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## Systemic Functional Linguistics to stylistics Analysis of Beloved novel by Toni Morrison

Asst. Prof. Dr. Hadher Hussein Abood (Ph.D.)\*

University of Samarra

[hadher.h@uosamarra.edu.iq](mailto:hadher.h@uosamarra.edu.iq)

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### Abstract

This paper examines the stylistic effects of nominalization, a form of ideational grammatical metaphor (IGM), in Toni Morrison's novel *Beloved*. It employs Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) by Halliday and Matthiessen as the analytical framework. The aims are to identify the types of processes, participant roles, and circumstances used in the story based on the transitivity system, and to connect the author's choice of these elements to her personal experiences and the message she conveys about slavery and racism in America. The methodology involves analyzing the first chapter of *Beloved* to identify instances of nominalization and their metaphorical nature, comparing metaphorical wording with its possible congruent wording to understand the impact, and calculating the frequency of IGMs while classifying process types according to the transitivity system. The findings reveal numerous examples of nominalization in the first chapter, with Morrison achieving a more abstract, formal, and objective tone through nominalizing processes, particularly verbs turned into nouns. This also leads to the condensation of information, increased focus on concepts rather than actions, a more vivid and expressive style, and a means to comment on historical and ideological messages. The paper demonstrates how Morrison's use of IGM through nominalization contributes significantly to the stylistic effects and thematic concerns of *Beloved*, strengthening the

\* **Corresponding Author:** Hadher Hussein Abood, **Email:** [hadher.h@uosamarra.edu.iq](mailto:hadher.h@uosamarra.edu.iq)

Affiliation: University of Samarra - Iraq ©

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novel's ability to convey the struggles and experiences of Black Americans in a context of slavery and racism.

**Key words:** SFL, Nominalization, IGM, Stylistic, Beloved, racism.

اللسانيات الوظيفية النظامية إلى التحليل الأسلوبي للرواية المحبوبة لتوني موريسون

ا.م. د. حاضر حسين عبود

جامعة سامراء

### المستخلص

هذه الدراسة تتناول تأثيرات الاساليب الأسمية، وهي نوع من الاستعارة اللغوية الفكرية، في رواية محبوبتي لتوني موريسون. تعتمد هذه الدراسة على علم النحو الوظيفي الذي طوره هالدي وماثيسن كإطار تحليلي. ان اهداف هذه الدراسة هي تحديد أنواع العمليات وأدوار المشاركين والظروف المستخدمة في القصة بناءً على نظام النحو الوظيفي، وربط اختيارات الكاتبة لهذه العناصر بتجاربها الشخصية والرسالة التي تنقلها حول العبودية والعنصرية في أمريكا. تتضمن منهجية البحث تحليل الفصل الأول من رواية محبوبتي لتحديد حالات الاساليب الأسمية وطبيعتها الاستعارية، ومقارنة الصياغة الاستعارية بالصياغة المتناظرة المحتملة لفهم التأثير، وحساب تكرار الاستعارات اللغوية الفكرية مع تصنيف أنواع العمليات وفقاً لنظام التحول. تكشف النتائج عن العديد من أمثلة الاساليب الأسمية في الفصل الأول، حيث تحقق موريسون لهجة أكثر تجريدًا ورسمية وموضوعية من خلال الصيغة الاسمية، وخاصة تحويل الأفعال إلى أسماء. يؤدي ذلك أيضًا إلى تكثيف المعلومات، وزيادة التركيز على المفاهيم بدلاً من الأفعال، وأسلوب أكثر وضوحًا وتعبيرًا، ووسيلة للتعليق على الرسائل التاريخية والأيدولوجية. تظهر الورقة كيف أن استخدام موريسون للاستعارة اللغوية الفكرية من خلال الصيغة الأسمية والتي تسهم بشكل كبير في التأثيرات الأسلوبية والمواضيعية لرواية محبوبتي، مما يعزز قدرة الرواية على نقل صراعات وتجارب الأمريكيين السود في سياق العبودية والعنصرية

**الكلمات الدالة:** علم النحو الوظيفي، الصيغة الأسمية، الاستعارة الفكرية، علم الاساليب، رواية محبوبتي، العنصرية.

## **1- Introduction**

Novel is a kind of literary functional texts, which bears prominent and unique stylistic features. This paper aims to discuss the application and functions of ideational grammatical metaphor in *Beloved*, novel by Toni Morrison. Halliday's systemic-functional grammar focuses on how language constructs meaning. The process from experience to meaning is a multi-layer systemic choice and construction. The process reveals the complicated relation between grammar and semantics, as well as between meaning and form. This paper aims at Examining Morrison's use of nominalization to express her suffering from slavery and to transfer it to the American society showing the lasting impact of racism through the stylistics analysis using linguistic tool of Halliday and Matthessian's model of Ideational Grammar Metaphor (Henceforth IGM). In the form of nominalization, Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) refers to some kind of text analysis, including an analysis of literary language. Some research has verified the study of the literary text using this linguistic device; however, the use of SFL in literary text analysis is relatively rare. Therefore, this paper investigates the vital role of SFL to literary text analysis. Systemic functional theory views language as a resource people use to accomplish their purposes by expressing meaning in context. Particular aspects of a given context define the meanings likely to be expressed and the language likely to be used to express those meanings.

