

Investigating Power in Golding's '*Lord of the Flies*':

A stylistic Consideration

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Article Info	Abstract
<p>Date of Article</p> <p>Received : 2023/8/10</p> <p>Received in revised form: 2023/8/14</p> <p>Accepted: 2023/8/16</p> <p>Available online: 2023/12/30</p> <p>Keywords:</p> <p>Lord of the flies, Discourse, Halliday, ideology, Golding, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) , Systemic Functional Linguistics(SFL)</p>	<p>"Lord of the files" is considered as one of the famous fictions that treated the topics of psychology, power, and social relations. The current study, through adopting an aspect of Halliday's "Systemic Functional Linguistics" theory investigates the ideological conception of different groups in relation to the notions of power, powerlessness, and fear. This is done by showing how power is represented in what each group feels and thinks towards the other. The analysis contributes to the character's full understanding. The study also includes an analysis procedure namely the verb process elements of analysis, which the characters simplify about strength (power) and weakness (powerless) point under investigation and provide evidence to support their thoughts and feelings.</p>

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Introduction

Golding's *Lord of the Flies* is one of famous novels which "was written as a response to World War II to trace to the defects of society which back to the defects of human nature. William Golding is considered as one of the most distinguished British novelists of the twentieth century" (Reiff, 2010). It was written after the Second World War in about one decade, 1954. *Lord of the Flies* is one of the most important texts of the twentieth century, for both literary and extra-literary reasons" (Reiff, 2010). It is coined in a way that explores the variable aspects of the man of the age. "The reader comes across a

different analysis in the novel includes tension, cruelty, horror, and drama among others" (Golding, 1983, p.18).

Critical Discourse Analysis (henceforth CDA) is considered as a method that permits to examine discourse in a definite way. Van Dijk (2003, p.353) states that CDA is engaged with the ways in which discourse is formed from structure to confirm which ultimately challenge relations of dominance and power in society. In examining CDA, the goal is to uncover more or less hidden agendas of dominance and power conveyed in different discourse types.

The present study is an attempt to employ Halliday's "verb processes to examine the processes of ideologies and beliefs representations in Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. The analysis aims to reveal how Golding approaches ideologies, beliefs, and perspectives by considering the use of the verb processes of Halliday's transitivity specifically the verbs types employed in the novel which reflects the way Golding constructed dominant and subordinate characters and groups in his novel. In addition, statistical mappings of the findings and results are provided. Then, the results are discussed in detail and commentaries and interpretations are offered. As such, the study adopts both quantitative and qualitative analysis to read the novel in pursuit of the verb processes proposed by Halliday responsible for its ideological content. The results, which are statistically detailed in tables and figures, are added to show the frequencies of occurrence of every category identified in the novel. Then, the results are discussed and interpreted from stylistic and ideological perspectives.

2. Discourse, Discourse Analysis, and Ideology

Carter (1993) states that the word 'discourse' indicates subjects or sorts of language employed in certain context for instance 'political discourse'. Cook (1989:6-7) mentions that discourse should not be grammatically perfect to be considered, rather, it could be ranging from a grunt or a segment of language, short speech, fragmented notes or a long text. The term 'Discourse analysis' (henceforth DA) is used for the first time by Zellig Harris who considers it as a way to analyze a piece of language beyond the level

of a simple sentence (Harris, 1952). In addition, DA could also be approached as organizing language above the level of sentence where the studies draw some theoretical and methodological frameworks to analyze a given text from disciplines such as, linguistics and sociology.

Ideology, on the other hand, is "a systematic body of ideas, organized from a particular point of view" (Hodge & Kress, 1993:6). Mainly, everything that is written or uttered has an ideological conception: "language is not a clear window, but a refracting, structuring medium" (Fowler, 1991: 53). Ideologies could be seen to be certain ways to represent and construct "society which reproduces unequal relations of power, relations of domination and exploitation" (Fairclough & Wodak, 1997: 275). However, Ideology represents the system of beliefs, which are owned by an individual or a social group, which could be approached through exposing certain linguistic choices in texts. Such choices would mirror and build ideology (Simpson, 1993: 5-6).

