

# Ideational Functional Analysis Of Mrs. Dalloway And A Portrait Of The Artist As A Young Man

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## Abstract

The present study aims to explore Ideational Functional Analysis of Mrs. Dalloway and A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man. This is a comparative study and the purpose of this present research is to explain the processes, functions of participants, and the elements of circumstances, and to explore in a comparative study which novelist has used which transitivity process high in frequency that are found in the clauses in the text of the novels, “A Portrait of the Man as a Young Artist” by James Joyce, and “Mrs. Dalloway” by Virginia Wolf. The theoretical framework of this research is based on Systemic Functional Language by M. A. Halliday (1985) in which language is seen from a functional perspective. Systemic Functional Language is a meaning-making resource. This study is based on a mixed-method approach. The process of determining the frequencies of the occurrences is based on quantitative research while the interpretation of the results of each type employed by the qualitative research. The transitivity analysis of the text has been carried out by using AntConc 3.5.9 corpus tool software. The findings reveal that transitivity have been found in both novels and the novelist used them according to their need and choice. This research of the transitivity analysis may help future language researchers to analyze and interpret the literary piece of art of different genres.

**Keywords:** Systemic Functional Language, Transitivity analysis, Comparative study, Ideational Function

## Introduction:

The study is about the field of Corpus linguistics and that how Corpus linguistics provide a vast range of computer aided text analysis. According to (McEnery & Hardie, 2011) Corpus linguistics is the computer assisted enormous collections of transcribed utterances and written text to investigate linguistic data on a larger scale. One of the best and old method of analyzing Clauses

is Halliday's Transitivity analysis. Language use for different purposes, the first one is to portray people's experiences of inner and outer world of their consciousness (M. A. Halliday, 1970). Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is an approach which was given by Halliday in the 1960s. (M. A. K. Halliday, 1973) indicated that language has been developed to three types of functions, these functions are referred as 'meta-functions' known as Interpersonal, Ideational and textual. According to (Hao, 2020; Schwarz & Hamman-Ortiz, 2020) SFL model suggest that the human language has developed into three generalized meaning as meta-functions and language is a medium which convey thought or reality and express emotions and feelings.

The researcher has used Ideational function which describes the characteristic of language in her comparative study, it is a quite feasible method which explores text in terms of process and it is a meaning making process. They perform the role of events and processes and its main purpose is to show how action is performed, who is performing and what is performing. According to M. A. Halliday (1985) this world of experiences represented in six process and their participants roles and existential elements. Transitivity is a measurable and it is used to study clausal structure based on main verb of the sentences. The purpose behind this research is, to analyze the experiential meaning encoded in the language of the novels to examine the writers' style of narration. This article uses a comparative approach to examine contemporary novelists' word choices in light of Halliday's transitivity theory. Virginia Woolf has been known for creating themes like mental illness in her novels, and Mrs. Dalloway is no exception. The story revolves around the mental condition of Mrs. Dalloway, her mood fluctuates sometimes bad sometimes happy, her behavior with other characters of the novel and so on. The most well-known characteristic of the novel is Joyce's groundbreaking use of stream of consciousness, a style in which the author specifically transcribes the emotions and feelings that pass through a character's mind. Stephen's hard decision to leave his family and friends in order to chase his dreams—indicates that Joyce views the artist as an inherently solitary individual and with different experiences the story of the novel proceed.

### **Research Questions:**

- Which novel has a higher frequency in transitivity process?
- How do the Participants and Circumstantial elements enact different functions of transitivity in the novels?

### **Literature Review**

SFL is viewed as meaning making process, it is a theory by M.A.K. Halliday which prescribed language as a human experiences. According to (M. A. Halliday, 1970), and "the transitivity systems are concerned with the types as process, participants and experiential elements expressed in the clauses. According to M. A. Halliday (1985) theory , language parallel represents three types of senses: ideational, behavioral, and textual. The ideational sense (clause as representation) is one of them. It is used to express "material" in words, which is our understanding of the natural world, which includes our internal world. We frequently use words to describe something or

someone doing something. As a result, the experiential sense derived from the clause as representation may be referred to as ideational meaning. The speaker's experience of the world and its manifestations is referred to as the ideational function. (Fowler, Hodge, Kress, & Trew, 2018). According to Muhammad Rayhan Bustam (2011) Halliday's transitivity scheme expands on traditional notions of transitivity, but whether a verb needs to take a direct object or not is not an important factor to discuss. There are three factors of Halliday's Transitivity process, first the process then participants within the process and circumstances connected with the process. Halliday divided these process types into six process named as, material, mental, relational, verbal, behavioral and existential.