Downing (1989, p. 88) states, the grammatical metaphor is

**“One of the more sophisticated operations involved in a writer’s exploitation of the meaning potential of a language. So, it is necessary to identify the characteristics of society. There are a large number of grammatical metaphors in English literature. Nominalization is the main form of ideational grammatical metaphor. Based on Halliday's ideational grammatical metaphor, this paper analyzes nominalization in *Beloved*, novel by Toni Morrison and points out that the application of ideational grammatical**

**metaphor can better reflect the objective, formal, concise and authoritative stylistic features of literature".**

Butt et al (1995, p. 119) assert that “what makes Systemic Functional Linguistics so useful for exploring English texts is its perception of the dynamic relationship between language and context.” In a word, language plays an important role in communication. Barry (1965, p. 16) states “language is a medium to share knowledge, information, and experience and thus understand, persuade, convert and control their fellows.”

This study relates to the functional awareness of ideational grammatical metaphor (IGM), the author will present the story with a superior personality. Halliday and Martin (1993, p.79) define GM as "a substitution of one grammatical class, or one grammatical structure, by another"; IGM is conceived "as an incongruent realization of a given semantic configuration in the lexico-grammar" (Halliday, 1985, p. 321). Thus, it is an influential technique in the grammar of a language, by which the expression of ideational meanings such as processes, qualities, and entities is stretched in important ways beyond their default encodings as clauses, adjectives, and nouns or noun phrases. Halliday offers a model which displays certain forms (especially noun phrases) are more likely to be used as metaphorical forms than any other types of expressions.

Nominalization makes the information of the text as a whole unit. Hence, the messages transferred in an improved and formal way, which serve to organize it and might be the reason for its fluency. "Nominalization is the single most powerful resource for creating grammatical metaphor "(Halliday, 2004, p.656). According to semantics view and by means of nominalization, a process or action is transformed into a more abstract entity. Thus, the focal point of nominalization is that it turns processes and qualities into things; in particular, they construct conceptual objects.

Stylistics has been defined as the study of literary texts from linguistic perspectives which makes stylistics a subject that is different from literary criticism and takes linguistics as its connecting technique so, stylistics is an attitude towards the analysis of literary pieces employing linguistic description. Stylistics bridges the borders of the two fields of study literature and linguistics. Ultimately, sometimes stylistics may seem pertaining to

linguistics and sometimes it may seem related to linguistics and this distinction depends on where a person is standing when he is looking at it. Thus, the purpose of stylistics is the exploration of language and particularly the exploration of creativity in use of language and its contribution for the construction of meaning. Stylistics enhances our patterns of thinking and exploration of language improves our understanding of literary texts

### **1.1 Objective of the Research**

This research is focused on showing the relationship between author's view of reality as construed in the novel titled *Beloved* and her personal life encounter. Specifically, it aims to:

1. Identify Types of Processes, Participant Roles, and Circumstances as a means to organize process types, participant roles, and circumstances in the text of the novel.
2. Examine Nominalization as Ideational Grammatical Metaphor (IGM) to show its impact on stylistic Features and Themes
3. Relate Linguistic Choices to Author's Experiences and Message as a way to link Morrison's use of IGM to her personal experiences and the broader message about slavery and racism.

### **1.2 Research Questions**

1. What types of processes, participant roles, and circumstances are prevalent in the "*Beloved*," and how are they identified through the transitivity system in SFL?
2. How does Toni Morrison employ nominalization as a form of ideational grammatical metaphor in "*Beloved*," and what are the metaphorical and possible congruent wordings?
3. What are the stylistic effects of nominalization in "*Beloved*," and how do these effects contribute to the novel's abstract, formal, and objective tone?

### **1.3 Hypothesis of the Research**

This research hypothesizes that the use of nominalization as a form of ideational grammatical metaphor (IGM) in Toni Morrison's "*Beloved*" meaningfully enhances the novel's stylistic features and thematic depth. Specifically, the hypothesis suggests that:

- The conversion of processes and qualities into abstract nouns through nominalization leads to a more formal and objective tone in the narrative. This contributes to the concentration of information and a focus on concepts rather than actions. Thus, the

use of IGM through nominalization reflects and amplifies the historical and ideological messages about slavery and racism in America.

- By employing nominalization, Morrison achieves a more vivid and expressive style that effectively conveys complex emotions and ideas. This linguistic technique allows for a comfortable and more nuanced portrayal of the characters' experiences and the historical context of slavery and racism. This technique enhances the novel's ability to comment on social and cultural issues through its stylistic choices.

In a word, through this analysis, the study aims to demonstrate the role of nominalization as an IGM in determining the narrative and thematic features of "Beloved," presenting visions into Toni Morrison's narrative techniques and the larger suggestions of her linguistic choices.

## **2- Literature of review**

### **2.1 Systemic Functional Linguistics**

As Ravelli (2000, p. 27) states, "one of the most exciting features of systemic functional linguistics (SFL) is the extent to which one can actually say relevant and useful things about what is happening in language, that is, the extent to which you can do something with analysis." According to Enggins (2004, p. 2), SFL is increasingly recognized as a very useful descriptive and interpretive framework for viewing language as a strategic, meaning-making resource. Thus, this perspective is essential if the analysis of grammar is to be an insightful mode of entry to the study of text.

