CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Our experience of reality is captured in terms of processes or “goings-on”: happening, doing, sensing, being, saying, behaving, becoming and existing. These processes constitute the transitivity system of language. In transitivity analysis, we explore how language construes our experience of the world around us (Halliday, 1985:101).

News coverage of important events is an interesting object for the study of transitivity. The interesting and compact language in writing a news, the limited amount of space that is available, and the need to communicate what has happened in attention-grabbing way, can be expressed in the choices of transitivity process. The transitivity processes in writing a news can be indicative the ideological point of view from the writer or publisher. When reading a news, we consider who is being described as doing what and to whom. So, we can give our impression of the events that the news goes on to describe.

Guoqing (2005) in his journal said that transitivity patterns as clausal realizations of experiential meanings can be influenced by the genre to which the text belongs. His investigation of the occurrence and distribution of process types in his data reveals that the narrative text as a genre is featured by a high frequency of material processes. The major process that features descriptive text is relational process. The choice of transitivity in text is conditioned by its communicative purpose. He concluded that transitivity analysis provides important linguistic clues to the identification of genres or text types.
So, language, text, transitivity and genre are related each other in order to get meaning or idea of a discourse. This relationship is explained below.

Language is a fundamental mean of communication which is commonly used in spoken and written, as Hornby (1995:662) said that language is a system of sound and meaning. Beside it has a system of meaning, language is also accompanied by forms through which the meaning can be realized (Halliday, 1985:xiv). The form here means the grammatical structure of the language. Grammar is needed to get meaning in language and it is discussed in functional grammar, as Gerot and Wignell (1994:2) said that Functional grammar views language as a resource for making meaning.

Halliday’s Systemic Functional Linguistic Theory (SFLT) is a theory which talks about language and functional grammar. This theory claims that language is functional. Language is organized in three functional components of meaning which is known as metafunction of language: 1) language is used to represent human experiences which is called as ideational function, 2) language is used to enact human relationship which is called as interpersonal function, and 3) language is used to organize human experiences in text which is called as textual function (Halliday, 1985:xiii).

The ideational function of language has two sub functions, the logical function and the experiential function. The logical function views language as natural logic, while the experiential function views language as the representation of human experiences. The transitivity system belongs to the experiential function in which through that system, we can represent our experiences in clauses. Those clauses consist of processes which express what goes on in reality. So, the relation between
language and its grammatical structure is realized in transitivity system to see how people use language in order to understand it.

On the other hand, Sinar (2002:16) has a different point of view about language. She said that language is seen and treated as social phenomenon in which we learn language means not to learn language per se (it self) but to learn language and beyond. And this is where social aspects and dimensions come in and become part of its overall study of language. It means that language is also related to its social context. This case is also supported by Martin and Rose (2007:4) who said that in SFL, discourse analysis interfaces with the analysis of grammar and the analysis of social activity. Therefore, in analyzing a discourse is based on the grammar (in this thesis is focused on the transitivity system) and its social context.

Social context consists of two context, context of situation (the situation in which the language is used) and context of culture (the cultural and environmental condition which support the language used) (Halliday, 2003:196-197). Context of culture is realized in genre of text. Genre is the types of text, such as narrative text, procedure text, argumentation text, exposition text, news item, etc, as Martin and Rose (2007:8) said that genre refers to different types of texts that enact various types of social contexts. According to them, genre is a staged, goal-oriented, social process. Social because we participate in genres with other people; goal-oriented because we use genres to get things done; staged because it usually takes us a few steps to reach our goals. So, genre can unfold and manage new information and interact appropriately and strategically.

In addition, Sinar (2002:41) said that SFLT views language as an expression of social behaviour in context. She added that the notion of genre is an attempt to capture the functional elements that people in general would get. The functional
elements are commonly called as intention, aim, objective, goal or purpose of text. Therefore, it is believed that every social interaction as human activity of a given culture, or every human discourse in text must have a goal or purpose which is culture specific. The goal is believed to be one of the motivating or determining factors in the development of social interaction or text creation of a particular type. When speakers of a certain culture use a language, they interact socially and become producers of a genre. Because of that, a language that belongs to a certain culture, means genre is a product of this culture. That is why genre belongs to context of culture.

