

QURAN AND TRANSITIVITY: APPLICATION OF PAUL SIMPSON'S MODEL ON SURAH AA'LA (CHAPTER # 87)

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Abstract

This paper evaluates Chapter 87 of the Holy Quran, Surah Aa'la, on Paul Simpson's Transitivity Model with precise first 10 verses of the Chapter. Systemic Functional Grammar demonstrates the connection of language and social structure. With total 15 frequency counts, holding 8 for Material Process, 3 for Verbal Process, and 2 for Mental and Relational Processes, the Material Process gains maximum frequency counts in this patch. While Participants frequency counts are different, subsiding same findings of role playing as 15 are the participants from Material Process, and 5 participants are from Verbal Process while 4 and 2 participants are from Relational Process and Mental Process respectively. It is evaluated only with 2 Circumstance frequency counts from Manner and 1 Circumstance frequency count from Reason which form 3 Circumstance frequency counts altogether. It signifies that Material Process has ranked most in these first 10 verses of the chapter 87 of the Holy Quran, with 15 Participants frequency counts most in Participants cadre and 2 Circumstance of Manner show maximum frequency count too.

Keywords: Systemic Functional Grammar, Simpson's Model of Transitivity, Frequency Counts, Chapter 87 (First 10 Verses)

1. Introduction

In this research paper, the chapter of the Holy Quran has been analysed with reference of Paul Simpson's Process of Transitivity. Analysis includes collection of data through Secondary Source as translation is interpretation of the original divine text (Kumar, 2010). These Quranic verses are the first 10 from the Chapter # 87, namely Surah Aa'la, from the last part of the divine book, translated by Abdullah Yusuf Ali who is one of the most read English translators of the Holy Quran (Huda, n.d.). The addressed subject in this chapter is instruction to the Prophet(pbuh) to remember Allah, the creator, and follow His commandments, including preaching of Islam, in addition to that Allah will help Him (pbuh) to learn the Holy Book (Maududi, 1972). This analysis results in the frequency count of different transitivity elements i.e. process, participant and circumstance. For that matter, qualitative method is followed to answer the following questions:

- What are the processes used in first 10 verses of Surah Aa'la of the Holy Quran with reference to Simpson's Model of transitivity?
- What are the participants used in first 10 verses of Surah Aa'la of the Holy Quran with reference to Simpson's Model of transitivity?
- What are the circumstances used in first 10 verses of Surah Aa'la of the Holy Quran with reference to Simpson's Model of transitivity?

It is hypothesized that material process is occurred frequently in these verses, even with most count of participants too, with that manner in circumstance has also appeared at top.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Systemic Functional Grammar

Systemic Functional Grammar deals language with its functional aspect. It tells how a language communicates, interacts and chooses words to convey its message. On the other hand, SFG is also a

yardstick to measure the lexical difference accurately (Fatima, Hashmi, & Hashmi, 2018). Earlier, language has always been understood with obstruct rules of making sentence in generative approach but it does not help in all circumstances. SFG fulfils the gaps of different approaches as how to deal with contextual impact of lexical differences. To analyze this impact, we not only study lexical differences but also interpersonal communication. It reveals the fact that language and context are interconnected through the framework study of clause structures for explanation (Thompson, 2014). Therefore, the text of a language is an entity of a large network of system, so the functional grammar of language helps in recognizing meaning in systemic pattern of network (M.A.K. Halliday, 2004).

2.2 Discourse Analysis

It is one of the most common fields of research in modern world as it assists to understand how linguistic units interact within social context. Discourse Analysis plays an enormous role in our life as we unintentionally follow when we try to know who is uttering text, what is the reason of utterance and what does the impact it holds within social aspect. Thus, we can say that it uncovers how people react differently to same utterance and why they do it (Jones, 2018). Different Research papers highlight very interesting results in this field. For example, Imran Khan speech at Global Peace and Unity Forum demonstrates how “Islam” and “Western” are counted 57 and 40 times respectively. That explains the way speaker is trying to convey the fundamental subject of his message, Islam vs Western System. Further, Mood of Probability is depicted at top because the word “should” has been counted most in this text (Shah & Ilyas, 2019). Another research paper explains how Martin Luther King Jr., Former President of United States, has expressed most in first 31 lines of his utterance full of expressive, ideational and relational (Sipra, 2013).