SFL is a socio-linguistically and contextually-oriented framework, as it concerns how language works, how it is organized and what social functions it serves. In SFL, the recognition of a relationship between language and society has existed from the very beginning, and it has now been developed into a theory of language in context centered on the notion of language function. McIntosh and Strevens (1964, p.4) state that language is "a form of activity of human being in societies ". SFL oriented as semantics rather than syntax, functional rather than formal, and its value is thus the text rather than the sentence as in formal linguistics. It explores the language in terms of its functioning in human lives, so as its name suggests, considers function and semantics as the basis of human language and communicative activity.

From SFL's view, all linguistics is the study of meaning and all meaning has a function in a context. Halliday (1989), states that when we study texts, we also need to examine the total environment. Context precedes text, insomuch as the context of situation and context

of culture is seen as being prior to the discourse that relates to it, so the best way to understand the functions of language in context is to study texts.

SFL has developed a comprehensive theoretical architecture, thus it has offered as a scientific description of 'how language works' taking into account both the 'internal organization' of language as well as its 'external relations' to phenomena that are crucial to its evaluation. According to Martin and Rose (2003, p.12), One of Halliday's major contributions to linguistic analysis is showing how simultaneous strands of meanings are expressed in clause structures. Halliday (1994) introduces these meanings as three language functions, or more accurately as three meta-functions; ideational, interpersonal and textual. In creating the meanings, grammar can be represented within meta-functions: ideational (field), interpersonal (tenor), and textual (mode).

As Butt et al (2003, p. 5) argue, "Language seems to have evolved for three major purposes. These are: 1. to talk about what is happening, what will happen and what has happened, 2. to interact and or to express a point of view, 3. to turn the output of the previous two functions into a coherent whole." Halliday (2005, p.15) argues, clauses create text, because a clause has itself evolved by analogy with the text as a model, and can thus represent the meanings of a text in a rich variety of different ways. "Each sentence encodes not just one but three meanings simultaneously, and these meanings are related to the three different and very basic functions of language." (Butt et al, 2003, p.6).

Texts serve as the data used by SFL to study a language, and because of the semantic nature of SFL, the text must be considered both as a product and as a process. When seen as a process, attention is focused on the semantic choices which are being made by speakers. These choices are selected from a network of meaning potential that is given by the linguistic system. SFL view considers this process as interaction, or, a social exchange of meaning. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, p.1) state, "the term text refers to any instance of language, in any medium, that makes sense to someone who knows the language".

In SFL, language is a resource for making meaning; and discourse is the basic unit of language. Downing and Locke (2003, p.3) states, language is seen as what is principally used for communication among humans. SFL studies the metaphor from the point of view of expressing the meaning, and they consider that the metaphor is not limited in the vocabulary level, but is often seen in the syntax level. Grammatical metaphor (GM) has

been an important step forward in SFL, as it challenges the descriptive framework, to define and account for the phenomenon theoretically.

## **2.2 Grammatical Metaphor**

As one of the many concepts introduced in the framework of SFL, Halliday (1984) introduced GM for the first time against the background of lexical metaphor. The lexical metaphor involves “a variation in the use of words or lexemes.” (Simon-Vandenberg, Taverniers & Ravelli, 2003, P.6). This is to be differentiated with the notion of Grammatical Metaphor, which is as theorized by Halliday (1994, P.342) as “a variation in the expression of meanings through different types of grammatical constructions”. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), there are two main types of Grammatical Metaphor: The Ideational and the Interpersonal Metaphor.

GM is treated, as an important component of the theory of system language functions and made a significant contribution to the metaphor study. “While in classical (lexical) metaphor one word takes over from another, in grammatical metaphor one grammatical class takes over from another” (Halliday, 2004, p. 38), as a way of “reconstructing the relations between the grammar and the semantics” (ibid., p. 107). Thus, metaphor in the grammatical sense is the replacement of one grammatical class by another. Halliday (2004) believes that language is a systematic resource for expressing meaning in context. This view of language implies that language must be studied in a different context. In the same vein, Vygotsky (1978,p.39) assumes that GM is “a new culturally-elaborated organization of human behaviour”.

GM means a substitution of one grammatical class, or one grammatical structure by another, for example, “his departure instead of, he departed.” (Halliday & Martin, 1993, p. 79), the process of departing has been turned into a noun. Thus, Thompson (1996, p.165) defines GM as the expression of meaning through a lexical- grammatical form which originally evolved to express a different kind of meaning. The expression of meaning is metaphorical in relation to a different mode of expressing the same meaning which would be more congruent. Halliday (1985: 1994) referred to GM as the non-congruent ways of encoding language, more specifically; GM is an incongruent coding which involves a change on the lexico-grammatical structure of a clause.



