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The Effect of Gender on the Transitivity in William Golding's "The Inheritors"

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Keywords: Gender, Variables, linguistic variables, social variables , Transitivity.

Abstract

Language is used to express real or imagined social contexts, as in the dialogues of novels. According to Semi (1988, p.36), the novel is a literary work based on narration and occupies events and reactions between the characters according to their different behaviours that are expressed by their use of language. The current paper discusses the effect of Gender on transitivity of William Golding's novel "The Inheritors". It is hypothesized that : there are certain types of transitivity that are most dominant , and there are certain differences in the use of mental and existential processes according to gender. The empirical analysis enhances the prior hypotheses pointing out that females use mental transitivity more than existential transitivity while males use existential transitivity more than females.

تأثير الجنس على العبورية عند ويليام جولدنج "الورثة"

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الكلمات المفتاحية: الجنس، المتغيرات اللغوية، المتغيرات الاجتماعية

خلاصة:

تُستخدم اللغة للتعبير عن سياقات اجتماعية حقيقية أو متخيلة، كما في حوارات الروايات. ويرى سيمي (1988، ص36) أن الرواية عمل أدبي يعتمد على السرد ويحتل الأحداث وردود الفعل بين الشخصيات بحسب سلوكياتهم المختلفة التي يعبر عنها باستخدامهم للغة. يناقش البحث الحالي تأثير النوع الاجتماعي على العبورية في رواية ويليام جولدنج "الورثة". ومن المفترض أن: هناك أنواع معينة من العبور هي الأكثر هيمنة، كما أن هناك اختلافات معينة في استخدام العمليات العقلية والوجودية باختلاف الجنس. ويعزز التحليل التجريبي الفرضيات السابقة التي تشير إلى أن الإناث يستخدمون العبور العقلي أكثر من العبور الوجودي بينما يستخدم الذكور العبور الوجودي أكثر من الإناث.

Introduction

As a term, sociolinguistics is formed of sociology and linguistics. Trask (2007, pp.264-265) considers sociolinguistics as the study of the variation of language within speech communities. Spolsky (1998,p.3) states that language is used to establish and maintain social relationships, and that sociolinguistics emphasizes the social influences on language.

According to Trudgill (2000, p.79), gender differentiation in language arises because language as a social phenomenon is closely related to social attitudes. Men and women are socially different in that society lays down different social roles for them and expects different behavior patterns from them.

Accordingly, language is a dynamic, powerful tool used for communicating among members of a society to reach certain intentions. It can change an individual's mind, opinion, or even their decisions about anything in particular (O'Keefe, 2002, p.5)

The current paper discusses the impact of gender on the transitivity processes in "The Inheritors". It attempts to answer the following questions:

- 1.What are differences in the use of mental and existential processes according to gender?
- 2.How does gender affect the use of transitivity processes in "The Inheritors?"

Variables

The term 'variable' has been introduced into linguistics by Labov in 1972 to refer to "the units in language which are most subject to social or stylistic variation" (Crystal, 2008, p.508). Trask (2007, p.314) considers the term 'variable' as "a key element in sociolinguistics which is based on the promise that a linguistic feature can have different realizations and that these are distributed in correspondence with a social factor".

Linguistic Variables

A linguistic variable can be defined as an item in language structure which can be identified by its different variants (Wardhaugh, 2006, p. 137). Linguistic

variable is derived from Labov's work (1963) with other studies of various sociolinguists like Wardhaugh (2006), Wolfram (1969), Meyerhoff (2006), and many others (Hussein and Kadhim, 2021, p.2096). A linguistic variable is a linguistic component that has variables which can be identified. For example, "words such as fishing and singing are occasionally pronounced as fishin' and singin'." The final voice of these words are known the linguistic variable 'ng' with two variants "[ŋ] in fishing and [n] in fishin." (Wardhaugh, 2006, p. 143).

Social variables

Linguistic variants correlate with other items in the structure of language and / or with other social variables such as sex, age, class, education and others (Milroy, 1987, p.94). In this case, such a variable is termed as a sociolinguistic variable (Downes, 1984, p.75).

Meyer (2009, p. 17) points out that the importance of social variables is clearly evident in the various types of efforts that speakers make when they request something from the receiver which is largely determined by the different social roles that the speakers play: gender, level of education, age, social class, and so on.

The most prominent social variants are gender, age, social class, geographical origin, ethnicity, and education. Wardhaugh (2006, p.10) states that "young children speak differently from older children and, in turn, children speak differently from mature adults".

Gender

Gender has been used in place of the word sex. Sex may refer to physiological, functional, or psychological descriptions of persons who are characterized as male or female (Pearson, 1985, p.9). It (gender) is traditionally defined as a set of two or more categories such as feminine, masculine, or neuter, categories into which words are divided on the basis of psychological associations, vivacity, or other characteristics (Pearson, 1985, p.11).