2.3 Paul Simpson’s Model of Transitivity

Transitivity illustrates the processes encoded in producer’s mind. It not only shows how producer describes his experiences through text but it also shows Modality which is an important element of interpersonal interaction. Transitivity works as one of the elements of Ideational functions of language, comprises three parts; including Process, Participant and Circumstance (Simpson, 1993). Processes are conveyed through verb, classified as action, state of mind, relation, and speech i.e. Material Process deals with process of “doing”, Mental Process deals with process of “sensing”, Verbal Process includes process of “saying” and Relational Process copes with the process of “being”. Processes are the actions acted by participants, as Material Processes are done by Goals and Actors, in the same way, Mental Processes are sensed by Sensors and Phenomena, Verbal are said by Sayers and Verbiage, and Relational Processes are related by Carriers and Attributes.

Main category	Sub-category	Further sub-category	Participants
Material	Action	Intention	Actor, (animate) (Goal)
	Action	Supervention	Actor, (animate) (Goal)
	Event		Actor, (inanimate) (Goal)
Verbalisation			Sayer, (Verbiage) (Target)
Mental	Perception		Senser Phenomenon
	Reaction		Senser Phenomenon
	Cognition		Senser Phenomenon
Relational	Intensive		Carrier Attribute
	Possessive		Carrier Attribute
	Circumstantial		Carrier Attribute

Table 1: Transitivity Categories Introduced by Paul Simpson (Abdulla, 2016)

2.4 Transitivity and Quran

Transitivity and Quran has very rarely been analysed. It seems as it is a field yet much more to explore. Although a comprehensive study of Surah Kahaf with application of transitivity is made by NurmaliIlyasaKobat of Shaheeh International. According to her, 87 processes have been occurred with entries of 34 material processes, 33 mental processes, 10 verbal processes, 6 relational processes, 3 behavioral processes and 1 existential process (Kobat, 2021). Another example of transitivity analysis of Surah Mujadila verse 11, made by Naila Rajiha, results with counts of 4 material processes, 1 relational process and 1 entry for behavioral process (Rajiha, 2023). In short, both studies show that the verb shown material process plays a vital role in transitivity. An important factor is the role of translation, as both research works have not been made on primary source of divine text, rather secondary source of translation is taken as research sample. Therefore, the best route to this research work has also been adopted through secondary source of English translation of the Holy book. Translation studies show as it is a complex phenomenon as far as religious translation is concerned. Semantic loss and syntactical order have been a significant problem in translation studies. Another translation work shows how different words have been used in Urdu translation made by different authors which created semantic loss in Target Language (Nazir, Khan, & Ahmed, 2022). According to the research article, "Use of Process in Juz Amma of Holy Quran", material process has appeared dominant in many Surahs of Juz Amma (Haitami, 2012).

2.1 Research Questions

The answers of the given research questions are the targets of this research work:

1. What are the processes used in first 10 verses of Surah Aa'la of the Holy Quran with reference to Simpson's Model of transitivity?
2. What are the participants used in first 10 verses of Surah Aa'la of the Holy Quran with reference to Simpson's Model of transitivity?
3. What are the circumstances used in first 10 verses of Surah Aa'la of the Holy Quran with reference to Simpson's Model of transitivity?

3. Research Methodology

In this section, the selected methodology has been introduced. It includes the research methods, data collection, data selection and data analysis.