GM is of great significance in ideational and interpersonal meta-functions in Halliday's SFL. Halliday (1994, p.341) defines GM as a kind of linguistic manoeuvre which involves "variation in the expression of meanings". Matthiessen et al. (2010, p.110) state that "there are two basic kinds of grammatical metaphor, differentiated in terms of the meta-functional model of meaning: interpersonal grammatical metaphor and ideational grammatical metaphor." In this study, the second type of grammatical metaphor is mainly focused as a theoretical framework.

### **2.2.1 Ideational Grammatical Metaphor**

IGM is a powerful strategy in the grammar of a language, by which the expression of ideational meanings such as processes, and qualities are stretched in essential methods beyond their normal realization as clauses, adjectives, and nouns or noun phrases. Based on the three meta-functions of language, Halliday initially explores the notion of ideational grammatical metaphor. The ideational meta-function of language deals with language as representation: it focuses on the role of language in representing and shaping reality. As Halliday and Matthiessen note (1997, p.14), "the ideational meta-function is concerned with 'ideation' that is grammatical resources for construing our experience of the world around us and inside us".

As stated by Hu (2000, p. 33), grammatical metaphor exists together with the human language in the past, in the present, and in the future "so long as men survive". This statement proposes that GM is a natural phenomenon in language. The ideational grammatical metaphor is part of a more general theory of grammatical metaphor, including metaphors of mood and modality as well, so the valuable and implicit role of GM as a resource of textual, and cultural development, emerges from acts of meaning in the gap of lexico-grammar and semantics.

There are two components for IGM, nominalization, and transitivity system. Halliday and Matthiessen (2004, P.656) argue that "nominalization is the single most powerful resource for creating a grammatical metaphor. By this device, processes (congruently worded as verbs) and properties (congruently worded as adjectives) are reworded metaphorically as nouns", enabling an informational dense discourse. Halliday (2004: 124) states that "The power of the nominal group is at once both grammatical (its structure

potential) and semantic (the nature of entities). Thus, there is a payoff, both grammatically and semantically, for construing phenomena as nouns.

Another component of the ideational meta-function is transitivity. Transitivity is a part of the ideational meta-function of the clause. Thus, it is concerned with the "transmission of ideas." Its function is that of representing 'processes' or 'experiences': actions, events, processes "of consciousness and relations" (Halliday, 1985, p.53). This leads Halliday (1994) to the assumption that IGM is called metaphors of transitivity.

### **2.2.1.1 Nominalization**

Martin and Rose (2003), argue that, nominalizations are the most common form of ideational metaphor. As reality, has been construed across this specific discipline, IGM represents a different order of reality through nominalization. Eggins (2004) argues:

"Nominalization allows us to get away from the real-world sequencing that goes with speaking where we relate sequences of actions in which we featured as actors. By nominalizing actions and logical relations, we can organize our text not in terms of ourselves but in terms of ideas, reasons, causes by turning words and other parts of novel into nouns, we increase the possible content of our text, and thus increase its lexical density."  
(p.95)

Thompson (2004, p.341) states that by noun a process, writers can establish and negotiate the meaning of the clause centered on the process. In other words, that meaning can be treated as having existence, as a kind of abstract thing. Condense information about the context of a situation and of a culture. Summarizing, the comprehensive characterizations of nominalizations contribute to our understandings the proficiency of nominalization.

## **2.4- Stylistics**

Stylistics simply results from 'style' which is, in a widely held view, correspondence between thought and expression. The notion of style is based on the assumption that of the two functions of language i.e. means of communication and also a means of shaping ones thought. The first one is communicative and the second one is expressive. Generally, it is defined as the ability to write clearly and correctly. Specifically, it belongs to the realm of Grammar and sets up a number of rules and general acceptance as how to speak and how to write-it discards all kinds of deviations as being violations of the existing norms.

Stylistics uses specialized technical terms and concepts which are derived from the science of linguistics, terms like 'transitivity', 'collocation, coherence and cohesion. Stylistics, therefore, attempts to study and analyse the deviation in a literary text, a text which does not subscribe to the norms and models of linguistic description. Though Widdowson has famously opposed Michael Halliday's finding and that of generative grammarians who claim that grammar is the model of the speaker's knowledge of his language as Widdowson (1977) argues

"It is common to find sentences in literature which are not generated by grammatical rules. It is possible to specify the nature of the deviation of these sentences by referring to the base rules, sub categorization rules and selection restriction rules". (P.25)

Stylistic analysis tends to explore and explain the particular choices made by the writer/author in the selection of words and sentence structure. In other words, the style employed by the author serves to present a particular emotion and meaning." Short and Candlin (1989, p.9) assert that stylistics is an approach to the analysis of literary texts using linguistic description.

### **3- Methodology**

**3.1- Beloved** his section introduces the corpus provided by the researcher to serve the aim of the study. Stylistic effects of IGM analysis in the use of nominalization in *Beloved*, novel by Toni Morrison, evaluates the message the author is passing through the novel.

"*Beloved*" is Toni Morrison's fifth novel, and another success. Indeed, Ms. Morrison's versatility and technical and emotional range appear to know no bounds. If there were any doubts about her stature as a pre-eminent American novelist, of her own or any other generation, "*Beloved*" will put them to rest. In three words or less, it's a hair-raiser.

