

## ABSTRACT

This study unveils inherent experiential meaning by utilising the framework of the System of Transitivity, a component of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics in weblog interaction. The interactive feature of weblogs helps uncover the experiential meaning as the writers are uninhibited in penning their thoughts. The data for the study is from the Malaysian Prime Minister's National Day Address posted on 30 August 2009 and the Comments received in response to it. The aim of the study is to uncover the perceptions of the Prime Minister and the Comment Writers on national unity, identity and nation building. The aim of the study is achieved. The analysis showed the prominent use of the material processes in the Address (n=50, 75.76%) and Comments (n=56, 38.10%) implying that both the Prime Minister and the Comment Writers are action oriented. A significant difference was in the higher percentage of mental processes in the Comments (n=28, 19.05%) than the Address (n=2, 3.03%) indicating the Comment Writers were ruled more by emotions than the Prime Minister. The participants associated with the material process also recorded the highest percentage in the Address (n=32, 28.57%) and Comments (n=81, 32.93%). The temporal circumstance is the dominant circumstantial element in the Address (n=11, 32.35%) while in the Comment, the Cause and Contingency with 15.66% each are prominent. The significance of the current study is to show that the System of Transitivity can be used to uncover inherent perceptions on issues. This may enable politicians and political analysts to discern the needs and wants of the citizenry. Educators and students will also benefit as they can study the undercurrents of weblog interactions. A more holistic view of the genre of weblogs and its role in nation building may be obtained through further exploration into this area of study using a larger corpus of data.

## ABSTRAK

Kajian ini menyiasat realisasi “experiential metafunction” dalam genre weblog dengan menggunakan kerangkaan “System of Transitivity” Halliday, salah satu komponen “experiential metafunction” dalam teori “Systemic Functional Linguistic”. Ciri interaktif dalam weblog boleh mendedahkan “experiential metafunction” kerana penulis blog dan penulis komen blog boleh meluahkan perasaan mereka tanpa dikongkong oleh peraturan-peraturan penerbitan. Data untuk kajian ini diperolehi dari blog post teks ucapan Hari Kemerdekaan 2009 Perdana Menteri Malaysia dan komen-komen yang diterima oleh post tersebut di website 1Malaysia, <http://www.1malaysia.com.my> pada 30 Ogos 2009. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mendedahkan persepsi Perdana Menteri dan Penulis Komen terhadap perpaduan, identiti dan pembangunan negara. Tujuan tersebut telah dicapai. Analisis data telah menunjukkan proses “material” ialah proses yang dominan di Teks Ucapan (n=50, 75.76%) dan di Komen (n=56, 38.10%) yang menunjukkan Perdana Menteri dan Penulis Komen berorientasikan “action”. Perbezaan yang menonjol ialah dalam peratus penggunaan proses “mental” di Komen (n=28, 19.05%) dan Teks Ucapan (n=2, 3.03%) yang menunjukkan yang penulisan Penulis Komen lebih berlandaskan emosi daripada Perdana Menteri. Elemen “participant” yang berkaitan dengan proses “material” juga mempunyai peratusan yang tinggi di Teks Ucapan (n=32, 28.57%) dan Komen (n=81, 32.93%). Elemen “Temporal circumstance” pula didapati elemen yang dominan di Teks Ucapan (n=11, 32.35%), sementara di dalam Komen, elemen “Cause circumstance” dan “Contingency circumstance” adalah dominan dengan 15.66% (n=13) setiap satu. Kajian ini menunjukkan yang “System of Transitivity” boleh digunakan untuk mendedah persepsi terhadap isu-isu tertentu. Kajian ini mungkin berfaedah kepada ahli-ahli politik dan penganalisis politik untuk mengetahui kehendak rakyat

sesebuah negara. Ia juga membolehkan para pendidik and penuntut mengkaji “undercurrent” dalam interaksi weblog. Gambaran yang lebih menyeluruh dalam genre weblog dan peranannya dalam pembangunan, perpaduan dan identiti negara mungkin boleh diperolehi melalui kajian yang lebih mendalam dengan menggunakan data yang lebih besar.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I am grateful to Almighty God for helping and guiding through my studies. He has been my silent Listener and constant Guide during the times when the going was tough.

I am privileged to have had as my supervisor, Dr. Sridevi Srinivass. I am grateful to her for her support, advice, motivation and constructive criticisms throughout my journey in writing this research paper. Her passion for the field of Systemic Functional Linguistics has truly been an inspiration to me.

I am also indebted to my family whose constant support has always seen me through the ups and downs of this journey. My children, Joellyne, Ellana and Joash have willingly (and at times unwillingly!) chipped in with the household chores. My Mum, Jessie Henry, also has helped out with the cooking whenever she came to visit us. My late father, Henry Thomas, rejoiced with me when I received my Bachelor's Degree. Although he is not physically present here now, I am sure he is rejoicing with me in Heaven.

Last but not least, my deepest appreciation goes to my dear, dear husband, Jason Selvaraj, who was the one who encouraged me to continue my studies. This would have been a very difficult venture without his love and support. He has pulled me through many rough times and many "mental blocks". This research paper was possible with the help and support of all my dear ones without whom I would never have come to the end of this journey.