THE TRANSITIVITY-PASSIVIZATION INTERFACE IN TWO ONLINE NEWSPAPERS ABOUT THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

THESIS

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Sarjana Pendidikan

EDWIN BAGUS JOHARTA
112012114

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION PROGRAM
FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
SATYA WACANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
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THESIS

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COVER PAGE</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROVAL PAGE</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPYRIGHT STATEMENT</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE OF CONTENTS</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVIEW OF LITERATURE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitivity</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passivization</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass Media Bias</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of Previous Studies</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE STUDY</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Methodology</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Context of the Study</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Collection Method</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object of the Study</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Analysis Procedure</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINDING AND DISCUSSION</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitivity Process</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Role of Participants</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Comparison of Transitivity Choices</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passivization Functions</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Interpretation</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONCLUSION</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGMENT</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFERENCES</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. The Headlines of the Selected News Articles ................................. 10
Table 2. The Processes Occurring in the News Articles ................................. 12
Table 3. The Role of Participants in the News Articles ................................. 13
Table 4. The Frequency of the Use of Passivization ..................................... 15
THE TRANSITIVITY-PASSIVIZATION INTERFACE IN TWO ONLINE NEWSPAPERS ABOUT THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

Edwin Bagus Joharta

ABSTRACT

Mass media are often biased in reporting certain news. There will always be reason on why they report certain news besides the commercial benefit they will get. This phenomenon requires readers to be more aware and critical when getting information from the media. By using critical discourse analysis, this study attempts to draw comparison between two different newspapers to find how newspapers convey meaning through the news reporting. There are two tools of critical discourse analysis that will be used to conduct this analysis. They are the transitivity analysis on participants and processes, and passivization technique that is used by the newspapers. The news articles are the online edition taken from the Antara News, an Indonesian newspaper and the New York Post, an American newspaper. Both newspapers report the conflict of Israeli and Palestinian in the Third Gaza War in 2014. The result is interesting in that both newspapers emphasize different points about the conflict even though the event of the news is the same. How the newspapers use the choice of verbs, the sources to support information, and the words construction in reporting the events implicitly tell how newspapers position themselves in the issue.

Key words: critical discourse analysis, Israel, Palestine, transitivity, passivization

INTRODUCTION

The war between Israel and Palestine is like a never-ending conflict. Many countries have tried to negotiate both sides to stop the war, but there seems to be no result at all. This situation has consumed attention from all over the world. Many mass media are involved in spreading the issue about this war to the public in every place in the world. Some may show about the saddening atmosphere in both territories. Some other may emphasize the victims of one side compared to the strong army of another side. Mass media no longer become a neutral institution whose role is
in delivering information as objective as it should be. They seem to stand for one particular side which seems to be more trusted by the public than the other side. For example, in Indonesia, there is stereotype that most people in Indonesia are Muslim, the media use this religious condition to give spotlight to the action of the Israeli toward the Palestinian as the victims of the circumstance in order to get attention from the public of Indonesian. In the other side, mass media in United States will be more on Israel as they are allies and besides that, as Gottschalk and Greenberg (2008) explained that ‘Islamophobia’ is quite common in Westerns including Americans who think that Muslims are always connected to world conflicts and injustice. This condition benefits the mass media to create the image of Palestine as the bad side so that the public will consume the information more and more. Both media in Indonesia and United States use the chance of the public preference in providing information. This phenomenon cast some doubt on the consistency of mass media as a fair institution. To check whether the stereotypes of U.S. media taking side with Israel, and Indonesia with Palestine, hold true, the current discourse analytical study investigates the degree to which Indonesian and U.S. mass media perpetuates the stereotypes.

Mass media has taken a big part in sharing information to the public. Reah (2002), stated that mass media, especially newspaper are identified as, “snapshot which create or at least influence parts of our society and culture” (p.3). However, in being the information bearer for the public, sometimes they lose their objectivity in delivering it. Instead of being objective in telling the information to the public, some mass media sometimes use their subjectivity and choose in certain side when they
provide information to the people. It causes bias among the reader because each mass media gives different perception about an issue.