In "*Beloved*," Ms. Morrison turns away from the contemporary scene that has been her concern of late. This novel is set after the end of the Civil War, during the period of so-called Reconstruction, when a great deal of random violence was let loose upon blacks, both the slaves freed by Emancipation and others who had been given or had bought their freedom earlier. But there are flashbacks to a more distant period, when slavery was still a going concern in the South and the seeds for the bizarre and calamitous events of the novel

were sown. The setting is similarly divided: the countryside near Cincinnati, where the central characters have ended up, and a slave-holding plantation in Kentucky, ironically named Sweet Home, from which they fled 18 years before the novel opens.

*Beloved* is written in an ant minimalist prose that is by turns rich, graceful, eccentric, rough, lyrical, sinuous, colloquial and very much to the point. Toni Morrison is too smart, and too much of a writer, not to have intended this context. Morrison had a theory - a vision of slavery and black/white relations in America - that was in some ways old-fashioned, but still inflammatory and unresolved. The task was to remake the old story in a compelling way.

### **3.2 Analytical Framework**

#### **3.2.1 Halliday and Matthiessen Model**

This study is based on Halliday and Matthiessen strategy of IGM as a framework of analysis. It aims at evaluating the role of IGM by showing its contribution to the meaning and examining Morrison's use of nominalization to express her message about slavery and racism in America. In the light of Halliday's SFL, IGM model demonstrates how representations of the meaning are embedded through literary text. Hence, grammatical metaphors are important [features](#) of linguistic proficiency due to their condensation of mind of several words into a single nominal entity.

This paper attempts to evaluate IGM and their respective frequencies in Morrison's *Beloved*, to see how many instances of IGM are used in them and what the respective frequencies are. Furthermore, the data has been investigated to find out the role and function of IGM in terms of process types, and the process types and its meaning adopted from (Martin, Matthiessen & Painter, 1997, p. 228). Thus, in the analysis part, there are two essential components closely tied to IGM's model; nominalization which is the powerful resource for creating IGM and transitivity system which is the systematic source for process types.

##### **3.2.1.1 Nominalization**

The principal way of making IGM is nominalization which is the application of a noun form to present a process meaning.” (Tabrizi & Nabifar, 2013, p. 35). Thus, this study seeks to investigate the variation use of nominalization from the perspective of

grammatical metaphor. Grammatical Metaphor is said to be predominantly a 'nominalising' tendency (Halliday & Matthiessen, 1999, p. 429).

According to Halliday (1985), nominalization is the consequence of the metaphorization of the process. Processes are congruently encoded as verbs, but when they are encoded as nouns, it becomes a metaphorical form which constitutes a grammatical metaphor. Thus, nominalization is an instance of what Halliday calls a grammatical metaphor. Matthiessen et.al., (2010, p.56) say "through grammatical metaphor, the 'thing' of a nominal group may be a reified phenomenon of some other kind, like a process (e.g. *an impressive performance*) or a quality (e.g. *impressive Skilfulness*)".

### **3.2.1.2 Process Types**

Halliday (2004, p.325) ties the ideational grammatical metaphor to the transitivity system. IGM is a variation in the expression of meaning, its metaphorical variation relates to metaphor in lexicogrammatically variation. Thus, IGM was realized by transitivity system using process types and nominalization. According to Halliday (2000, p.27), transitivity system classifies types of processes used in any clause into six types. Each process takes a unique set of a participant. The types of processes are material, mental, relational, behavioral, existential, and verbal.

### **3-3 Procedures of Analysis**

This study is presented with the aim of identifying ideational grammatical metaphor through its nominalization form, and process types. Thus, the researcher brings out and finds the metaphorical and congruent domains and the process types in this novel based on IGM's model. Halliday (1994, p.353) states "a piece of wording that is metaphorical has as it were an additional dimension of meaning: it means, both metaphorically and congruently".

In order to show the effectiveness of nominalization and its metaphorical nature, the researcher compares metaphorical wording to its possible congruent one. In the third step, the frequency of IGMs in the form of nominalization is calculated. The process types were classified according to the transitivity system, since, the process types and its meaning adopted from Martin, Matthiessen and Painter, (1997).

To conclude, this section tries to review the study's theoretical framework; Halliday and Matthiessen (1985, 2004) strategy and the IGM eclectic model are warranted for the analysis of Toni Morrison's *Beloved* novel.

#### **4-Data Analysis**

The perception of IGM as a phenomenon is conveyed through metaphorical categories; however, congruent lexico-grammatical realizations are used less in order that this phenomenon of grammatical metaphor is established. “A piece of wording that is metaphorical has as it were an additional dimension of meaning: it means both metaphorically and congruently” Halliday (1994, p .353)

##### **4.1 Samples from beloved novel chapter one**

<b>No</b>	<b>Metaphorical wording</b>	<b>Possible Congruent Wording</b>	<b>Process types</b>
<b>1</b>	The spite	The desire to be spiteful	Rational
<b>2</b>	Looking	Bulger looked in a mirror	Mental
<b>3</b>	In the dead of winter	In the time of winter which was so dead,	Rational
<b>4</b>	Leaving	they left their grandmother	Material
<b>5</b>	Nastiness of life	The life which is nasty	Relational
<b>6</b>	The meanness of dead	What the dead means	Material
<b>7</b>	<i>Leaving</i> life or <i>living</i> it	How she left her life or how she	Material
<b>8</b>		lives	Existential
<b>9</b>	The fright	Let alone being fright of two creeping-off boys.	Rational
<b>10</b>	<i>Her past</i> had been like <i>her</i>	Her past days had been like her	Rational
<b>11</b>	<i>present</i>	present time	Rational

