



# Analysis of Language in Story Text (Narration): The Use of Verb Types and Its Implication in Language Learning

Ansar<sup>1</sup>, Munawwar<sup>2</sup>, Muhammad Rifai<sup>3</sup>

Head of PBSI Study Program, FKIP, Tomakaka University

Lecturer in Indonesian Language and Literature, FKIP, Tomakaka University

Lecturer in Indonesian Language and Literature, FKIP, Tomakaka University

[Ansar1111985@gmail.com](mailto:Ansar1111985@gmail.com) <sup>1</sup>[Munawwarmawar84@gmail.com](mailto:Munawwarmawar84@gmail.com) <sup>2</sup>[Mrifaitaha@gmail.com](mailto:Mrifaitaha@gmail.com) <sup>3</sup>

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## Abstrak

Penelitian ini menganalisis penggunaan kata kerja dalam teks narasi untuk mengungkap makna metafungsional yang mencakup aspek ideational, interpersonal, dan tekstual. Analisis dilakukan terhadap empat teks narasi, yaitu "Petualangan di Hutan Misterius", "Rahasia di Balik Pintu Tua", "Perjalanan ke Puncak Gunung", dan "Misi Rahasia di Tengah Malam". Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa teks narasi menggunakan berbagai jenis kata kerja, seperti material, mental, behavioral, relasional, verbal, dan eksistensial, yang masing-masing berkontribusi dalam membangun alur cerita, karakterisasi, dan suasana. Kata kerja material mendominasi untuk menggambarkan tindakan fisik, sementara kata kerja mental dan behavioral memperkuat aspek emosional dan pengalaman indrawi tokoh. Hubungan logikosemantik, seperti kausalitas, penjelasan, dan kronologi, juga teridentifikasi sebagai elemen penting dalam teks yang menciptakan kohesi dan koherensi. Penelitian ini memiliki implikasi penting dalam pengajaran bahasa Indonesia, terutama dalam meningkatkan keterampilan siswa dalam menganalisis teks narasi dan memahami struktur kebahasaan yang mendasarinya. Temuan ini memberikan wawasan baru dalam pengembangan bahan ajar berbasis Linguistik Sistemik Fungsional untuk pembelajaran bahasa.

**Kata Kunci:** kata kerja, teks narasi, makna metafungsional, linguistik sistemik fungsional, pembelajaran bahasa.

## Abstract

This research analyzes the use of verbs in narrative texts to uncover metafunctional meanings that encompass ideational, interpersonal, and textual aspects. The analysis was conducted on four narrative texts, namely "Adventures in the Mysterious Forest," "Secrets Behind the Old Door," "Journey to the Mountain Peak," and "Secret Mission in the Middle of the Night." The analysis results show that the narrative texts use various types of verbs, such as material, mental, behavioral, relational, verbal, and existential, each of which contributes to building the plot, characterization, and atmosphere. Material verbs dominate in describing physical actions, while mental and behavioral verbs reinforce the emotional aspects and sensory experiences of the characters. Logical-semantic relationships, such as causality, explanation, and chronology, are also identified as important elements in the text that create cohesion and coherence. This research has important implications for teaching Indonesian, particularly in enhancing students' skills in analyzing narrative texts and understanding the underlying linguistic structures. These findings provide new insights into the development of teaching materials based on Systemic Functional Linguistics for language learning.

**Keywords:** verbs, narrative texts, metafunctional meaning, systemic functional linguistics, language learning.

## Introduction

Language plays an important role in text learning as it helps students understand how texts are organized to form deeper and more complex meanings. By studying linguistic elements, such as verb usage, students can understand how the author conveys ideas, builds characters, develops plot, and creates a distinctive atmosphere in the text.

The importance of language in text learning includes: (1) Development of Reading Skills: Students can recognize the structure and linguistic elements in the text, which helps them in understanding the context, implied meaning, and relationship between parts in the text; (2) Improvement of Writing Skills: By understanding the use of different types of verbs and other linguistic elements, students can write narrative texts that are more dynamic, colorful, and convey stronger meaning; (3) Improved Critical Thinking Skills: Through linguistic analysis, students are invited to think more critically about how language is used to shape meaning, express emotions, and create relationships between characters and events in the story.

According to Sugiyono's research (2021), linguistic analysis helps students understand the meaning contained in the text more deeply. This not only improves content understanding, but also enriches students' insights into how narrative texts can be effectively constructed to convey the message or story they want to convey.