Wood (2009, p.23) states that "gender is a classification made by society based on genetic and biological factors. However, gender is neither innate nor stable, but it is defined by society and expressed by individual when interacting with others in society and the media".

Transitivity processes

According to Simpson (2004, p.22), the system of transitivity is "the Particular grammatical facility used for capturing experience in language". It affects not only the verb serving as process, but also participants and Circumstances (Halliday & Mathiessen, 2014, p.181). According to Santosa (2003, p.78), Transitivity "is grammar that discusses the clause structure in representing the Ideational meaning: experiential meaning". Halliday & Mathiessen (2014, p.107) distinguish six different types of processes: material process, mental process, relational process, behavioural process, verbal process, and existential process.

The Data

The selected data of this paper includes three dialogues of Golding's novel "The Inheritors". They are randomly selected with consideration of the distribution of the chapters in the novel.

Data Analysis

Analysis of Dialogue No.1

This dialogue is extracted from the third chapter (pp.44-50).

Ha: "Come!"

Mal: "I have a picture. The fire is flying away into the forest and eating up the trees. It is burning. The forest is burning. The mountain is burning---"

Mal: "Where is Lok?"

Ha: "Here."

Mal: "Who is this? Lok is on his mother's back and the trees are eaten."

The old woman: "That is a picture of long ago. That is all done. You have seen it in your sleep."

Fa : "Lok is standing on his feet before you. See! He is a man."

Lok: "Yes, I am a man. Here I am, Mal."

Liku: "I am hungry."

Mal: "Where are Ha and Nil?"

Fa: "You sent them for wood. And Lok and Liku and me for food. We will bring some for you quickly."

Mal: "That is a bad picture."

The old woman: "Now sleep."

Fa: "It is not good that Liku should come out on the plain with us. Let her stay by the fire. Mal said. He is sick in his head. He saw all things burning. I was afraid. How can the mountain burn? Today is like yesterday and to-morrow."

Fa: "Must Liku come with us because Mal said So?"

Ha: "That is a new thing. But it was spoken. Mal saw the mountain burning. I do not see this picture."

Lok: "Today is like yesterday and tomorrow."

Ha: "It was spoken."

Lok: "Up!"

Fa: "The sun will drink up the mist."

Liku: "Eggs! Eggs!"

Fa: "Ha and Nil will bring a little food from the forest."

Lok: "We cannot go back with a single grub. And back. And then a single grub."

Lok: "If we eat at this end of the patch then we can bring the people to eat at that end."

Fa: "Mal will not come and she will not leave him. We shall come back this way when the sun goes the other side of the mountain. We will take to the people what we can carry in our arms."

Lok: "This is a good place."

Fa: "If the patch were nearer".

Fa: "I have a picture. The good food is growing. Not here. It is growing by the fall."

Lok: "No plant like this grows near the fall!"

Fa: "But if she see the picture. The overhang and the fire is down here."

Lok: "This place is down here. And the overhang and the fire is there. Come"!

Analysis of Transitivity in Dialogue No.1

Observing the whole verbs of the utterances of dialogue No.1 shows that the total of verbs is 66 as follows:

1. Material processes occur 29 times. Female speakers use them 17 times. The vast majority of female use is by Fa who uses them 15 times while the old woman uses them two times as in:

Fa: Ha and Nil **Actor** ,will bring **Material Process**, a little food **Goal**.

The old woman: You **Actor**, have seen **Material Process** ,it in your sleep **Goal**.

The male speakers use material processes 12 times: Mal (5 times), Lok (4 times), and Ha (3 times), as in:

Mal: The fire **Actor**, is flying **Material Process**.

Lok: We **Actor** ,can bring **Material Process**, the people **Goal**.

Ha: Mal **Actor**, saw **Material Process**, the mountain burning **Goal**.

2. Mental processes occur only 2 times. Both are by females (Fa and Liku), as in:

Fa: I **Senser**, was **Mental Process**, afraid **Phenomenon**.

Liku: I **Senser**, am **Mental Process** ,hungry **Phenomenon**.

3. Relational processes occur 20 times. Female speakers use them 9 times: Fa (7 times) and the old woman (2 times) as in:

Fa: I **Possessive Relational Process**, have **Carrier** ,a picture **Attribute**.

The old woman: That **Carrier**, is **Identifying Relational Process**, a picture **Identified**.

4. Dialogue No.1 does not have any behavioural processes. The participants of the interaction are members of the same family who practice their daily routine.
5. Verbal processes occur 4 times. All of them are used by Fa and Ha equally, as in:

Fa: Mal **Sayer**, said **Verbal Process** ,so **Verbiage**.

Ha: It **Verbiage**, was spoken **Verbal Process**.

6. Existential processes occur 11 times. Female speakers use them 4 times, all by Fa, as in:

Fa: It is growing **Existential Process** ,near the fall **Existent**.

Male speakers use existential processes 7 times by Lok (6 times) and Ha (one time), as in:

Lok: I am **Existential Process**, here **Existent**.