In the field of research many researchers have done their researches on clause analysis of many political or famous personality's speeches or on different famous modern or postmodern novels. Following the method of transitivity by Halliday, Naz, Alvi, and Baseer (2012) Benazir Bhutto's voice was analyzed using the transitivity analysis of her political expression. According to the findings, elected figures use specific terms to persuade voters about their philosophy. Many other Pakistani writers have attempted to study the linguistic characteristics of both literary and non-literary texts. Anjum and Javed (2019) has applied the Ideational transitivity function on the novel, "To the light house" by Virginia wolf to analyze clauses to interpret different genres of literature. Findings showed that in process types relational process took lead of 49.5%, and in functions of participant Actor and goal took lead of 20% of use in the clauses.

Yaghoobi (2009) has done a comparative analysis of Iranian newspaper and American magazine. In contrast to the NEWSWEEK, the Kayhan International used verbal processes 35 percent of the time and the NEWSWEEK 14 percent of the time, respectively. Second, the transitivity analysis revealed that the NEWSWEEK magazine used more relational methods, such as naming and attributive processes, than the Kayhan International, 20 percent and 8% of the time, respectively, as a result of the transitivity analysis. These transitivity studies are only a few of many, but they show how language patterns, especially transitivity, can express a literary text's context and philosophy. They also apply new elements to stylistic interpretation that have proven to be useful. English practical grammar research aids audiences in comprehending human experiences in social settings and can be used to discover ideological implications.

## **Methodology**

The researcher has used mix method approach. The quantitative approach is used to check the frequency of the occurrences of the processes in the text. The qualitative approach is used to interpret the result. The study was based on descriptive type of research which helps in understanding the phenomena, fact, reality and event which are experiences by human. The descriptive study provides the natural picture of situations.

## **Data Collection**

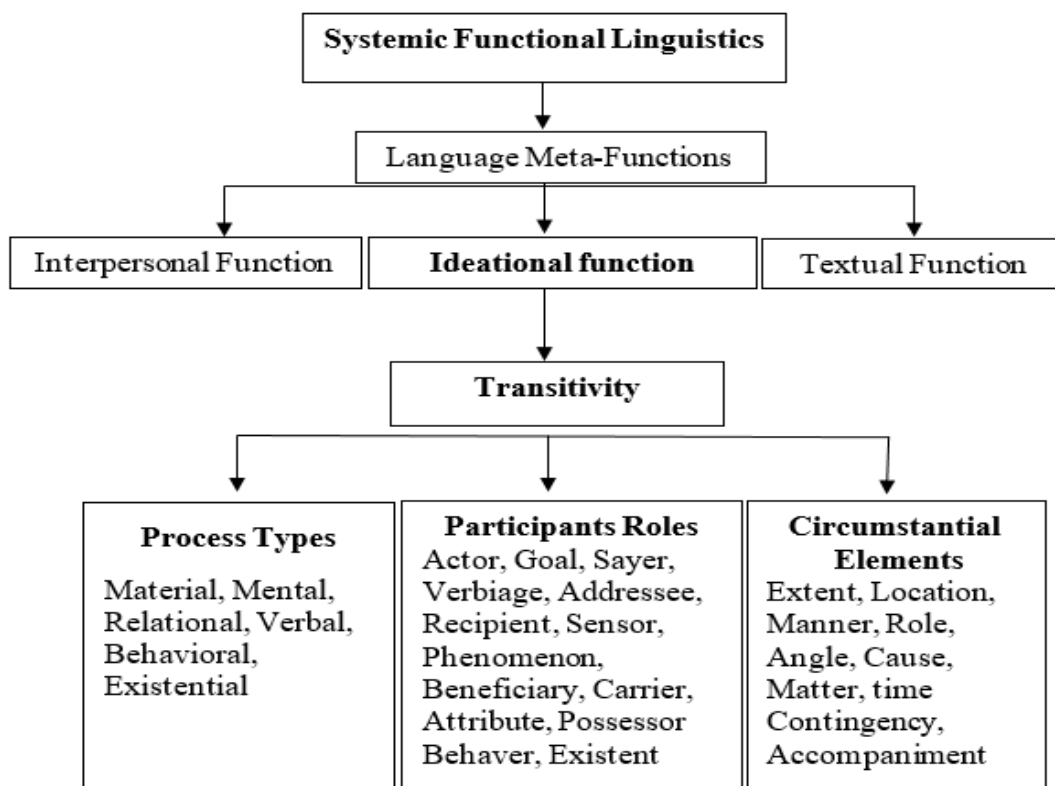
The researcher has selected two modern novels, “Mrs. Dalloway” by Virginia Wolf and “A portrait of a young man as an artist” by James Joyce. Both novels represent the theme of the mental condition of the main characters. The theme of the novels is similar as “Stream of consciousness” which revolves around both main characters. The researcher used tagged text of the novels to find the frequencies of words that falls in Six Process of Ideational function, then clauses from the novels’ first chapter to describe the components of transitivity, such as participant roles and circumstantial features.