3.1 Research Methods

This document encompasses with qualitative research method. The qualitative approach describes the entries of the transitivity process, participants and circumstance of the Surah Aa'la which is the 87th chapter of the Holy Quran. Simpson's process of Transitivity theory has separately been discussed with regard to the process, participants and circumstance, in table, with examples. Their analysis is first done elaborately and then simple frequency counts have been adopted as data research analysis (Kriej, 2020). This frequency count remains a good explanation of documentational focus of core of any or qualitative or quantitative research work. The counted frequency is shown in Table formats, Bar Charts and Pie Charts description. At the end, the conclusion determines the tendency of work used in the document, English Translation of Holy Quran.

4. Analysis

4.1 Analysis with Frequency Counts

	Process	Counts	Examples
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1	Material Action Happening	Total= 8 7 1	Action: “hath created”, “granted”, “ordained”, “granted”, “doth make”, “will teach”, “will make”, Happening: “bringeth out”,
2	Mental Cognition Desideration Perception Reaction	Total= 2 1 1	Cognition: Desideration: “wills”, Perception: Reaction: “fears”,
3	Verbal Saying	Total=3 3	Saying: “glorify”, “(tell) give”, “will be received”,
4	Relational Intensive Possessive Circumstantial	Total= 2 2	Intensive: “is”, “is”, Possessive: Circumstantial:

Table 2: 4.1.1 Analysis of First 10 Verses of Surah Aa’la with Reference to the Process of the Simpson’s Model of Transitivity

	Participants	Counts	Examples
1	Material Doer Goal Range Target	Total= 15 5 4 4 1	Doer: “who”, “who”, “who”, “we”, “we”, Goal: “the green pasture”, “it”, “thee”, “it”, Range: “order”, “proportion”, “law”, “guidance”, Target: “to declare so thou shalt not forget”, “target”,
2	Mental Sensor Phenomenon	Total=2 2	Sensor: “who”, “Allah” Phenomenon:
3	Verbal Sayer Receiver Verbiage Target	Total=5 1 3 1	Sayer: Receiver: “by those” Verbiage: “thy name”, “admonition”, “admonition”, Target: “thy Guardian-Lord Most High”,
4	Relational Carrier Attribute	Total=4 2 2	Carrier: “what”, “what”, Attribute: “manifest”, “hidden”

Table 34.1.2 Analysis of First 10 Verses of Surah Aa'la with Reference to the Participants of the Simpson's Model of Transitivity

	Circumstance	Counts	Examples
1	Manner	Total=2	"swarthy stubble", "easy",
2	Place	Total=0	
3	Time	Total=0	
4	Reason	Total=1	"In case the admonition profits",

Table 4: 4.1.3 Analysis of First 10 Verses of Surah Aa'la with Reference to the Circumstance of the Simpson's Model of Transitivity

4.2 Bar Chart Analysis

Bar Chart of the Analysis of the Processes Used in Surah A'ala with Reference to Simpson's Model of Transitivity

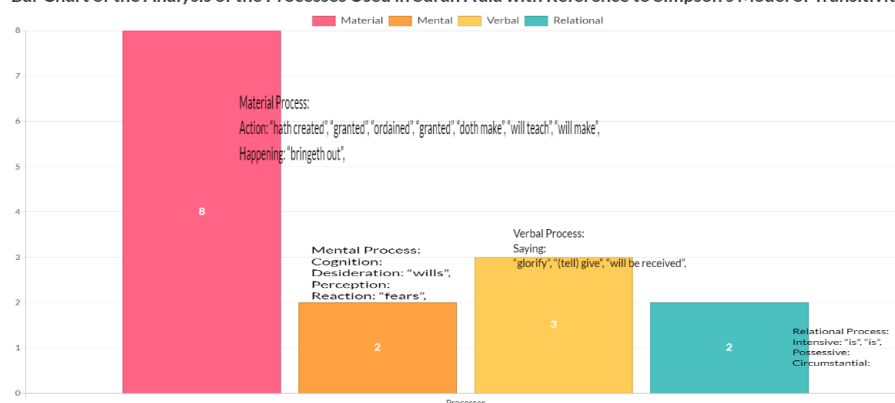


Figure 1: 4.2.1 Analysis of Bar Graph Description of the Processes of Paul Simpson's Model of Transitivity of the Chapter 87 of the Holy Quran (1-10 Verses)