Narrative text is one type of text that is often taught in schools because it has the ability to develop students' imagination, cultural understanding, and language skills. In narrative texts, structure and linguistic elements play an important role in conveying an effective story. They include the use of different types of verbs that serve to build the overall meaning of the story. Material verbs are used to describe physical actions, such as "running" or "catching";

mental verbs to convey inner experiences, such as "thinking" or "feeling"; behavioral verbs to describe physical actions that involve mental processes, such as "smiling" or "looking"; relational verbs to link subjects with attributes or identities, such as "is" or "is"; verbal verbs to express communication, such as "saying" or "asking"; and existential verbs to indicate the existence of something, such as "is" or "there is". The utilization of these linguistic elements not only makes the story more vivid, but also reflects the ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings carried by the text.

Functional Systemic Linguistics (LSF) developed by Michael Halliday is the main framework in this study. According to Functional Systemic Linguistics (LSF), every text has linguistic elements that are used to construct three metafunctional meanings: ideational, interpersonal, and textual. **Ideational Meaning:** This meaning relates to how the text represents the experience of the world, whether actions, thoughts, or relationships. In narrative texts, ideational meaning is realized through the use of verbs such as material to indicate physical actions (*running, catching*), mental to describe feelings or thoughts (*feeling, thinking*), and relational to explain the relationship between elements in the story (*is, are*). **Interpersonal Meaning:** This meaning indicates the way the writer or speaker interacts with the reader or listener, including expressing attitudes, opinions, and creating social relationships. In narrative texts, this is reflected through the use of verbal verbs (*say, ask*), which are used to bring dialogue between characters to life, allowing the reader to feel the depth of character and emotion. **Textual Meaning:** This meaning relates to the way the text is organized so that it is coherent and easy to understand. In narrative texts, existential verbs (*exist, exist*) help create cohesion by showing the existence of objects or situations that are an important

part of the story.

## Methods

This research uses descriptive qualitative method to analyze the linguistic elements in the story text (narration). This approach was chosen because the research aims to describe and deeply understand the use of verbs as well as the metafunctional meaning contained in the narrative text. The data of this research comes from three fictional narrative texts entitled "Adventure in the Mysterious Forest", "The Secret Behind the Old Door", and "Journey to the Top of the Mountain". These three texts are narrative texts adapted from general fiction reading materials and used as a representation of narrative texts for linguistic analysis. The selection of texts was done by considering the characteristics of narratives that include plot, character, and conflict elements in accordance with the structure of narrative texts taught at the high school level. Data were collected through documentation technique with the following steps Identifying and selecting relevant narrative texts from general fiction reading materials. Classifying verbs based on their types (material, mental, behavioral, relational, verbal, and existential). Analyzing the metafunctional meaning formed from the use of these verbs. The data analysis technique in this research involves several stages based on the descriptive qualitative approach. The following are the stages used: Data reduction, Categorization, Contextual analysis, Conclusion drawing.

## Results and discussion

### Narrative Text 1: "Adventure in the Mysterious Forest"

*One day, Andi and his friends decided to explore the forest near their village. They walked slowly, enjoying the sound of chirping birds. Suddenly, they heard a strange sound. Andi felt anxious, but he*

*tried to stay calm. They kept walking until they came across a large, creepy-looking cave. "This is the place my grandfather told me about," Andi said. Bravely, they entered the cave.*

### Analysis:

#### 1. Material verbs

- "Decided", "walked", "found", "entered": These verbs show the physical actions performed by the characters in the story, creating a dynamic storyline.

#### 2. Mental verbs

- "Feeling anxious", "trying to stay calm": These verbs describe a character's internal experience, reinforcing the emotional and psychological aspects of the story.

#### 3. Behavioral verbs

- "Enjoying the sound of birds", "hearing strange sounds": These verbs indicate a physical action accompanied by a mental process, creating a more vivid atmosphere and sensory experience.

#### 4. Relational verbs

- "This is the place grandfather told me about": This verb connects the identity of the place to the folklore, giving context to the events in the story.

#### 5. Verbal verbs

- "Andi said": This verb indicates communication activity, i.e. dialog between characters that reinforces the interaction in the story.

#### 6. Existential verbs

- "There was a big, creepy-looking cave": This verb

indicates the presence of an important object in the story, providing a depiction of the atmosphere that supports the plot.