12	<i>forgetfulness</i>	and since she knew death was anything but it is just forgetful	Relational
13	pondering	To ponder on the color	Material
14	Counting	If you counted on	Material
15	The outrage	Being outrageous	Rational
16	The light	Being light/ Lighthouse	Rational
17	No interest	As she wasn't interested whatsoever in their leave-taking or hers,	Mental
18	The persecution	What had persecuted them	Material
19	Calling	As they called forth	Verbal
20	An exchange	They could exchange their views	Material

#### 4.2 Discussion

Due to the limitation of time and space, only the first part of chapter one is selected for analysis. The central theme of Morrison's novels is the Black American experience; in an unjust society, her characters struggle to find themselves and their cultural identity. Her use of fantasy, her poetic style, and her rich interweaving of the mythic gave her stories great strength and texture.

In this Table, there are twenty processes are rendered in nouns, abstract entities such as *fright*, *persecution* and *interest*, etc. These are now no longer expressing actions, but are focused on concepts. As it was noticed, IGM instances in the texts are employed to perform multiple important functions as the following

1-For years each put up with *the spite* in his own way

Here, nominalization is utilized to make IGM, nominalization is the single most powerful resource for creating IGM, and thus, in the congruent wording poverty is in the role of quality, but in metaphorical one, the spite is in the role of carrier. IGM can turn the quality into a concept. Comparing metaphorical wording poverty and congruent wording the numbers of poor people, the function of IGM can be captured through the length of them,

producing a lexically dense style. Morrison resorts to IGM to convey her message about slavery and the struggle of black American in a more abstract, formal and motivating way and improve the effectiveness of the novel.

2- As soon as merely *looking* in a mirror shattered it,

In this example, IGM is utilized in the form of nominalization. The process of *to look* is rendered in entity. Throughout nominalization a subject, verb and an object can be turned into an entity. This technique provides us with different way of construing the world. To Halliday, nominalization is the result of metaphorization of the process, so the process of nominalization is realized as entity. Martin and White (2004, P. 163) argue “grammatical metaphors involve one category (a quality or a process) being presented as if it were another category (a thing/entity)”. A simple comparative glance at the metaphorical and congruent domain will reveal how vital the role of grammatical metaphor is in literary contexts through conceptualization the abstract thoughts. Thus, this function makes the language of Morrison more powerful, impressive, and persuasive.

3- Within two months, in *the dead* of winter,

In the above example, "the dead" is an entity. IGM here is represented in a noun which would naturally be expressed by an adjective, and become an entity. The metaphorical wording as shown is "the dead but the equivalent one is "in time of winter which was so dead ". The utilization of IGM helps to contract long sentences to a nominalization form and compact more information in a clause. Comparing both of them, we can observe the role of IGM in compressing more information in the nominal group. Thus, nominalization regarded as the most omnipresent sort of IGM in political discourse. IGM helps May paradigm the UK's unity by establishing beliefs as well as ways of thinking and acting. Also, in "(the) dead of winter", the word 'dead' is a noun. It is metaphorical in use, and it has a strong correlation with 'depth' in both meaning and sound. Morrison poetically riffs on the theme and makes her own expression. Thus, IGM also has an artful and rhetorical purpose.

4- *Leaving* their grandmother

In the above example, the process left is metaphorically coded as noun leaving, so the action becomes an entity. By utilizing nominalization expression, the voice of the writing text seems more abstract, objective, Thus, IGM provides us with a different way of



construing the world, or of conceptualizing experiences from a different view according to Morrison's experience. The congruent wording left comparing with its metaphorical wording in leaving isn't vivid and expressive in literary discourse. Thus, the role of IGM is to improve the effectiveness of Morrison's message.

5- Suspended between **the nastiness** of life and **the meanness** of the dead

Nominalization is utilized to make IGM. The quality "nasty" is rendered in an entity. The congruent wording might be *life which is nasty* which *nasty* is in the role of quality. In metaphorical wording, *nasty* is rendered in *nastiness* which is in the role of carrier. Comparing metaphorical and congruent wording indicated that the metaphorical one allows a large amount of information to compress in per nominal group. Through nominalization which is prototypical of IGM, Morrison can organize the events of her novel, not in terms of persons, but in terms of ideas, reasons, and concepts. Though using IGM, Morrison can assess her achievements about the community struggle against racism. In addition, the better flow of the novel and attach more beauty to the text.