This study analyzes two newspapers, one form Indonesia, which is Antara News and the other one, is from United States which is New York Post. The news will be focused on the conflict between Israel and Palestine. The texts will be analyzed using Critical Discourse Analysis’ tools.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Critical Discourse Analysis

To analyze a written text, it is recommended to use critical discourse analysis that will help in identifying the meaning of the text. According to Van Dijk (1993, p.249), Critical Discourse Analysis “focuses on the relation between discourse, power, dominance and social inequality and how discourse (re)produces and maintains these relations of dominance and inequality.” However, to be more simply, Richardson (2007, p.1) stated that “Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is a theory and method of analyzing how people or a group of people use the language.” This shows that CDA helps to analyze the deeper information within the language used by people.

There are many tools in which CDA is used to analyze and identify texts to understand how language is used. Benhima (n.d) stated that one way to examine how texts produce and enact social power, abuse, dominance and inequality is through making use of those different tools. In this study, there are two tools of CDA that I use in analyzing the news articles. They are transitivity and passivization.
Transitivity

As I have mentioned earlier, transitivity is one of CDA tools that can be used to analyze the text in order to understand the meaning. Thus, Matu and Lubbe (2007) explained that:

Transitivity is a fundamental and powerful semantic concept and generally refers to how meaning is represented in the clause. It plays a role in showing how speakers encode in language their mental picture of reality and how they account for their experience of the world around them. (p. 411)

In the area of mass media, Chen (2007) stated that transitivity is an effective tool that can be used to analyze the way what people say is transformed in news reportage. In addition, Fairclough (1995) as cited on Huckin (2002) tried to highlight that transitivity focuses the relation between the actor and the affected participant in process or event presented in the sentence.

There are three components involved in transitivity according to Halliday (2004). The three components are process, participant, and circumstance. To elaborate this, process simply means the event being described by the writer which has six different types. However, I only focus on two processes which are material processes or “processes of doing and happening” and verbal processes, or “processes of saying” (Halliday, 2004, p.170). Besides process, there is also what is called as participant. Participant means any subject or object that involved in the process. In traditional English grammar, participants are generally called subject and object. In the field of functional grammar, he also differentiates them according to the process. In material process, the subject or the participant who does the action is named Actor, while the affected participant is called Goal. In the verbal process, the subject is known as Sayer, and the object is called Addressee. However, Bazzi (2009) proposed that in defining the participant relation in material process, he used the term Agent to
refer to the participants that do the action or the actor and Patient to refer to the affected participants or the object that acted upon or the goal. And the last component used in the transitivity is called circumstance. It explains about the when, why, where and how of the event occurs. Here, I give an example on how I will analyze the transitivity choices;

Example 1:

1. He flung himself down on the grass
   - He: participant, actor/agent
   - Flung: process, material
   - Himself: affected participant, goal/patient
   - Down on the grass: circumstance, location

2. It will tell you how I love you
   - It: participant, sayer
   - Will tell: process, verbal
   - You: affected participant, recipient
   - How I love you: verbiage

Passivization

After analyzing the transitivity to map the role of the participants in the news, I continue the analysis on the passive sentences used by newspaper, since most of news writers tend to use more passive sentences in delivering an event (Henley, Miller & Beazley, 1995). In English grammar, it is said that a passive construction of clause or sentence is only possible with transitive verb (Xu, 2011). Transitive verbs, as mentioned above, involve participants, which in material process are namely the actor and the goal (agent and patient). In passive sentence or clause, even though one of the participants is not mentioned, it is implicitly stated as the one who cause the event.

1From Mehmod et al. (2014, p. 82-83)
This phenomenon of transforming active into passive is called passivization (Janks, 2010). Here are some examples of passivization process from the conversion of the active forms;

Example 2:

1. **Active:** The hail damaged the car.  
   **Passive:** The car was damaged (by the hail).
2. **Active:** The winner held the cup.  
   **Passive:** The cup was held (by the winner).