Bar Chart of the Analysis of the Participants Used in Surah A'ala with Reference to Simpson's Model of Transitivity

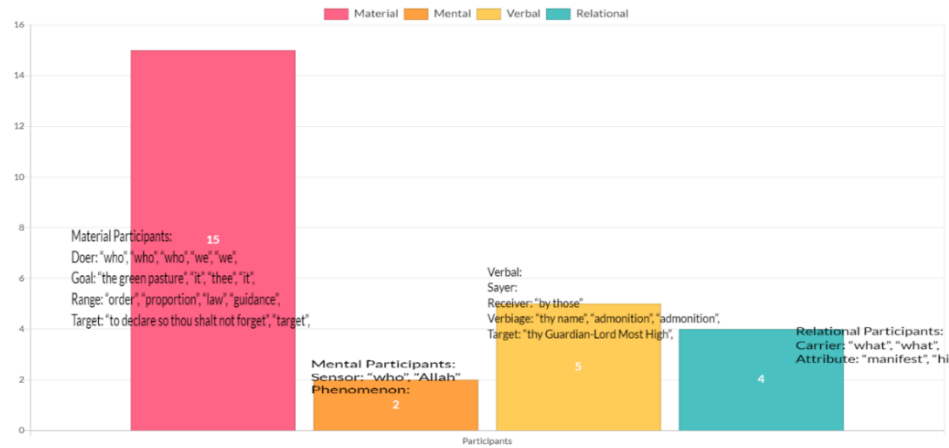


Figure 2: 4.2.2 Analysis of Bar Graph Description of the Participants of Paul Simpson's Model of Transitivity of the Chapter 87 of the Holy Quran (1-10 Verses)

Bar Chart of the Analysis of the Circumstances Used in Surah A'ala with Reference to Simpson's Model of Transitivity

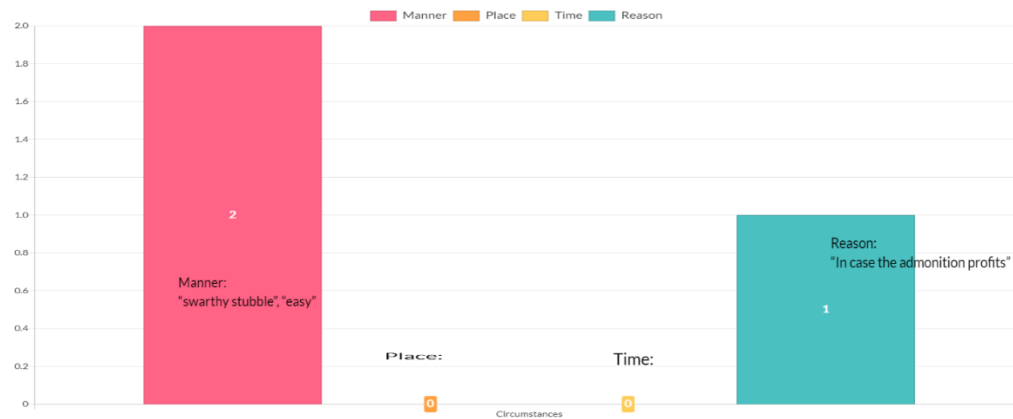
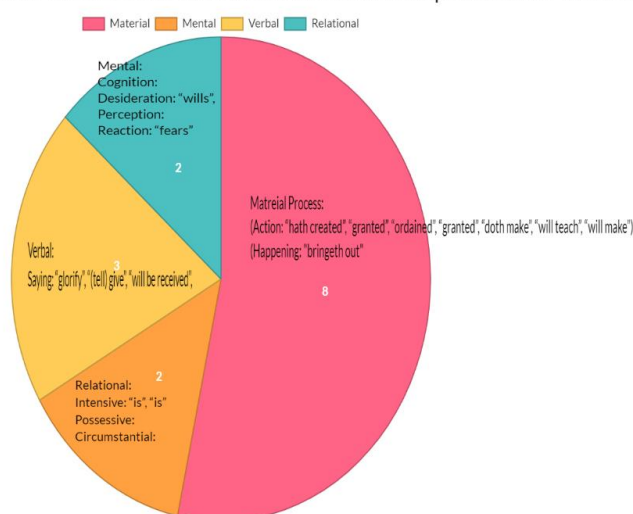