### Research Instrument

The researcher has used AntConc 3.5.9 corpus analysis toolkit 3.5.9(version) as research instruments to check the frequencies from Wordlist and concordance of the word occurrences appeared in the texts of the novels.

### Theoretical Framework

Halliday’s theoretical framework has been used in present research. SFL is a meaning making approach, its purpose is to represent language as a system of meanings. Out of three Meta-functions, Ideational function is renowned for its two main components experiential and logical. Transitivity is an important semantic phenomenon which effects not only its verb but also participants and circumstantial elements(M. A. Halliday, 1985). The diagrammatic presentation is below:



### Figure No. 4.1: Systemic Functional Linguistics Model

#### Data Analysis

The novels' text was first tagged by using MAT, and then the program was used to analyze it. The corpus tool provided the word- token number of the text of "A Portrait of the Artist..." which was 18399 and 2348 word-type in the novel. And word-token of the text of "Mrs. Dalloway" were 18267 and 3271 word-type in the novel. The Word List was carefully analyzed in order to categorize high-frequency terms and their concordances. These were also manually defined and classified into each process category, then the researcher has done the comparison of the frequencies in each novel, that which process has highest frequency in which novel. The ratios were also computed. Second, clauses were segmented, and then participants' and circumstances' tasks were manually allocated to them, and this one also done as a comparative study.

**Table 4. 1. Frequency list of Material Process: (A portrait of the artist as a Young Man)**

Rank No	Material Process	Frequency
65	Did	53
83	Do	39
85	Made	39
99	Go	33
119	went	30
126	Come	27
151	Came	23
191	Get	16
193	Got	16
197	Put	16
199	Turned	16
200	Called	15
202	Going	15
212	Began	14
216	Make	14
244	Opened	12
250	Stood	12

**Table 2. Frequency list of Mental Process: (A portrait of the artist...)**

Rank No	Mental Process	Frequency
61	Like	60

112	Felt	31
141	Smell	25
132	think	21
154	See	21
162	Saw	20
159	Heard	20
178	Thought	18
214	Hear	14
215	Looking	14
232	Knew	13
228	Feel	13

**Table 3. Frequency list of Verbal Process: A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man**

Rank No	Verbal Process	Frequency
26	Said	205
133	Told	26
128	Asked	26
147	Say	24
249	Saying	12
263	Speak	11

**Table 4. Frequency list of Behavioral Process A Portrait of The Artist as a Young Man**

Rank No	Behavioral Process	Frequency
111	Cried	31
117	looked	30
243	look	12
376	Laughed	7
536	Smiled	5
451	Talking	6

**Table 5. Frequency list of Relational Process A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man**

Rank No	Relational Process	Frequency
17	Was	389
25	Had	223

33	were	135
45	Be	91
61	Is	60
125	Have	28
122	Are	28
164	Been	19
236	am	13
245	Own	12