According to Thompson (1997) as it is cited by Behnam and Khodadust (2010), passivization is a device that changes the position of the constituent into the theme position. In other words, Behnam and Khodadust added that “the syntactic structure of sentences such as the use of active and passive construction allows the writer to foreground or background the agents to establish agent/affected relationships in the readers’ mind” (p. 35). Here, the conversion in passivization might cause bias on how the media represents the agent and the patient in the news. More specifically, there are some functions proposed by Matsukura (2004). They are to hide the agent, to foreground the action, to emphasize the patient as victim, to emphasize the agent, and to avoid intentionally action.

**Mass Media Bias**

According to Chase (2008), most of news article have focused on overt biases, opinions expressed by on air pundits, articles written and printed in support of, or opposition to a particular issue. Reah, (2002), also stated that mass media, especially newspaper are identified as, “snapshot which create or at least influence parts of our

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2From De Mattia-Vivies (2009, p. 94-95).
society and culture”(p.1). Thus, mass media is often used certain party to construct public opinion in an effective way.

Review of Previous Studies

There are many studies that have discussed media bias in news reporting that focusing on either transitivity or passivization. Unfortunately, most of the studies were limited to certain point. For example, Chen’s (2007) study on Negatives and Positives in the Language of Politics: Attitudes towards Authority in the British and Chinese Press only focuses on the transitivity process, specifically comparing the use of negatives and positives verbal processes in relation to the politic. The study does not elaborate the positions of the participants involved in the texts. Another example is the study of passivization done by Atai and Mozaheb’s (2013) which is The Representation of Iran’s Nuclear Program in British Newspaper Editorials: A Critical Discourse Analytic Perspective. This study aims to reveal how the passivization used by the media to cover the agency in order to satisfy the readers. It focuses on the function of passivization to hide the agent.

Nonetheless, there is a study of A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Selected Iranian and American Printed Media on the Representations of Hizbullah-Israel War which was written by Yaghoobi (2009). This study discusses both transitivity and passivization in two different newspapers. This study is about the Hizbullah-Israel War. The finding shows sharp different on how these two newspaper point out the ‘good’ and the ‘bad’ side between the two participants. Both newspapers also show how their articles contradict to each other. It is stated that by using transitivity and passivization it allows readers to reveal the latent meaning that are enacted in the news articles. However, the study only used one news article from each newspaper to
be analyzed. That is why I attempt to combine it with the study by Behnam and Khodadust (2010) *Critical Discourse Analysis of the Event of September 11, 2001 in American and Syrian Print Media Discourse* which focuses on the passivization on a number of news articles about the tragedy of 9/11. And the study from Matu and Lubbe (2007), *Investigating Language And Ideology: A Presentation Of The Ideological Square And Transitivity In The Editorials Of Three Kenyan Newspapers* which discusses on how transitivity can be used to draw one same event differently depends on what the writer or speaker wants to imply.

**THE STUDY**

**Research Methodology**

In this research I use a critical discourse analytic qualitative method which focus on the transitivity choice and passivization. This study is aimed to answer this following research question, “What are the different functions of transitivity choices and passivization used by two newspapers—one is published in the United States and one in Indonesia—in constructing the opinions regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?” The analysis focus on how these two newspapers differ in presenting the relationship of the agent and patient in the issue of Israeli and Palestinian conflict.

**Context of the Study**

The issue that is raised from both newspapers is the conflict between Israel and Palestine. I attempt to use this issue since this is a global issue which according to Bazzi is quite sensitive to many governments, organizations, or even individual as they seem to be “linked to the ideological, religion, or cultural affiliations, as well as they are linked to the political and commercial interest” (2009, p.1).
Data Collection Method

The data that I collect is taken from news articles of Antara News and New York Post available online. There are five news articles retrieved from each newspaper about the conflict between Israel and Palestine which was published from July until October 2014. I choose this length of time because starting from July 2014, according to (Beinin & Hajjar, 2014) the third Gaza War in seven years was launched which took the international attention all over the world.