Figure 34.2.3 Analysis of Bar Graph Description of the Circumstances of Paul Simpson's Model of Transitivity of the Chapter 87 of the Holy Quran (1-10 Verses)

Pie Chart of the Analysis of the Processes used in Surah A'ala With Reference to Simpson's Model of Transitivity



4.3 Pie Graph Analysis

Figure 44.3.1 Analysis of Pie Graph Description of the Processes of Paul Simpson's Model of Transitivity of the Chapter 87 of the Holy Quran (1-10 Verses)

Pie Chart of the Analysis of the Participants used in Surah A'ala With Reference to Simpson's Model of Transitivity

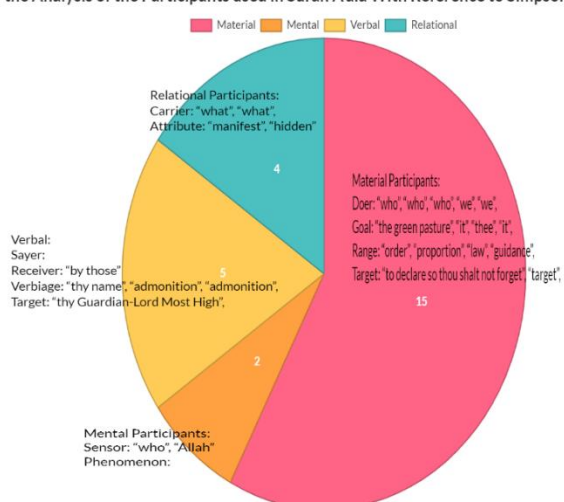


Figure 54.3.2 Analysis of Pie Graph Description of the Participants of Paul Simpson's Model of Transitivity of the Chapter 87 of the Holy Quran (1-10 Verses)

Pie Chart of the Analysis of the Circumstances used in Surah A'ala With Reference to Simpson's Model of Transitivity

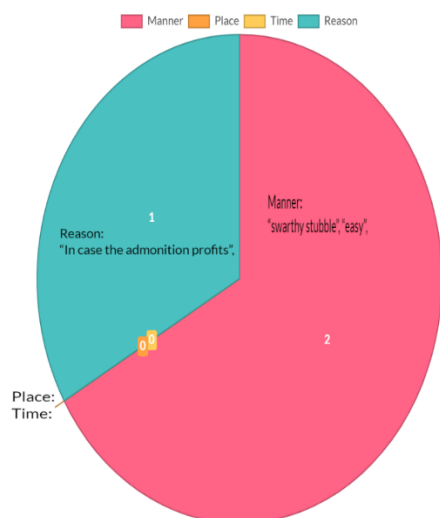


Figure 64.3.3 Analysis of Pie Graph Description of the Circumstances of Paul Simpson's Model of Transitivity of the Chapter 87 of the Holy Quran (1-10 Verses)

5. Discussion

5.1 Analysis verse # 1

Glorify the name of thy Guardian-Lord Most High

Verbal Process:

"Glorify" is a verbal process and "the name" is a verbiage while "thy Guardian-Lord Most High" is taken as target in this verse. As we got this verse/clause as a verbal process including verbiage and target too.

5.2 Analysis verse # 2

Who hath created, and further, given order and proportion

Material Process:

"Who" is a doer, "hath created" and "given" show material process and "order" and "proportion" show range in this verse. It is the part of material process.

5.3 Analysis verse # 3

Who hath ordained laws. And granted guidance

Material Process:

"Who" is again used as "doer", then "hath ordained" and "granted" shows as it is a material process; action, afterwards, "laws and guidance" are expressed as range. They encompass material process of transitivity.