**Table 6. Frequency list of Existential Process: A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man**

Rank No	Existential Process	Frequency
43	There	97
43	Where	25
81	Here	17

**Table 7. Sum and Percentages of types of process**

Types of processes	Material process	Mental process	Verbal process	Behavioral process	Relational process	Existential process
<b>Sum Frequencies</b>	390	270	304	91	1007	139
<b>Percentages</b>	17.7%	12.2%	13.8%	4.1%	45.8%	6.3%

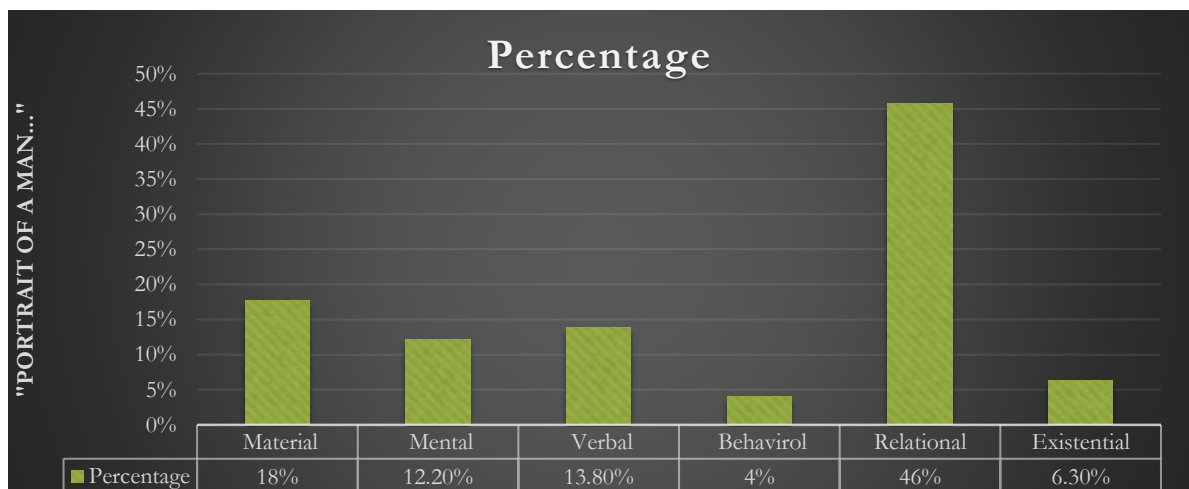


Figure No 4.2: Percentage

**Data Analysis: (“Mrs. Dalloway”)**

The corpus tool provided the word- token number of the text which was **18267** and **3271** word-type in the novel. The same above procedure has been used for Mrs. Dalloway’s text analysis.

**Table 8. Frequency list of Material Process: (“Mrs. Dalloway”)**

Rank No	Material Process	Frequency
85	Did	41
100	Came	30
115	Made	26
112	Come	21
127	Go	19
114	Went	18
146	Coming	18
137	Make	18
155	Do	16
156	Going	16
179	Sitting	15
191	Take	14
209	Left	12
213	Put	12
214	Sat	12
222	Gone	11
227	Opened	11

**Table 9. Frequency list of Mental Process: Mrs. Dalloway**

Rank No	Mental Process	Frequency
39	Thought	118
58	Like	70
88	Love	26
120	Felt	25
123	See	25
132	Seemed	23
128	Knew	19
136	Feeling	18



178	Seen	15
242	Feel	10
270	Heard	9
274	Know	9

**Table 10. Frequency list of Verbal Process: Mrs. Dalloway**

Rank No	Verbal Process	Frequency
50	Said	91
158	Say	16
219	Asked	11
228	Saying	11
235	Tell	11
289	Told	9

**Table 11. Frequency list of Behavioral Process: Mrs. Dalloway**

Rank No	Behavioral Process	Frequency
104	Look	28
108	Looking	27
113	Looked	26
157	Quite	16
170	Cried	15
189	Read	14