The first, I analyzed all the news articles sentences in both newspapers using transitivity analysis. I mark the participants involved, the processes, and the circumstances as the reference, in each sentence of the news articles. Then the sentences that use Israel and Palestine as participants which also use material and verbal processes are selected. To analyze the passivization, all the sentences that have been selected for the transitivity analysis are used.

Object of the Study

I choose two newspapers; the first is New York Post (NYP) which according to the Street Directory, at www.streetdirectory.com, was an American newspaper found in 1800s. It was the first daily newspaper back then, where the other newspapers were published weekly. This newspaper was firstly named New York Evening Post, before then it was changed.

The second newspaper is Antara News, an Indonesian newspaper which according to the official page, www.antara.net.id, was first built in December 13, 1937. In 1945 it broadcasted the independence of Republic Indonesia all over the world. Antara has been officially serving as a National News Agency since 1962. The
online edition of Antara was built in 1996. And then, Antara was declared as a public corporation in July, 2007. The news that will be analyzed is the online edition.

For each newspaper, there are five news articles as presented in Table 1. The news articles were published during July, 11 2014 until October, 31 2014. Moreover, the five news articles from each newspaper should be about the same issues so that the analysis between these newspapers can be more reliable.

**Table 1. The Headlines of the Selected News Articles**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newspaper</th>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Headlines</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antara News</td>
<td>1 Gaza says 100 killed so far in Israeli air strikes</td>
<td>July, 11 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Israel resumes air strikes on Gaza: AFP</td>
<td>July, 15 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 9 Palestinians killed by Israel in Gaza</td>
<td>August, 2 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 At least 10 killed in strike on UN school in Gaza Medics</td>
<td>August, 3 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 Israel reopens Al-Aqsa mosque ahead of Muslim prayers</td>
<td>October, 31 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Post</td>
<td>1 Over 100 killed in Gaza as rockets fall on Israel</td>
<td>July, 11 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Gaza rocket hits Israel as 5-hour ceasefire ends</td>
<td>July, 17 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Israel pounds Gaza as troops search for missing soldier</td>
<td>August, 2 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 10 dead after strike hits another UN school in Gaza</td>
<td>August, 3 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 Israel reopens key Jerusalem holy site for Muslims</td>
<td>October, 30 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Analysis Procedure**

After selecting and collecting five news articles from each newspaper, I picked some sentences from each newspaper to compare how they differ in using the types of
processes and participants. The circumstances involved in the sentences are used to help in analyzing the articles. After that, the transitivity choices used by both newspapers are categorized according to the active and the passive constructions. The passive constructions used by each newspaper will be analyzed and compared. This study uses a rater, which is my supervisor to make the finding of the analysis more reliable. Both my thesis supervisor and I have analyzed the transitivity in the newspapers together.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This section is arranged into several parts. The first part provides the result of the data analysis, presenting some examples of the processes used in each news article. Next are the findings and also the answer to the research question, regarding the use of transitivity and passivization in newspapers.

Transitivity Process

To analyze the relation of the participants or the agent and the patient in the news articles, I have to collect the processes found in the news articles. There are four processes I found in all the news articles. However, I only focus on the two processes. Material processes refer to how the participants do something and verbal processes denote the utterances or the saying of the participants. Not all of those two processes in the news articles are collected, since there will be too many and it will be difficult to categorize. I only collect the processes that occur between the participants of Israel and Palestine since they are the parties involved directly in the conflict. Here is the example of the analysis of the articles. This example is taken from Antara News articles in text 1 paragraph 6;
Example 3:

Turkish President Abdullah Gul called on Israel to stop the ongoing air strikes on Gaza Strip.

By using that kind of analysis, I categorize the verbal process and the material process. On the example 3, the process of the sentence is a verbal process. The results of the finding can be seen in Table 2. The number in the box is to show how many times the processes occur.

Table 2. The Processes Occurring in the News Articles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Antara News</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>New York Post</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>55.20%</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>55.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>35.41%</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>31.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other processes</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9.38%</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>13.43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Role of Participants

After knowing the process, I then find the role of participant in the news articles. Since the verbal process may occur either between the participants reported in the news or between the participant in the news with the newspaper which mostly functions as sources, I only identify the participants of the material process, which are the agent and the patient.