5.4 Analysis verse # 4

And Who bringeth out the (green and luscious) pasture

Material Process:

"Who" is a "doer" and "bringeth out" is an happened from material process while "the green pasture" is goal. Material process is working in this verse.

5.5 Analysis verse # 5

And then doth make it (but) swarthy stubble.

Material Process:

“Doth make” is a material process and “it” is a goal and “swarthy stubble” is circumstance; how. Material process here, includes with circumstance of manner too.

5.6 Analysis verse # 6

By degrees shall We teach thee to declare (the Message), so thou shalt not forget.

Material Process:

“We” is doer, “will teach” will be material process, “thee” is goal and “to declare so thou shalt not forget” is target in material process.

5.7 Analysis verse # 7

Except as Allah wills: For He knoweth what is manifest and what is hidden.

Mental Process:

“Allah” is sensor here, “wills” is a cognition process of desideration, “He” is sensor, “knoweth”. On the other hand, the other clause implies with Relational Process.

Relational Process:

“What” is taken as carrier, “is” is actually the part of relational process and “manifest” and “hidden” are counted in attribute. So it is the relational process.

5.8 Analysis verse # 8

And We will make it easy for thee (to follow) the simple (Path)

Material Process:

“We” is doer, “will make” shows as it is a material process, “it” is goal and “easy” is circumstance showing how, and “for thee” is beneficiary. Therefore it is material process.

5.9 Analysis verse # 9

Therefore give admonition in case the admonition profits (the hearer)

Verbal Process:

“(tell) give” is a verbal process, “admonition” is verbiage, and “in case the admonition profits” shows how the manner of circumstance is shown.

5.10 Analysis verse # 10

The admonition will be received by those who fear (Allah)

Verbal Process:

This one is a passive clause. Although “the admonition” is verbiage and “will be received” shows as it is a verbal process, “by those” depicts as receiver in this aspect.

Mental Process:

“Who” is sensor and “fears” shows as this one is a mental process of reaction. This shows as it is a mental process of transitivity.

6. Discussion

6.1 Process Analysis:

Total process frequency counts are 15. Whereas, material process has been used more in this patch of the surah with 8 frequency counts, 3 frequency counts are numbered for verbal, while 2 for each; relational process and mental process. It indicates that material work is being demanded by the Creator in these verses which implies that real action is expected obligatory by the creation. Luckily, 3 verbal frequency counts show as God demands His creation to utter and speak about His glory in words. And then, Mental process of desideration and reaction produce impression that one should bow before Allah’s will and be alarmed of doing wrong. While relational process indicates if instructions are followed or shown, some attributes link with as identity.

6.2 Participant Analysis:

Participant frequency counts are 25 altogether. Material process performs vital in these verses so participants of the relevant process are most with 15 frequency counts, with 5 doers, 4 goals, 4 ranges, 2 targets. Verbal process stands second in number so 5 participants including 3 verbiages, 1 target, and 1 receiver are the part of this process. While 4 are the participants of relational process encompasses with 2 for each; carrier and attribute. And the last, only 1 frequency count remains as a participant of mental process.

6.3 Circumstance Analysis:

Circumstance defines where, why, how, for what, as what etc. in the clause. In this specimen of this patch, circumstances including manner counts 2 and reason 1 frequency count.

7. Conclusion

This research has been conducted to apply Paul Simpson's Model of Transitivity on Surah Aa'la which is the 87th Chapter of the last Part of Holy Quran. It has helped us to answer three research questions that exposes how Material Process is described more with its most number frequency count of Participants and Circumstance. It shows that the Creator of this documents is conveying the message to act, do or follow instructions. Moreover, the ratio of Mental, Verbal and Relational Processes stands with different frequency counts which shows they have their existence in this text. However, Circumstance of Material Process clauses remain at top which indicates emphasize to instruct action. Finally, the paper has concluded the textual and functional relationship which uncovers the understanding of producer's mind and lexical entries.

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