Each genre has its own structure and features. Halliday uses the term \textit{generic structure} to recognize the structures of a genre which gives a text a complete characterization of texture. Then, Martin calls the structure as \textit{schematic structure} which is equivalent to Halliday’s generic structure. Schematic structure represents an overall organizational pattern of genre in text. The genre of a text can be identified based on its linguistic features. And this linguistic features can be realized by the transitivity system, especially in term of process.

The application of the language used can be seen in massmedia, such as radio, television or internet, especially the language that is used to deliver a news, because news tells about the actual events in certain time. Reah (1998:4) says, “News is a late Middle English word that means tidings, new informations of recent events”. On the other word, news is the communication of selected information on current events which is presented by print, broadcast, internet, or word of mouth to a third-party or mass audience.
News item is a unique type of text which has a range of function that specifically dictate its shape, content and structure and it operates within a range of restrictions that limit the freedom of the writer in writing news (Reah, 1998:13). According to Gerot and Wignell (1994:200), the function of news item is to inform readers, listeners or viewers about events of the day which are considered newsworthy or important. They also characterize news item into three structures: newsworthy event (to retell the event in summary form), background events (to elaborate the events), and sources (the comments of participants in, witness to and authorities expert on the event).

Another characteristic of news item can be seen based on the linguistic features, as the following: the short information about the event is captured in headline; use of material process to retell the event; use of projecting verbal process in source stage; and focus on circumstances. The relation between genre and transitivity process is realized through the linguistic features.

As the additional information about genre and transitivity process, there is a previous analysis that analyzed the transitivity process and narrative structure in selected Indonesian folktales. Frismatiladanis (2009) in her thesis said that there are complete structures of narrative genre in some folktales. They are abstract, orientation, complication, evaluation, resolution, and coda. Then, the linguistic features in the stories help her to identify the genre of the text, especially through the transitivity process. Finally, she found that material process is the most dominant type of transitivity in the folktales and it is the characteristic of narrative text.

In relation to the news item, Andriyani (2008) chose worldviews articles of Newsweek as the object of her analysis. In this thesis, she only analyzed the transitivity process in three worldviews articles which talk about politic, turbulence
in Iraq and China’s nationalism. She found that material process is the most dominant type of transitivity in those articles. Then, Tarigan (2009) in his thesis entitled “A Transitivity Analysis in Selected Articles of Time Magazine” also found that material process is the most dominant type of transitivity. The articles talk about politic. So, both of the thesis can prove that material process is the most dominant type of transitivity in news item especially in the topic of politic, turbulence and nationalism.

In this thesis, the writer chose five selected news of VOA News to be analyzed. VOA (Voice of America) is the official broadcast institution of the United States federal government. It is one of five civilian U.S international broadcasters working under the umbrella of the Broadcasting Broad of Governors (BBG). VOA provides a wide range of programming for broadcasting on radio, television and the internet outside of the US. VOA produces about 1.500 hours of news and feature programming every week for a global audience, it is about 123 million people to promote freedom and democracy and to enhance understanding through multimedia communication of accurate, objective, and balanced news, informations and other programming about America and the world to audiences overseas. VOA publishes the up to date news with many different topics that describe the important and recent events from all over the world. The popularity of VOA makes the writer interested to analyze the news in it. In addition, the clauses of the news in VOA are complicated. So, it is interested to analyze them based on the transitivity process.

The writer chose five recent news with different topics in VOA official website (www.voanews.com) which are published on 16th, 17th, and 18th March 2014. The five selected news are: Festival Brings Musicians and Fans to Austin, Texas (published on 16th March 2014) talks about the live music festival in Austin, Texas;
Indonesian Officials Crackdown on Child Political Campaigners (published on 17th March 2014) talks about the comment of the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) toward child political campaigners; Active MRI Shows How Joints Work (published on 18th March 2014) talks about magnetic resonance imaging machines (MRI scanners) which can show how body joints work; General Motors Recalls Another 1.5 Million Vehicles for Repairs (published on 18th March 2014) talks about the biggest U.S. automaker, General Motors that recalls 1.5 million vehicles for repairs; and Obama, Kerry Meet Abbas in Push for Peace Talk Progress (published on 18th August 2014) talks about the meeting of U.S. Secretary of state, John Kerry, Barack Obama and Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas in push the peace negotiation between Israel and Palestinians.