To sum up, the total number of the used transitivity processes in dialogue No.1 is 66 times. Material processes are used 29 times, relational are used 20 times. Existential processes are used 11 times. Verbal processes are used 4 times. Mental processes are used two times. Finally, behavioural processes are not used at all.

The whole types of transitivity in dialogue No.1 are illustrated in table 1 and figure 1 below:

Table 1: Transitivity Processes in Dialogue No.1

Transitivity Processes	Occurrence	Percentage
Material Processes	29	43.9%
Mental Processes	2	3.0%
Behavioural Processes	0	0.0%
Relational Processes	20	30.3%
Verbal Processes	4	6.0%
Existential Processes	11	16.6%

Total	66	100%
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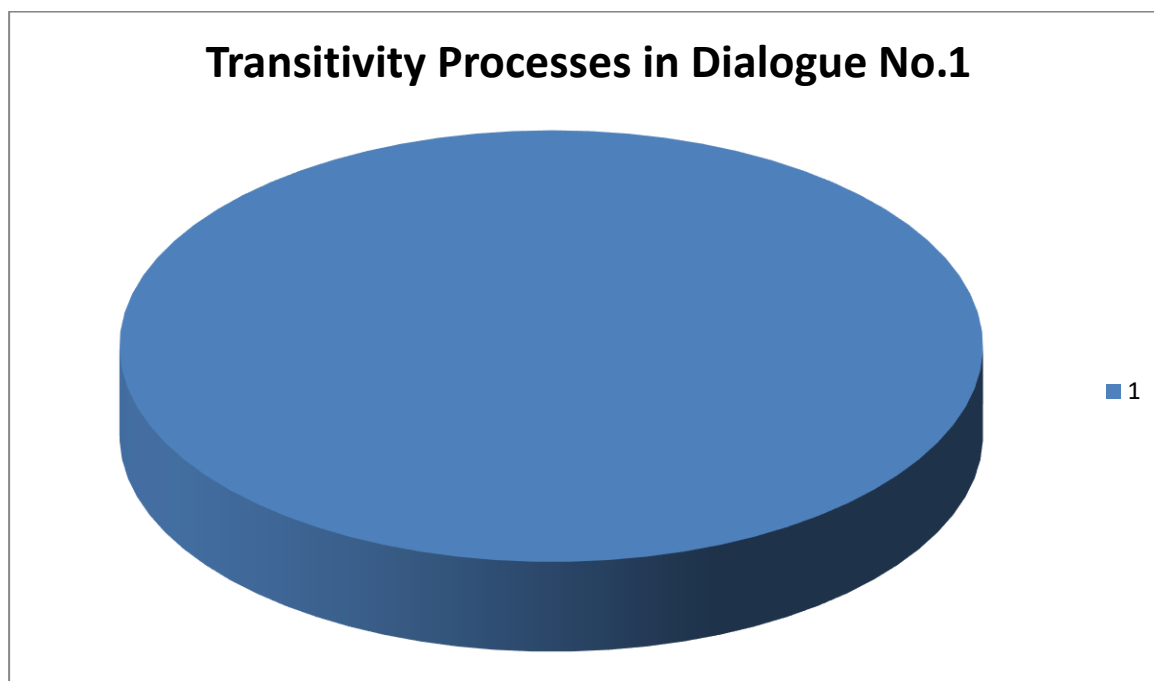


Figure 1: Transitivity Processes in Dialogue No.1

Female speakers use transitivity processes more than male speakers. They use them 34 times. Fa uses them more the other two females. Male speakers use them 32 times. Lok uses them more than the other two males as he uses them 13 times.

As far as material processes is concerned, female speakers use them 17 times and male speakers use them 12 times. On the other hand, male speakers use relational processes more than female speakers as male speakers use them 11 times while female speakers use them 9 times.

Similarly, male speakers use existential processes more than female speakers as the former use them 7 times while the later use them 4 times.

Both male and female speakers use verbal processes two times each. But, female speakers use mental processes two times while male speakers do not use them at all. Finally, neither male speakers nor female speakers use behavioural processes.

The whole types of transitivity in dialogue No.1 according to gender are illustrated in table 2 and figure 2 below:

Table 2: Transitivity Processes in Dialogue No.1 According to Gender

Transitivity Processes	Female	Per.	Male	Per.	Total
Material Processes	17	58.6%	12	41.3%	29
Mental Processes	2	100%	0	0.0%	2
Behavioural Processes	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
Relational Processes	9	45%	11	55%	20
Verbal Processes	2	50%	2	50%	4
Existential Processes	4	36.3%	7	63.6%	11
Total	34	51.5%	32	48.4%	66