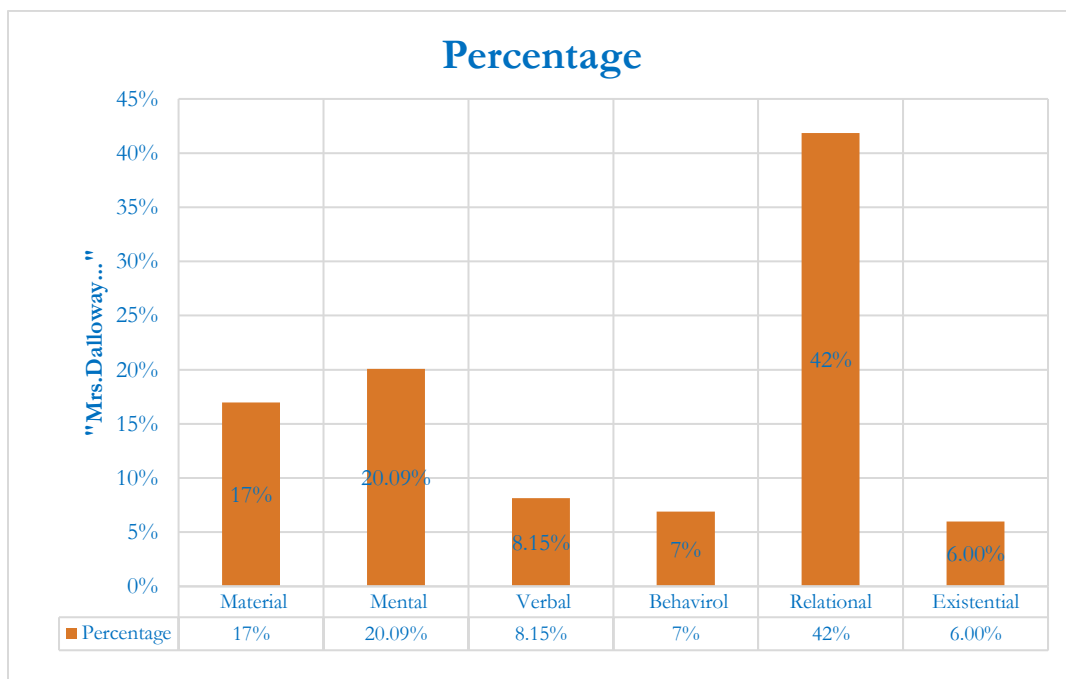
**Table 12: Frequency list of Relational Process: Mrs. Dalloway**

Rank No	Relational Process	Frequency
22	Was	257
24	Had	234
60	Were	67
64	Be	59
79	Is	46
95	Have	35
125	Being	19
133	Are	18
184	Has	14
188	Own	14

**Table 13. Frequency list of Existential Process: Mrs. Dalloway**

Rank No	Existential Process	Frequency
53	There	84
117	Where	26

Types of processes	Material process	Mental process	Verbal process	Behavioral process	Relational process	Existential process
<b>Sum Frequencies</b>	310	367	149	126	764	110
<b>Percentages</b>	16.9%	20.09%	8.1%	6.9%	41.8%	6%



### **Results and Interpretation of Process Types in the novels “Mrs. Dalloway” and “A Portrait of an Artist as Young Man”**

The above result reveal that in James Joyce’s first chapter of novel there are total **1826** words used in all six processes. As for Virginia Wolf she used **2201** words in all six processes.

As for comparative analysis James Joyce used material process with 18% percent more in his First chapter than Virginia Wolf with 17% percent. On the other hand, Virginia Wolf used mental process more with 20.09% percent than James Joyce with 12.20% percent. Next, James Joyce used Verbal process more with 13.08% percent in his chapter than Virginia Wolf with 8.15% percent. Virginia wolf used behavioral process more with 7% percent in her chapter than James Joyce with 4% percent. James Joyce used relational process more with 48% percent in his chapter than Virginia wolf with 42% percent. In the last both novelist used existential process equally with the percentage of 6% in their chapters. The researcher has come to this point that both the novelist used Relational process with high frequency. The main findings show that in both novelists' first chapter's relational process is dominant which means, Relational processes are used to classify and describe the possessing and becoming processes. This procedure creates a similarity relationship between two individuals. It specifies the manner, time, and place of the object. It symbolizes the ownership of one person by another (M. A. K. Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013).