3. Discourse Analysis and Literature For several years, analyzing literature was laying in two basic traditions: The hermeneutic method which is text centered method and the context centered method which considers the major culture practices that focus on some requirements related to the production and reception of literature (Miall, 2002, p. 321). Nevertheless, Hasan (1985) as cited by Dooga (2009, p. 133) illustrates that criticism represents "a series of personal preferences without linguistic analysis." This in turn would indicate that there are strong interrelation and interference between linguistics and literature.

Linguists, therefore, apply stylistic and pragmatic conceptions in studying literature.

Discourse Analysts deal with literature in two ways : Traditional and Discourse Analysis (Maingueneau, 2010: 2). This indicates that this field approaches both the text itself and the context which includes everything related or surrounded the text (Maingueneau, 2010: 5). This demonstrates why genre is the central concern in literary discourse analysis because literature could be regarded as a set of interrelated genres, "a certain configuration of legitimate speech activities" (Maingueneau, 2010: 6).

4. The Overview of Transitivity

Within transitivity, clause represents a unit, which could indicate a meaning in certain. Van Dijk (2008) asserts that the analysis of action-process of a text represents a way of CDA. The Clause is the meaningful grammatical unit as it indicates what is going on , what is performed, or what is exposed or mentioned etc. (Wang, 2010). Morley (2000, p.9) sees transitivity as being aiming to specify the parties or matters that are concerned, the practices or events within the given situation or context. The verb is the means to categorize the processes, thus it represents a vital element in the clause. Woods (2006: 50) says that "Critical discourse analysis aims to unpack the common-sense social and cultural assumptions or ideologies which, below the level of conscious awareness, are embedded in all the forms of language that we use."

Being the core of the sentence, the verbs are the major concern in Halliday's Transitivity System, which considers the processes indicated in the clause. They are seen as "performing words" since they state the events,

the actions, states or performance. This indicates that there are variable sorts of verbs which represent or perform different processes side by side with the structures that shape these processes. Halliday (2004) in his *Systemic Functional Linguistics* categorizes six processes in relation to the type of the verbs and clauses:

4. 1. Material Process

This type is understood as the process of what is done or what is happening in both transitive and intransitive clauses. Matthiessen and Halliday (1997) suggests that it indicates an action, activity or event. Halliday sees that "material process include the ones performing or cause the happening of something. i.e. an entity (agent) performed something to another (affected) one (1994:110).

4.2. Mental Process

Such process includes what is felt or thought of. Downing and Locke (2006) mention that a mental process indicates what is used to order or express the mental contacts with the outside world. Besides that, Halliday (1994:117) states that "mental processes or process of sensing are processes of feeling, thinking, and seeing." They are processes that express what is going on in the mind of the human being. Linguistically, several verbs are used to nominate such processes of what a language user thinks imagines, likes, wants, sees, etc.

4.3. Verbal Process

Halliday (1994: 140) mentions that this process indicates what is said which includes any type of symbolic exchange. These could be direct, indirect, or ergative. Such processes represent a good source for the different types of discourse. Halliday (2004: 252) demonstrates that "The verbal clauses

contribute to the creation of narrative by making it possible to set up dialogic passages."

4.4. Relational Process

This process is also called as the process of "being". Halliday (2004) defines that a relational process is the process to say that an experience is modeled as *being*. There are three subdivisions of the relational process, namely *attributive*, *identifying*, and *possessive* processes. The meaning of an attributive is that "X is a member of the class A" (Eggins, 2004). Identifying, on the other hand, indicates that X refers to A. Furthermore, Lock (1996) states that the possessive process indicates both relations of part-whole relationship and ownership relation.

