in the sentence. The verb "are" served as the relational process, while the phrase "a nation of religious freedom" functioned as the "identifier/value". This sentence was used to affirm national identity based on the principle of religious freedom. In political or social discourse, this statement was often employed to construct a national image and reinforce the values upheld by a country.

E9. *"We are the United States of America."*

<i>We</i>	<i>are</i>	<i>the United States of America</i>
Token	Process: Relational	Value

The clause "we are the United States of America" exemplified an identifying relational process, where "we" served as the "identified/token", "are" functioned as the identifying relational process, and "the United States of America" acted as the "identifier/value". In this case, "we" was not merely described as possessing a particular attribute but was explicitly identified as "the United States of America". By asserting "we are the United States of America", the speaker not only defined who "we" were but also reinforced a sense of national pride and solidarity among the audience.

4.4. Verbal Process

As stated by Eggins (2004), verbal processes referred to processes of verbal action, encompassing saying and its various synonyms, including symbolic exchange of meaning. Verbal processes formed a clause complex by projecting a second clause through either quoting or reporting. Biden's verbal processes demonstrated his dedication to communication and dialogue, serving as a mediator and spokesperson for democratic values. The examples of the type of verbal processes found are:

E10. *"All Ukraine is asking for is help"*

<i>All Ukraine</i>	<i>is asking</i>	<i>for is help</i>
Sayer	Process: Verbal	Verbiage

The sentence "All Ukraine is asking for help" could be categorized as a verbal process because it involved an act of speaking, requesting, or conveying a message. In this clause, "All Ukraine" functioned as the "sayer", referring to the Ukrainian government, the people of Ukraine, or a collective representation of the nation. The phrase "is asking for" represented the verbal process, indicating a communicative act in the form of a request or appeal. Meanwhile, the word "help" served as the *verbiage*, representing the content of the request made by "All Ukraine".

E11. *"He claims the Soviet Union created Ukraine."*

<i>He</i>	<i>claims</i>	<i>the Soviet Union created Ukraine</i>
Sayer	Process: Verbal	Verbiage

In the transitivity structure, "He" functioned as the "sayer" (the entity performing the speech act), "claims" served as the verbal process, and "the Soviet Union created Ukraine" acted as the "verbiage" (the content of the

statement being conveyed). The verb "claims" in this clause did not simply indicate stating or asserting something; rather, it suggested that the statement was a claim — a declaration that might have been contested or not universally accepted as factual. In political and historical discourse, the use of "claims" often implied that the speaker presented a subjective interpretation or a particular version of events, rather than an objective or undisputed fact.

4.5. Existential Process

As outlined by Eggins (2004), existential processes represent experience by indicating the existence of an entity, typically expressed through the construction "there is" or "there exist". These processes were distinguishable by their structural reliance on the word "there". Existential processes emphasized the existence and importance of critical issues or threats. The examples of the type of existential processes found are:

E12. *"There are innocent people all over the world who hope because of us."*

<i>There</i>	<i>are</i>	<i>innocent people all over the world</i>	<i>who hope because of us</i>
Process: Existential	Existent	Circumstance	

The clause "there are" functioned as the central process, indicating existence. The existential process was used to assert that something existed, in this context, "innocent people" scattered globally. The phrase "there are" was a common construction used to introduce the existence of something, in this context, "innocent people". The "existent" in the sentence was "innocent people all over the world", referring to the individuals whose existence was being affirmed. The clause "who hope because of us" provided additional information about these people's emotional state and the cause of their hope.

E13. *"There is no higher priority for me than the safety of Americans held hostage."*

<i>There</i>	<i>is</i>	<i>no higher priority</i>	<i>for me than the safety of Americans held hostage</i>
Process: Existential	Existent	Circumstance	

In this sentence, "There is" functioned as the existential process, used to assert the absence of anything more important than the safety of the hostages. The phrase "no higher priority" served as the existent, representing the concept whose presence (or absence) was being asserted. Meanwhile, the phrase "for me than the safety of Americans held hostage" functioned as a circumstance, specifying that the statement reflected the speaker's personal perspective or prioritization. Although "no higher priority" referred to an abstract concept rather than a concrete entity, it still qualified within an existential process, as it concerned the existence or non-existence of a priority. By affirming that "no higher priority" existed, the speaker sought to emphasize that this issue was paramount on their political agenda, reinforcing their commitment to addressing it.