### **Transitivity Analysis of “A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man” and Mrs. Dalloway’s text clauses**

All of the mentioned process types constitute the transitivity system and the ideational function of the language. The researcher has taken 10 clauses from the different sections of the first chapter of “A Portrait of an Artist...” and Mrs. Dalloway to the transitivity. The transitivity analysis of the clauses is below and researcher has followed Muhammad Rayhan Bustam (2011)’s and Ezzina (2015) style for the analysis of clauses in terms of Participants and Circumstantial elements by using Halliday’s transitivity model.

#### **Clause no.1: A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man**

A fellow	asked	him	To give	it one last	he	walked	Without answering	the fellow.
Sayer	Process verbal	addressee	process	goal	actor	process	verbiage	goal

#### **Clause no.2 A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man**

<b>(“A portrait of the artist....”)</b> The fellows	were struggling	and groaning	and their legs	were rubbing	and kicking	and stamping.
Sensor	Process	process	phenomenon	process	process	process

#### **Clause no.3: A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man**

His mother	said	Stephen	Will apologize
sayer	process	addressee	verbiage

**Clause no.4: A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man**

His mother	had told	him	not to speak	with the rough boys	in the college.
sayer	Process:verbal	addressee	Verbiage	recipients	Circum:place

**Clause no.5 A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man**

He	ran	after them	a little way	and then	Stopped.
actor	process	goal	Existential:place	Circum:time	process

**Clause no.6 A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man**

Mother	was sitting	at the fire	with Dante	waiting for Brigid	to bring	in the tea.
Actor	process	Existent: event	goal	process	process	goal

**Clause no.7 A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man**

Rody Kickham	held	the ball	by its greasy lace.
Actor	process	goal	source

**Clause no.8 A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man**

They	behaved	rightly	cried	Dante.
behavior	process	adverb	process	sayer

**Clause no.9 A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man**

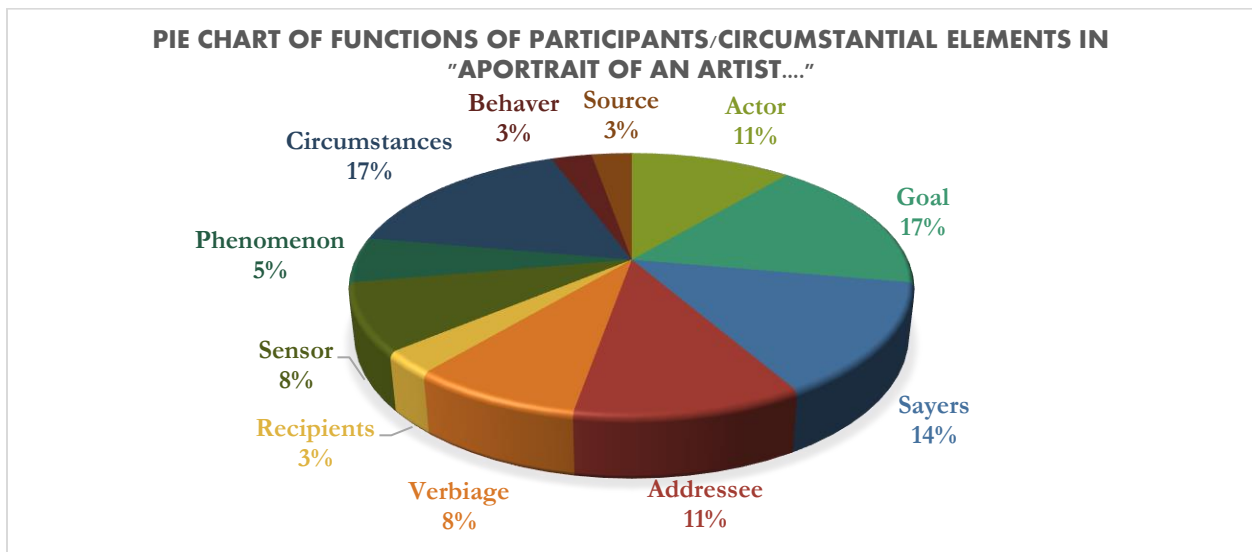
The fellows	Were talking	together In little groups	Here and there	On the playground
sayer	process	addressee	existential	Existential: place

**Clause no.10 A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man**

The fellows	laughed	but	he	felt	that	they	were	A little afraid.
sensor	Process mental		sensor	process		phenomenon	process	Process mental