4.5. Behavioral Process

From its name, this process indicates what is "behaved". Eggins (2004) explains that this type of processes is related to actions that are connected with conscious and psyche. In addition, These processes are representations of physical, as well as, psychological behavior though some of them contrast with mental process synonyms, e.g. *look at* is behavioral while *see* is a mental one (Eggins, 2004). Halliday (2004:139) sees that "behavioural processes are processes of (typically human) physiological and psychological behaviour, like breathing, coughing, smiling, dreaming and staring." Moreover, He adds that certain verbs refer to actions that mirror mental state are considered also as behavioral such as, laugh, cry, and gasp etc.

4.6. Existential Process

This is understood as the process of *existing*. Eggins (2004) conforms that it represents experience by showing existence of

something. This type could be identified easily as the clause should contain the word 'there'. *It* as a dummy could also refer to existential processes, such as, "It is a book on the table." *It* is present in the clause as the Subject. They commonly use "be" or its synonymous like *exist*, *arise*, and *occur*. An Existent is the only obligatory participant. Halliday (1994:142) mentions that "existential process represents that something exists." The things or events which are being mentioned to be existed are considered as existent.

5. Lord of the Flies: Background

This novel is about a group of British school boys who were travelling when their plane fell down in island. In this novel, Golding portrayed symbolically the inner conflict inside human being or society to recall the readers to consider such things. The characters of the novel are between 6-12 years old with no mature monitoring to take care of them. Piggy, a fat boy, represents intellectuality. Whose size led to be called as such by the boys "Only Piggy could have the intellectual daring to suggest moving the fire from the mountain" (Golding, 1983: 100).

This novel is highly important not due to what it "tells us about" but because of what it "tells us about". It shows the inner side of man's heart, still this is just because it is a piece of art. This allows inhabiting the world it constructed and live on a human scale as a wise and sensitive individual (Yakup Egeli, 1999:1)

5.1. The Analysis of the Study via Halliday's Transitivity

Tracing Halliday's Transitivity in Golding's "Lord of the Flies", the analysis shows that a total number of (1566) process verbs are

detected. The analysis according to Halliday's Transitivity also proves that verbal processes have the highest frequency of occurrences in the novel under investigation with (435) instances (27.78%), followed by *Existential processes* that occupy the second position as they occur (421) times representing (26.89%). As to Mental processes, they come in the third place with (370) times (23.63%), while Material Processes occur (149) times and represent (9.51%), followed by *Behavioral process* that occurs 138 times (10.17%) *Relational processes* have the lowest frequency of occurrence among the processes with no more than (53) instances representing (3.38%), as illustrated in Table (1) and Figure (1) below:

Table (1) The Total Quantity of 'The Dominate Process Types'

No.	Process Types	Frequency	Percentage
1	Material	149	9.51%
2	Mental	370	23.63%
3	Verbal	435	27.78%
4	Relational	53	3.38%
5	Behavioral	138	8.81%
6	Existential	421	26.89%
Total		1566	100%

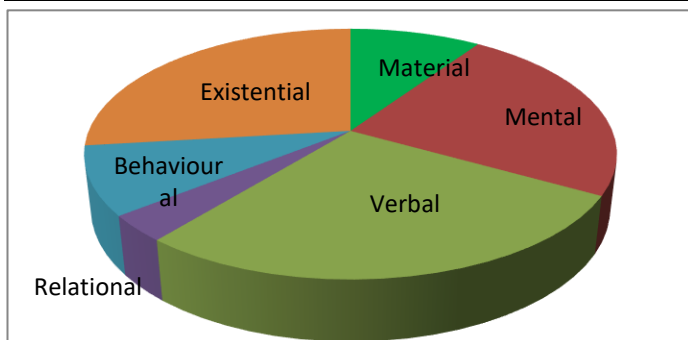


Fig. (1): The Total Quantity of 'The Dominate Process Types'

5.1.1.1. The Material Process

The analysis of *Lord of the Flies* according to Transitivity results in detecting (149) occurrences of 'Material Process', representing (9.51%). William Golding employs 'Material Process' basically to introduce and expand on powerful dialectics:

1. "I ought to be chief" (LOF: 27).