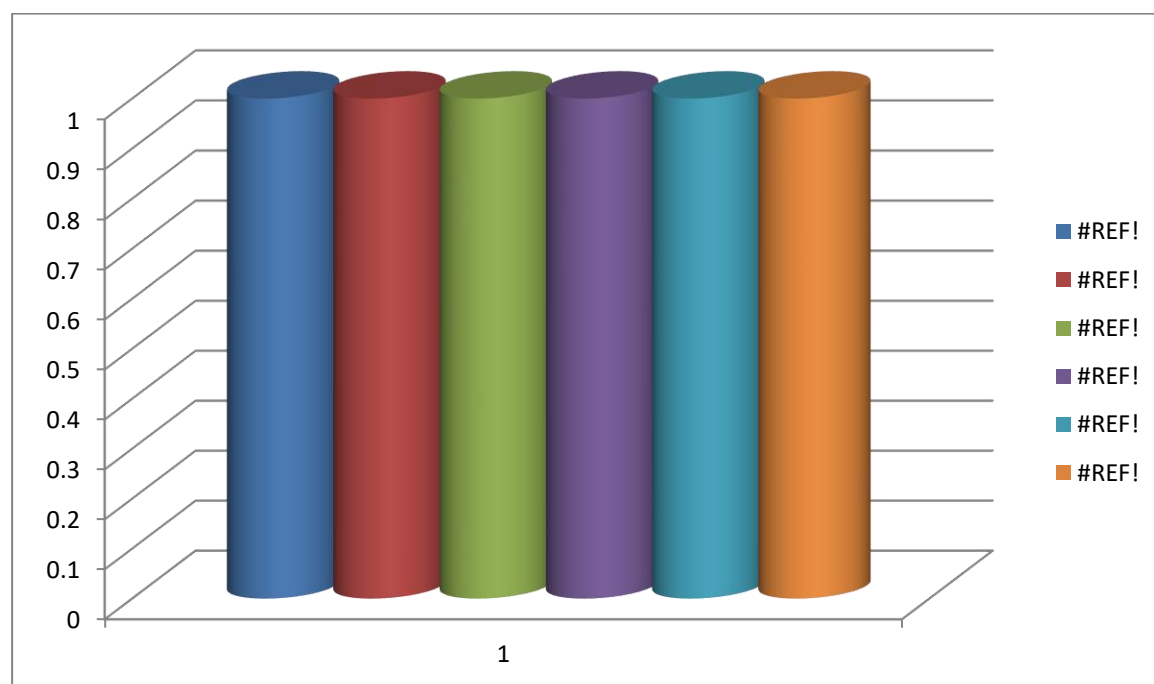


Figure 2: Transitivity Processes in Dialogue No.1 According to Gender

Analysis of Dialogue No.2

This dialogue is from the seventh chapter (pp.132-141). The participants are Lok and Fa. They are both from the old people, the Neanderthal.

Fa: "I do not want to see."

Lok: "I will take fire when it falls from the sky or wakes among the heather."

Fa: "We shall not go again on the island."

Lok: "There must be food found for Liku. So that she will be strong when she comes back."

Fa: "You will be killed. I shall have children that do not die in the cave by the sea. There will be a fire."

Lok: "Liku will have children when she is a woman."

Fa: "Listen. Do not speak. The new people took the log and Mal died. Ha was on the cliff and a new man was on the cliff. Ha died. The new people came to the overhang. Nil and the old woman died."

Fa: "When the new people bring Liku back I shall be glad. How can they give the new one milk? Does a stag give milk? And what if they do not bring back Liku?"

Lok: "I do not see this picture."

Fa: "You have fewer pictures than the new one."

Lok: "There has not been a night."

Fa: "They are looking for something. There is another log. No! No! I say No! What did you say? We shall go down into the forest. For food. We shall watch them across the river."

Lok: "Fa. Climb the dead trunk, to see."

Fa: "We are shut in. They know we are here. They do not want us to go away."

Analysis of Transitivity in Dialogue No.2

Analyzing transitivity in dialogue No.2 shows that the total of transitivity processes is 32 as follows:

1. Material processes occur 16 times. Fa, as a female speaker, uses them 13 times as in the following examples:

Fa: The new people **Actors** ,bring **Material Process**, Liku **Goal**.

Fa: They **Actors**, are looking for **Material Process**, something **Goal**.

Lok, as a male speaker, uses material processes 3 times as follows:

Lok: I **Actor**, will take **Material Process**, fire **Goal**.

Lok: It Actor falls **Material Process**.

2. Mental processes occur only 4 times. Fa, as a female speaker, uses them 3 times as in:

Fa: I **Senser** , do not want **Mental Process** ,to see **Phenomenon**.

Fa: They **Senser**, know **Mental Process**, we are here **Phenomenon**.

Lok, as a male speaker, uses mental processes only one time as follows:

Lok: I **Senser** ,do not see **Mental Process** ,this picture **Phenomenon**.

3. Relational processes occur 4 times. Fa uses them 2 times as follows:

Fa: I **carrier**, shall have **possessive Relational process** , children **Attribute**.

Fa: We **carrier** , have **possessive Relational process** ,fewer pictures **Attribute**.