By using two IGMs in a sentence, the attention of the readers is concentrated on the product of the process. Only by one word with the function of the subject, they could comprehend that the delivered message must incorporate significant information about the concept of life. The congruent domain might be "what the dead means". In the non-metaphorical expression, means is in the role of action, but in metaphorical expression, means is rendered in meanness which is in the role of actor. By applying nominalization, Morrison would like to comment on the concept of the life and death which is regarded as a challenge in black American history

6- She couldn't get interested in leaving life or living it,

Here, the material process "leave" is turned metaphorically to the noun "leaving". Thus the action becomes a concept and this makes the tone of the novel more abstract and more thematic. It is worth noting that the mentioning of both the metaphorical and congruent realization in IGM's model is important, as Halliday (1994, p.353) says "a piece of wording that is metaphorical has as it were an additional dimension of meaning: it means, both metaphorically and congruently". Throughout the role of nominalization, the fundamental key for creating grammatical metaphor, to do the job of convincing the readers into certain ideological and historical messages, enabling Morrison to produce a certain effect.

"Leaving life " can be considered as being a metaphorical realization for the alternative choice "how to leave her life ", which is easier and faster for a lower-level reader to process cognitively. By normalizing the processes, the role of this technique can be detected in achieving condensation in the literary text.

Also, *living* here is a nominalization which is the form of IGM. When a verb is nominalised, it becomes a concept rather than an action. Comparing metaphorical wording *living it* and its equivalence congruent one *how to live it* show that both of them explain the same situation with the same meaning, but the metaphorical wording is more economic and determined manner. Since IGM is closely related to transitivity system which enables the writer and reader to construe the word of their experience into a process type, live becomes in the role of actor rather than the role of action. Consequently, the amount and information density to make observations about this concept are doubled. Hence, IGM displays that the author and reader belong to the same social group.

8- Let alone *the fright* of two creeping boys,

Nominalization is utilized to make IGM. Through nominalization, adjectives can be turned into an entity. The adjective *fright* is rendered in an entity. In the congruent wording *being fright of is* in the role of quality, but in metaphorical expression, *fright is* rendered in *the fright* which is in the role of carrier. It is worth noting that nominalization as a form of IGM, is utilized to achieve a smooth flow of information in the novel through narrating its events, by producing a lexically dense style. Comparing metaphorical and congruent wording show the ability of nominalization to conceptualize the experience and produce informational dense structures. Morrison could possibly convey her intended message about the conflict of this community against racism through the metaphorical domain and capture the attention of the reader.

9- Her *past* had been like her *present*

By using two IGMs in a row, the reader attention is diverted from the quality which is actually occurring and directed instead to the product of it. Only by one word with the function of the subject, the reader could be delivered the message. The force of these nominal expressions which is regarded as a form of IGM, in congruent wording *her past days*, *her present time* is in the role of quality, but in metaphorical wording *her past*, *her present* is rendered in the role of a carrier. By this kind of nominalization, the qualities

become an entity and as a consequence, a single sentence packs in several complex abstract ideas. By this linguistic feature, Morrison is able to refer to recurring abstract ideas. By nominalising the quality, it becomes a concept rather than an adjective. It is the function of IGM to produce a lexically dense style and conceptualize reality. By utilizing nominalization, the novel becomes more vivid and expressive. Employing IGM gives Morrison the capability to produce the stylistic, textual, and ideological effect and changes in the readers' mind.

10- And since she knew death was anything but *forgetfulness*,  
Here, the quality *forgetful* is rendered in an entity. The congruent wording might be *and since she knew death was anything but it is just forgetful*. In congruent wording, *forgetful* is in the role of quality, but in metaphorical wording, *forgetful* is rendered in *forgetfulness* which is in the role of carrier. Comparing the metaphorical wording and congruent wording, we come across an obvious difference in the length of sentences, thus, IGM achieves condensation in the text. Although both of the wordings express the same meaning which is *forgetfulness*, here, but the metaphorical wording gives a sort of abstractness and objectivity of the simple words which hardly can be achieved through the congruent wording. This is what makes IGM a unique linguistic tool.

11- She used the little energy left her for *pondering* colour.  
In the above example, nominalization is utilized to make IGM. The congruent wording might be "to ponder on". In non-metaphorical wording, fear is in the role of action, but in metaphorical wording "to ponder" is rendered in *pondering* which is in the role of actor. By nominalizing process, it becomes a concept rather than action. It is the function of IGM to dismiss mentioning the doer of the action, and achieving objectification.

*skilfulness*- And *counting* on a Cincinnati horizon for life's principal joy was reckless indeed

In the above example, the process count is rendered in an entity. The congruent domain might be if you counted on, which count is in the role of action, but in the metaphorical wording which is counting, *count* is in the role of actor. By comparing metaphorical wording and its possible congruent wording, we find out that how IGM have the ability to reduce the number of clauses, and compressing more information into the nominal group. By nominalization, one word with the function of the subject, Morrison is able to transmit

her message to the reader. It is assumed that metaphorical wording feeds the complexity of writing; Morrison tendencies towards ambiguity, she pays the attention only to her own historical and ideological agenda and, consequently, congruent wording is avoided. Toni Morrison's *Beloved* in a historical context might seem at first to place readers in the position of contemplating the opposition between black and white that has divided American society since the days of slavery.