In the above example of material process, Golding depicts Jack as a powerful and arrogant person and always wants to be the leader. Jack chooses the first person singular pronoun to show that he is powerful and has the authority to decide what should happen. He could yell at the boys to get them feel inferior and he likes to punish other for not following his laws. Here, the character conveys his ideas via choosing himself as powerful actor. Jack sees that he should have the power since he is permanently had it. Additionally, he communicates his moods for the boys by making them performers of undesirable actions. It is observed that material processes signify either concrete or nonconcrete events. Golding shares his feelings and attitudes concerning the boys. These feelings/ moods are noticeable via certain processes. Some of material verbs are used to display an aspect of powerless events and other mental processes are employed to convey his opinion about the actions of boys and reflected the society in which they grew up. Hence, mental processes are used as a means for affirming views and attitudes towards the characters who lose power in front of Jack's powerful group:

2. "Piggy, finding himself uncomfortably embroiled, slid the conch to Ralph's knees and sat down." (LOF: 145)

3. "When they find me, what are they going to do?" (LOF: 272)

For instance, the powerless feelings are clear in the Piggy's reaction and the twins as well:

4. "If you give up, said Piggy, in an appalled whisper, what 'ud happen to me"? (LOF: 144)

5.1.2. Mental Process

The analysis of the novel reveals (370) (23.63%) occurrences of this relation. Mental verbs are used also here to refer to the powerlessness of the weak characters by showing the conflict in their mind caused by the Jack's maltreatment. Therefore, this view of thinking and aspiration makes them different from the other:

5. "I'm scared of him " said Piggy, and that's why I know him. If you're Scared of someone you hate him but you can't stop thinking about him."

The characters have the ability to think, feel, and recognize. The examples here reflect the feeling of fear and despair that led to make the boy weak:

6. "How does he know we're here?"

5.1.3. Verbal Process

According to Transitivity, this process has the most frequency of occurrences as it appears (435) times, representing (27.78%). Verbal processes are used to show also the power of Jack, when he repeats his commands for others to do what he wants:

7. "If you want to join my tribe come and see us. Perhaps I'll let you join. Perhaps not" (LOF:140).

Here, Golding identifies 'Jack' as the ruler of the boys. Verbal processes are coined to focus on the non-social and frustrating dealings of the user. They are indicated by the verbs 'mumble' and 'talk' :

These verbal processes are used to illustrate the way the weak and powerless boys communicate with the leaders such as Ralf and Jack .

5.1.4. Relational Process

The statistical findings of *Lord of the Flies*, shows that this process has the least frequency of occurrences as it occurs (53) times and (3.38%). The relational verbs used by 'Jack' shows his carelessness to others and his bad treatments to his colleagues.

8. "You are a silly little boy," said the Lord of the Flies, "just an ignorant, Silly little boy."

'Jack' uses this relational process to demonstrate his leadership abilities. To emphasize that he is powerful and has the authority to decide what should happen. He can also use yelling to make the boys feel inferior and he enjoys punishing everyone who breaks the rules. He also uses bullying to show that other boys are not strong enough to be the chief .In the first quote, Jack described Simon as a little, ignorant, and silly boy. These verb processes classify participants focused towards either the speaker himself or mentioning the others behavior. For instance, these verbs have certain functions such as recognizing, identifying, and describing the powerful or powerless leader as well as conveying opinions:

9 ."You're still chief." (LOF: 223)

such verbs express the functions of detecting the two leaders and describing Conflict between strong and weak leaders' mood. For example, they identify their common problem when they get difficult situation in the island .