The result is mentioned in Table 3. They are the roles of participants that I have analyzed from the material processes I have collected.

---

3 As mentioned earlier, the processes selected are those with Israel and Palestine as participants. Other processes will not be analyzed.
Table 3. The Role of Participants in the News Articles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role of Participants</th>
<th>Antara News</th>
<th>New York Post</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Israel as Agent</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestine as Agent</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestine as Patient</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel as Patient</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Comparison of Transitivity Choices

Even though it has appeared in Table 3 that those two newspapers describe more on Israel as the agent rather than it is as the patient, there is a slight difference in the way each newspaper presents it. To prove this statement, I pick some examples from the sentences that show how the newspapers present the agent and patient relationship in the news articles. Below are the sentences taken from each newspaper.

**Two Palestinians were killed in an Israel airstrike in central Gaza Strip refugee camp on Friday, raising the death toll to 100, the medics and witnesses said.** (Antara News, Text 1, Sentence 1)

From that part, the material process happens and indicated by “were killed” in which the “two Palestinians” are ascribed the role of affected participant. The actor or agent is presented in the “in Israeli airstrike” to mention that it is an official strike come from the Israeli to attack the Palestinians. The newspaper also includes the circumstance of place which is “in central Gaza Strip refugee camp” to show that the target operation of the Israeli airstrike is the civilians, specifically the refugee in the
Gaza Strip. Then, in the end, the news is looking for support by mentioning “the medics and witnesses said.” But it is not clearly told, which medics said that and who are the witnesses. It makes it clearer that the writer only intends to highlight the event cause by the airstrike of the Israeli which affected the civilians of Palestine and it implicitly shows how the Israel military attack the powerless target to portray the negative side of the Israeli. To compare the news from Antara News, here is the one from New York Post which report on the same event:

In Gaza, an Israeli airstrike Friday hit the home of a well-known Islamic Jihad leader, Gaza health officials said strikes overnight killed a total of eight people, raising the death toll to at least 98.

A later strike pushed the tally over 100, and some 670 have been wounded, officials said.

(New York Post, Text 1, Sentences 4-6)

The compare to the news from Antara News, I pick three sentences of the New York Post news articles. The first sentence frankly reports that Israel did an airstrike using material process, “hit.” However, this newspaper wants to show that the airstrike was targeted to the right place which is told to be “the home of a well-known Islamic Jihad leader” but without mention who or which Islamic Jihad leader the news refers to. This might mean that the airstrike is targeting the right place, which is the Islamic Jihad leader, and avoids the fact that it struck the civilians. In the second sentence, the writer present the news based on the report of ‘Gaza health official’ to make it more convincing. What the writer wants to report is what is involved in the
verbiage, ‘strikes overnight killed a total of eight people, raising the death toll to at least 98.’ Here the verbiage can also be elaborated which ‘strikes’ is the actor, ‘overnight’ be the circumstance, ‘killed’ is the material process, and the ‘a total of eight people, raising the death toll to at least 98,’ is the circumstance. And the last sentence, the writer of the news reports the number of the victims as the result of the strike. It uses the data spoken by a source to make the claim be more reliable.

Passivization Functions

As it is said before that passivization possibly happens with transitive verbs, I classify the transitivity used in both newspapers above and choose every sentence that contains a passive construction. From the passive sentences that have been collected, I analyze them to find the purpose of the newspapers using passivization in the news.

There are some functions of passivization that I found as it is shown in Table 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passivization Functions</th>
<th>Antara News</th>
<th>New York Post</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hide the Agent</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreground the Action</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emphasize Patient as victim</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emphasize Agent</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoid intentionally Action (Excuse)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
<td><strong>23</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

4It is possible that one sentence has two functions, e.g. a sentence to hide the agent and avoid intentionally action.
From the data mentioned in the Table 4, it shows the frequency for each newspaper using passivization for different functions. In this analysis, I only focus on the two different figures of passivization use between Antara News and New York Post which are to hide the agent and to emphasize the patient since those two functions show big different between the two newspaper. The data shows that Antara News tends to use passivization to emphasize the affected participants or patient and show them as victims in the war between Israel and Palestine. In the other hand, New York Post uses passivization more to hide the agent, where most of the agents which the newspaper hides refer to the Israelis. Below is one of the examples on how the Antara News uses passivization to highlight or emphasize the patient.

