CONTENT

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION 1

1.0 Introduction 1

1.1 Statement of the Research Area 1

1.2 Aims of the Study 3

1.3 Research Questions 4

1.4 Theoretical Framework 4

1.5 Methodology 5

1.6 Rationale of the Study 6

1.7 Significance of the Study 6

1.8 Delimitations of the Study 6

1.9 Outline of the Study 7

1.10 Chapter Summary 7

CHAPTER 2 - REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE 9

2.0 Introduction 9

2.1 Weblogs 9

2.1.1 History of Weblogs 9

2.1.2 Why People Blog 11

2.2 Research on Weblogs 12

2.3 The Theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics 17

2.4 Research on System of Transitivity 20

2.4.1 Research on Non-Literary Texts 20

2.4.2 Research on Literary Texts 22

2.5 Chapter Summary 24

CHAPTER 3 - THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND METHODOLOGY 25

3.0 Introduction 25

3.1 Integrated Framework of the System of Transitivity 25

3.2 Framework for Data Analysis 30

3.2.1 Material Process and Participants 30

3.2.2 Mental Process and Participants 31

3.2.3 Relational Processes and Participants 32

3.2.4 Verbal Process and Participants 34

3.2.45 Behavioural Process and Participants 35

3.2.6 Existential Process and Participants 35

3.2.7 Circumstantial Elements 36

3.3 Research Methodology 37

3.3.1 Data Selection 38

3.3.2 Data Description 38

3.3.3 Research Design and Methodology 39

3.3.3.1 Stage 1 – Transcription of Clauses 40

3.3.3.2 Stage 2 – Division of Data into themes 41

3.3.3.3 Stage 3 – Coding of Clauses, Process Types, Participants and Circumstantial Elements 41

3.3.3.4 Stage 4 – Analysis of the Process Types, Participants and Circumstantial Elements 42

3.3.3.5 Stage 5 – Tabulation of Data 43

3.3.3.6 Stage 6 – Analysis and Interpretation of Data 43

3.4 Sample Analysis 43

3.4.1 Analysis of an Extract of the Address Under the Theme *Gratefulness and Hope for the Future* 43

3.4.2 Analysis of an Extract of the Comments Under the Theme *Gratefulness and Hope for the Future* 44

3.4.3 Comparison of the Data 44

3.5 Chapter Summary 45

CHAPTER 4 - FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION 46

4.0 Introduction 46

4.1 The Realisation of Experiential Meaning Through the Resources of Transitivity 46

4.1.1 Gratefulness & Hope for the Future 49

4.1.2 Malaysia in the Past 50

4.1.3 Malaysia in the Present 53

4.1.4 National Unity & Identity 55

4.1.5 Threats to Malaysia 56

4.1.6 Challenges Faced by Malaysia 59

4.1.7 Government Policies 60

4.2 Participant Elements 61

4.2.1 Participant Elements in Material Process - Actor, Goal, Scope and Beneficiary 63

4.2.2 Participant Elements in Mental Process - Senser and Phenomenon 70

4.2.3 Participant Elements in Relational Attributive Process - Carrier, Attribute, Possessor and Possessed 73

4.2.3.1 Carrier and Attribute Participants 75

4.2.3.2 Possessor and Possessed Participants 77

4.2.4 Participant Elements in Relational Identifying Process - Token and Value 78

4.2.5 Participant Elements in Verbal Process - Sayer, Verbiage and Target 82

4.2.6 Participant Elements in Existential Process - Existent 85

4.2.7 Participant Elements in Behavioural Process - Behavor 87

4.3 Circumstantial Elements 89

4.3.1 Spatial Circumstantial Element 90

4.3.2 Temporal Circumstantial Element 91

4.3.3 Manner Circumstantial Element 93

4.3.4 Cause Circumstantial Element 95

4.3.5 Contingency Circumstantial Element 96

4.3.6 Accompaniment Circumstantial Element 98

4.3.7 Role Circumstantial Element 100

4.3.8 Matter Circumstantial Element 100

4.3.9 Angle Circumstantial Element 101

4.4 Discussion 102

4.5 Chapter Summary 104

CHAPTER 5 - CONCLUSION 105

5.0 Introduction 105

5.1 Summary of the Main Findings 105

5.1.1 Summary of the Main Findings Related to Research Question 1 105

5.1.2 Summary of the Main Findings Related to Research Question 2 107

5.1.3 Summary of the Main Findings Related to Research Question 3 108

5.2 Implications of the Study 109

5.3 Direction for Future Research 110

5.4 Conclusion 110

References 112

Appendix A – Raw Data – The Malaysian Prime Minister, YAB Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak's 2009 National Day Address Posted in The 1Malaysia Website 117

Appendix B – Raw Data – Comments Posted by Malaysians in Response to the Malaysian Prime Minister, YAB Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak's 2009 National Day Address in the 1Malaysia Website 119