10. "What are you doing out here all alone? Aren't you afraid of me"? (LOF : 206).

11 ."The twins were silent." (LOF: 145)

5.1.5. The Behavioral Process

The analysis according to 'Transitivity' identifies (138) examples *Behavioral Process* representing (8.81%). The results reveal showing powerlessness of some characters in this novel like 'Piggy' who is so frightened of the beast until he cannot breathe. There are certain verbs that express psychological and physiological conduct/ behavior. Such verbs are *cough*, *smile*, and *dream* where the animate subject is the required participant like 'Ralph' who has different psychological state concerning plans that might be rescued then in the island straight away. For example, Golding writes:

12 . "Ralph laughed sharply as he said the word and Piggy frowned" (LOF: 117)

5.1.6. Existential Process

The analysis shows that Golding uses this process (421) times (26.89%) in the novel under study. The Existential Process indicates the existential means that what is exploited is confirming the presence of something or someone. In this type of process, there is only one participant. The substantial components are the things or persons who are mentioned to be exist, as in Ralph's sentence when he speaks firmly concerning rules and power through the mention of the conch:

13. "there was the conch." (LOF: 29)

In *Lord of the Flies*, power of their diminutive island government is represented by a conch shell in which Ralph describes it as "ever so expensive. I bet if you wanted to buy one, you'd have to pay pounds and pounds and pounds." Directly, the conch is appreciated overhead all other things on the island, and Ralph who is holding the conch when they vote on a leader, is chosen as chief.

6. Conclusions

In *Lord of the Flies*, Golding's hesitant attitudes and feelings are constructed clearly by his language. At the level of verb patterns, the characters make use of mental and verbal process verbs throughout the analysis of the sentences. These verbs, one can comprehend and mirror his considerations of detecting and describing the characters, then reveling their power. Some of these verbs may be considered as a mirror image of his depression. Other mental verb processes mark clearly his attitude mainly when the characters struggle and fight about the authority and leadership. As far as power is concerned, these verbs are involved in directing irrational Jack's group opinions and attitudes towards the boys and in showing the bad actions. The result shows their images and identifications of the characters, as well as, their attitudes and beliefs. It is noted that 'Ralph' is not the one agreeing to go look for the beast; it is the chief inside of him. He is a worthy instance of how power can essentially make him better since power can be a positive force. The other participants selected to display their opinions and beliefs directly towards the community in which they life. This exposure is asserted through the language by referring to the powerfulness or authority with negative feelings and opinions.

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استقصاء القوة في رواية غولدنك "سيد الذباب": رؤية

اسلوبية

سلام عباس محمود

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جامعة المثنى/ كلية التربية للعلوم الإنسانية

المستخلص

تعتبر رواية "سيد الذباب" من الروايات الشهيرة التي تناولت مواضيع علم النفس ، والسلطة ، والعلاقات الاجتماعية. تبحث الدراسة الحالية ، من خلال تبني جانب من جوانب نظرية "اللسانيات الوظيفية المنهجية" لهاليداي ، في التصور الأيديولوجي للمجموعات المختلفة فيما يتعلق بمفاهيم القوة والعجز والخوف. يتم ذلك خلال إظهار كيف يتم تمثيل القوة في ما تشعر به كل مجموعة وتفكر فيه تجاه الأخرى. يساهم ذلك بتحليل الشخصية لنقاط التركيز. كما تضمنت الدراسة عناصر تحليل الفعل الكلامي ، والتي تبسطها الشخصيات حول مفهوم (القوة) ، و(الضعف) نقطة المناقشة وتقديم الأدلة التي تدعم أفكارهم ومشاعرهم. لذلك لم يتم التأكيد على جوانب الرواية الأخرى.

الكلمات المفتاحية : سيد الذباب , الخطاب , هاليداي , الايدلوجيا , ولیم غولدنك , تحليل الخطاب النقدي, علم اللغة النظامي الوظيفي.