Two Palestinians were killed in an Israel airstrike in central Gaza Strip refugee camp on Friday, raising the death toll to 100, the medics and witnesses said. (Text 1, Sentence 1)

In this example, passivization is not used to hide the agency as the agent can be inferred from the circumstance. However, the writer tries to foreground the affected participant or the patient, namely two Palestinians. It even adds the total number of the victims to 100. Thus, the affected participant then presented as victim of the event who are powerless while Israeli as the agent shown to be the superpower side which is shown by “an Israeli airstrike.”

Different from the Antara News, the passivization used by the New York Post are mostly to hide the agency of the event rather than the other functions. As it is mentioned earlier in the finding of the transitivity that from both newspapers Israel is described more as the agent, it means that most of the actions are also done by the Israeli. Here, New York Post uses passivization to hide the action given by Israel.
Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, a military spokesman, said the military believed at least one militant was killed in the strike and that the remaining fighters appeared to have returned to Gaza through the tunnel. (Text 2, Sentence 19)

There is no agent mentioned in the action where the militant was killed. It just mentions that the militant, who is Palestinian militant, killed in the strike. The passivization used in the clause above is to hide the agency of the event. It even uses ‘the strike’ and not directly tells that the strike is given by the Israel military. This function of passivization is often used by the New York Post.

**Data Interpretation**

From the findings above, it is found that although the issue of bilateral Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the same, the two newspapers report it differently. The transitivity analysis shows that the Antara News often highlights the effect of the Israeli attacks on the death or wounded civilians as it is presented in the beginning of the sentence. In presenting the agent, this newspaper uses an Israel airstrike to show the agent that causes the death of two Palestinians. As mentioned above, the newspaper uses words like “refugee” to indicate that the airstrike aims to the innocent civilians to lead the readers mind to the stage where the Israeli military tend to target the civilians. Here, the news gives a negative attribute to the Israeli military by implicitly telling that the Israel military are the criminals. The news also states the information of the number of the victims that is reported by the medics and witnesses as they act as the sayer. However, it is not clear which medics and who are the witnesses that gave the report. The reliability of the number of victims may be questioned. On the other hand, the New York Post is more chronological in telling the event with more justifications (e.g., quoting sources regarded as reliable) in order to be more convincing. The writer uses “hit the home of a well-known Islamic Jihad
leader” to make a claim that the strike was successful. But it does not mention who the well-known Islamic Jihad leader is that the military have hit. This, compared to the report of Antara News that the Israel military hit the camp of the refugee, is very much different. Here, the New York Post tries to tell the readers by presenting the patient, called as “a well-known Islamic Jihad leader,” with negative attribute to indicate that he is the criminal. However, the New York Post tries to give detail in presenting the data. It uses a source which is called to be an official in presenting the data. In this study, by looking on the finding of the transitivity choices, the Antara News tends to oppose Israel, as it can be inferred in how it gives negative impression on how the Israeli do harm to the Palestinians. And on the other hand, the New York Post is supporting Israel as can be seen on how the newspaper gives negative attribute to the Palestinians such as “Jihad leader,” “militant,” “protesters,” and “radical group.” Therefore, it is true that newspapers can be so biased on the way they use the language. This supports Matu and Lubbe (2007) who argue that the transitivity processes analysis can infer how different newspapers are biased or ideologically inclined toward certain side or party. However, unlike the findings of Matu and Lubbe (2007) that focus on the material process only, in this study, I also analyze the verbal process in newspapers that can help to find how each newspaper enclose certain sources to strengthen their reports. But the same case is found that most of the sources that the both newspapers use are vague or unidentified such as “medics,” “witnesses,” “army,” or “civilians.”