Lok uses relational processes two times as follows:

Lok: I **carrier** , will have **possessive Relational process** , children **Attribute**.

Lok: She Identifying Relational Process is Carrier a woman Identified.

4. In Dialogue No.2, there is only one use of behavioural processes, which is by Fa, as in:

Fa: I **Behavioural** ,shall be **Behavioural Process**, glad **Attribute**.

5. Verbal processes occur 3 times. All of them are used by Fa, as in:

Fa: You **Sayer**, do not speak **verbal process**.

Fa: I **Sayer**, say **Verbal Process** ,No **verbiage**.

6. Existential processes occur 4 times. Fa uses them only one time, as in:

Fa: There is Existential Process another log Existent.

Lok uses them 3 times, as in:

Lok: There must be **Existential Process** ,food **Existent**.

Lok: There will be **Existential Process** ,a fire **Existent**.

The whole types of transitivity in dialogue No.2 are illustrated in table 3 and figure 3 below:

Table 3: Transitivity Processes in Dialogue No.2

Transitivity Processes	Occurrence	Percentage
Material Processes	16	50%
Mental Processes	4	12.5%
Behavioural Processes	1	3.1%
Relational Processes	4	12.5%
Verbal Processes	3	9.3%
Existential Processes	4	12.5%
Total	32	100%

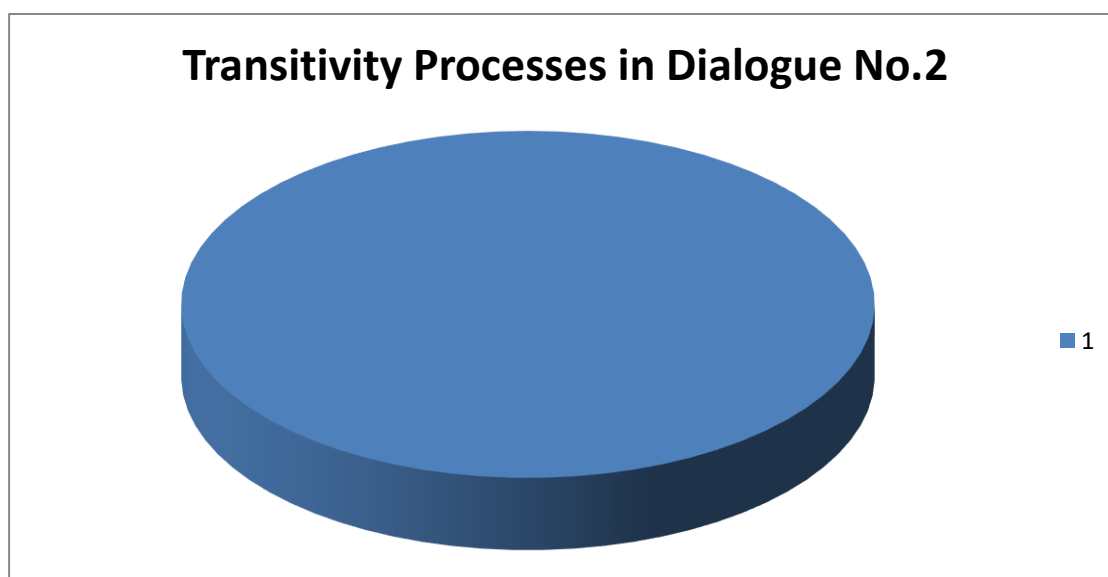


Figure 3: Transitivity Processes in Dialogue No.2

Fa, as a female speaker, uses transitivity processes more than Lok, as a male speaker. She uses them 23 times. Lok uses them 9 times.

According to material processes, Fa uses them 13 times and Lok uses them 3 times. On the other hand, Both Fa and Lok use relational processes two times each.

On the other hand, Lok uses existential processes more than Fa as he uses them 3 times while Fa uses them only one time.

Observing verbal processes proves that Fa uses the three uses. But, Lok does not use them at all.

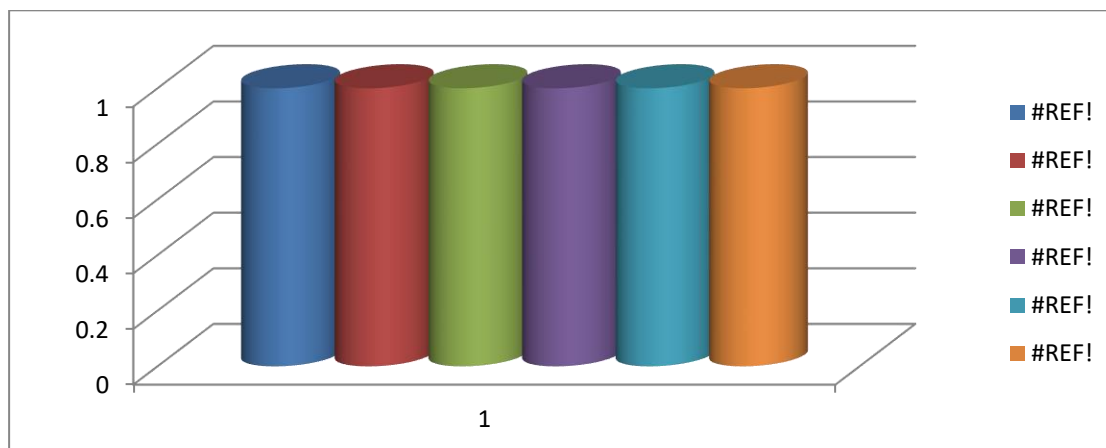
Finally, Fa uses behavioural processes only one time while Lok does not use them at all.

