

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **CONCLUSION**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

The present study using the System of Transitivity shows how biographers express their thoughts in a biography focusing on experiential meaning within Systemic Functional Linguistics by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), Eggins (2004), Bloor and Bloor (2004) and Thompson (2004). The present study also shows how biographical texts are structured by the biographers using the Schematic Structure analysis by Eggins (2004). This present study attempts to answer three research questions. First, ‘What is the System of Transitivity underlying the biographical texts’? Second, ‘What is the Schematic Structure underlying the biographical texts’? Third, ‘How does the Schematic Structure inter-relate with the System of Transitivity for the expression of meanings’? Subsections 5.1 to 5.3 attempt to reveal the answers to these research questions.

#### **5.1 Summary of Findings of Research Question 1 – What is the System of Transitivity Underlying the Biographical Texts?**

The Material Processes were used the most in all six texts (59.28%) to portray physical actions and events in the biographies. This also shows that biographies are written to inform readers about action the actions performed and events happening in the lives of the music composers in the biographies. Therefore, biographers express their thoughts by stating the goings-on as performed by both animate and inanimate Participants.

The second widely used Process Type is the Relational Processes (22.31%). The Relational Processes are often presented in biographies as having attribution or identification as the Participants. Attribution is used to show certain qualities of the music composers in the biographies whilst the identification provides further information.

Biographies also showed the consciousness of the inner world through the use of the Mental Processes (8.47%). These consciousnesses are reflected through perception, cognition, desideration and emotion. The most prominent emotional aspect of the music composer portrayed in these biographies is their love lives.

The biographers also wrote and quoted the views of other people and music composers themselves showing the presence of the Verbal Processes in five out of the six biographical texts (4.4%). The quotes were taken into consideration as they were only from reliable sources and at times, the biographers themselves gave their own opinions about the music composers and the compositions.

The Behavioural Processes are used in all six texts but scarcely (4.07%). Biographers did not use much description of the physiological and psychological element when writing about the music composers.

The nature of showing existence of the Participants through the Existential Processes was not favoured as well by the biographers, as only four out of six texts used Existential Processes (1.47%).

Various process types matched against the themes were found in the biographies underlying the transitivity analysis. Different process types appear to favour certain themes. The material process favoured themes such as 'Talent Shown from Young', 'Family Member's Means of Nurturing the Talent', 'Moving around for Better Prospect', 'Composing to Produce', 'The Premier of Master Pieces' and 'Late Works before Death'. The mental process favoured themes such as 'Personal Love Life of a

Public Figure’, ‘Emotions Portrayed in Musical Pieces’ and ‘Biographer’s Perception’. The relational process favoured themes such as ‘Personality of a Prominent Figure’, ‘Attribution Ascribed to the Produced Works’, ‘Greatest Accomplishments of an Acclaimed Figure’, ‘Religious Distinctiveness’ and ‘Identity of a Renowned Artist’. The verbal process favoured themes such as ‘Compliments on Achievements’, ‘Recognition by Prominent Figure’ and ‘Manifestation of Musical Score’. The behavioural process favoured themes such as ‘Public Reactions and Demeanours’ and ‘Artistry Presentation’. The existential process favoured themes such as ‘Existence of Achievements before Death’.

## **5.2 Summary of Findings of Research Question 2 – What is the Schematic Structure Underlying the Biographical Texts?**

Biographers established the genre of biographies by structuring them into stages. These stages known as Schematic Structure portray the identity of the genre of biographies as whole when the reader reads these biographies. There were three stages identified and labelled across the six texts; Text M1, Text M2, Text B1, Text B2, Text SC1 and Text SC2.

The first stage is identified as the ‘Introduction to the Subject’. The stage introduces the music composers, takes a look at the music composers’ character, their childhood including the family background and the early works done by the music composer.

The second stage is identified as the ‘Life as A Grown Up’. This stage illustrates the diseases contracted by the music composers which led to health problems, the music composers’ love life, works done and accomplishments as well as unfinished works, some life crises and challenges faced by them.

The third stage is identified as the 'Evaluation - Late Works and Life After Death'. Biographers write about the late works carried out by the music composers, their failing health that led to death and the gaining fame after death.

These stages structured by the biographers, contribute to the genre of biographies as a whole.

### **5.3 Summary of Findings of Research Question 3 – How does the Schematic Structure Inter-relate with the System of Transitivity for the Expression of Meanings?**

There is a meaningful interaction between Schematic Structure and the System of Transitivity which appear to suggest that the experiential meanings run throughout the staged and structured biographical texts. While showing the structured genre of the biographies, it also shows what is taking place in that structure. This also shows how biographers express their thoughts in a biography while structuring the biography in its own genre at the same time.