On the passivization analysis, it can also be found how these two newspapers differ to each other in presenting the same issue. The Antara News tend to portray more on the patient or victim causes by the actions done by Israel upon Palestine and
highlight the number of casualties happen among the Palestinian. There are some examples such as, “were killed,” “had been forced,” “had been hit” and many more that are used to emphasize the patients. The patients are presented in the beginning of the text to indicate the level of importance that the newspaper wants to show to the readers. This strengthens the statement how the Antara News supports more on Palestine in the conflict. Different from Antara News, the New York Post uses passivization to hide the agency in many actions and events. There are many agentless sentences in the news articles of the New York Post compared to Antara News. For example, the New York Post often uses ‘were fired’ and ‘was targeted’ without mentioning the agent who is actually the Israel themselves. The New York Post tends to hide the agent to avoid judgment from the readers and to show that the casualties happen are caused by the conflict between Israel and Palestine, which means that both sides should be responsible for it. In other words, it might be possible that the New York Post tries to hide Israel which most of the events are being the agent. These conditions also support the statement from Behnam and Khodadust (2010) that media bias, in this context is newspaper, is also affected by the social setting and the values where the media or newspapers come from. Besides the financial benefit they can get from the public that support the reports, the ideology of mass media also takes part in deciding which way the media will take.

CONCLUSION

This study is conducted to analyze the tendency of newspapers in using transitivity choice and passivization. It is aimed to answer the question: “What are the different functions of transitivity choices and passivization used by two newspapers—
one is published in the United States and one in Indonesia—in constructing the opinions regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?"

The result of the study shows that transitivity choice can be analyzed to understand how newspapers convey different meaning in reporting the news by using certain participants and processes involved in the sentences. The Antara News chooses to use material process to portray how the affected participant, mostly Palestinians, experiences the attacks of the Israel military. The use of verbal process to present the sources involved in the news helps the newspaper in reporting the victims to make it more reliable. In the other hand, the New York Post tends to use material process to justify the attitudes of the Israel military or the government in doing certain actions that give effect on the Palestinian side. The sources that this newspaper uses also help in strengthen the justification. The passivization of each newspaper can also show how their intention in reporting the events. The Antara News uses passivization to emphasize the victims, which most of the reports are Palestinians while the New York Post uses passivization as a tool to hide the agency in the conflict, which most of the time is the Israeli. This result concludes that the Antara News tends to be more defensive in presenting the conflict so that it to emphasize the victims, which most of them is the Palestinians. It shows that the Antara News stands for the Palestine. The New York Post, in the other hand, tends to offensively label the Palestinians in negative way to show that this newspaper is more on the side of Israel.

In general, I hope that this study will be useful for people in understanding news reported in TV, Radio, Newspapers and even Internet since it is really needed nowadays to filter any information that people may get. And pedagogically, I also
hope that this study will help students, in reading and analyzing texts more critically by using Critical Discourse Analysis’ tools such as transitivity and passivization. However, the findings of this study cannot be over-generalized since only five news articles were used in each selected newspaper. This is due to the limited time that this study cannot use more articles. Therefore, I suggest that the research in the future can use the most up-to-date issues which will be easier to find. It will also be better to specify the field in which the analysis will be conducted. And it is also possible to use different mass media to conduct the analysis since Discourse Analysis is very wide so that it can be applied in many fields.

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Over 100 killed in Gaza as rockets fall on Israel. (2014, July 11). *New York Post*.


**APPENDIX**

A. **Examples of the Transitivity Analysis from the News Articles**

**Antara News**

1. [affected participant] Two Palestinians [pr: material] were killed [circumstance with agency] in an Israel airstrike [circumstance] in central Gaza Strip refugee camp on Friday, [verbiage] raising the death toll to 100, [sayer] the medics and witnesses [pr: verbal] said.


**New York Post**


2. However, [verbiage] recent fire from Lebanon [pr: verbal] has been blamed [recipient] on radical Palestinian factions [circumstance] in the area and [senser]
Hezbollah (*pr: mental*) has not been involved (*phenomenon*) in the ongoing offensive.