Appendix C – Address Divided into Themes 123

Appendix D – Comments Divided into Themes 125

Appendix E – Enumerated Data - The Malaysian Prime Minister, YAB Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Bin 130

Tun Abdul Razak's 2009 National Day Address Posted in The 1Malaysia Website

Appendix F – Enumerated Data - Comments Posted by Malaysians in Response to the Malaysian Prime Minister, YAB Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak's 2009 National Day Address in the 1Malaysia Website 132

Appendix G – Data Analysis According to Themes - The Malaysian Prime Minister, YAB Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak's 2009 National Day Address Posted in The 1Malaysia Website 137

Appendix H – Data Analysis According to Themes - Comments Posted by Malaysians in Response to the Malaysian Prime Minister, YAB Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak's 2009 National Day Address in the 1Malaysia Website 142

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1	Typical functions of group and phrase classes	26
Table 3.2	Clause as process, participants and circumstance	27
Table 3.3	Examples of different process types from "Interview of Chinua Achebe"	28
Table 3.4	Types of circumstantial elements	30
Table 3.5	Participant roles in the material process	31
Table 3.6	Participant roles in the mental processes	32
Table 3.7	Participant roles in the attributive relational processes	33
Table 3.8	Participant roles in the identifying relational process	33
Table 3.9	Participant roles in the verbal process	34
Table 3.10	Participant roles in the behavioural process	35
Table 3.11	Participant roles in the existential process	36
Table 3.12	The coding of the process types, participants and circumstantial elements	42
Table 4.1	Number of processes found in the Address and Comments	47
Table 4.2	Process types found in the Address and Comments	48
Table 4.3	Process types in the theme *Gratefulness and Hope for the Future*	49
Table 4.4	Process types in the theme *Malaysia in the Past*	51
Table 4.5	Process types in the theme *Malaysia in the Present*	53
Table 4.6	Process types in the theme *National Unity and Identity*	55
Table 4.7	Process types in the theme *Threats to Malaysia*	57
Table 4.8	Process types in the theme *Challenges Faced by Malaysia*	59
Table 4.9	Process types in the theme *Government Policies*	60
Table 4.10	Participant elements in the Address and Comments	62
Table 4.11	Participant elements associated with the material process according to themes in the Address and Comments	63
Table 4.12	Actor, Goal, Scope and Beneficiary participants according to themes in the Address and Comments	65

Table 4.13	Participant elements associated with the mental process according to themes in the Address and Comments	71
Table 4.14	Senser and Phenomenon participants according to themes in the Address and Comments	72
Table 4.15	Participant elements associated with the relational attributive process according to themes in the Address and Comments	74
Table 4.16	Carrier and Attribute participant according to themes in the Address	76
Table 4.17	Possessor and Possessed participants according to themes in the Address and Comments	78
Table 4.18	Participant elements associated with the relational identifying process according to themes in the Address and Comments	79
Table 4.19	Token and Value participants according to themes in the Address and Comments	80
Table 4.20	Participant elements associated with the verbal process according to themes in the Address and Comments	82
Table 4.21	Sayer, Verbiage and Target participants according to themes in the Address and Comments	84
Table 4.22	Participant elements associated with the existential process according to themes in the Address and Comments	86
Table 4.23	Existent participant according to themes in the Address and Comments	86
Table 4.24	Participant elements associated with the behavioural process according to themes in the Address and Comments	88
Table 4.25	Behavor participant according to themes in the Address and Comments	88
Table 4.26	Circumstantial elements in the Address and Comments	89
Table 4.27	Spatial circumstantial element in the Address and Comments	90
Table 4.28	Temporal circumstantial element in the Address and Comments	92
Table 4.29	Manner circumstantial element in the Address and Comments	94
Table 4.30	Cause circumstantial element in the Address and	95

Comments

Table 4.31 Contingency circumstantial element is the Address and Comments 97

Table 4.32 Accompaniment circumstantial element is the Address and Comments 99

Table 4.33 Role circumstantial element is the Address and Comments 100

Table 4.34 Matter circumstantial element is the Address and Comments 101

Table 4.35 Angle circumstantial element is the Address and Comments 102

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 3.1	Central and peripheral elements in the experiential structure of the clause	28
Figure 3.2	System of Transitivity	29
Figure 3.3	The Stages of the Research	40

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

(e)	ellipses
*	No transitivity role
Acc	Accompaniment
Beh	Behavioural
Bene	Beneficiary
Cir	Circumstance
Cont	Contingency
CWs	Comment Writers
Ex	Existential
Mat	Material
Men	Mental
Phe	Phenomenon
PM	Prime Minister
Pr	Process
Rel - Att	Relational Attributive
Rel – Id	Relational Identifying
SFL	Systemic Functional Linguistics
Spa	Spatial
Temp	Temporal
Ver	Verbiage
Weblogs	Blogs