### **Narrative Text : "The Secret Behind the Old Door"**

*That night, Lina walked down the hallway of the old house. She felt like something was watching from a distance. When she opened the creaky old door, she found a dimly lit room. "What is this?" thought Lina as she approached an old book on the table. Suddenly, a soft voice called her name. Lina turned around, but there was no one there.*

#### **Verb Analysis:**

1. **Material:** "walking", "opening", "approaching"
2. **Mental:** "Feeling", "Lina thought"
3. **Behavioral:** "Seeing", "hearing"
4. **Relational:** "What is this?"
5. **Verbal:** "Calling his name"
6. **Existential:** "Something is watching"

### **Narrative Text 2: "Journey to the Top of the Mountain"**

*Rani and Budi climbed a high mountain for three days. On the way, Rani felt tired, but Budi encouraged her to keep going. They finally reached the top and enjoyed the beautiful sunrise. "We did it!" exclaimed Rani with a beaming face. There, they found an old inscription that told the legend of the mountain.*

#### **Verb Analysis:**

1. **Material:** "climb", "reach", "find"
2. **Mental:** "Feeling tired", "telling legends"
3. **Behavioral:** "Enjoying", "seeing"
4. **Relational:** "The mountain is a holy place"
5. **Verbal:** "Seru Rani"

6. **Existential:** "There is an old inscription"

### **Narrative Text 3: "Secret Mission at Midnight"**

*In the middle of the night, Arman sneaked out of the base. He knew this mission was extremely dangerous, but he had no other choice. In a narrow alley, he heard footsteps approaching. Arman hid and held his breath. "I have to finish this," he muttered. Finally, he found the mysterious package he was looking for.*

#### **Verb Analysis:**

1. **Material:** "sneak", "hide", "find"
2. **Mental:** "Knows", "realizes the danger"
3. **Behavioral:** "Hearing steps", "holding breath"
4. **Relational:** "This mission is the most dangerous"
5. **Verbal:** "He mumbled"
6. **Existential:** "There is a mysterious package"

The above texts are used to analyze the variations in verb usage that reflect action, emotion, or the presence of elements in the story, as well as the relevance of linguistic elements in constructing narrative meaning.

### **Implications for Learning**

The linguistic analysis of the story text can be used to improve students' understanding of the story building blocks. The teacher can ask students to identify the types of verbs in the text and how each type of verb contributes to the development of the story. In addition, students can also be invited to create their own narratives by using different types of verbs to enrich the meaning of the story.

### **Discussion**

## 1. Introduction

This analysis explores the use of verbs in narrative texts to uncover metafunctional meanings that include ideational, interpersonal and textual meanings. Through the analysis of four narrative texts, this study shows how verbs are used to build plot, create characterization, and strengthen logicosemantic relationships in the text.

## 2. Verb Analysis by Type

### a. Material Verbs

Material verbs predominate in all texts, indicating the physical actions that build the storyline.

- a) **"Adventure in the Mysterious Forest":** Verbs like "walk", "find", and "enter" create plot dynamics and emphasize the action of the characters in exploring the mysterious cave.
- b) **"The Secret Behind the Old Door":** "Walking", "opening", and "approaching" describe the movements of the main character, Lina, in dealing with a mysterious situation.
- c) **"Journey to the Top of the Mountain":** The verbs "climb" and "discover" reinforce the story of struggle and discovery.
- d) **"Secret Mission in the Middle of the Night":** The verbs "sneak" and "hide" reflect Arman's secret activities in carrying out his mission.

### b. Mental Verbs

Mental verbs reflect the character's thought processes and emotions.

- a) **"Adventure in the Mysterious Forest":** The verbs "feel anxious" and "try to stay calm" show Andi's

emotional tension when facing unexpected situations.

- b) **"The Secret Behind the Old Door":** "Feeling" and "Lina's thoughts" emphasize Lina's feelings and thoughts in dealing with the mystery.
- c) **"Journey to the Top of the Mountain":** "Feeling tired" describes Rani's emotional state during the journey.
- d) **"Secret Mission in the Middle of the Night":** "Knows" and "realizes the danger" show Arman's awareness of the risks he faces.

### c. Behavioral Verbs

These verbs feature physical actions that involve mental processes.