The topics of the five selected news are about entertainment, politic, science and technology, business, and America-Middle East relationship. The different topics of the news make the writer interested to analyze them to see whether the topic of the news can influence the transitivity system of the news or not. Gerot and Wignell (1994:69) said that relational processes play a key role in subjects such as science, geography, mathematics and economics. One of the five selected news talks about science. It means that relational processes play a key role in that news. As the example, the writer quotes a paragraph of a news in VOA News which talks about science, as the following:

Since its introduction in the 1980s, magnetic resonance imaging machines, commonly known as MRI scanners, have become a highly valuable tool in diagnostic medicine. Researchers in California now say they have developed a new method that enables them to see moving images of body joints. (VOA News, 18th March 2014)
Part of the news can be separated into six simple clauses, as the following:

1. Since its introduction in the 1980s, magnetic resonance imaging machines, commonly known as MRI scanners,

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<tr>
<th>Since its introduction in the 1980s</th>
<th>magnetic resonance imaging machines,</th>
<th>commonly known as MRI scanners</th>
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<tr>
<td>Carrier</td>
<td>Circ: time</td>
<td>Relational: attributive</td>
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2. Have become a highly valuable tool in diagnostic medicine.

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<th>Have become a highly valuable tool in diagnostic medicine</th>
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<tr>
<td>Relational: attributive Attribute Circ: matter</td>
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3. Researchers in California now say

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<th>Researchers in California now say</th>
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<td>Sayer Verbal</td>
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4. They have developed a new method

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<th>They have developed a new method</th>
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<tr>
<td>Actor Material: dispositive Goal</td>
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5. That enables them

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<th>That enables them</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Material: dispositive Goal</td>
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6. To see moving images of body joints.

<table>
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<th>To see moving images of body joints</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mental: perception Phenomenon</td>
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The text above belongs to newsworthy event. In this part, the writer of the news retells the event briefly. We could find verbal process used to retell the event in this part. Based on the linguistic features of news item, verbal processes are used in sources stage. It means that it is deviated from the characteristics of news item. This kind of analysis that the writer has done toward the five selected news of VOA News. The writer analyzed the transitivity process of the news to identify the schematic structure of news item.

In this thesis, the writer applies the Systemic Functional Linguistic Theory (SFLT) of M. A. K. Halliday (1985:101) to analyze the transitivity process of the news and to identify the schematic structure, the writer uses a model of analysis which is proposed by Gerot and Wignell (1994:200).

1.2 Problems of the Study

Refering to the title of this thesis, the problems of this study are:

a) What types of transitivity process are used in selected news of VOA News?

b) Does the transitivity process support the topics of five selected news of VOA News?

c) What are the schematic structures used in selected news of VOA News?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems above, the objectives of this study are:

a) To find out the types of transitivity process in selected news of VOA News.

b) To find out whether the transitivity process supports the topics of five selected news of VOA News.

c) To find out the schematic structure in selected news of VOA News.

1.4 Scope of the Study
This thesis focuses on the experiential function of language. It is limited by the analysis of transitivity process in five selected news of *VOA News* by applying Halliday’s Systemic Functional Linguistic Theory (SFLT). Then, the schematic structure of news item in the five selected news is analyzed by using Gerot and Wignell’s model of analysis.

1.5 **Significances of the Study**

The significances of the study can be viewed from the theoretical side and the practical side.

The significance of this study theoretically is this thesis can add the new insight in analyzing news item by applying Systemic Functional Linguistic Theory (SFLT).

The significances of this study practically are: a) the analysis is useful for the learners who are interested in studying transitivity process and schematic structure in the news of *VOA*, b) the analysis is useful for the researcher as the information for the further research on transitivity process and schematic structure of news item, and c) the analysis helps the reader to understand about transitivity process and schematic structure in *VOA news* in order to get better understanding about the ideas in the news.