### Functions of Participants: A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man

Functions of Participants:	Number of participants:	Percentages:
Actor	4	11.1%
Goal	6	16.6%
Sayers	5	13.8%
Addressee	4	11.1%
Verbiage	3	8.3%
Recipients	1	2.7%
Sensor	3	8.3%
Phenomenon	2	5.5%
Circumstances	6	16.6%
Behaver	1	2.7%
Source	1	2.7%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Figure No: 4.4 Functions of Participants of A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man**

#### 5.1. Transitivity Analysis of "Mrs. Dalloway's" text clauses:

The same above procedure has been used for the analysis of the clauses of Mrs. Dalloway's text.

**Clause no.1 Mrs. Dalloway**

Mrs. Dalloway	Said	she	Would buy	the flowers herself.
sayer	Process	actor	process	goal

**Clause no.2 Mrs. Dalloway**

She	Felt	his hostility, his jealousy, his determination	to break	into their companionship.
Sensor	Process	phenomenon	process	goal

**Clause no.3 Mrs. Dalloway**

Clarissa Dalloway	would quite understand	without requiring	him	to specify.
sensor	process	process	phenomenon	process

**Clause no.4 Mrs. Dalloway**

Septimus Warren Smith	who	Found	himself	unable to pass	heard	him.
sensor	actor	process	phenomenon	goal	Process: perception	phenomenon

**Clause no.5 Mrs. Dalloway**

He	is	very well dressed	thought	Clarissa;	yet	he	always criticizes	me.
phenomenon	process	Process	Process mental	sensor	Circ:time	actor	Process:	goal

**Clause no.6 Mrs. Dalloway**

"Mrs. Dalloway	will see	me	," said	the elderly man	in the hall.
Sensor	Process: perception	phenomenon	process	sayer	Circu: location

**Clause no.7 Mrs. Dalloway**

"Peter! Peter!"	cried Clarissa	following	him	out	on to the landing.
phenomenon	sensor	process	goal	Circ:place	Circ:place