- a) **"Adventure in the Mysterious Forest":** "Enjoying the sound of birds" and "hearing strange sounds" strengthen the atmosphere and describe the characters' sensory experiences.
- b) **"The Secret Behind the Old Door":** "Finding" and "hearing" create an air of mystery in the story.
- c) **"Journey to the Top of the Mountain":** "Enjoying the beauty" describes the character's experience of enjoying the results of struggle.
- d) **"Secret Mission in the Middle of the Night":** "Hearing steps" and "holding your breath" create a tense atmosphere.

### d. Relational Verbs

These verbs show the relationship or identity between elements in the text.

- a) **All text:** Sentences like "This mission was the most dangerous" or "The mountain was a sacred place" create explanation and context for important elements of the story.

### e. Verbal Verbs

These verbs strengthen the interaction through dialog between the characters.

- a) **Example:** "Kata Andi", "Seru Rani", and "Gumamnya" show the interpersonal dynamics in the story.

### f. Existential Verbs

Existential verbs emphasize the existence of important elements in the text.

- a) **Example:** "There was a big cave", "Something was watching", and "There was a mysterious package" create atmosphere and support the storyline.

## 3. Metafunctional Meaning

### a. Ideational Meaning

Verbs in narrative texts function to describe the character's experiences, including physical (material) actions and internal (mental) experiences.

- a) **Example:** In "Journey to the Top of the Mountain", material and mental verbs are used to build a story about the character's struggle and success.

### b. Interpersonal Meaning

Dialogue and the use of verbal verbs show the relationships between characters and the feelings involved.

- a) **Example:** The dialog in "The Secret Behind the Old Door" displays Lina's anxiety.

### c. Textual Meaning

The use of different types of verbs creates cohesion and coherence in the text.

- a) **Example:** The causal logicosemantic relationship ("Because they found the key, they were able to open the door") creates a connection between clauses.

## 4. Logicosemantic Relationship

- **Causal:** A character's fears often influence their actions, such as Andi being cautious after feeling anxious.
- **Explanation:** Places and things in the story are described through relational and existential verbs.
- **Chronology:** The order of material verbs creates a logical and linear storyline.

## 5. Interpretation and Implications

The results of this study show that verbs play an important role in building metafunctional meaning in narrative texts. This finding is in line with previous research (Santosa, 2017; Wahyuni, 2019) which emphasizes the importance of linguistic analysis in text teaching.

### Implications for Teaching

- Teachers can use these findings to help students understand the structure of narrative texts and improve linguistic analysis skills.
- This research can be the basis for developing text-based teaching materials for Indonesian language learning.

## 6. Cover

The results of verb analysis in narrative texts provide insight into the role of

linguistic elements in building stories. The findings reinforce the importance of Functional Systemic Linguistics-based analysis to understand text dynamics and its implications for language learning.

## Research Conclusion

This study analyzes the use of verbs in narrative texts to reveal metafunctional meanings that include ideational, interpersonal, and textual aspects. Based on the results of the analysis, the following conclusions are obtained:

### 1. Verb Types in Narrative Texts

Narrative texts use different types of verbs, namely material, mental, behavioral, relational, verbal, and existential, each of which plays a role in building the storyline, characterization, and atmosphere. Material verbs dominate to describe physical actions, while mental and behavioral verbs reinforce the emotional aspects and sensory experiences of the characters.

### 2. Metafunctional Meaning in Text

- **Ideational Meaning:** Material and mental verbs construct experiences and events in narrative texts, creating story dynamics that describe the actions, feelings and thoughts of characters.
- **Interpersonal Meaning:** Verbal verbs and dialog reinforce interactions between characters, reflecting emotional relationships and attitudes in the story.
- **Textual Meaning:** The use of verbs supports the cohesion and coherence structure of the text through logico-semantic relationships such as cause-

and-effect, explanation, and chronology.

### 3. Logicosemantic Relationships

Narrative texts exhibit strong logicosemantic relationships, such as cause-and-effect, chronology and explanation. These relationships play an important role in building a logical storyline that is easy for readers to understand.

### 4. Research Implications

This study shows that verb analysis can provide in-depth insight into the structure of narrative text and the meaning contained in it. This finding is relevant to be applied in Indonesian language learning, particularly in improving narrative reading and writing skills as well as analyzing linguistic elements.

Overall, this study reinforces the importance of Functional Systemic Linguistics-based analysis in understanding text dynamics and supporting the development of text-based teaching materials.

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