Stage one – 'Introduction to the Subject' uses a lot of Material Processes (50%) to portray action-orientated occurrences when stating about the introduction to the music composer and his early works. The Relational Processes (29%) were the second favoured Process Types in this stage, followed by the Behavioural Processes (8%) suggesting that some description and identification as well as physiological and psychological descriptions were also used at this stage by the biographer. Biographers also used the Mental Processes (6%) to show the aspects of the consciousness in the inner world of the Participants. The Verbal Processes (6%) as well as the Existential Processes (1%) were not used much in this stage. Various process types matched against the themes underlying the transitivity analysis in stage one. The material process in stage one appears to favour themes such as 'Talent Shown from Young'.

Stage two - 'Life as a Grown Up' shows that the Material Processes (59.94%) were mostly used by the biographer. This shows that physical characteristics were used to describe the works carried out by the music composer. The second most used Process Types was the Relational Processes (21.02%) where the biographer described the attribution and the identification of the music composer as well as his accomplishments. The Relational Processes were also used to describe the qualities of the composition. Biographers used the Mental Processes (9.94%) to describe the love life of the music composer. The fourth Process Type mostly used in this stage is the Verbal Processes (5.11%) where the biographers wrote and quoted views by people pertaining to the music composer and/or his works. The Behavioural Processes (3.41%) and the Existential Processes (0.57%) were not favoured as much in this stage. Various process types matched against the themes underlying the transitivity analysis in stage two. The material process in stage two appears to favour themes such as 'Composing to Produce' where it looked at the major break through and struggles faced.

Stage three – 'Evaluation – Late Works and Life after Death' shows that the biographer used more Material Processes (63.58%) to show the late works carried out by the music composer and his death. The Material Processes were also presented to show the action-orientated characteristics and events after the death of the music composer. The second most used Process Types in this stage is the Relational Processes (20.99%), illustrating the attribution and the identification of the final works as well as some unfinished works by the music composer. The Mental Processes (6.79%) showed that the biographer stated the perception, cognition, desideration and emotion of the animate and inanimate Participants. The Existential Processes (3.7%) were the fourth favoured Process Types in this stage, suggesting that the biographer stated the presence of the music composer and his compositions with symbolic representations. The Behavioural Processes (3.09%) in this stage depicted the physiological and

psychological nature of the Participants. The least used Process Types in this stage is the Verbal Processes (1.85%). Various process types matched against the themes underlying the transitivity analysis in stage three. The material process in stage three appears to favour themes such as ‘Late Works before Death’, ‘The Premier of Master Pieces’ and ‘Death of a Renowned Artist’.

#### **5.4 Directions for Further Research**

This study has analysed the experiential meanings and the Schematic Structure of six biographical texts, therefore, future study on the Interpersonal meanings and Textual meanings would consolidate the findings of the study. Analytical contribution of the Discourse analysis such as Cohesion, Coherence and Lexical Relatives will be a great contribution to Systemic Functional Linguistics. An in-depth analysis on the Logical function can be done for the same cause.

A study on biographies or music composers from different centuries could also be conducted to consolidate the findings of the study. Next, studies on different genres in biographies will add to the findings in SFL.

The layers of analysis in the texts can be done by using a few tools in SFL simultaneously to analyse biographical texts which will give a better understanding in the research of SFL. For example, a concurrent tripartite metafunction analysis namely the Ideational, Interpersonal and Textual functions will enable the presentation of meanings from different points of view. Since the present study has been analysed in terms of the transitivity analysis, different analyses to show how biographies establish or maintain social relationship focusing on Interpersonal function and Textual function, focusing on theme analysis, will be a great contribution to the findings of SFL.

Since this present study has used a small corpus, therefore, a study using a larger corpus would consolidate the findings of this present study.

## 5.5 Concluding Remarks

This chapter has summarized the findings for the three research questions as follows:

1. What is the System of Transitivity underlying the biographical texts?
2. What is the Schematic Structure underlying the biographical texts?
3. How does the Schematic Structure inter-relate with the System of Transitivity for the expression of meanings?

This present study has attempted to show that experiential meanings were important to portray how biographers express their views in a biography hence conveying these views to readers. The representation of these views by the biographer in the biography can be depicted through the different Process Types and Participants.

The present study has also attempted to show that Schematic Structure was essential to show how the genre of biography is structured by the biographer. The stages in the biography convey the genre of the biography as a whole.

The present study has attempted to show the importance of the experiential meanings and the Schematic Structure to convey the precise meaning. The experiential meanings and the Schematic Structure will be useful not only to biographers but also to writers of different genres of academic or non-academic texts to provide accurate information.

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