The whole types of transitivity in dialogue No.2 according to gender are illustrated in table 4 and figure 4 below:

Table 4: Transitivity Processes in Dialogue No.2 According to Gender

Transitivity Processes	Female	Per.	Male	Per.	Total
Material Processes	13	81.2%	3	18.7%	16
Mental Processes	3	75%	1	25%	4
Behavioural Processes	1	100%	0	0.0%	1

Relational Processes	2	50%	2	50%	4
Verbal Processes	3	100%	0	0.0%	3
Existential Processes	1	25%	3	75%	4
Total	23	71.8%	9	28.1%	32



Figure

4: Transitivity Processes in Dialogue No.2 According to Gender

Analysis of Dialogue No.3

The interaction of dialogue No.3 is between Fa and Lok (pp.205-215) after the new people indirectly cause the death of Mal.

Fa: "They are going away."

Fa: "The new people are going away. They are taking their hollow logs up the slope to the terrace."

Fa: "My stomach has been sick too."

Lok: "I am ill."

Fa: "I was sick and you would not wake up. I went to see the new people. Their hollow logs have moved up the slope. The new people are frightened. They stand and move like people who are frightened. They heave and sweat and watch the forest over their backs. But there is no danger in the forest. They are frightened of the air where there is nothing. Now we must get the new one from them."

Lok: "We must take Liku from them."

Fa: "Fa says 'Do this!'"

Lok: "Here is a picture."

Fa: "There will be a fire again. And I shall have children."

Lok: "I will do so, and when I see Liku I will take her also."

Fa: "Why did you not snatch the new one?"

Lok: "I asked for Liku. I asked Tanakil."

Fa: "Come!"

Fa: "They will take the new one with them."

Fa: "We will take Tanakil. Then they will give back the new one."

Lok: "Pull!"

Lok: "Bring her quickly."

Analysis of Transitivity in Dialogue No.3

Investigating transitivity in dialogue No.3 indicates that the total of transitivity processes is 38 as follows:

1. Material processes occur 26 times. Fa, as a female speaker, uses them 16 times as in the following examples:

Fa: We **Actor**, must get **Material Process**, the new one **Goal**.

Fa: They **Actor**, will take **Material Process**, the new one **Goal**.

Lok, as a male speaker, uses material processes 10 times as follows:

Lok: I **Actor**, asked **Material Process**, Tanakil **Goal**.

Lok: We **Actor**, must take **Material Process**, Liku **Goal**.

2. Mental processes occur only 3 times. All of them are used by Fa, as in:

Fa: The new people **Senser**, are frightened **Mental Process**. (3 times)

3. Relational processes occur 4 times. Fa uses them 3 times as follows:

Fa: My stomach **Carrier**, has been **Relational process**, children **Attribute**.

Lok uses relational processes only one time as follows:

Lok: I **Carrier**, am **Relational process**, ill **Attribute**.

4. In Dialogue No.3, there is no use of behavioural processes at all.

5. Verbal processes occur only one time by Fa who says:

Fa: Fa **Sayer**, says **Verbal Process**, Do this **verbiage**.

6. Existential processes occur 4 times. Fa uses them 2 times, as in:

Fa: There is **Existential Process**, no danger **Existent**.

Fa: There is **Existential Process**, nothing **Existent**.

Similarly, Lok uses them two times, as in:

Lok: Here is **Existential Process**, a picture **Existent**.

Lok: There will be **Existential Process**, a fire again **Existent**.

The whole types of transitivity in dialogue No.3 is illustrated in table 5 and figure 5 below:

Table 5: Transitivity Processes in Dialogue No.3

Transitivity Processes	Occurrence	Percentage
Material Processes	26	68.4%
Mental Processes	3	7.8%
Behavioural Processes	0	0.0%
Relational Processes	4	10.5%
Verbal Processes	1	2.6%
Existential Processes	4	10.5%
Total	38	100%