12- For they understood the source of the *outrage* as well as they knew the source of *light*. In the above clause, nominalization is utilized to make IGM. Through nominalization, adjectives can be turned into an entity. The adjective outrageous, light is rendered in an entity. In the congruent wording being outrageous, being light is in the role of quality, but in metaphorical expression, outrageous, light is rendered in the outrage, light which is in the role of carrier. The above example is compound IGMs where objectification, impersonality and packing condensation are manifest. Because of The facility to pack large amounts of information into a single word, several lengthy sentences can also be conveyed by nominalization. Morrison uses two IGMs in a clause, thus some information and vital features of the process or quality are left unspecified: particularly, the readers don't know who or what; as there is no mention to the time or a doer. A simple comparative glance at the metaphorical and congruent wording will show how IGM has an effective role in the literature context to achieve political and ideological concerns. Thus, according to Halliday (2004), IGM's technique is managed in a clever way to invite a majority of people into certain states of political agenda.

13- With no interest whatsoever in their leave-taking or hers

Here, the process "*to interest*" is rendered in noun "*interest*", that is, an abstract entity. This is no longer describing action; it is focused on a concept. The process is in the role of action, metaphorically coded as noun *interest*, which is in the role of sense. By comparing the metaphorical wording *no interest* and its congruent wording *she wasn't interested*. IGM in the form of nominalization allows a large amount of information to be packed into a comparatively small space. By this function, Morrison has the ability to flow a discourse in a better way and add more beauty to the novel. It is worth noting that IGM renders possible the expression of concepts that are vital to literary discourse.

14- The *persecution* by *calling* forth the ghost that tried them so.

Here nominalization is utilized to make IGM. The process to persecute, is rendered in an entity, thus it becomes a concept rather than action. The congruent wording might be what had persecuted them. In the congruent wording, to persecute is in the role of action, but in the metaphorical expression, to persecute is rendered in persecution, which is in the role of actor. Morrison can mirror the struggle of black community by giving access to nominalization to act as a participant. According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004), nominalization might reformulate a clause, thus, the form of re-mapping a meaning onto the lexico-grammar and semantics realization is essential to reveal the function of IGM. Also, there is a process call rendered in noun, that is, abstract entity. The process to call is metaphorically coded as noun calling which is in the role of sayer. Comparing metaphorical and congruent one, the function of nominalization is illuminated through reducing the number of clauses and increasing information density. So, Morrison is able to refer to abstract ideas. IGM is one of the more sophisticated techniques involved in an author's exploitation of the meaning potential of a language, as nominalization gives the chance to the reader to comprehend the delivered message with significant information.

15- An *exchange* of views or something would help

In the final example, the process to exchange is rendered in an entity. This is now no longer expressing action, but it is focused on a concept. Thus, abstract entities are conceptualized. In terms of transitivity, the congruent expression might be they could exchange their views, which to exchange is in the role of action, but in the metaphorical wording to exchange is rendered in an exchange which is in the role of actor. IGM has a vital role in repackaging of multiple co-occurring meanings into a single, lexically dense nominal group. Morrison utilized this linguistic technique to be able to explain the events that is always happening in a more vivid way. Thus, this mechanism is regarded as conveying the central embodied experience through which abstract thought is conceptualized.

### **4.3 Findings**

This part of the paper contains the frequency of occurrences of process types, participants' roles and circumstances used in Beloved novel Morrison. It also highlights the relationship between the author's choice of words in the novel and her personal life. In this Table shows

the frequency and of the 20 total transitivity process by the story participants which were classified as major, minor and inanimate characters. Among the involved processes, the story is dominated by the rational process with the total of 9.

With the dominance of the Carrier, it implies that the descriptions made by the author to her surroundings are clear which powerfully build their significance to the characters especially the protagonist's plight in materializing her goal of achieving slave's freedom against racism. Relational process clauses can "either attribute some quality or status to an entity or to identify the entity as having a particular and defining role or standing" (Toolan, 2013, p. 81). In the analyzed text, it has the dominant process among the registered processes with the total of 9, most of them were attributed to the inanimate characters. These greatly help describing the characters as readers were enlightened what kind of black woman she is. It is obvious that relational process gives a clarity of everything that surrounds the character; hence, with the direct and real description, this transitivity process leads the readers to easily capture the elements of the story in relation to the reality of the participants.

## **5- Conclusion**

IGM analysis in terms of nominalization and transitivity process has effectively brought the readers into the world of the characters in the novel; similarly, this linguistic mode of analysis helped build the connection of the story to the life experience of the author. The dominance of relational processes which are played by the inanimate characters shows that the milieu that serves as the ground of the inanimate characters powerfully contributed to the dilemma of the characters. Relational processes give a clear description of what kind of world the characters have; indeed, these processes enclosed every character to their identified persona. Mental processes shape the world of the main character, Sethe. Through these, the readers were able to read her mind, her heart and her soul that constitute to her fight against racism and the social treatment. Also among the processes was material. These processes appear to be the result of relational cruelty and mental suffering as the material processes produce physical action in order to achieve changes that cause the mental distress of Baby Suggs.

Since transitivity can ‘shed more light on the use of language in a literary text’, this study is taking transitivity into another level of working to a purely literary tool which enables the readers to produce an objective interpretation of text. Findings also reveal that biographical criticism and transitivity could actually read the author’s mind, her experience of the world, her own consciousness, what goes around her, and inside her.

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