4.5. Behavioral Process

Halliday semantically characterized these processes as between material and mental processes. In other words, the meanings they convey occupy a position between material and mental processes. These processes involve action, but the action must be experienced by a conscious being (Eggins, 2004). Behavioral processes, although less frequent, depicted physical or emotional responses, highlighting human reactions to events. The examples of the type of behavioral processes found are:

E14. *"We mourn every innocent life lost."*

<i>We</i>	<i>mourn</i>	<i>every innocent life lost</i>
Behavior	Process: Behavioral	Circumstance

In this context, the verb "mourn" is classified as a behavioral process, as it describes an emotional reaction with an observable external expression. Mourning is a complex psychological process that involved both internal and external emotional responses, such as crying, speaking solemnly, and reflecting on the loss. Thus, mourning constitutes a multifaceted emotional state, encompassing sadness, grief, and loss, which are often expressed within a social context, such as in public or collective settings.

E15. *"They're watching our response in Ukraine as well."*

<i>They</i>	<i>are watching</i>	<i>our response in Ukraine as well</i>
Behavior	Process: Behavioral	Circumstance

In this context, the verb “watching” was classified as a behavioral process, referring to an outward perceptual action with an internal psychological component, involving perceiving and interpreting events. The verb “watching” entailed both sensory input (physical observation) and cognitive processing (interpreting or understanding the observed response). This characterized it as a behavioral process that encompassed external actions, such as observation, looking, and perceiving, which were driven by mental or emotional engagement.

5. DISCUSSION

This study concludes that Joe Biden's 2023 speech, “*Remarks on the U.S. Response in Support of Israel and Ukraine*”, effectively employed transitivity processes to communicate political intent and influence public perception. Using Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework, the researcher analyzed selected speech excerpts and found a predominance of material processes (35.4%), emphasizing real actions such as military aid and humanitarian efforts. This reinforced Biden's portrayal as an action—driven leader. Mental processes (22.12%), were used to express empathy and moral concern, fostering emotional connection with the audience. Relational processes (20.35%) helped construct national identity and reinforce ideological values. Relational processes functioned as rhetorical strategies to solidify a sense of collective identity and to legitimize leadership narratives. Verbal processes (15.93%) served to highlight the role of communication, diplomacy, and authoritative discourse in shaping public narratives. These processes underscored the strategic use of speech acts to convey commitments, issue reassurances, and engage with domestic and international audiences. Although less frequent, existential (3.54%) and behavioral (2.65%) processes also contributed to the emotional texture of the speech. Existential clauses were employed to assert the presence of conflict or crisis, while behavioral processes conveyed human responses and emotional engagement, thereby enhancing the speech's affective dimension. When compared to previous studies, Biden's speech was distinctive in its balanced use of both concrete actions (material processes) and emotional appeals (mental and behavioral processes). Biden's rhetoric placed a strong emphasis on empathy and humanitarian values, particularly in the context of international conflict. This combination of pragmatic action and moral engagement set Biden's speech apart, highlighting a more nuanced approach to leadership that integrated both action-oriented and emotionally resonant communication strategies

6. CONCLUSION

The study examined the transitivity processes in Joe Biden's speech titled “*Remarks on the U.S. Response in Support of Israel and Ukraine 2023*”, using the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). The analysis revealed that Biden employed various transitivity processes, including material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioral, and existential, to convey his administration's stance on international crises and reinforce the U.S.'s role as a global leader. Material processes emphasized tangible actions such as military aid and diplomatic efforts, portraying the U.S. as an active agent in global affairs. Mental processes convey empathy and moral concern, humanizing his leadership and fostering emotional connection with his audience. Relational processes established ideological stances, highlighting values such as democracy and global stability. Verbal processes underscored Biden's role as a communicator and advocate, engaging stakeholders such as Congress and the international community. The findings extended insight from previous studies, highlighting Biden's balanced use of material and mental processes, suggesting a leadership narrative that combines compassion with strength, aligning with democratic values.

Acknowledgements: -

Author Contributions: -

Funding Source: -

Conflict of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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