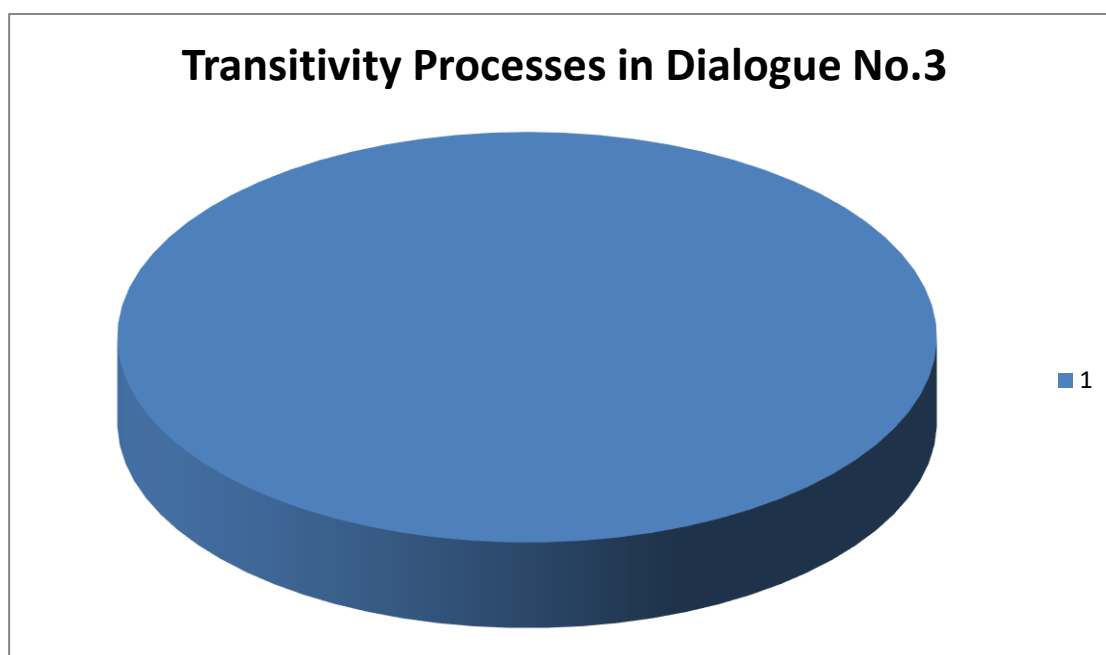


Figure 5: Transitivity Processes in Dialogue No.3

The interaction of dialogue No. 3 involves only two participants, Fa and Lok. Fa, who is a female speaker, uses transitivity processes 25 times. Lok, who is a male speaker, uses them 13 times, as follows:

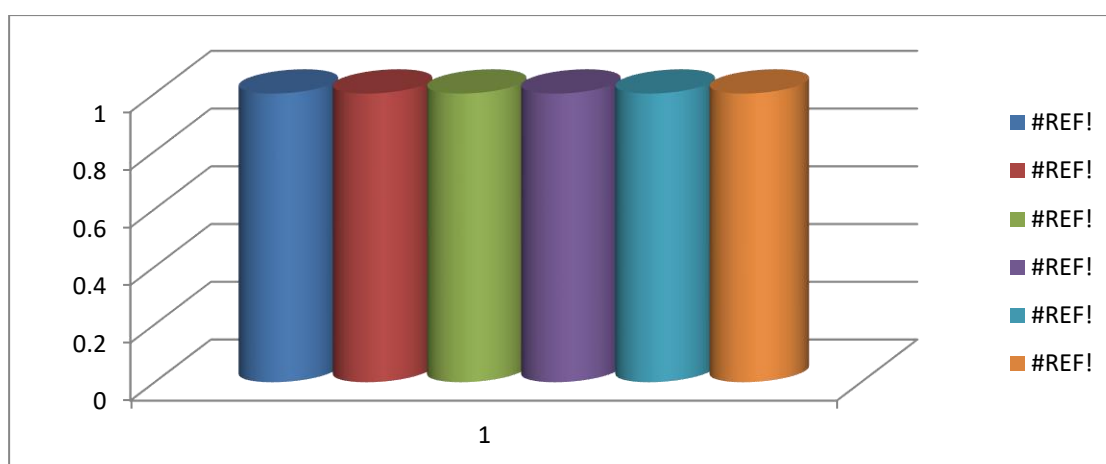
1. Fa uses material processes 16 times, but Lok uses them 10 times.
2. Fa uses mental processes 3 times, but Lok does not use them at all.
3. Fa uses relational 3 times, but Lok uses them only one time.
4. Both Fa and Lok use existential processes two times each.
5. Fa uses verbal processes only one time, but Lok does not use them at all.
6. Neither Fa uses behavioural processes nor Lok does so.

The whole types of transitivity in dialogue No.3 according to gender are illustrated in table 6 and figure 6 below:

Table 6: Transitivity Processes in Dialogue No.3 According to Gender

Transitivity Processes	Female	Per.	Male	Per.	Total
Material Processes	16	61.5%	10	38.4%	26
Mental Processes	3	100%	0	0.0%	3

Behavioural Processes	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
Relational Processes	3	75%	1	25%	4
Verbal Processes	1	100%	0	0.0%	1
Existential Processes	2	50%	2	50%	4
Total	25	65.7%	13	34.2%	38



Figure

6: Transitivity Processes in Dialogue No.3 According to Gender

Material processes are used mostly by female speakers, especially by Fa. Similarly, females use mental processes more than males. Behavioural processes are scarcely used. They are used only one time by Fa. Both males and females are equal in using relational processes. Therefore, they are equal in identifying themselves by certain identifiers or possessive attributes. Females use verbal processes more than males. Observing existential processes illustrates that males use them more than females. As a result, males know the places and directions in the forest more than females.