**Clause no.8 Mrs. Dalloway**

Look, look	Septimus!	she	cried
verbiage	addressee	sayer	process

**Clause no.9 Mrs. Dalloway**

In love	she	said.
verbiage	sayer	Process: verbal

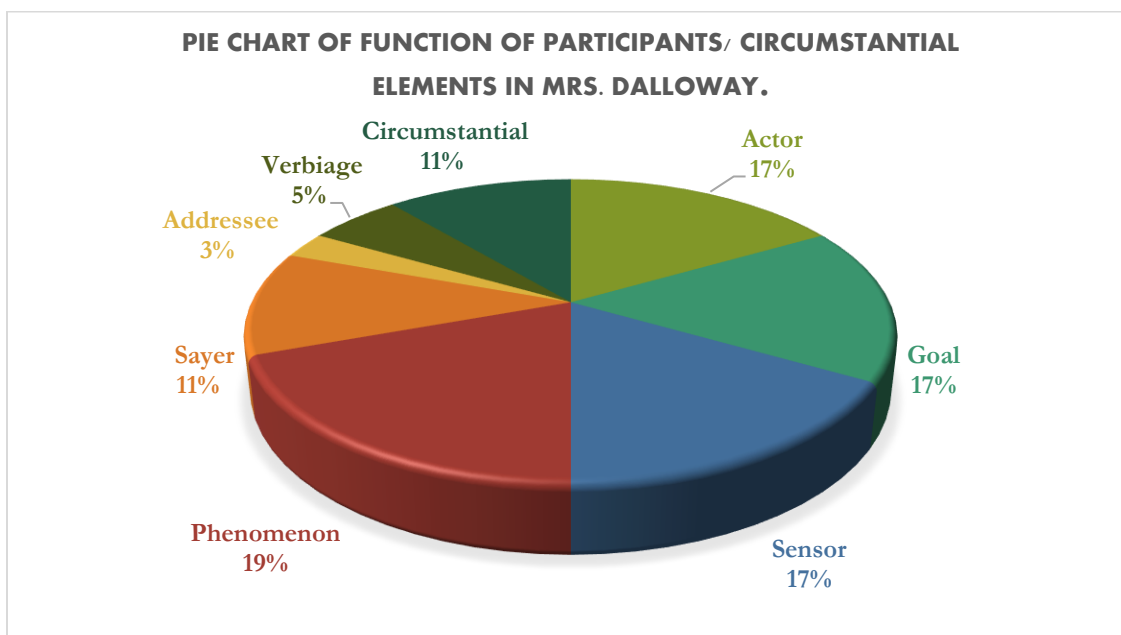
**Clause no.10 Mrs. Dalloway**

she	Moved	she	crossed	he	followed	her
actor	Process	actor	process	actor	process	goal

**Functions of Participants: Mrs. Dalloway**

Functions of Participants:	Number of participants:	Percentages:
Actor	6	16.6%
Goal	6	16.6%
Sensor	6	16.6%
Phenomenon	7	19.4%
Sayers	4	11.1%
Addressee	1	2.7%
Verbiage	2	5.5%
Circumstances	4	11.1%

Total:	36	100%
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**Figure No: 4.5 Functions of Participants Mrs. Dalloway**

## 5.2. Results and Interpretation of Participants and circumstantial Types in “A Portrait of the Artist...” And Mrs. Dalloway:

In the novel “A Portrait of the Artist...” as it can be seen through the figure that in functions of participant’s goal and all circumstantial elements have taken lead with 17% use in the text. Sayers has taken second lead with 14%. Actor and addressee have third lead with 11%. Verbiage and sensor are in next lead with the percentage of 8%. Phenomenon is used with 3% of usage in the clauses. Behavior and source are used least in the clauses with percentage of 3%.

In the novel “Mrs. Dalloway”, the functions of participants/ circumstantial elements have performed their roles in the clauses and results shows that Phenomenon has the first lead with 19% of use. Actor, goal and sensor are in second lead with the same percentage of 17%. All the circumstantial elements and sayer have third lead with 11% of occurrences. Other is verbiage which occur with 5%. Addressee has least use with 3% in the clauses by Virginia wolf in her novel.

## Discussion and Conclusion

The ideational meaning contributes the communication of the gratified in the language concerning the experience of inner and outer world. The present study relies on the transitive theory to analyze the comparative study of modern novels “Mrs. Dalloway” and “A portrait of an Artist as a Young



Man". The six processes of the transitivity system have been noted and computed. In comparison to other novel each frequency list from word list feature has been marked and then calculated for the percentages. This is called Systemic Functional Grammar.

The main findings show that the transitivity system can analyze text of any written or spoken form effectively. Through transitivity analysis, the research examined the experience meanings contained in both novel's language and the narrative form of fiction written in Stream of consciousness. As it seen in above tables presented in result sections that Relational process took dominance in both novels on other processes. James Joyce has a lead with 46% in the use of relational process in comparison to Mrs. Dalloway with 43% use of relational process in her text of the novel. In participants and existential elements again James Joyce novel have participant Goal and Circumstantial elements lead with 17%. Virginia Wolf has used participants Phenomenon with higher percentage of 19%. Thus it is evident that in present study each novelist has its own choice of processes usage and data of each novel or speeches cannot be appeared same every time, it's up to the novelist it's stylistic and genre of the study, and how his text of the novels provides a better understanding of the characters. According to Ezzina (2015) one can easily uncover power relation by analyzing power relation include in each process. As Nguyen (2012) concluded that the reader can be able to have a better understanding of the main characters through the text of the "heroic mother" by apply transitivity analysis on its clauses.

As M. A. K. Halliday, Matthiessen, Halliday, and Matthiessen (2014) has described that these participants enact many functions associate with material process perform physical activities with the help of transitivity analysis character experiences were revealed in both the novels through activities such as acting, feeling, behaving, interaction, vocal replies, and interactions. The participants function enacts numerous functions and roles such as actor, doer, sensor, addressee, sayer, behavior, carrier, possessor, existent, and so on. Circumstantial elements deal with situation, manner, time, and event and so on. Thus, transitivity is process through one can analyze clauses easily. This research is limited to modern novels; the future researcher can do a comparative study of modern or postmodern novelists' text or Pakistani fictions by applying SFL into their study.

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