The Impact of gender of the use of transitivity processes is shown in table 7 and figure 7 below:

Table 7: The Impact of Gender on Transitivity in the selected Dialogues of "The Inheritors"

Transitivity Processes	Female Speakers		Male Speakers		Total
	Occurrence	Percentage	Occurrence	Percentage	
Material P.	46	64.7%	25	35.2%	71
Mental P.	8	88.8%	1	11.1%	9
Behavioural P.	1	100%	0	0.0%	1
Relational P.	14	50%	14	50%	28
Verbal P.	6	75%	2	25%	8
Existential P.	7	36.8%	12	83.1%	19
Total	82	60.2%	54	39.7%	136

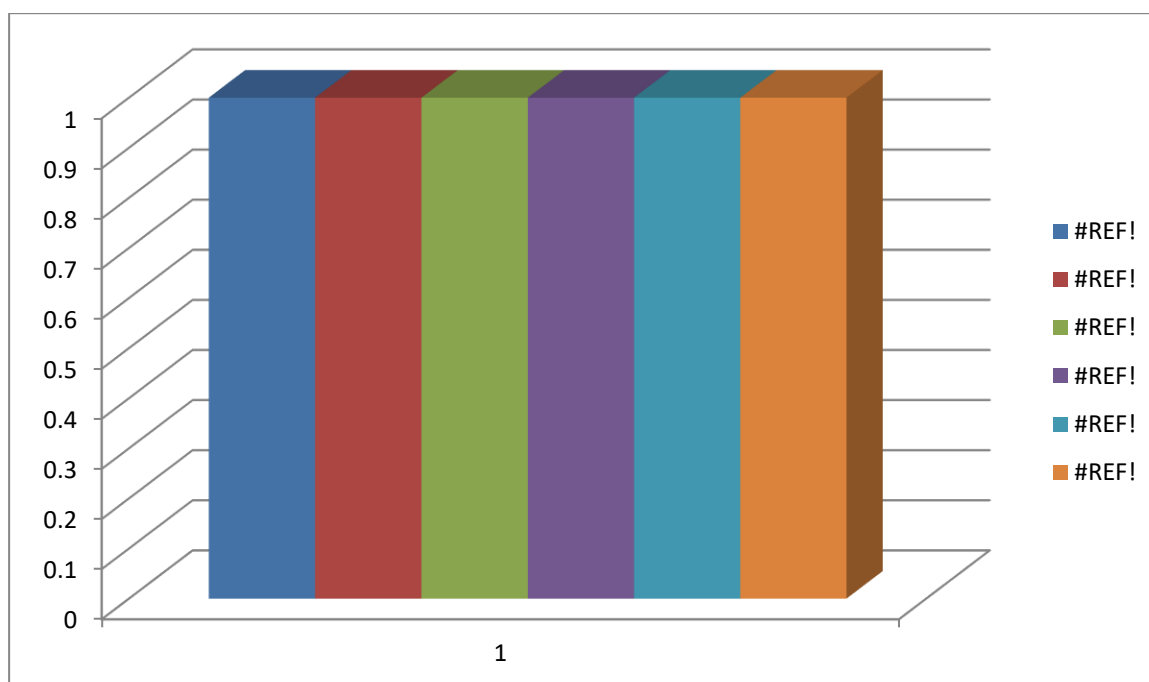


Figure 7: The Impact of Gender on Transitivity in the selected Dialogues of "The Inheritors"

Conclusion

As associated with participants, every participant introduces his/her social identity by his/her choice of linguistic units. Mal, in "The Inheritors", reflect wisdom and logical thinking.

Interactions of the selected dialogues of the novel show a dominance of the material transitivity processes. As a fact, the majority of the interactions deal with actions and certain duties. On the other hand, behavioural processes are the least used as the participants do not express their happiness or sadness.

Observing the impact of gender on transitivity in "The Inheritors" reveals that material processes are used mostly by female speakers. Females, especially Fa, express more verbs of action as she and the old woman are presented as more experienced than the others. In addition, females use mental processes more than males. Fa, as a main female, expresses more feelings of desire, feeling, and recognition more than Lok, as a main male. Furthermore, females use verbal processes more than males. They tend to report the speeches of others more than males do.

Obviously, existential processes are used by males more than females. As a result, males know the places and directions in the forest more than females. Finally, both males and females are equal in using relational processes, so they are equal in identifying themselves by certain identifiers or possessive attributes.

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